Bonney Downs Wind Farm

Application Number: **03125** Commencement Date: **15/09/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Bonney Downs Wind Farm

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Wind Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/08/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/08/2056

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Pilbara Energy (Generation) Pty Ltd (PEG), a wholly owned subsidiary of Fortescue Ltd (Fortescue), is proposing to develop the Bonney Downs Wind Farm, comprising a wind farm, supporting infrastructure and a 220 kV (kilovolt) transmission line for power supply (the Proposed Action). The Proposed Action is located approximately 9 kilometres (km) southwest of the town of Nullagine in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The southern edge of the Proposed Action is adjacent to Fortescue's Christmas Creek Iron Ore Mine Expansion project (as per the Ministerial Statement 1033 boundary). The Proposed Action Area is situated on the Bonney Downs, Hillside and Roy Hill pastoral leases.

The Proposed Action will involve the installation of up to 200 wind turbines and six substations, with a target installed renewable energy capacity of approximately 2.1 Gigawatts (GW). The actual power generation of the Proposed Action may differ to the target capacity, depending on the efficiency of the turbine equipment once installed and throughout the life of the Proposed Action. The proposed 220 kV transmission line will be built to connect the wind farm with the Fortescue Integrated Power Network to enable energy transfer from the Proposed Action to Christmas Creek Mine Site. Fortescue has identified a 1 km wide transmission corridor to Christmas Creek to allow for deviations in alignment for any identified environmental, heritage and/or social sensitive receptors. The proposed alignment follows the existing Nullagine Mine Haul Road to Christmas Creek Mine Site. The Proposed Action includes a Proposed Action Area of 89,974 ha within an Indicative Disturbance Footprint (IDF) of 2,044.21 ha anticipated. The Proposed Action Area is detailed in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 2, pp. 17 - 30.

The Proposed Action will also include temporary infrastructure such as fuel storage, construction laydown areas and site offices, and permanent supporting infrastructure such as, accommodation camps, operations support offices, communications towers, landfill facilities, and a series of access roads and corridors for overhead electrical reticulation.

Water infrastructure for the Proposed Action may be required for turkey's nests, abstraction bores and pipelines. Fortescue has an existing 5C groundwater licence (GWL) to take water under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act) (GWL171278(7)) that will be sufficient for the supply of water for construction and operation of the Proposed Action. The existing production bores will supply the Proposed Action's construction, operational (i.e., road and corridor maintenance) and potable water (with the use of water treatment) requirements.

The spacing and proposed design layout of the proposed wind turbines has been informed by an assessment of existing topography, and the continued collection of wind and climate data by Fortescue, specific to the Proposed Action Area. Site data has been used to undertake energy modelling for the wind farm, with wind turbines positioned to optimise efficiency and power output. Turbine placement remains flexible to minimise environmental and social impacts.

The Proposed Action is expected to have a life of 25-30 years and, with asset life extension (including turbine replacement), can operate indefinitely. It is intended that environmental values of the Proposed Action Area will be restored following the lifespan of the Proposed Action. Requirements for decommissioning will be established through consultation with relevant stakeholders. A decommissioning management plan will be developed in the years leading up to decommissioning the Proposed Action.

Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 2, pp. 27 - 28 for further details.

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 Commonwealth and State legislation, regulations and policies apply to the Proposed Action.

Commonwealth Legislation

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

The EPBC Act is the Commonwealth Government's primary environmental legislation and is the principal statute for the protection and management of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). The EPBC Act forms the legislative basis for this EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information Document (SID).

Under the EPBC Act, any action that is likely to have a significant impact on MNES must not be taken without the approval of the Minister for the Environment. The Proposed Action will impact MNES, which triggers the Commonwealth environmental assessment and approval process.

Native Title Act 1993

The NT Act acknowledges the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in land and waters based on their traditional laws and customs. It also creates Prescribed Bodies Corporate to oversee and safeguard native title rights and interests. The NT Act facilitates negotiations between public, private, and native title holders regarding potential developments on land, waters, and sea, such as
Indigenous Land Use Agreements. The Proposed Action is located within Nyamal People #1 and #10 native title determination areas and is relevant to the Nyamal People (Nyamal).

Guidelines and Guidance

EPBC Listed Threatened Species Management / Recovery Plans and Conservation Advice

Recovery plans are enacted under the EPBC Act and remain in force until the species is removed from the threatened species list.

Conservation advice provides guidance on immediate recovery and threat abatement activities that can be undertaken to facilitate the conservation of a listed species or ecological community. The following documents were considered through the impact assessment and proposed mitigation actions of this Proposed Action:

- EPBC Act Referral Guideline for the Endangered Northern Quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus*: EPBC Act Policy Statement (DoE, 2016),
- Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Mammals: Guidelines for Detecting Mammals Listed as Threatened under the EPBC Act (DSEWPC, 2011a),
- Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Birds: Guidelines for Detecting Birds listed as Threatened under the EPBC act (DEWHA, 2010a),
- Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Reptiles: Guidelines for Detecting Reptiles listed as Threatened under the EPBC Act (DSEWPC, 2011b),
- Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Bats: Guidelines for Detecting Bats listed as Threatened under the EPBC Act (DEWHA, 2010b),
- Onshore Wind Farm Guidance: Best practice approaches when seeking approval under Australia's national environmental law (DCCEEW, 2024).
- Relevant Commonwealth Recovery Plans, Conservation Advice and/or Threat Abatement Plans, including:
    - Conservation Advice for the Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) (TSSC, 2020),
    - Conservation Advice for the Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) (TSSC, 2005),
    - National Recovery Plan for the Northern Quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Hill & Ward, 2012),
    - Conservation Advice for the Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) (TSSC, 2016c),
    - Conservation Advice for the Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) (TSSC, 2016a),
    - Conservation Advice for the Pilbara Leaf-nose Bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia* (Pilbara Form)) (TSSC, 2016b),
    - Conservation Advice for the Olive Python (Pilbara subspecies) (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*) (DEWHA, 2008a),
    - Conservation Advice for *Rostratula australis* (Australian Painted Snipe) (DSEWPaC, 2013),
    - Conservation Advice for the Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) (DCCEEW, 2024b),
    - Conservation Advice for the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) (DCCEEW, 2024c), and
    - Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory shorebirds (DoE, 2015b).

Matters of National Environmental Significance – Guideline 1.1

This referral has been prepared in accordance with Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 to determine if the Proposed Action is likely to have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), such as to threatened and migratory species.

Wind farm collision risk for birds: Cumulative risks for threatened and migratory species.

This report centres on threatened and migratory species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999EPBC Act. It was used as guide to assess the risk of windfarm collision for birds and an explanation of the rationale that underlies these processes.

EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.3: Wind farm industry

The wind farm industry policy statement is designed to assist operators in the wind farm industry to decide whether or not proposed actions require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. It has beenwas used as a guide to assess how the EPBC Act may apply to specific places, species, ecological communities or industry sectors and activities.

Western Australian Legislation

***Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act)**

The *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) is the key legislative tool for environmental protection in WA. The EP Act provides for the prevention, control and abatement of pollution and environmental harm; and for the conservation, preservation, protection, enhancement and management of the environment. The Proposed Action has been referred under Part IV of the EP Act (environmental impact assessment), which is administered by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the WA Minister of Environment.

***Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)**

The BC Act provides for the conservation and protection of biodiversity in WA, including Threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities. Additionally, the BC Act covers important matters including habitats, communities, threatening processes, environmental pests and weeds. The Proposed Action will impact threatened flora and fauna species protected under the BC Act.

***Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AH Act)**

The AH Act protects and manages Aboriginal cultural heritage by requiring approval for activities that may impact or cause harm. The AH Act recognises Aboriginal cultural sites and objects of significance and makes specific provision for traditional use. Prior to submitting a section 18 notice, consultation with Nyamal will occur on the location, importance and significance of any Aboriginal heritage: strategies for the
protection and management of any Aboriginal heritage, and comments on the section 18 application,
including any objection, support and/or any suggested conditions and mitigation strategies.

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

The *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* make provision for the regulation, management, use and protection of water resources, and for related purposes. The Proposed Action will require groundwater abstraction for dewatering during construction and abstraction of construction water, it will also require construction of watercourse crossings and/or floodways.

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. *

Fortescue has identified relevant government, Aboriginal Traditional Owners, pastoral, mining and community stakeholders with an interest in the Proposed Action and consultation has been undertaken since 2023 and will continue throughout the life of the Proposed Action.

Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 3, pp. 31 - 32 provides further details of relevant stakeholders. A summary of stakeholder consultation undertaken to date is provided in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 3.3, pp. 33 - 54.

Key stakeholders include:

- Government Agencies:
    - Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH),
    - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA),
    - Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) – EPA services, Licensing, regional services,
    - Pilbara Development Commission (PDC),
    - Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) (formerly Department of Energy, Mines, Industry and safety (including Worksafe) (DEMIRS)),
    - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW),
    - WA Treasury,
    - Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED) (formerly Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI)),
- Native Title holders:
    - Palyku People,
    - Nyiyaparli People,
- Local Government: Shire of East Pilbara,
- Land holders: Bonney Downs Pastoral Station, Hillside Pastoral Station and Roy Hill Pastoral Station,
- Community and Special Interest Groups:
    - Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (WA),
    - Chamber of Minerals and Energy (WA),
    - Beeliar Group,
    - Conservation Council WA,
    - Australian Conservation Fund,
    - Wildflower Society,
    - World Wildlife Fund (Australia),
    - Greening Australia,
    - Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen’s Association,
    - Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee,
    - Rangelands NRM,
    - Save the Bilby Fund,
    - The Wilderness Society of WA Inc.,
    - Birdlife WA,
    - Australian Wildlife Conservancy, and
    - Care for Hedland.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details	
ABN/ACN	31631303305
Organisation name	PILBARA ENERGY (GENERATION) PTY LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA

Referring party details	
Name	Matt Dowling
Job title	
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	matthew.dowling@fortescue.com
Address	Ground Floor, 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

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	31631303305
Organisation name	PILBARA ENERGY (GENERATION) PTY LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Jarrod Pittson
Job title	Group Manager Environment and Closure
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	jarrod.pittson@fortescue.com
Address	Ground Floor 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

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. *

Fortescue has a demonstrated satisfactory public record of responsible environmental management. The company has met statutory requirements for environmental management and compliance reporting for mining and infrastructure projects it has implemented to date. Fortescue has a significant presence in the Pilbara where it owns and operates the Eliwana, Cloudbreak, Christmas Creek and Solomon Iron Ore Mines, as well as large-scale dedicated Port and rail infrastructure.

Fortescue has not been subject to any convictions or proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory Law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

The Proposed Action will be implemented in accords with Fortescue's ISO14001-aligned Environmental Management System and Environment Policy. The Fortescue Environment Policy is provided as Attachment 11.

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

Fortescue implements and maintains an Environmental Management System (EMS) that aligns with the principles of ISO14001 International Standard for Environmental Management Systems. Fortescue also maintains an Environment Policy that is publicly available on the Fortescue website (refer to Attachment 11).
The Policy is endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer and the Board, stating that compliance with environmental laws and obligations is the minimum standard to which Fortescue will operate. It is the responsibility of all Fortescue employees and contractors to comply with the Environment Policy.

The Fortescue environmental management framework is managed by environmental personnel, within corporate, site operations and projects. Position descriptions for relevant environmental personnel outlines the requirements to manage and implement Fortescue's EMS sitewide. Fortescue identifies the environmental aspects of its projects and operations through a systematic risk assessment process. Environmental risks are reviewed and updated annually with Environmental Improvement Plans (EIPs) established for high risk environmental aspects.

Operational controls (management plans, procedures, guidelines and work instructions) will be identified and developed for each environmental risk. Environmental management programs established at Operational and Project sites detail the implementation of operational controls and monitoring of its effectiveness. Effectiveness of critical environmental controls implemented for high risk environmental aspects are audited annually to identify improvement opportunities that may reduce the consequence or likelihood of occurrence of environmental risks or gaps.

All Fortescue employees, including supervisors, receive training during inductions outlining their responsibilities in relation to complying with the Environment Policy. Environmental personnel at Operational Sites and Projects deliver targeted training on specific regulatory requirements, site specificapproval conditions and use of Fortescue management plans and procedures to ensure that personnel understand their environmental responsibilities when undertaking their day to day work.

Fortescue maintains a database that is accessible to all Fortescue personnel to capture, maintain and report details of non-compliances and corrective actions. Performance against compliance targets are monitored and internally reported to management on a monthly basis, ensuring that non-compliance triggers and adverse environmental trends are identified and appropriate corrective and remedial actions can be implemented. Monthly analysis and reporting to Senior Managers is undertaken for environmental incidents and actions completed. Regular biennial reporting of environmental performance to regulators is undertaken in accordance with the Statutory Reporting Schedule.

Environmental personnel at Operational and Project sites undertake monthly auditing against high risk environmental obligations (those obligations where non-compliance could potentially lead to environmental harm). Results of audits are internally reported to Senior Managers, with corrective actions arising from non-compliance captured, reviewed and reported.

Records relating to environmental management (including compliance, monitoring and reporting) are maintained within Fortescue in accordance with Fortescue's Record Keeping Policy.

Continuous improvement of Fortescue EMS and environmental performance is driven through the environmental governance processes within the business, including monthly reporting to Senior Managers, quarterly reporting to the Board and quarterly environmental management review meetings with Site and Head Office management. Improvement actions identified on Fortescue EMS effectiveness and environmental performance are identified through the Senior Environmental Management team.

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	31631303305
Organisation name	PILBARA ENERGY (GENERATION) PTY LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Jarrod Pittson
Job title	Group Manager Environment and Closure
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	jarrod.pittson@fortescue.com
Address	Ground Floor 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

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	31631303305
Organisation name	PILBARA ENERGY (GENERATION) PTY LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Matt Dowling
Representative's job title	
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	matthew.dowling@fortescue.com
Address	Ground Floor, 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

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	31631303305
Organisation name	PILBARA ENERGY (GENERATION) PTY LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Jarrod Pittson
Representative's job title	Group Manager Environment and Closure
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	jarrod.pittson@fortescue.com
Address	Ground Floor 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

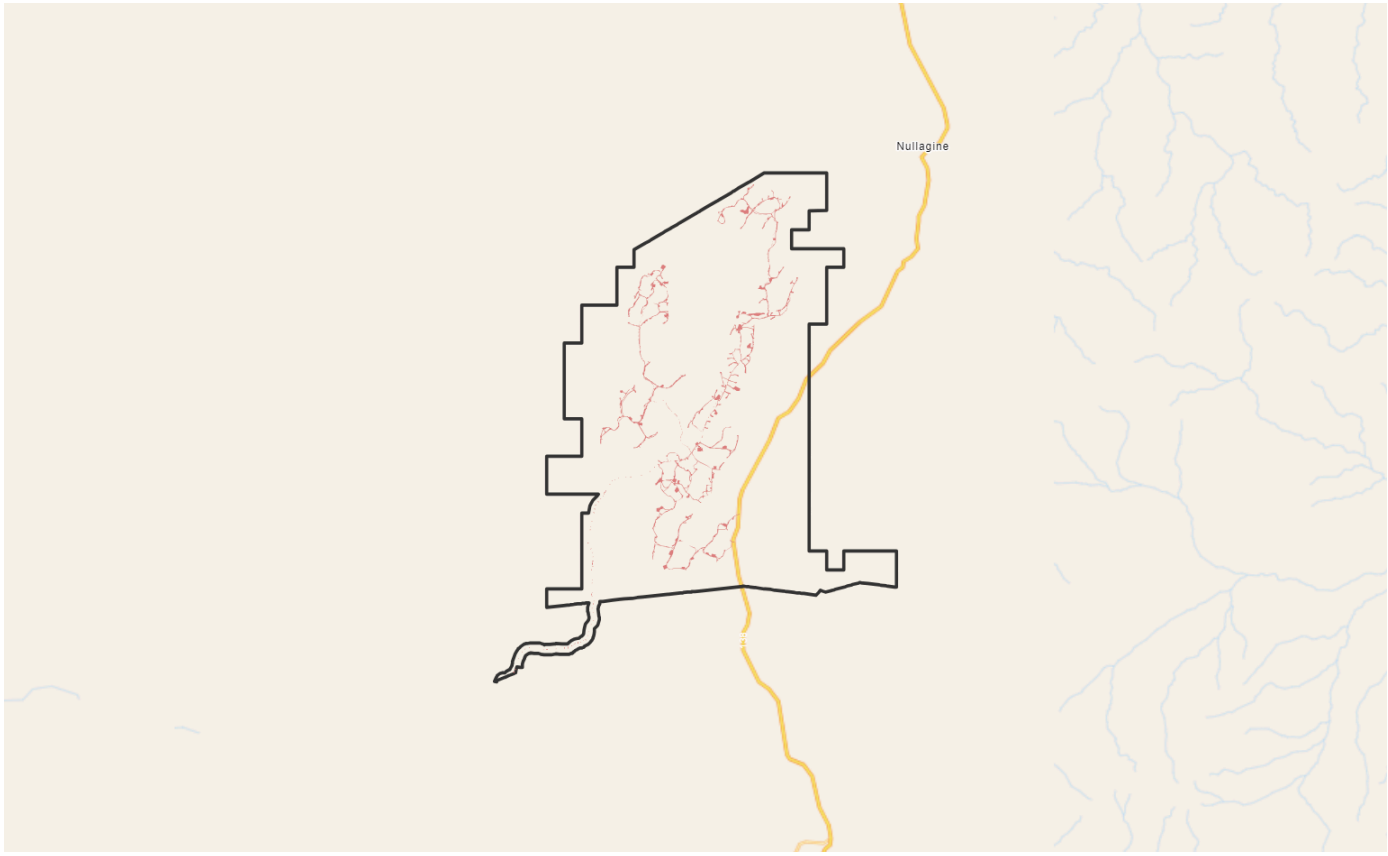
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 90079.53 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 2046.62 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Marble Bar Road, Nullagine, WA 6758

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

Western Australia

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 Proposed Action will utilise tenure under the WA *Mining Act 1978*.

Other underlying land use of the area include pastoral activities. The Proposed Action is located across three pastoral stations: Bonney Downs, Hillside and Roy Hill pastoral leases which are managed under the *Land and Administration Act 1997*.

The southern edge of the Proposed Action Area is adjacent to the Christmas Creek Iron Ore Mine Expansion DE (as per Ministerial Statement 1033).

The Proposed Action Area is located within the Palyku Part A (Federal Court file number: WAD23/2019) native title determination area which have the Palyku-Jartayi Aboriginal Corporation (PJAC) as the registered native title body corporation; and the Nyiyaparli People (Federal Court file number: WAD6280/1998) which has the Karlka Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporation (KNAC) as the registered native title body corporation.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Proposed Action is sited within the Shire of East Pilbara and is located approximately 9 km southwest of Nullagine town (at the northern extent of the Proposed Action). The southern edge of the Proposed Action is adjacent to Fortescue's Christmas Creek Iron Ore Mine Expansion project (as per the Ministerial Statement 1033 boundary) (refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 1, Figure 1-1 (p. 14) and Figure 1-2 (p. 15)). The main town sites in the Shire are Newman, Marble Bar and Nullagine, with a number of Aboriginal Communities: Goodabinya, Irrungadji, Jigalong, Kiwirrkurra, Kunawarritji, Parngurr, Punmu and Warralong.

The main access to the Proposed Action will be via Great Northern Highway (GNH) or Fortescue's Rail Maintenance Track (which runs parallel to the GNH), and the Shire of East Pilbara road network (including Hillside Woodstock Road, Marble-Bar Woodstock Road, Hillside-Marble Bar Road and Bonney Downs-Hillside Road), which will enable transport of turbines and other infrastructure to the Proposed Action Area from port facilities at Port Hedland. There are additional existing roads and access tracks that will allow for Proposed Action traffic and delivery of other components and materials. Marble Bar Road will also be utilised for transportation of machinery and materials to the Proposed Action.

An internal network of site access tracks will connect the infrastructure during construction and operational activities. Approximately 300 km of internal access tracks will be required and will connect to the public road network at a suitable location. Existing cleared roads and tracks will be used where possible. There is an existing Nullagine Mine haul road through the Proposed Action Area that leads to Christmas Creek Mine Site that the transmission line will follow. The layout of the access roads will minimise the overall track length required to provide access to all turbines, while also balancing cut to fill quantities.

The East Pilbara dominant land uses include grazing on native pastures, conservation reserves and mining leases. There are 109 active iron ore mines with the East Pilbara producing half of the Pilbara's total iron ore production (Shire of East Pilbara, 2022) and generating $57.6 billion in commodities in 2020 (Shire of East Pilbara, 2022).

The southern edge of the Proposed Action Area is adjacent to the Christmas Creek Iron Ore Mine Expansion DE (as per MS 1033). Additional operational mines within 50 km of the Proposed Action Area are associated with East Pilbara Iron Ore (Fortescue), Marillana Agate, McPhee Creek and Roy Hill Iron Ore.

Overall, the vegetation within the Proposed Action is well preserved, containing about 98% of remaining pre-European vegetation, and consisting of 5 vegetation associations. The vegetation composition within the Pilbara region is influenced by the frequency and intensity of the fire, since the region is a fire-prone environment and most of the area is burnt at least once a year (WA Agriculture Authority, 2018). According to the DBCA Fire History (DBCA, 2024), over 75% of the Proposed Action Area has been impacted by fire between 2006 and 2024, equating to over 68,700 ha.

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

The Proposed Action is sited within the Nullagine locality and is located approximately 9 km southwest of Nullagine town (at the northern extent of the Proposed Action Area). The Proposed Action is located in the Shire of East Pilbara. The main town sites within the Shire are Newman, Marble Bar and Nullagine, with a number of Aboriginal Communities: Goodabinya, Irrungadji, Jigalong, Kiwirrkurra, Kunawarritji, Parngurr, Punmu and Warralong.

The Shire is rich in mining and pastoral activities, providing a significant contribution to the State and National economies. There are 109 active iron ore mines with the East Pilbara producing half of the Pilbara's total iron ore production (Shire of East Pilbara, 2022) and generating $57.6 billion in commodities in 2020.

The closest conservation area, the Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve is located approximately 9.3 km south of the access road and transmission line. The closest land of conservation interest is a parcel of land formerly part of the Hillside Pastoral Lease and now classed as Unallocated Crown Land (proposed for conservation), located approximately 7.76 km southwest.

The Proposed Action does not intersect any DBCA managed conservation estate, private conservation reserves or lands of conservation interest to the State. The closest DBCA conservation estate to the Proposed Action Area is the Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve, located approximately 9.3 km south of the access road and transmission line. The closest land of conservation interest is a parcel of land formerly part of the Hillside Pastoral Lease and now classed as Unallocated Crown Land (proposed for conservation), located approximately 7.76 km southwest.

Dominant land uses in the region include grazing on native pastures, conservation reserves and mining leases.. The Proposed Action Area is situated on the Bonney Downs, Hillside and Roy Hill pastoral leases.

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

The Proposed Action Area does not intersect any legislated conservation lands or waters or lands of conservation interest. The closest conservation area, the Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve is located approximately 9.3 km south of the access road and transmission line. The closest land of conservation interest is a parcel of land formally part of the Hillside Pastoral Lease and now classed as Unallocated Crown Land (proposed for conservation), located approximately 7.76 km southwest.

The Proposed Action does not intersect any State or Nationally Important Wetlands, with the closest being Fortescue Marshes which is approximately 9.3 km south of the Proposed Action Area. The Proposed Action Area also does not overlap any Ramsar Wetlands; however, the Fortescue Marshes Draft Proposed Ramsar is approximately 6 km southwest of the Proposed Action Area. The Proposed Action Area overlaps the Fortescue River catchment, which contains the Fortescue Marshes.

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

According to the 1:250,000 scale topographic Map Index, the Proposed Action Area has a topography ranging from 450 AHD to 500 AHD.

3.2 Flora and fauna

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

Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2, pp. 55 - 124 for a complete description of flora and fauna within the Proposed Action area. A summary of the attachment is provided below.

Flora

A desktop flora and vegetation assessment was undertaken by ecologia (2025a) (Attachment 2), followed by a two-phase detailed flora and vegetation assessment which was completed by:

- SLR (2024) surveyed the Bonney Downs East Survey Area between 10 – 18 May 2023 and 29 July – 5 August 2023. The Bonney Downs East Survey Area covers 31,789.79 ha, and
- ecologia (2024) surveyed the Bonney Downs North Survey Area between 19 – 26 June and 13 – 20 September 2023, and the remainder of the consolidated Survey Area (ecologia, 2025a) between 5 – 13 March and 15 – 21 July 2024. The ecologia (2025a) survey area covers approximately 77,051 ha.

ecologia (2025a) is a consolidated report, presenting the findings of the assessments undertaken by SLR (2024) and ecologia (2025a), plus additional findings. Refer to Attachment 2 for the full report.

ecologia (2025a) recorded 23 individuals of *Quoya zonalis* (Pilbara Foxglove) within the survey area. This species is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act. None were recorded within the Proposed Action Area, the individuals were recorded 4.5 km north, outside of the Proposed Action Area.

The detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment Report (ecologia, 2025a) is provided in Attachment 2 – Bonney Downs Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment.

Fauna

Detailed and targeted terrestrial vertebrate fauna surveys were completed for the Proposed Action within Bonney Downs North (ecologia, 2024a) and Bonney Downs South (Spectrum Ecology, 2024):

- ecologia (2024a) surveyed Bonney Downs North between 22 May – 2 June 2023, 9 – 19 October 2023, 16 – 28 March 2024 and completed a targeted assessment between 24 July – 2 August 2024, and
- Spectrum Ecology (2024) surveyed Bonney Downs South between 13 – 25 October 2023, 4 – 14 April 2024 and completed a targeted assessment between 26 – 28 April 2024.

Fortescue engaged ecologia to consolidate the results of these assessments into a single report that covers the entire Bonney Downs Wind Generation area ('the Survey Area') (ecologia, 2025b) (Attachment 3). The Survey Area comprises approximately 102,802.56 ha, which encompasses the entire extent of the Proposed Action Area.

Fortescue commissioned ecologia (2025c) to undertake 24 months of Bird and Bat Site Utilisation Surveys (BBSUS) within the Survey Area. This has commenced and will be completed in August 2025. Timing of the BBSUS was designed to coincide with seasonal variation in the Pilbara region, with surveys undertaken in summer (December-February), autumn (March-May), winter (June-August) and spring (September-November) each year. At time of writing, a total of six BBSUS have been completed to date, including all four seasons of year 1 and spring and summer of year 2. Refer to Attachment 4 for the full report.

Ecologia (2025b) mapped 10 broad fauna habitats (excluding cleared areas) which are considered critical or supporting habitat for at least 18 species listed under EPBC Act. Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.4, pp. 81 - 124 for further details. The following habitat types were mapped within the Proposed Action Area (these are described in more detail in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.4.1, pp. 81 – 87):

- Woodland (open) – 574.28 ha
- Supporting habitat for Grey Falcon, Ghost Bat, Pilbara Leaf-nose Bat (PLNB) and Oriental Plover
- Woodland (closed) – 392.02 ha
- Supporting habitat for Grey Falcon, Ghost Bat, Pilbara Leaf-nose Bat (PLNB) and Oriental Plover
- Granite outcrops (flat dome) – 12.48 ha
- Supporting habitat for Grey Falcon, Northern Quoll (in southern portion of Proposed Action Area only), Ghost Bat, PLNB and Oriental Plover
- Plain (stony/gibber) – 75,547.94 ha
- Critical habitat for Night Parrot
- Supporting habitat for Grey Falcon, Ghost Bat, PLNB and Oriental Plover
- Plain (cracking clays) – 5,366.12 ha
- Supporting habitat for Grey Falcon, Ghost Bat, PLNB, Oriental Plover and Night Parrot
- Hills/ranges/plateaux – 1,322.34 ha

- Critical habitat for Northern Quoll (in northern portion of Proposed Action Area only), Pilbara Olive Python, Ghost Bat and PLNB
- Supporting habitat for Grey Falcon and Oriental Plover
- Gorges/gullies – 41.51 ha
- Critical habitat for Northern Quoll (in northern portion of Proposed Action Area only), Pilbara Olive Python, Ghost Bat and PLNB
- Supporting habitat for Grey Falcon, Oriental Plover and Northern Quoll (in southern portion of Proposed Action Area only)
- Rocky escarpments (ridges/mesa/cliffs/outcrops/breakaways) – 2,123.25 ha
- Critical habitat for Northern Quoll (in northern portion of Proposed Action Area only), Pilbara Olive Python, Ghost Bat and PLNB
- Supporting habitat for Northern Quoll (in southern portion of Proposed Action Area only), Grey Falcon and Oriental Plover
- Drainage line/river/creek (major) – 1,657.22 ha
- Critical habitat for Grey Falcon, Pilbara Olive Python, Ghost Bat and PLNB
- Supporting habitat for Northern Quoll (in northern and southern portions of Proposed Action Area), Australian Painted Snipe, Common Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Oriental Plover, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Glossy Ibis, Wood Sandpiper and Marsh Sandpiper
- Drainage line/river/creek (minor) – 2,092.13 ha
- Supporting habitat for Grey Falcon, Ghost Bat, PLNB and Oriental Plover.

The detailed vertebrate fauna assessment completed by ecologia (2025b) determined the likelihood of occurrence of each species in the Proposed Action Area and surrounding area. Five species listed under the EPBC Act were recorded within the Proposed Action Area, a further 13 more have a moderate likelihood of occurrence. These species are listed below. Further details, such as habitat preference, threats and species description are provided in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.4, pp. 81 - 124.

Recorded within the Proposed Action Area

- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) – Endangered,
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) – Vulnerable,
- PLNB (*Rhinonicteris aurantia* Pilbara form) – Vulnerable,
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) – Vulnerable, and
- Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceous barroni*) – Vulnerable.

Moderate likelihood of occurrence

- Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) – Endangered,
- Australian Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*) – Endangered,
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – Endangered and Migratory,
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – Vulnerable and Migratory,
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Migratory,
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) – Migratory,
- Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) – Migratory,
- Oriental Plover (*Charadrius veredus*) – Migratory,
- Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Migratory,
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Migratory,
- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Migratory,
- Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) – Migratory, and
- Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – Migratory.

The Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) was identified in the PMST, with two historical records from 1982 and 1984 in the DBCA database for the Proposed Action Area. However, due to low location accuracy, these records were excluded from the Dziminski, Carpenter, and Morris (2020) analysis of historical Bilby records. The ecologia (2025b) survey found no evidence of Bilbies in the area, which consists largely of rocky terrain and stony/gibber plains, offering unsuitable habitat and substrates for the species. Given the uncertainty of past records, the lack of suitable habitat, and the absence of recent evidence, the Bilby is considered unlikely to occur within the Proposed Action Area. A total of 113 bird and bat taxa have been recorded in the Survey Area, including 108 records during the ecologia (2025c) BBSUS, and five additional bird and bat taxa records from the ecologia (2025b) detailed and targeted terrestrial vertebrate fauna surveys. One species listed as Threatened under the EPBC Act was recorded during the BBSUS (ecologia, 2025c); the Grey Falcon.

Analysis of echolocation calls in the Survey Area identified the presence of at least 10 species of bat within the local area (ecologia, 2025c). This included two species listed as Threatened under the EPBC Act; the Ghost Bat and the PLNB. The initial results of the BBSUS undertaken for the Proposed Action Area are outlined in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.4.2, Table 4-11, pp. 93.

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

Please refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.2, pp. 62 - 80 for a complete description of the vegetation within the Proposed Action Area. A summary of the attachment is provided below.

Geology, Soil and Land Systems

The Proposed Action Area is comprised of 9 geological units described in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.2.1, Table 4-3, p. 62. There are 12 land systems within the Proposed Action Area (DPIRD, 2022), of which Rocklea and Bonney system covers more than 76% of the total Proposed Action Area (Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.2.1, Table 4-4, p. 63).

The vast majority of the Proposed Action Area (87.05%) is described as having an extremely low probability for occurrence of Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS). However, this classification has a confidence level 4, which means that this is a provisional classification inferred from surrogate data with no on-ground verification.

Vegetation

According to ecologia (2025a), the Proposed Action Area overlaps five vegetation associations (VAs) within the Proposed Action Area is mostly composed of VA 173 (98.34%), which overlaps with Chichester and Fortescue subregions. The remainder of the Proposed Action Area is comprised of VA 18, 29, 93 and 562. All other VAs each represent less than 1% of the Proposed Action Area. All VAs have over 99% extent remaining across both subregions.

The Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) database did not identify any EPBC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the Proposed Action Area, or within 10 km of it. Additionally, ecologia (2025a) did not record any vegetation representative of a TEC.

A total of 15 vegetation units were mapped (excluding cleared areas) within the Proposed Action Area based on floristic analysis and statistical results. Three similar *Acacia inaequilatera* dominated vegetation types (AiCpTe1, AiCpTe2, and AiSgTb) were mapped as a mosaic unit as they could not be consistently distinguished using aerial imagery. This area is referred as ‘Mosaic (Mos)’ and covers 56,633.25 ha, which represents most of the Proposed Action Area (62.94%).See Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.2.3, pp. 71 -75 for an outline of the vegetation type, general vegetation condition and extent within the Proposed Action area per vegetation unit.

Overall, the vegetation condition within the Proposed Action Area was assessed as ‘Excellent’ (90.07%). A small portion of the Proposed Action Area is ‘Degraded’ (1.93%) to ‘Very Good’ (3.58%), with 0.94% of the Proposed Action Area completely cleared. Most degradation observed within the Proposed Action Area was associated with riparian habitat, in which dense **Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel Grass) and **Cenchrus setiger* (Birdwood Grass) infestations were sometimes present.

Most of the cleared areas are associated with the Nullagine Mine (former BC Iron mine site), which also shows infestations of **Calotropis procera* (Calotrope), **Aerva javanica* (Kapok Bush), and **Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel Grass). These areas of weed infestation tend to be restricted to historically disturbed sites and the surrounding undisturbed vegetation is usually in ‘Very Good’ to ‘Excellent’ condition (ecologia, 2025a). Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.2.7 pp. 79 for further detail.

3.3 Heritage

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

There are no Commonwealth heritage places or National heritage places within the Proposed Action Area. The Proposed Action Area lies entirely within the jurisdiction of Western Australia, therefore no places listed on the List of Overseas Places of Historic Significance to Australia (LOPHSA) are relevant to the Proposed Action. In addition, no places with European heritage value are known to occur within the Proposed Action Area.

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

Please refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.3, pp. 125-134 for additional detailed of the heritage within the Proposed Action Area.

Native Title

Most of the Proposed Action Area is located within the Palyku Part A native title determination area (WCD2019/002) and is the traditional lands of the Palyku People (Palyku). A small section of the Proposed Action Area intersects with the Nyiyaparli and Nyiyaparli #3 native title determination area (WCD2018/008) and is the traditional lands of the Nyiyaparli People (Nyiyaparli). The registered native title body corporate (RNTBC) representing the Palyku People is the PJAC and the RNTBC for the Nyiyaparli People is KNAC.

Fortescue has and will continue to engage with Palyku and Nyiyaparli native title stakeholders through the relevant RNTBCs regarding the development of the Proposed Action. Early engagement was undertaken with Palyku and Nyiyaparli to ensure collaborative planning and key concerns regarding potential impacts to cultural values were considered in the design and management of the Proposed Action.

Heritage surveys conducted to date are outlined in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.3.1.1, pp. 125-126.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Places

A search of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS) was undertaken on 10 April 2025, to identify any Registered Sites, Lodged Places, and Historic Places within the Proposed Action Area (DPLH, 2024). The search identified 34 Registered places and 84 Lodged places within the Proposed Action Area. A review of Fortescue's internal heritage database was also undertaken. Based on surveys completed at the time of writing this report, a total of 158 Heritage Places from Fortescue's internal heritage database are located within the Proposed Action Area. Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.3.1.3, pp. 126-134 for further details on the site types of the Heritage places within the Proposed Action Area.

Heritage Restriction Zones

Heritage Restriction Zones (HRZs) are an internal management measure implemented by Fortescue to provide an additional layer of protection for places of cultural significance. To date, two HRZs are present in the Palyku section of the Proposed Action Area, both of which were identified during heritage surveys. These HRZs include undefined areas the Palyku Native Title stakeholders consider have potential to hold cultural value. These HRZs will be subject to additional visitation to record and classify the area as Aboriginal Sites to be managed under the AH Act, or may remain as HRZs, managed in direct consultation with Palyku Native Title stakeholders. There are currently no HRZs present within the Nyiyaparli section of the Proposed Action Area. Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.3.1.3, pp. 126 for further details on HRZs.

Culturally Significant Water Sources

The Proposed Action Area is located in the headwater areas of four river systems, including Shaw River, Fortescue River, Nullagine River and Coongan River. The main watercourses that drain through the Proposed Action Area include the Nullagine River to the east, Bonnie Creek (a tributary of Nullagine River) to the north and Coongan River to the west. A number of ephemeral pools, including Bonnie Pool, are found along Bonnie Creek. Bonnie Pool was identified as an ethnographic site and has culturally significant values for the Palyku traditional owners. Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.3.1.3, pp. 126-134 for further details on culturally significant water sources.

Land Systems

The Proposed Action Area encompasses landforms represented by 12 land systems. The description and areas within the Proposed Action Area are described in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.2.1, pp. 62-66. Among these 12 land systems, the Laterite and Robe land systems are characterised by the presence of mesa landforms which can be culturally significant as they provide habitat for fauna. Fortescue is currently undertaking a landform desktop assessment and is in consultation with the Traditional Owners to identify culturally significant landforms within the area.

Traditional Ecological Values

Traditional ecological values are another aspect of social surroundings that plays an important role in Palyku and Nyiyaparli culture and traditional practices. This includes culturally significant plants and animals used for bush tucker, tools or medicine, areas used for traditional activities such as camping and hunting, as well as important ecological

features with cultural associations.

During consultation for the Proposed Action, both Palyku and Nyiyaparli expressed concern for the potential impacts on native plants and animals in the area. In addition to maintaining the natural biodiversity of the area, which was noted by both groups as being important. Palyku also expressed concern for potential loss of plants used for traditional purposes (such as medicine).

While TEK surveys with Palyku are still ongoing, a survey undertaken recently identified a more detailed list of culturally significant plant and animal species. Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.3.1.3, pp. 129-133 for further details on TEKs.

Aesthetics and Amenity

During the consultations, considerations for potential impacts from changes to the visual aesthetics of the area and amenity (use of Country) from noise or dust generated by Fortescue's activities were discussed with Palyku and Nyiyaparli. Based on an understanding of key values in the area, Fortescue proposed locations for inclusion in the dust, noise, and visual impact assessments.Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.3.1.3, pp. 129-134 for further details on aesthetics and amenity.

Access to Country

Maintaining access to Country and specific places to undertake traditional activities is a Native Title right afforded to Traditional Owners under the *Native Title Act 1993*. Both Palyku and Nyiyaparli practice traditional activities on their respective lands. Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.3.1.3, pp. 129-134 for further details on access to Country.

The information from the consultations align with the values that Nyiyaparli have identified through their people and country plan (KNAC, 2022). Fortescue has committed to undertaking traditional ecological knowledge surveys to identify culturally significant plants and animals to Palyku traditional owners. Fortescue has undertaken a number of flora and fauna assessments for the Proposed Action (see Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2, pp. 55-124) to provide context on the ecological environment of the Proposed Action.

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. *

Please refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.4, pp. 134-137 for details of the surface water and groundwater within the Proposed Action Area.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no World Heritage properties within or near the Proposed Action area. Impacts (direct or indirect) to World Heritage Properties are therefore not anticipated to occur. No further information is provided.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action area does not intersect or lie adjacent to any national heritage places and will therefore not impact this protected matter. No further information is provided.

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. *

A Draft Ramsar Wetland, the Fortescue Marsh is located 9.3 km south (25 km from nearest wind turbine) of the Proposed Action Area. No significant impacts to the Fortescue Marsh are anticipated (see Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.4, pp. 176-179 for further detail).

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	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
Yes	Yes	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	Dasyurus hallucatus	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
No	No	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
Yes	Yes	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
Yes	Yes	Liasis olivaceus barroni	Pilbara Olive Python
No	No	Liopholis kintorei	Great Desert Skink, Tjakura, Warrarna, Mulyamiji, Tjalapa, Nampu
Yes	Yes	Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat
No	No	Macrotis lagotis	Greater Bilby
Yes	Yes	Pezoporus occidentalis	Night Parrot
No	No	Polytelis alexandrae	Princess Parrot, Alexandra's Parrot
Yes	Yes	Rhinonicteris aurantia (Pilbara form)	Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat
Yes	Yes	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe

Ecological communities

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

Yes

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

Fauna

Refer to Att 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.2, pp. 138-176 for detail on the potential direct and indirect impacts to EPBC Act listed Threatened fauna species likely to occur within the Proposed Action Area. Threatened fauna species that were recorded or are likely to occur within the Proposed Action Area and their conservation status include:

- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus)* – Endangered,
- Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia*) – Vulnerable,
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) – Vulnerable,
- Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*) – Vulnerable,
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) – Vulnerable,
- Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) – Endangered,
- Australia Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*) – Endangered,
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – Endangered and Migratory, and
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *(Calidris acuminata*) – Vulnerable and Migratory.

The cause of these potential direct and indirect impacts associated with the Proposed Action without the implementation of avoidance, management and/or mitigation measures are summarised below (Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.2, pp. 138-176 for further detail):

Habitat loss

The Proposed Action Area includes the construction of up to 200 wind turbines and associated infrastructure. Each turbine will require up to 2 ha for construction, which includes a permanent cleared footprint of 1 ha. Overall, the total clearing for the Proposed Action is expected to be 1,911.97 ha of habitat (excluding previously cleared areas). 1,012.21 ha (this includes 80.93 ha of areas previously cleared by other activities not related to this Proposed Action) will be rehabilitated once construction is complete.

Bird and Bat collision with the operational wind farm infrastructure

Wind turbines and the transmission line infrastructure pose a collision risk for birds and bats. This risk is mainly due to rotating wind turbine blades; however, collisions with turbine towers and motionless blades can also occur, especially among birds. A review of existing literature in relation to bird and bat impacts of wind farms has been undertaken and is presented in Attachment 10 (of Attachment 1) – Bird and Bat Collision Literature Review. Results from the Bird and Bat Site Utilisation Surveys (BBSUS) recorded one Threatened bird species within the Proposed Action Area: the Grey Falcon. Additionally, the following species were considered post-survey as ‘High’ or ‘Moderate’ likelihood of occurrence: Night Parrot, Australian Painted Snipe and Common Greenshank.

The potential collision impacts on birds and bats are related to the rotor swept area (RSA) for the proposed wind turbines. The RSA refers to the area swept by the rotating blades during turbine operation. For the Proposed Action, this is anticipated to be between 99 m above ground level (i.e., minimum ground clearance) and 290 m above ground level (i.e., the maximum blade tip height). Therefore, species typically flying below 99 m or above 290 m in flight height will be at a lower risk of collision with the operational turbines, even in the event that they fly directly across any given turbine location. The potential collision impacts are discussed in further detail in Attachment1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.2.1.1, pp. 139-150.

Increased risk of vehicle strike

Light vehicle movements will increase through the Proposed Action Area, mainly during the construction phase, increasing the risk of vehicle strikes within the area. Heavy plant and machinery required during clearing activities will also increase the risk of vehicle strike. These risks will be reduced during the operational phase as onsite personnel will be significantly reduced from 1,000 personnel to approximately 100 personnel for maintenance and operational activities.

Habitat fragmentation and project infrastructure acting as a barrier to fauna movement

The Proposed Action will lead to habitat fragmentation for some of the EPBC listed species due to permanent clearing for new roads and access tracks within the IDF. The wind turbine locations may result in the loss of fauna habitat and fragmentation by creating physical barriers and causing some species to no longer utilise the area. This is particularly true for birds and bats, which may avoid flying between turbine blades and as well as non-flying wildlife foraging or moving throughout the infrastructure.

Increasing access and attraction of scavenger and feral animals

The camp, which is anticipated to accommodate up to 1,000 personnel during construction, and up to 100 personnel during operational activities, may increase the attraction of scavenging and feral fauna species, if waste disposal is not appropriately managed. Additionally, animal carcasses from roadkill or wind turbine collision can also attract scavenger and feral animals within the Proposed Action Area. This can result in an increased pressure on the surrounding populations of native fauna species, including increased predation of Threatened species by feral animals.

Increased risk of weed introduction

Clearing for the Proposed Action will increase movement of vehicles in the Proposed Action Area during construction, including earth moving machinery which could result in the establishment of new populations of weed species. Areas of dense weed infestation can reduce the ability of fauna to traverse through their associated habitat and impact on their ability to forage. In addition, weed species that are palatable to feral herbivores can cause an increase of these animals within the area thereby causing potential land degradation and further spreading of weed species either by movement of soil or in the animal's dung. Increased weed presence can also significantly increase the risk of fire, which can impact on fauna habitat value.

Disruptions to the behaviour of nocturnal fauna due to artificial light

Artificial light can impact nocturnal Threatened species by changing predator and prey dynamics and movement, interfering with navigation, and impacting the physiology of circadian rhythm and reproduction. The construction of the Proposed Action will involve the use of artificial light to illuminate specific working areas, although the majority of the works are anticipated to occur during daylight hours. During operations, artificial lighting may be used for safety purposes and within facilities such as the accommodation camp.

Disturbance from noise and vibration

Noise and vibration impacts will mainly increase due to construction activities and are then expected to decrease to slightly above baseline levels during the operational phase. During construction, noise and vibration are expected from machinery, earthworks, and ground-disturbing activities, with minimal blasting anticipated. Operational noise and vibration will be relatively constant but low in intensity. Noise can affect animal behaviour and physiology, reducing survival and fitness and may also lower reproductive success or lead to area abandonment.

Alteration or creation of microclimates

Wind farms have the potential to influence local and regional climates due to their modification of surface atmosphere exchanges and the transfer of energy, momentum, mass, and moisture within the atmosphere. The land in and around the wind farm infrastructure can experience related temperature changes. Some studies have shown evidence of cooling during the day and warming temperatures during the night (Lou *et al., 2021*). Qin et al. (2022) reported a warming of 0.10°C of annual mean nighttime land surface temperature averaged over all wind farms they studied. These differences in temperature can alter vegetation cover and consequently impact fauna habitat over the long term.

Increased risk of bushfires

Wind turbines pose a risk of fire incidents, mostly associated with lightning strikes (as the turbines can act as conductors) and mechanical failures, often exacerbated by the presence of combustible material. Similarly, transmission lines can cause wildfires through failures, pole top or transformer fires and also experience outages from wildfires. Bushfires can have a detrimental effect on fauna habitat and lead to direct mortality of fauna.

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. *

Threatened Fauna

There is a potential for significant impacts to Threatened Fauna species to occur. The complete fauna impact assessment is provided in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.2, pp. 138-176 and potential significant impacts are summarised below.

Direct impacts

Habitat loss

The following critical and/or supporting habitat will be directly impacted by the Proposed Action:

- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*)
    - Supporting habitat – 12.83 ha
    - Critical habitat – 22.53 ha
    - Critical supporting habitat – 520.11 ha
- Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia*)
    - Supporting habitat – 1,875.23 ha
    - Critical habitat - 36.73 ha
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*)
    - Supporting habitat – 1,909.21 ha
    - Critical habitat – 2.76 ha
- Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*)
    - Critical habitat – 36.73 ha
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*)
    - Supporting habitat – 1,875.23 ha
    - Critical habitat - 36.73 ha
- Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*)
    - Supporting habitat – 160.97 ha
    - Critical habitat - 658.62 ha
- Australia Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*)
    - Supporting habitat – 2.76 ha
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)
    - Supporting habitat – 2.76 ha
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)
    - Supporting habitat – 2.76 ha.

The Proposed Action will therefore adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of these species and in-line with the MNES Significant Impact Criteria the Proposed Action will potentially result in a significant impact to these species.

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. *

Without appropriate mitigation measures, the impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action could potentially have significant impact on Threatened fauna via direct loss of habitat and indirect impacts as a result of habitat degradation. The mitigation hierarchy will be applied while developing and implementing the Proposed Action to ensure that impacts to MNES species are minimised and managed appropriately long-term.

The Proposed Action is a controlled action due the loss of 1,911.97 ha of fauna habitat (excluding previously cleared area), some of which is considered critical habitat for EPBC Act listed species. Rehabilitation post construction will re-establish fauna habitat in temporarily disturbed areas. There will be some permanent loss of habitat for Drainage line/river/creek (major); Drainage line/river/creek (minor); Granite outcrops (flat dome); Plain (cracking clays); Plain (stony/gibber), Rocky escarpments (ridges/mesa/outcrops/breakaways) and Woodland (open).

Critical habitat for Northern Quoll, Ghost Bat, PLNB, Grey Falcon, Pilbara Olive Python and Night Parrot will be cleared. With regard to the MNES significant impact criteria relating to critical habitat, as the Proposed Action will adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of these species, the proposed clearing is considered to result in a potentially significant impact to these species.

Clearing up to 12.83 ha of supporting habitat within the Proposed Action Area for the Northern Quoll represents only 0.62% of the total mapped extent of this habitat and is therefore not expected to result in a significant impact to this species. The clearing of up to 542.64 ha of critical habitat and critical supporting habitat in the northern section represents 2.57% of the mapped extent within the Proposed Action Area. As this is critical habitat for the Northern Quoll and the species was recorded within the Proposed Action Area, the clearing of up to 22.53 ha of critical habitat (of which 11.85 ha is permanent clearing and 10.68 ha is temporary clearing) is considered a significant impact.

Clearing of up to 36.73 ha of potential roosting and foraging critical habitat for the Ghost Bat and PLNB represents 0.71% of the critical habitat's mapped extent within the Proposed Action Area. No suitable roost caves were identified within the Proposed Action Area and no call times indicate a nearby roost site despite extensive survey effort over multiple seasons (ecologia, 2025b). While the PLNB and Ghost Bat are currently unlikely to roost in the Proposed Action Area, clearing of potential roosting habitat has the potential to limit the ability of the species to inhabit the area should other habitats surrounding the Proposed Action Area become unsuitable. As such, clearing of critical habitat represents a potentially significant impact. Clearing of up to 1,875.23 ha of supporting habitat for the Ghost Bat and PLNB represents 2.23% of these habitat's mapped extent within the Proposed Action Area. Clearing of this supporting habitat for the Ghost Bat and PLNB is not considered to have a significant impact on the species due to the abundance of habitat remaining in the Proposed Action Area and wider area.

The clearing of 2.76 ha of critical habitat for the Grey Falcon represents 0.17% of its mapped extent within the Proposed Action Area. Clearing up to 1,909.21 ha of supporting habitat for this species (all other habitat types) represents 2.18% of the habitat's mapped extent within the Proposed Action Area. Clearing of this critical habitat is not considered a significant impact as trees containing active nests for the species will not be cleared, and remaining habitat in the Proposed Action Area and wider are will not be impacted.

Clearing of 36.73 ha of Pilbara Olive Python critical habitat represents 0.71% of the mapped extent of these habitat types within the Proposed Action Area. As the clearing extent equates to less than 1% of the available critical habitat within the Proposed Action Area and there is further suitable habitat in the wider area, this is not considered a significant impact to the species.

Clearing of 658.62 ha of Night Parrot critical habitat represents 2.89% of the mapped extent of these habitats within the Proposed Action Area. Clearing of 160.97 ha of Night Parrot supporting habitat represents 3.00% of the mapped extent of this habitat type within the Proposed Action Area. Clearing of these habitats is not anticipated to have a significant impact on the species due to the lack of records of this species in the area and the abundance of remaining suitable habitat within the Proposed Action Area, as well as the surrounding area. Clearing for the Proposed Action is mainly linear, rather than broadscale clearing, and if a population of Night Parrots were to utilise the Proposed Action Area, they would not be excluded from a large area due to the clearing and could make use of habitat adjacent to the IDF. The areas cleared for the Proposed Action would be unlikely to present a substantial obstacle to movement of individuals between areas of habitat.

These impacts are considered in further detail in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.2.1 and Section 5.2.2, pp. 139-175.

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. *

Flora and Vegetation

Avoidance

- The design has avoided known locations of Threatened flora species, Pilbara Foxglove (*Quoya zonalis*), through the design refinement of the Proposed Action Area.
- Where significant flora occurs close to the IDF 'no-go' zones will be demarcated prior to construction activities to protect the conservation significant flora species from impacts such as accidental clearing or disturbance.
- Areas to be cleared will be demarcated on the ground (either physically or using GPS enabled methods).

As impacts will be avoided, further mitigation measures for nationally listed Threatened flora and TECs is not required.

Fauna

Avoidance

- The IDF has been designed to avoid areas that may support significant biodiversity values or cultural values. Areas that have been avoided, where practicable, include:
    - Avoidance of major drainage/creek lines except where crossing locations are required, which are associated with specific fauna habitats.
    - Avoidance of direct disturbance of gorges/gullies and hills/ranges/plateaux habitats, which are associated with specific fauna habitats.
    - Avoidance of mesas, which are associated with specific fauna habitats.
    - Avoidance of areas with known conservation significant fauna, where practicable, avoiding all existing records of conservation significant fauna.
- Prior to conducting ground disturbing activities, ensure known locations of environmental sensitive areas (such as critical habitat) to be retained and protected from disturbance are identified on the ground by appropriate signage, fencing or flagging. No-go zones will be demarcated on Proposed Action drawings and physically on site prior to clearing activities.

Mitigation

- Clearing and ground disturbing activities limited to the defined clearing limits and boundaries described within the approval documentation. The extent of the approved clearing will be clearly communicated in documentation and site inductions. Pre-clearing photos to be documented and post clearing inspections to be undertaken.
- All site operatives and personnel attending the site will undergo an induction regarding Threatened fauna and direct and indirect impacts (e.g., risk of vehicle strike, interaction with construction activities, waste management and introduction of feral animals).
- Strict speed limits will be enforced in critical habitats during dawn and dusk in order to avoid fauna strikes during clearing and construction.
- Consideration will be given to the use of line marking along the transmission line route to increase visibility to birds and bats and improve their ability to accurately perceive depth in relation to power lines. Ultraviolet (UV) line marking, if available, should also be considered, particularly with a view to minimising risks of nocturnal collisions. The design of both power lines and poles will comply with recommendations developed by BirdLife International to minimise potential for impacts to birds.
- Comprehensive weed hygiene management through implementation of weed management measures to be outlined in the EMP.
- Implementation of fire risk management measures will be undertaken including:
    - Clearing activities would not be undertaken when fire danger ratings are extreme or above,
    - Where increased risk of fire is identified, fire-resistant barriers like screens will be employed to confine sparks generated by welders and other hot work activities,
    - Carefully manage and monitor hot works through implementation of hot works permit system,
    - Ensuring appropriate disposal of potential fire-starting waste, e.g., cigarette butts to minimise the risk of bushfires as a result of the Proposed Action, and
    - Firefighting equipment will be located around the site and in vehicles. Fire response procedures and personnel training, including site inductions on fire prevention and management, will also be provided.
- All food waste will be removed from site at the end of each shift. Waste will be stored at the depot and regularly removed to minimise attraction of feral animals.
- Lighting will be designed and managed in accordance with the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife. These include:
    - Permanent lighting will be installed only where required, within operational areas,

    - Permanent and temporary lighting will be shielded to minimise light spill. This includes directional or shielded lighting, the mounting of light fittings as low as practicable, or louvered lighting on low-level bollards,
    - Automatic timers or photovoltaic switches,
    - Black-out blinds on windows in accommodation camps, and
    - Permanent and temporary lighting will be directed away from sensitive areas where possible such as areas of critical habitat.
- Standard construction noise management measures will be implemented, including:
    - Machinery and vehicles are regularly services and operated/maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, and preferential use of modern equipment that generally operate more quietly,
    - Using techniques that reduce noise, such as employing hydraulic, rather than impact, methods. Training workers on best practices for minimizing noise,
    - Plant and machinery on site will be switched off and not left idling when not in use, and
    - Planning the construction schedule so that the noisiest tasks occur during times when they will cause the least disturbance.
- Operational measures to reduce potential impacts associated with collision of the wind turbines includes:
    - Large turbines are more visible and have lower blade rotational speeds than smaller turbines. Collision rates also appear to be related to ease of visibility. The Proposed Action will incorporate some of the largest turbines available,
    - Turbines are designed to be widely spaced to reduce the diversionary responses by birds and bats, and
    - Design and implementation of a bird and bat monitoring programme, which will record bird activity in the Proposed Action Area during construction and operation. This will include best practice estimation of actual mortality rates using current techniques.
- Progressive rehabilitation of 1,012.21 ha (this includes 80.93 ha of areas previously cleared by other activities not related to this Proposed Action) after each phase of the construction activities will reduce impacts to fauna habitat over time, including potential fragmentation impacts.

Refer to Attachment 1 - Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 6, pp. 184 - 186.

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

Fortescue proposes to use the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund (PEOF) as the offsets mechanism for the Proposed Action with the intention of maximising regional biodiversity benefits. The complete offset strategy is outline in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 7, pp. 187-192. The significant residual impacts and offset fund contribution is summarised below.

Fauna

- Permanent clearing of up to 20.42 ha of habitat critical to the survival of the Northern Quoll, PLNB and Ghost Bat.

Offset Fund Contribution

Based on the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund Implementation plan (DWER, 2019), it is expected that Fortescue will be required to pay a rate per hectare of impact to the critical habitat for the Northern Quoll, PLNB and Ghost Bat. The total estimated contribution is $67,508.52 for a total permanent clearing area of 20.42 ha.

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		Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
Yes		Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
Yes		Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
Yes		Charadrius veredus	Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel
Yes		Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow
Yes		Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail
Yes		Motacilla flava	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. *

PMST search identified 11 Migratory species, all birds, that may occur within the Proposed Action Area. Potential Impacts to Migratory Fauna Species are considered in Attachment 1 - Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.3, pp. 176-183. The 11 Migratory species are considered to have a moderate likelihood of occurrence:

- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Migratory,
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) – Migratory,
- Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) Migratory,
- Oriental Plover (*Charadrius veredus*) – Migratory,
- Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Migratory,
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Migratory,
- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Migratory,
- Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) – Migratory,
- Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – Migratory,
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – Endangered and Migratory, and
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – Vulnerable and Migratory.

Since some Migratory species are also Threatened species, such as Common Greenshank (Endangered) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Vulnerable), they were assessed under the Threatened species criteria (Section 4.1.4 of this document and Atachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.2, pp. 138-175).

These species and their species profile, describing their background information, habitat, threats and habitat importance within the Proposed Action Area are described in Att 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 4.2.4.4 pp. 115-124.

Potential direct/and or indirect impacts to Migratory bird species are similar to those described for Threatened species. The Proposed Action activities that may impact Migratory fauna include:

- Habitat loss from direct clearing of Migratory fauna habitat in the disturbed footprint to accommodate the Proposed Action infrastructure, including access roads, turbine pads, transmission lines and substations.
- Fauna mortality and disturbance due to increased vehicle movement during the construction and operational phases.
- Habitat fragmentation and behavioural change due to the long-term (up to 30 years) operation of the wind farm, which includes the turbine movements and operation of the transmission line infrastructure.
- Behavioural change resulting from disturbance associated with general construction and operational-related activities (i.e., noise, increase of human activities).

To summarise, these potential direct and indirect impacts associated with the Proposed Action without the implementation of avoidance, management and/or mitigation measures include:

- Direct impacts:
    - Clearing of Migratory fauna habitat within the Proposed Action Area, including some permanent clearing and some areas of temporary clearing,
    - Bird collision with the operational wind farm infrastructure, and
    - Increased risk of vehicle strike.
- Indirect impacts:
    - Habitat fragmentation and Proposed Action infrastructure acting as a barrier to fauna movement,
    - Increasing access and attraction of scavenger and feral animals,
    - Increased risk of weed introduction,
    - Disturbance from noise and vibration,
    - Alteration or creation of microclimates, and
    - Increased risk of bushfires.

Unlike the nationally Threatened fauna, the Migratory species that may occur in the Proposed Action Area are diurnal. Due to their daytime habits and their transient nature, as these species do not establish roosting or nesting sites within the area, the increase in artificial light is not expected to have an impact.

Habitat loss

The Proposed Action includes construction of up to 200 wind turbines and associated infrastructure. Each turbine will require up to 2 ha for construction, which includes a permanent footprint of 1 ha. Overall, the total clearing is expected to be 1,911.97 ha of habitat, including 980.69 ha of permanent clearing and 931.27 ha of temporary clearing. 1,012.21 ha

(this includes 80.93 ha of areas previously cleared by other activities not related to this Proposed Action) will be rehabilitated once construction is complete. Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.3.1.1, pp. 177) describes the Migratory species habitat clearing within the Proposed Action Area.

Bird and Bat collision with the operational wind farm infrastructure

The presence of wind turbines and transmission lines is a potential risk for bird and bat collision during operational activities. This risk is mainly due to rotating wind turbine blades; however, collisions with turbine towers and motionless blades can also occur, especially among birds. The utilisation surveys did not record any EPBC Act Migratory species. However, nine are considered likely to occur including the Common Sandpiper, Fork-tailed Swift, Red-necked Stint, Oriental Plover, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Glossy Ibis, Wood Sandpiper and Marsh Sandpiper.

The potential collision impacts associated with the Proposed Action on Migratory avifauna are related to the rotor swept area (RSA) for the proposed wind turbines. That is the area swept by the rotating blades during turbine operation. For the Proposed Action, this is anticipated to be between 99 m above ground level (i.e., minimum ground clearance) and 290 m above ground level (i.e., the maximum blade tip height). Therefore, species typically flying below 99 m or above 290 m in flight height will be at a lower risk of collision with the operational turbines, even in the event that they fly directly across any given turbine location. The potential collision impacts are discussed in further detail in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.3.1, pp. 177-180.

Increased risk of vehicle strike

Mainly during the construction phase, vehicle movements will increase through the Proposed Action Area, associated with the transit of personnel, increasing the risk of vehicle strikes within the area. Heavy plant and machinery during clearing activities are also a risk during clearing activities. This risk will be reduced during the operational phase, given the decrease of 1,000 personnel to a maximum of 100 personnel for maintenance and operational activities.

Habitat fragmentation and Proposed Action infrastructure acting as a barrier to fauna movement

The Proposed Action will lead to habitat fragmentation due to permanent clearing for new roads and access tracks within the Indicative Disturbance Footprint. The wind turbine locations may result in the loss of fauna habitat and fragmentation by creating physical barriers and causing some species to avoid the area. This is particularly true for birds, which may avoid flying between turbine blades, with changes to foraging or movement within habitat near the infrastructure.

Increasing access and attraction of scavenger and feral animals.

The camp to accommodate up to 1,000 personnel during construction, and up to 100 personnel during operational activities, will increase the risk of attraction of scavenging and feral fauna species, if waste disposal is not appropriately managed. Additionally, animal carcasses resulting from roadkill or collision can also attract scavenger and feral animals within the Proposed Action Area. These can result in increased pressure on the surrounding populations of native fauna species, including increased predation of Migratory species by attracted introduced feral animals.

Increase risk of weed introduction

Construction activities for 300 km of roads for access infrastructure between infrastructure and the main access via the Great Northern Highway and Fortescue's Rail Maintenance Track can increase the risk of weed introduction through machine and personnel movements. Weed introduction can also result from edge effects on vegetation due to clearing activities. Increasing weed presence can reduce the ability of fauna to transverse through their associated habitat and impact on their ability to forage, attract feral herbivores causing further land degradation and spreading of weed species and significantly increase the risk of fire.

Disturbance from noise and vibration

Noise and vibration will mainly increase due to construction activities and decrease slightly above baseline levels during the operational phase. During construction, noise and vibration are expected from machinery, earthworks, and ground-disturbing activities, with minimal blasting anticipated. Operational noise and vibration will be constant but low in intensity. Noise can affect animal behaviour and physiology, reducing survival and fitness, and may also lower reproductive success or lead to area abandonment.

Alteration or creation of microclimates

Wind farms have the potential to influence local and regional climates due to their modification of surface-atmosphere exchanges and the transfer of energy, momentum, mass, and moisture within the atmosphere (Zhou *et al*., 2012). The land in and around the wind farm infrastructure can experience related temperature changes. Some studies have shown evidence of cooling during the day and warming temperatures during the night (Qin *et al*., 2022). Qin et al. (2022)

reported a warming of 0.10°C of annual mean nighttime land surface temperature averaged over all wind farms they studied. These differences in temperature can alter vegetation cover (Qin *et al*., 2022) and consequently impact fauna habitat.

Increased risk of bushfires

Wind turbines pose a risk of fire incidents, mostly associated with lightning strikes (acting as conductors) and mechanical failures, often exacerbated by the presence of combustible material (You et al., 2023). Similarly, transmission lines can cause wildfires through failures, pole top or transformer fires and also experience outages from wildfires (Panossian and Elgindy, 2023). Bushfires can have a detrimental effect on fauna habitat and lead to direct mortality of fauna.

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. *

Habitat loss

The Migratory bird species that are likely to occur within the Proposed Action Area may occasionally utilise the Drainage line/river/creek (major) as a foraging and/or dispersal habitat for the species. The Oriental Plover may also utilise all other habitats for foraging and/or dispersal. The Fork-tailed Swift is almost exclusively aerial and does not rely on terrestrial habitat for survival. The following Migratory fauna habitat will be directly impacted by the Proposed Action:

- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – 2.76 ha of supporting habitat,
- Oriental Plover (*Charadrius veredus*) – 1,909.21 ha of supporting habitat,
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) - Does not rely on terrestrial habitat,
- Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) – 2.76 ha of supporting habitat,
- Red-necked Stint (*Calidris rudicollis*) – 2.76 ha of supporting habitat,
- Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – 2.76 ha of supporting habitat,
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – 2.76 ha of supporting habitat,
- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – 2.76 ha of supporting habitat,
- Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – 2.76 ha of supporting habitat,
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – 2.76 ha of supporting habitat, and
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – 2.76 ha of supporting habitat.

Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.3.1, Table 5-12, pp 177 - 178 for the complete description of Migratory fauna habitat clearing within the Proposed Action Area.

The Proposed Action will impact 2.76 ha of drainage line/river/creek (major) habitat of which 0.97 ha will be rehabilitated after construction activities. Therefore, 1.78 ha will be permanently impacted by the Proposed Action. This represents 0.11% of the total habitat within the Proposed Action Area.

Given that Migratory bird species may utilise the Proposed Action Area occasionally, that the habitat within the IDF is not a critical habitat for the species and that the total habitat loss represents 0.17% of the Proposed Action Area, this impact is not significant for the species.

Additionally, given that the Oriental Plover does not have a restricted habitat for foraging and dispersal activities within the Proposed Action Area, the habitat loss as consequence of the Proposed Action do not present a significant impact, due to the extent of available habitat within the regional area.

Bird and Bat collision with the operational wind farm infrastructure

With regard to the relevant Migratory fauna species with potential to occur in the Proposed Action Area, given these species were not recorded within the Proposed Action Area during field surveys (ecologia, 2025b), and therefore relatively low number of mortalities anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action, significant impacts at a population level would not be anticipated. Further detail is provided in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.3.1, pp. 177-180.

Increased risk of vehicle strike

The Migratory species that occur within the Proposed Action Area will occasionally use the drainage line/river/creek (major) habitat for foraging and dispersal. However, given their sporadic use of terrestrial habitat and the relatively low abundance of these species within the Proposed Action Area, the risk of vehicle strikes to Migratory bird species is minimal. It is therefore unlikely that vehicle strikes will significantly impact these species.

Habitat fragmentation and Proposed Action infrastructure acting as a barrier to fauna movement

For the Migratory bird species likely to occur in the Proposed Action Area, fragmentation is generally not considered to be a significant issue given they can easily traverse from one area to another. As discussed above, the proposed clearing will be spread out over a large area and will be relatively narrow associated primarily with the access roads and turbine pads and is therefore not anticipated to result in significant fragmentation impacts or act as a substantial barrier for these species. Following construction, the rehabilitation of cleared areas will reduce any potential fragmentation or barrier impacts.

Increasing access and attraction of scavenger and feral animals

Feral predators (i.e., foxes and cats) are known to thrive in areas of reduced vegetation, as it removes vegetation cover for native fauna and improves hunting success. Given the existing nature of the Proposed Action Area (incorporating vast expanses of open spaces), it is considered that clearing associated with the Proposed Action will not significantly

increase accessibility to the area for feral animals due to the openness of the current landscape and existing presence of feral animals in the area.

Waste associated with the accommodation camp during construction and operation activities can attract scavenging and feral fauna species. However, as part of the standard operation of the camp, food waste will be removed at the end of each shift and waste stored at the depot and regularly removed. Given the existing presence of feral animals in the area, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to substantially increase feral animal activity and no significant impacts from feral animals on Migratory species are anticipated. Migratory species are also highly mobile and do not rely on the habitat within the Proposed Action Area, minimising risk of interaction with feral animals. Therefore, no significant impacts on Migratory species are anticipated.

Increase risk of weed introduction

Weed infestation is not considered a particularly high-risk threat to the Migratory species likely to occur in the Proposed Action Area. These species are highly mobile with their use of the Proposed Action Area being sporadic and they do not rely on the habitat within the Proposed Action Area. No significant impacts are anticipated for these Migratory species with regard to potential for introduction or spread of weeds within the Proposed Action Area.

Disturbance from noise and vibration

Noise from the Proposed Action could temporarily impact these Migratory species when they are active near construction areas. The highest noise levels, ranging from 100 to 120 dBZ, will occur during construction, potentially affecting nearby bird activity. However, this noise will be short term and localised. In addition, these species are highly mobile and only utilise the Proposed Action Area sporadically, therefore can move to adjacent areas in the event of any short-term elevated noise levels. Operational noise is expected to be lower and not significantly above background levels, with fauna likely to habituate over time. Given the natural noise dissipation, and extensive surrounding habitats in the wider area, significant impacts on species during construction and operation are not anticipated.

Alteration or creation of microclimates

No significant impacts are anticipated with regard to alteration or creation of microclimates. It is unlikely that the Proposed Action can significantly change the drainage lines/river/creek (major) habitat in a way that can potentially impact Migratory bird species within the Proposed Action Area. Additionally, the species recorded in the Proposed Action Area are well adapted to the extreme hot summers and low or occasionally variable rainfall events associated with the existing Pilbara climate, therefore any slight increases in temperature or rainfall events would not be likely to cause significant impact to the fauna species present within the Proposed Action Area.

Increased risk of bushfires

According to the DBCA Fire History (DBCA, 2024d), over 75% of the Proposed Action Area has been impacted by fire between 2006 and 2024, equating to over 68,800 ha. The largest recorded recent fires within the DE occurred in 2019, impacting 25,900.49 ha (28.79%) of the Proposed Action Area. From 2020 to 2024, smaller, scattered fires impacted 7,888.47 ha (8.77%) of the Proposed Action Area. Prior to 2019, the most expansive fire events occurred in 2015 and 2016, impacting 14.66% and 10.32% of land within the Proposed Action Area respectively (ecologia, 2025b). It should be noted that due to the extensive recent fire history throughout the Proposed Action Area, the potential fuel load for bushfires is substantially reduced, which lowers the risk of further bushfires occurring within the Proposed Action Area.

In addition, fire risk will be managed in accordance with Fortescue standard control measures, which aim to minimise risks as far as practical and is therefore not expected to pose a significant risk to fauna habitat or any of the Threatened species considered.

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. *

As outlined in in Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 5.3, pp. 176-181, significant impacts to EPBC Act listed Migratory species are not anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. Therefore, it is not considered a controlled action. Given that Migratory birds species are only likely to utilise the Proposed Action Area occasionally, that the habitat within the Indicative Disturbance Footprint is not critical habitat for the species, and that the total habitat loss represents 0.17% of the Proposed Action Area, impacts associated with habitat loss are not considered to be significant for any of the Migratory species likely to occur.

There is no important habitat for these species and none of the species that might occur within the Proposed Action Area are considered to be an ecologically significant proportion of their population. The individuals that might overfly or occasionally use terrestrial habitat within the Proposed Action Area are in low numbers and do not rely on the habitat for survival. The drainage lines/river/creek (major) habitat is supporting habitat for foraging and dispersal of the species and does not represent an important habitat, given the extent of remaining habitat within and on the surrounding area that can be used as foraging and dispersal for these species. Given this, the potential direct and indirect impacts to Migratory species will not significantly affect the populations of the Common Sandpiper, Oriental Plover, Fork-tailed Swift, Wood Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Glossy Ibis and Marsh Sandpiper, Common Greenshank and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

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. *

Avoidance and mitigation measures proposed for Migratory bird species are similar to those proposed for Threatened fauna species and have been summarised below for completeness.

Avoidance

- The IDF has been designed to avoid areas that may support significant biodiversity values or heritage values. Areas that have been avoided, where practicable, include:
    - Avoidance of major drainage / creek lines except where crossing locations are required, which are associated with specific fauna habitats.

Mitigation

- Clearing and ground disturbing activities limited to the defined clearing limits and boundaries described within the approval documentation. The extent of the approved clearing will be clearly communicated in documentation and site inductions. Pre-clearing photos to be documented and post clearing inspections to be undertaken.
- All site operatives and personnel attending the site will undergo an induction regarding Migratory fauna and direct and indirect impacts (e.g., risk of vehicle strike, interaction with construction activities, waste management and introduction of feral animals).
- Strict speed limits will be enforced in critical habitats during dawn and dusk in order to minimise the risk of fauna strikes during clearing and construction.
- Consideration will be given to the use of line marking along the transmission line route to increase visibility to birds and improve their ability to accurately perceive depth in relation to power lines. Ultraviolet (UV) line marking, if available, should also be considered, particularly with a view to minimising risks of nocturnal collisions (Dwyer *et al*., 2020). The design of both power lines and poles will comply with recommendations developed by BirdLife International (BirdLife International, 2007a) to minimise potential for impacts to birds.
- Comprehensive weed hygiene management through implementation of weed management measures. All works will be undertaken in accordance with Fortescue's Weed Management Plan (Reference: 45-PL-EN-0033) as the standard operating procedure.
- Implementation of fire risk management measures will be undertaken, including:
    - clearing activities would not be undertaken when fire danger ratings are extreme or above,
    - Where increased risk of fire is identified, fire-resistant barriers like screens will be employed to confine sparks generated by welders and other hot work activities,
    - carefully manage and monitor hot works through implementation of hot works permit system,
    - ensuring appropriate disposal of potential fire-starting waste, e.g., cigarette butts to minimise the risk of bushfires as a result of the Proposed Action, and
    - firefighting equipment will be located around the site and in vehicles. Fire response procedures and personnel training, including site inductions on fire prevention and management, will also be provided.
- All food waste will be removed from site at the end of each shift. Waste will be stored at the depot and regularly removed to minimise attraction of feral animals.
- Standard construction noise management measures will be implemented, including:
    - Machinery and vehicles are regularly services and operated/maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, and preferential use of modern equipment that generally operate more quietly,
    - Using techniques that reduce noise, such as employing hydraulic, rather than impact, methods. Training workers on best practices for minimizing noise,
    - Plant and machinery on site will be switched off and not left idling when not in use, and
    - Planning the construction schedule so that the noisiest tasks occur during times when they will cause the least disturbance.
- Operational measures to reduce potential impacts associated with collision of the wind turbines includes:
    - Large turbines are more visible and have lower blade rotational speeds than smaller turbines. Collision rates also appear to be related to ease of visibility. The Proposed Action will incorporate some of the largest turbines available,
    - Turbines are designed to be widely spaced to reduce the diversionary responses by birds and bats, and
    - Design and implementation of a bird and bat monitoring programme and the bird and bat adaptive management plan, which will record bird activity in the Proposed Action Area during construction and operation. This will include best practice estimation of actual mortality rates using current techniques (Korner-Nievergel *et al.*, 2015).

Rehabilitation

Progressive rehabilitation of 1,012.21 ha (this includes 80.93 ha of areas previously cleared by other activities not related to this Proposed Action) after each phase of the construction activities will reduce impacts to fauna habitat over time, including potential fragmentation impacts.

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

No offsets are proposed since it is considered that no significant residual impacts on EPBC Act listed Migratory species will result of the Proposed Action.

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not a nuclear action. Impacts (direct or inirect) as a result of nuclear actions are therefore not anticipated to occur. No further information is required.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

There are no potential impacts to this Protect Matter from the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action area occurs onshore and does not intersect with a Commonwealth Marine Area. No further information is provided.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not located within or near to the Great Barrier Reef and therefore no impacts will occur. No further information is provided.

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 a large coal mining development or coal seam gas project. Impacts (direct or indirect) to water resources due to those activities will not occur. No further information is provided.

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 Proposed Action area does not overlap Commonwealth land. Impacts (direct or indirect) to Commonwealth land will not occur. No further information is provided.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not located in international waters or on international lands. The Proposed Action does not, therefore, overlap any Commonwealth heritage places overseas. Impacts (direct or indirect) to Commonwealth heritage places overseas will not occur. No further information is provided.

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 area and IDF were subject to an iterative site selection process that assessed potential site locations and layouts using the hierarchy of risk management (avoid, minimise, mitigate) to reduce the Proposed Action's environmental risk profile.

Fortescue has previously considered alternative power supply sources. The greenhouse gas emissions associated with these alternatives are at odds with the Paris Agreement 2016, which aims to limit global warming to less than 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. The alternatives were also inconsistent with the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Guidance (EPA, 2024). Alternative power options to the Proposed Action include:

- Purchase of power from existing third-party power generation infrastructure, which is dominated by power stations with high greenhouse gas emissions,
- Continuous operation of Solomon Power Station at full capacity, as well as commissioning of additional thermal generation to cover Fortescue's increased load, and
- Net and Real zero options include conversion of Solomon Power Station to run on green ammonia/hydrogen, however covering all energy that would be provided by a wind generation site would have severe impacts on capital expenditure and C1 (due to the cost of green ammonia as a fuel).

Continued application of the mitigation hierarchy and ongoing consultation with the traditional owners will further avoid or minimise impacts to environment and cultural values.

Refer to Attachment 1 – Bonney Downs EPBC Supporting Document, Section 9, pp. 195-197.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	16/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	EPBC 2025-10284-Bonney Downs Wind Farm-Resubmission Request.pdf Resubmission Request Form	02/10/2025	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High

1.3.2.17 (Person proposing to take the action) Proposer's history of responsible environmental management

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 11_Fortescue Environmental Policy.pdf Fortescue Environment Policy (100-PO-EN-0001)	30/07/2022	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 11_Fortescue Environmental Policy.pdf Fortescue Environment Policy (100-PO-EN-0001)	29/07/2022	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Link	About the Shire https://www.eastpilbara.wa.gov.au/council/our-co..			High
#3.	Link	Fire History Mapping https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-fi..			High

3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Link	About the Shire https://www.eastpilbara.wa.gov.au/council/our-co..	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	16/09/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	ATT 2 Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment_Part1.pdf Bonney Downs Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment 1 of 5	11/02/2025	Yes	High
#4.	Document	ATT 2 Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment_Part2.pdf Bonney Downs Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment 2 of 5	11/02/2025	Yes	High
#5.	Document	ATT 2 Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment_Part3.pdf Bonney Downs Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment 3 of 5	11/02/2025	Yes	High
#6.	Document	ATT 2 Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment_Part4.pdf Bonney Downs Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment 4 of 5	11/02/2025	Yes	High
#7.	Document	ATT 2 Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment_Part5.pdf Bonney Downs Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment 5 of 5	11/02/2025	Yes	High
#8.	Document	ATT 2_Redacted_Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment_Part1.pdf Bonney Downs Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment Redacted 1 of 2	11/02/2025	No	High
#9.	Document	ATT 2_Redacted_Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment_Part2.pdf Bonney Downs Consolidated Flora and Vegetation Assessment Redacted 2 of 2	11/02/2025	No	High
#10.	Document	ATT 3 Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey Consolidation.pdf Bonney Downs Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey Consolidation	24/04/2025	Yes	High
#11.	Document	ATT 3_Redacted_Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey Report Consolidation.pdf	24/04/2025	No	High

		Bonney Downs Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey Report Consolidation Redacted			
#12.	Document	ATT 4 Bird and Bat Site Utilisation Survey.pdf Bonney Downs Wind Farm Bird and Bat Site Utilisation Report - Year 1	17/04/2025	Yes	High
#13.	Document	ATT 4_Redacted Bird and Bat Site Utilisation Survey Report.pdf Bonney Downs Wind Farm Bird and Bat Site Utilisation Report - Year 1 Redacted	17/04/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	ATT 6 Registered and Lodged Aboriginal Heritage Places within the DE.pdf Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System Search	10/04/2025	No	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	No	High
#3.	Document				

ATT 7 Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment_Part1.pdf Bonney Downs - Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment 1 of 8			14/03/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	ATT 7 Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment_Part2.pdf Bonney Downs - Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment 2 of 8	14/03/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	ATT 7 Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment_Part3.pdf Bonney Downs - Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment 3 of 8	14/03/2025	No	High
#6.	Document	ATT 7 Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment_Part4.pdf Bonney Downs - Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment 4 of 8	14/03/2025	No	High
#7.	Document	ATT 7 Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment_Part5.pdf Bonney Downs - Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment 5 of 8	14/03/2025	No	High
#8.	Document	ATT 7 Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment_Part6.pdf Bonney Downs - Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment 6 of 8	14/03/2025	No	High
#9.	Document	ATT 7 Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment_Part7.pdf Bonney Downs - Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment 7 of 8	14/03/2025	No	High
#10.	Document	ATT 7 Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment_Part8.pdf Bonney Downs - Baseline Hydrology and Qualitative Impact Assessment 8 of 8	14/03/2025	No	High
#11.	Document	ATT 8 Bonney Downs Baseline Hydrology Study_Part1.pdf Hydrology Study for Pilbara Decarbonisation - Consultant Report	15/09/2023	No	High
#12.	Document	ATT 8 Bonney Downs Baseline Hydrology Study_Part2.pdf Hydrology Study for Pilbara Decarbonisation - Consultant Report	15/09/2023	No	High
#13.	Document	ATT 8 Bonney Downs Baseline Hydrology Study_Part3.pdf Hydrology Study for Pilbara Decarbonisation - Consultant Report	15/09/2023	No	High
#14.	Document	ATT 8 Bonney Downs Baseline Hydrology Study_Part4.pdf Hydrology Study for Pilbara Decarbonisation - Consultant Report	15/09/2023	No	High
#15.	Document	ATT 8 Bonney Downs Baseline Hydrology Study_Part5.pdf	15/09/2023	No	High

		Hydrology Study for Pilbara Decarbonisation - Consultant Report			
#16.	Document	ATT 8 Bonney Downs Baseline Hydrology Study_Part6.pdf Hydrology Study for Pilbara Decarbonisation - Consultant Report	15/09/2023	No	High
#17.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part1.pdf Post Develpoment Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#18.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part10.pdf Post Development Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#19.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part11.pdf Post Development Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#20.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part12.pdf Post Development Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#21.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part13.pdf Post Development Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#22.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part14.pdf Post Development Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#23.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part2.pdf Post Develpoment Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#24.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part3.pdf Post Develpoment Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#25.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part4.pdf Post Develpoment Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#26.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part5.pdf Post Develpoment Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#27.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part6.pdf Post Develpoment Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#28.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part7.pdf Post Development Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#29.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part8.pdf Post Development Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	No	High
#30.	Document	ATT 9 Bonney Downs Post Development Hydrology Study_Part9.pdf Post Development Hydrology Study	19/12/2024	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_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	No	High

4.1.4.8 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	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_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document			15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	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_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	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_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT 1_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document	15/09/2025	Yes	High

#2.	Document	ATT 1_Redacted_Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Doc_Rev0.pdf Bonney Downs EPBC Act Referral Supporting Document Redacted	15/09/2025	No	High
#3.	Link	Environmental Factor: Greenhouse Gas Emissions. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/policies-guidance/envi..			High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	31631303305
Organisation name	PILBARA ENERGY (GENERATION) PTY LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Matt Dowling
Representative's job title	
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	matthew.dowling@fortescue.com
Address	Ground Floor, 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

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

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

☑ By checking this box, I, **Matt Dowling of PILBARA ENERGY (GENERATION) PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	31631303305
Organisation name	PILBARA ENERGY (GENERATION) PTY LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Jarrod Pittson
Representative's job title	Group Manager Environment and Closure
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	jarrod.pittson@fortescue.com
Address	Ground Floor 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

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

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

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

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

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☑ I, **Jarrod Pittson of PILBARA ENERGY (GENERATION) PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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