Cethana Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project

Application Number: **03244** Commencement Date: **01/12/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Cethana Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

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1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/10/2028

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/01/2135

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Hydro Tasmania proposes to develop the Cethana Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) Project (the proposed action, herein referred to as 'the Project') in the vicinity of Lake Cethana in northwest Tasmania. Lake Cethana forms part of Hydro Tasmania's Mersey Forth Hydropower Scheme.

The Project will deliver long-duration energy storage to support growing Tasmanian demand and assist Australia's transition to renewable energy and as coal-fired generation retires from the National Electricity Market (NEM) by 2038. It will provide up to 750 MW of dispatchable capacity to firm variable renewables (wind and solar), strengthen system reliability, and create regional economic opportunities.

The Project will use Lake Cethana as the lower storage and construct a new off-river upper storage on the plateau west of the lake. The storages will be connected by underground water conveyances and an underground power station. Key permanent and temporary components are summarised below (refer to Attachment 1).

Above-ground components

- A new lined, off-river upper storage formed by a ring-shaped embankment dam (approx. 12.4 Mm^3 capacity, 95 ha surface area).
- Upper intake and approach channel to manage flows to and from the upper storage.
- Lower intake on the western shoreline of Lake Cethana to manage flows between the lake and the power station.
- Two switchyards – one at the switchyard pad connecting the power station to the Project transmission line, and one at Staverton connecting to the existing 220 kV network.
- A 6 km double-circuit 220 kV transmission line linking the two switchyards, partly replacing the existing Wilmot to Sheffield transmission line. A small section of the existing Farrel to Sheffield transmission line will be diverted around the upper storage.
- A switchyard pad accommodating the power station switchyard, tunnel portals (emergency/cable and ventilation), ventilation fans and back-up generators.
- A service pad for the main access tunnel portal, parking and operations facilities.
- A 22 kV overhead supply extended from the existing network for construction and operational power.
- A new access road, including an intersection, from Cradle Mountain Road providing access to the upper storage and lower intake.
- Three permanent spoil emplacement areas (two north of the upper storage and one south of the lower intake).

Underground components

- A 390 m vertical high-pressure shaft and 1,450 m high-pressure tunnel conveying water between the upper storage and the power station.
- An underground power station (approx. 750 MW) with four reversible pump-turbine units and associated electrical systems.
- A 1,170 m low-pressure tunnel and draft tubes linking the power station to the lower intake.
- A low-pressure surge facility adjacent to the power station to manage hydraulic transients.
- Three service tunnels – main access, emergency/cable, and ventilation.

Construction approach and infrastructure

Underground works will be completed using drill-and-blast techniques supported by raise-bore excavation for shafts. Surface works will use conventional earthmoving and mechanical excavation. A temporary coffer dam will be established between the lower intake and Lake Cethana.

Temporary infrastructure will include:

- Two construction compounds (north of the upper storage and at the service pad) with offices, workshops, batching and crushing plants, and materials storage.
- Up to two secure explosives magazines located within the disturbance footprint.

- Temporary access tracks for worker and equipment movement.
- A workforce accommodation facility (WAF) (~450 beds) located 6 km south-west of the site at Middlesex, with supporting utilities and amenities.

All temporary facilities will be removed, and sites rehabilitated following construction.

Investigative works, including geotechnical assessment, have been undertaken to inform the development of the Project and do not form part of the proposed action. Similarly, Hydro Tasmania's operation of the Mersey-Forth Hydropower Scheme is excluded from the proposed action.

Project development and delivery

Hydro Tasmania intends to engage an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor to develop the reference design (presented in this referral) into a detailed design and undertake construction. The EPC contractor will finalise engineering, construction planning and technical assessments. A final disturbance footprint (within the disturbance footprint presented in this referral) will be developed based on the Project's final design and construction method.

The reference design disturbance footprint provides flexibility to accommodate potential Project design refinements. If unanticipated changes arise outside of the disturbance footprint presented in this referral, Hydro Tasmania will seek a variation to an approval granted under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), if granted, or lodge a new referral.

Potential environmental impacts

Potential impacts during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning include:

- Clearing up to 335.5 ha of native vegetation, including 245.5 ha of wet and dry eucalypt forest and 37.9 ha of highland *Poa* grassland (a listed community under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*). No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) listed under the EPBC Act occur within the disturbance footprint.
- Clearing < 0.1 ha of habitat for the hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*) listed as endangered under the EPBC Act and chamomile sunray (*Rhodanthe anthemoides*) listed as rare under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1996* (TSP Act).
- Removal of three plants of mountain purplepea (*Hovea montana*), listed as rare under the TSP Act.
- Clearing up to 154.3 ha of mature eucalypt forest, which has the potential to contain denning features for Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) and spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*).
- Acid mine drainage (AMD) from potential acid forming (PAF) material in spoil stockpile or exposed rock surfaces.
- Construction waste water, including groundwater recharge in excavations and underground and surface water runoff, with elevated nitrate and other contaminant levels.
- Localised groundwater drawdown and reduced spring discharge and baseflow to local creeks.
- Noise, vibration and increased vehicle movements during construction.
- Introduction of weeds or pathogens via equipment and personnel movements.
- Operational changes to Lake Cethana increasing the frequency of daily lake level fluctuations (within the existing operational range).

The Project area is located on land owned or managed by Hydro Tasmania, land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), land managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), and private freehold property. The Project area is approximately 1,740 ha. Within the Project area, the disturbance footprint (direct surface impact area) is up to approximately 392 ha. The disturbance footprint includes land temporarily disturbed to facilitate construction. At the completion of construction and once all temporarily disturbed land has been rehabilitated, the Project's operational footprint will be approximately 192 ha.

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? *

Hydro Tasmania holds a Special Licence under the Tasmanian *Water Management Act 1999* (WM Act), allowing the taking, storage and management of water for electricity generation within the Forth River hydro-electric water district. A Division 3 Dam Works Permit under the WM Act will be required for construction of the upper storage.

Land use and development are regulated under the Tasmanian *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPA Act) and its associated planning schemes. A planning permit application for the Project has been submitted to Kentish Council and is under assessment.

Under the Tasmanian *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPC Act), Kentish Council referred the Project to the Tasmanian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). In February 2025, the EPA determined that the construction of the Project requires assessment by the Board of the EPA (the Board) and that it will be subject to a class 2C assessment. The EPA issued Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines defining the activities subject to assessment. The Board will assess the Project for Level 2 materials handling activities and conduct of a waste depot during construction, but not the associated transmission line, switchyards, power supply or access roads. Hydro Tasmania is currently preparing the EIS.

A section of the transmission line (~800 m) is located within Mount Roland Regional Reserve and will be assessed through the Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) process by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) under the Tasmanian *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* (NPRM Act).

An earlier iteration of the Project was referred to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the EPBC Act in February 2023 (EPBC 2023/09613). It was determined to be a controlled action with controlling provisions for World Heritage properties, National Heritage places, listed threatened species and communities, and listed migratory species. Further design and constructability work since 2023 resulted in an expansion of the disturbance footprint. After consultation with DCCEEW, Hydro Tasmania withdrew the first referral (EPBC 2023/09613) in April 2025 and is submitting this new referral. The surveys and technical assessments undertaken for the first referral have also been updated where required and are applicable to this referral. As the EPA and DCCEEW assessment scopes differ, Hydro Tasmania is **not** seeking assessment under the bilateral agreement between the Tasmanian and Commonwealth governments.

Under the Tasmanian *Hydro-Electric Corporation Act 1995* (HEC Act), approval from both Houses of the Tasmanian Parliament is required for construction of a major power facility exceeding 40 MW installed capacity. The Project will therefore require approval under the HEC Act.

Other relevant Tasmanian legislation and policy include:

- Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (TSP Act) – Four flora and seven fauna species listed under the TSP Act are known or likely to occur within the Project area. Permits will be obtained as required prior to construction.
- Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002 (NC Act) – One listed vegetation community (highland Poa grassland) will be directly impacted. No listed geoconservation sites occur within the Project area.
- Tasmanian State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997 – Establishes Protected Environmental Values (PEVs) for Tasmanian waters. Relevant PEVs for the Project relate to aquatic ecosystem protection.
- Tasmanian Forest Management Act 2013 (FM Act) – The Project will require revocation of Permanent Timber Production Zone Land classification within the disturbance footprint, to be undertaken in consultation with Sustainable Timber Tasmania.
- Tasmanian Forest Practices Act 1985 (FP Act) – Native vegetation clearance would ordinarily require a Forest Practices Plan; however, under the Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy, major public benefit infrastructure is exempt.

Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 (AH Act) – Surveys have identified Aboriginal artefacts within the Project area. These will be conserved within buffer zones where possible. Permits for any Aboriginal artefacts unable to be avoided will be sought following consultation with Aboriginal community representatives prior to construction.

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. *

Hydro Tasmania is committed to transparent and inclusive engagement throughout development of the Project. Consultation to date and planned engagement are summarised below. A detailed report is provided in Attachment 2 – All Pages.

Engagement has focused on the Project scope, its potential impacts on the surrounding environment and how any impacts may affect people and the social fabric of surrounding communities. Engagement has occurred in multiple stages to align with Project planning activities and detailed information becoming available.

Hydro Tasmania's engagement program for the Project will continue to be delivered across four consultation phases, each with a specific purpose, as outlined below:

Phase 1 (2023):

- Raising awareness
- Understand community context
- Share information about the initial EPBC referral and the approval process

Phase 2 (2023 – 2024):

- Gather information from the community about the Project impacts and opportunities

Phase 3 (2025):

- Communicate and validate social impacts to inform the SIA
- Raise awareness of the WAF location and seek community feedback on concerns

Phase 4 (planned for early 2026):

- Communicate Project impacts and seek feedback on draft mitigation measures
- Incorporate feedback into Project design and EIS/ DA documentation, where possible.

Phase 5 (planned for mid-2026):

- Share information about EPBC referral and how to make a submission
- Promote public exhibition of EIS/ DA and undertake extensive engagement activities to ensure the community is aware of the information and knows how to make submissions.

Hydro Tasmania undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise at the start of the engagement program (Phase 1). This continues to evolve as awareness of the Project increases. At present, the key stakeholder groups include:

- Adjoining and nearby landholders.
- Communities of Moina, Lorinna, Lake Gairdner, Staverton, Gowrie Park, Claude Road, Sheffield, and Wilmot.
- Community and environmental interest groups.
- Government and non-government service providers.
- Local businesses, tourism operators, and industry bodies.
- Aboriginal communities and organisations.
- Local and state government authorities.
- Sustainable Timber Tasmania, TasNetworks, and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

Engagement activities to date

2019–2022

Early engagement supported options assessment, pre-feasibility, and feasibility studies. Activities included community information sessions, targeted meetings with interest groups, and direct discussions with landholders.

2023

Engagement focused on building Project awareness and information about the approvals process, including the initial EPBC referral. Key activities included:

- Briefings with Kentish Council representatives.
- Distribution of a Cethana Project Update to nearby households, businesses, and community groups.
- Direct communication with adjoining and nearby neighbours.
- Project updates on social media.
- Preliminary engagement with Aboriginal organisations.
- Launch of a dedicated Project webpage with FAQs, contact forms, subscription options, and information about the EPBC referral process.

2024

Engagement focused on continuing to build Project awareness as well as community values and concerns to inform the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) that is currently being prepared to support the EIS. Key activities included:

- Community pop-ups and workshops.
- Cethana Power Station Open Day.
- Presentations and workshops with industry and key stakeholder groups.

2025

Engagement expanded to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal communities and local landholders. Key activities included:

- In June 2025, an Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer was appointed to lead engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. A two-day on-country session was held, including a yarning circle for open discussion and feedback. Heritage surveys were also undertaken with Aboriginal Heritage Officers.
- In August 2025, consultation commenced with nearby landholders regarding the proposed WAF. Activities included letterbox drops, a pop-up session, phone and email engagement, and a live webinar recorded for the Project website. Feedback from this engagement is informing WAF planning.
- In October 2025, workshops were held in Sheffield and Moina with nearby landholders and community organisations to understand community values and potential Project impacts. Outcomes will inform the SIA.

Key themes and next steps will be shared with participants.

Planned engagement activities

Hydro Tasmania will commence Phase 3 of the engagement program in early 2026, with a focus on sharing kay findings from the environmental and SIA assessments and seeking feedback on proposed mitigation measures. As the Project progresses, Hydro Tasmania will also engage on the following:

- Developing neighbour agreements with potentially affected landholders.
- Identifying local benefit sharing opportunities in accordance with the Local Benefit Sharing Strategy.
- Planning for local content and social procurement in preparation for Project procurement activities.

Future engagement will include community information sessions, webinars, briefings, focus groups, workshops, and regular communications via local print and digital channels.

The sessions will be supported by the attendance of technical Project representatives who will directly explain key findings to the community and answer any technical questions.

Hydro Tasmania’s website will continue to provide up-to-date information about the Cethana Project, with a separate dedicated engagement portal featuring Project updates, WAF information, FAQs, and opportunities for community feedback.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint.

Alternatively, email us at privacy@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	48072377158
Organisation name	Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Entura
Organisation address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001

Referring party details

Name	David Procter
Job title	Principal Environmental Consultant
Phone	1300 360 441
Email	david.procter@entura.com.au
Address	4 Elizabeth Street, Hobart TAS 7000, Australia

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	48072377158
Organisation name	Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania
Organisation address	7000 TAS

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Simon Leeper
Job title	Project Director - Cethana PHES
Phone	1300360441
Email	simon.leeper@hydro.com.au
Address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001

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. *

Hydro Tasmania is Australia's largest generator of renewable energy and largest water manager, contributing significantly to the National Electricity Market's renewable energy supply. As custodians of around 60% of Tasmania's freshwater resources and significant hydropower infrastructure, Hydro Tasmania is committed to reducing its environmental and social impacts. Hydro Tasmania has operated the Tasmanian hydropower system for more than 100 years and has a mature environmental management program informed by a strong scientific understanding of the waterways and lands it manages, including their ecological and multiple-use values. These waterbodies provide essential habitat for a range of species listed as threatened under Commonwealth and State legislation. Hydro Tasmania works to minimise impacts on these species and to manage the environment sustainably for future generations.

Environmental protection and management are core parts of Hydro Tasmania's business. The organisation employs and collaborates with environmental experts to monitor, manage and research threatened species, environmental flows, fish migration and waterway health. Under its Special Licence afforded by Tasmania's *Water Management Act 1999*, Hydro Tasmania provides stewardship of six major water catchments, making it the largest freshwater manager in Australia. It monitors river and lake levels, water quality and biological conditions to support sustainable management and keep Tasmanians informed.

Hydro Tasmania has delivered some of Australia's largest renewable energy projects, including 54 major dams and 30 hydropower stations generating about 9,000 GWh per annum, as well as two large wind farms — Musselroe and Woolnorth — now owned through joint ventures.

Hydro Tasmania will undertake the Project in accordance with its *Environmental Policy* and *Sustainability Framework*.

Hydro Tasmania is not currently the subject of proceedings under Commonwealth or State law for actions relating to the protection of environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Hydro Tasmania was a respondent in the case of *Commonwealth v State of Tasmania and others (1983) 158 CLR 1* (the Tasmanian Dam's case). No executive officers of Hydro Tasmania personally have or have ever had proceedings brought against them under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

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

Hydro Tasmania has an environmental governance framework that ensures environmental considerations are integrated into decision-making at all levels. Its Environmental Policy and Sustainability Framework guide catchment management practices to ensure future generations can continue to enjoy Tasmania's natural values and resources.

Hydro Tasmania operates under an Environmental Management System (EMS) accredited to ISO 14001, enabling the identification and management of environmental risks and opportunities while supporting continual improvement. The EMS includes procedures and programs to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory obligations, environmental monitoring, and mechanisms to manage and improve environmental outcomes. It defines accountabilities and responsibilities, outlines business and operational risks, and establishes procedures and controls to effectively manage those risks. The EMS also includes methods to review and check performance, maintaining a systematic continuous-improvement cycle. The Executive General Manager, Assets and Infrastructure, is responsible for overall EMS management.

Through the *Environmental Policy*, Hydro Tasmania aims to go beyond compliance by leading positive change across its operations and behaviours. The Policy seeks to:

- Maintain a strong system – continually improve the EMS to enhance environmental performance across products, services and activities.
- Be proactive and accountable – review progress against environmental and social objectives and communicate outcomes transparently.
- Manage risks – identify, understand and minimise social and environmental risks.
- Empower people – encourage staff, stakeholders and contractors to raise improvement opportunities and support them in fulfilling their environmental responsibilities.
- Go beyond compliance – meet all environmental and regulatory obligations while pursuing voluntary commitments that deliver broader benefits.
- Ensure healthy catchments – apply a collaborative and holistic approach to managing aquatic, land and heritage values across catchments, adapting to climate change impacts.
- Avoid waste – prevent pollution, reduce waste through circular-economy principles, adopt waste-reduction targets and embed sustainable procurement.
- Invest sustainably – integrate environmental and community considerations into investment, procurement and corporate strategies.

Hydro Tasmania's *Sustainability Framework* outlines its commitment to address the environmental, social and governance issues and opportunities most significant to the business and its stakeholders. The Framework is guided by four pillars:

- Environment – champion sustainable energy for a clean, healthy and resilient future.
- People – build a safe, inclusive and adaptive workforce for the future.
- Prosperity – deliver reliable renewable energy while supporting Tasmanian jobs and local enterprise.
- Governance – uphold best-practice corporate governance, transparency, compliance, integrity, and resilience in grid and cyber protection.

Hydro Tasmania will develop a Construction Environmental Management Framework (CEMF) for the Project, which will form part of the EIS documentation. The purpose of the CEMF is to provide an overarching framework for the management of environmental impacts from the Project to meet Tasmanian and Commonwealth environmental statutory requirements, achieve the desired environmental outcomes, protect environmental values, and maintain stakeholder confidence.

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? *

No

1.3.3.2 Is Proposed designated proponent an organisation or business? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	48072377158
Organisation name	Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania
Organisation address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Matt Errington
Job title	Environmental Management Specialist - Construction
Phone	1300 360 441
Email	matt.errington@hydro.com.au
Address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001

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	48072377158
Organisation name	Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Entura
Organisation address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001
Representative's name	David Procter
Representative's job title	Principal Environmental Consultant
Phone	1300 360 441
Email	david.procter@entura.com.au
Address	4 Elizabeth Street, Hobart TAS 7000, Australia

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	48072377158
Organisation name	Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania
Organisation address	7000 TAS
Representative's name	Simon Leeper
Representative's job title	Project Director - Cethana PHES
Phone	1300360441
Email	simon.leeper@hydro.com.au
Address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001

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.

ABN/ACN	48072377158

Organisation name	Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania
Organisation address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001
Representative's name	Matt Errington
Representative's job title	Environmental Management Specialist - Construction
Phone	1300 360 441
Email	matt.errington@hydro.com.au
Address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001

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? *

Yes

1.4.10 Enter purchase order number *

PO 4410085648

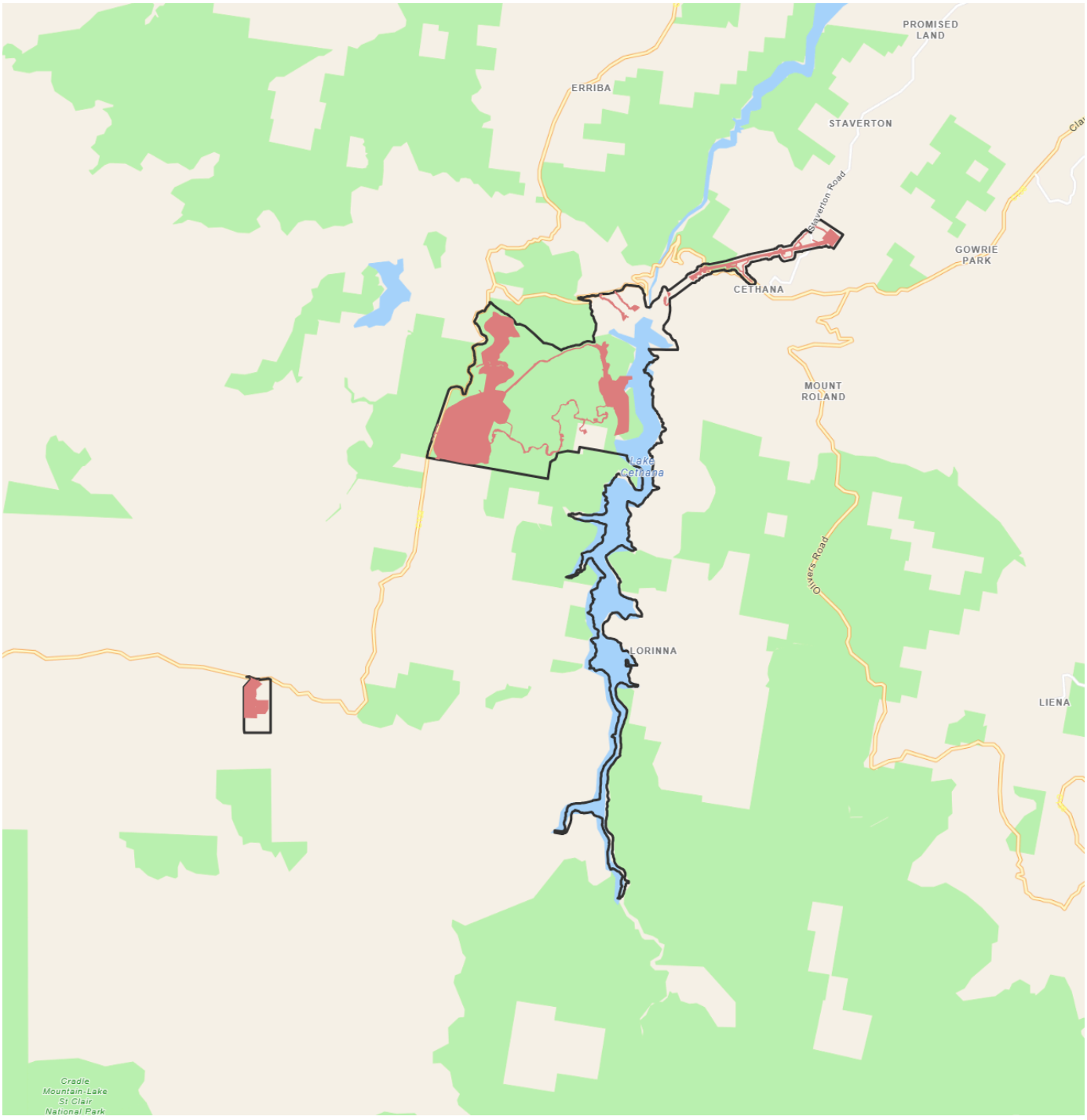
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 1739.89 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 391.57 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Lake Cethana, Tasmania, 7310

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

Tasmania

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

No

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

The Project is located on land owned or managed by the Hydro-Electric Corporation (Hydro Tasmania), land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and land managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). Sections of the transmission line near Staverton, the Staverton switchyard and the WAF are located on private freehold land.

Land managed by STT is classed as Permanent Timber Production Zone Land under the FM Act.

There are three mining leases within the vicinity of the Project, one of which is within the disturbance footprint, located adjacent to the northwestern boundary of the upper storage (ML 2M/2019).

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Project is located at Lake Cethana in northwest Tasmania, approximately 58 km southwest of Devonport (Attachment 1). Cradle Mountain Road is adjacent to the western side of the proposed upper storage and the northern side of the proposed WAF and provides access from Devonport and Launceston to the Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park. Access to the Project is via Cradle Mountain Road and Dolcoath Road, an unsealed road that connects Lake Cethana to Cradle Mountain Road. The WAF is accessed via Dove River Road, an unsealed road that connects Dove River to Cradle Mountain Road.

The environment of the Project area has been shaped by past hydropower development, timber harvesting, plantation forestry, mining on the east facing slope and historical grazing on the plateau above Lake Cethana. Existing hydropower infrastructure, including dams and transmission lines, are prominent features of the landscape.

Vegetation within the Project area is predominantly eucalypt forest. Ecological surveys of the disturbance footprint recorded 335.5 ha of native vegetation, including 245.5 ha of wet and dry eucalypt forest, and 55.4 ha of modified vegetation. One threatened vegetation community, comprising 37.9 ha of highland *Poa* grassland (listed under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and not under the EPBC Act), occurs within the disturbance footprint. The grassland at the proposed upper storage was last burnt in 2006 as a planned burn, and shrubs are now a prominent feature. See Attachment 3 – Section 3.1 – Pages 46 to 79 for more information on vegetation communities.

Elevations range from 230 m AHD at the lower intake to 750 m AHD at the upper storage, supporting a diversity of habitats and species typical of both lowland and highland forest and grassland environments, including several Tasmanian endemic mammals and birds. Three EPBC-listed mammals and five EPBC-listed birds are likely to occur within the disturbance footprint.

The flora species hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp*. tricolor*), which is listed as endangered under the EPBC Act, has potential habitat within the disturbance footprint of the proposed road intersection upgrade required for safe operation of the WAF. No other terrestrial flora species listed under the EPBC Act are likely to occur within the disturbance footprint (Attachment 3 – Section 3.4 – Pages 84 to 90). The riverine flora species native wintercress (*Barbarea australis*), listed under the EPBC Act, was recorded in a tributary of Lake Cethana (Attachment 4 – Section 4.5.2.1 – Pages 83 to 87).

Lake Cethana is a regulated storage operated as part of Hydro Tasmania's Mersey Forth Hydropower Scheme. Baseline aquatic ecosystem health is generally poor. Fish communities are limited by downstream dams to self-sustaining landlocked species or stocked populations. Surveys recorded three native fish – river blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*), short-finned eel (*Anguilla australis*) and climbing galaxias (*Galaxias brevipinnis*) – plus introduced brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (Attachment 4 – Section 4.5.3.1 – Pages 95 to 98). Short-finned eels are present only through occasional stocking by the Inland Fisheries Service. Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) were observed (Attachment 4 – Section 4.5.3.2 – Page 99), and rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) are considered likely to be present (Attachment 4 – Section 4.4.3 – Page 67). Invertebrate abundance and diversity were low, typical of storages with a large operating range (Attachment 4 – Section 4.5.3.3 – Pages 99 to 107).

No aquatic species listed under the EPBC Act were recorded in Lake Cethana. The only EPBC-listed aquatic species with potential to occur is the giant freshwater crayfish (*Astacopsis gouldi*), but physical and eDNA surveys did not detect it (Attachment 4 – Section 4.5.2.2 – Pages 87 to 95.

The proposed upper storage lies on the headwaters of several creeks flowing east and south into Lake Cethana (Lincoln, Narrawa, Dolcoath, Bull and Star creeks) and on north-western headwaters (Bismuth, Brampton and Hinman creeks) that discharge into Lake Gairdner in the Wilmot catchment.

Under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Kentish Local Provisions, most of the disturbance footprint is zoned Rural with smaller areas associated with the shoreline of Lake Cethana and the transmission line zoned Environmental Management. The WAF will be assessed under the *Kentish Interim Planning Scheme*

2013 and is zoned Rural Resource under this scheme. Land surrounding the disturbance footprint is zoned Rural, Environmental Management, Utilities and Agriculture. No rezoning is required.

Under the Tasmanian *Forest Management Act 2013*, much of the land is classified as Permanent Timber Production Zone Land. This classification will require revocation should the Project proceed.

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

Land use in the vicinity of the Project is dominated by hydro-electric generation and forestry. Wilmot Power Station, Cethana Power Station and Cethana Dam are located within the Project area. The Sheffield–Farrell 220 kV transmission line bisects the location of the proposed upper storage, and the Sheffield–Wilmot 220 kV transmission line originates at Wilmot Power Station and runs to the northeast.

Most of the Project area is managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania and is actively used for forestry operations. These include silvicultural activities and harvest of native *Eucalyptus obliqua* and *Eucalyptus delegatensis* forests and *Eucalyptus nitens* plantations.

Several accommodation businesses operate nearby, including Lemonthyme Wilderness Retreat, located immediately south of the Project area.

There are several recreational walking tracks in the vicinity, including Champagne Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and Quaile Falls.

The only permanent land use change proposed by the Project is the conversion of areas currently used for forestry, and a small area of the Mt Roland Regional Reserve, to hydro-electric generation infrastructure, including the upper and lower storages, access roads and transmission lines. No other changes in land use are proposed.

In addition to its primary hydro-electric function, Lake Cethana is used for recreation, angling and limited commercial activities. A commercial dive training facility is operated on Lake Cethana by the Commercial Dive Academy.

Lake Barrington, immediately downstream of Lake Cethana, supports the Lake Barrington International Rowing Centre, a major regional recreation and event facility.

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

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) is located south of the Project, abutting the shoreline of Lake Cethana (more than 10m above the Full Supply Level (FSL) of Lake Cethana) and approximately 6 km from the disturbance footprint. The TWWHA encompasses the Dove River Regional Reserve, about 1.5 km southeast of the WAF, and the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park, located approximately 5 km to the southwest of the WAF (Attachment 1).

The TWWHA was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982 for its outstanding natural and cultural values and now covers more than 1.5 million hectares of Tasmania. It is also listed as a National Heritage Place. Hydro Tasmania manages approximately 14,000 ha of land within the TWWHA for hydropower generation. The Project will not result in direct or indirect impacts on the TWWHA or the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park (Attachment 4 – Section 5.4.1 – Page 135.

The disturbance footprint overlaps the north-western tip of the Mount Roland Regional Reserve, limited to a single ~800 m section of the transmission alignment. Vegetation clearance within the reserve will be restricted to approximately 3.8 ha surrounding a transmission tower, of which 3.1 ha are native vegetation (Attachment 1). The Mount Roland Regional Reserve covers roughly 7,000 ha and is established under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. While the Project will have a direct, localised impact within the reserve, it is not expected to be significant and will be assessed under the Tasmanian *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* (NPRM Act).

Immediately to the north of the WAF across Cradle Mountain Road, there is a conservation covenanted private property There is a conservation covenant on private property north of the proposed WAF across Cradle Mountain Road.

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

The Project site is characterised by significant changes in elevation. The proposed upper storage is situated on a relatively flat plateau approximately 1 km wide, located west of Lake Cethana. The plateau drops steeply to the east toward Lake Cethana and to the west toward Lake Gairdner. The upper storage lies at an elevation of approximately 750 m AHD (AHD83), while the lower intake is at approximately 230 m AHD (AHD83), representing an elevation difference of around 520 m.

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.

Flora and fauna surveys of the disturbance footprint were completed between 2019 and 2025. The results of the surveys are described in detail in Attachment 3 – Section 3.4 to 3.6 – Pages 84 to 138.

Flora

A total of 232 flora species were recorded, including 204 native and 28 introduced species. Two flora species listed under the EPBC Act and 15 species listed under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSP Act) have previously been recorded within 5 km of the disturbance footprint (Attachment 3 – Appendix C.2 – Pages 214 to 223). The EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) identified five additional species as potentially occurring, but these species were assessed as unlikely to occur:

- Curtis' colobanth (*Colobanthus curtisiae*) – Vulnerable
- South Esk heath (*Epacris exserta*) – Endangered
- Alpine leafy liverwort (*Pseudocephalozia paludicola*) – Vulnerable
- Grassland greenhood (*Pterostylis ziegeleri*) – Vulnerable
- Swamp fireweed (*Senecio psilocarpus*) – Vulnerable.

Two EPBC Act-listed flora species were recorded during surveys:

- Native wintercress (*Barbarea australis*) – recorded in the lower reaches of Bull Creek, an unregulated creek that flows into Lake Cethana. This riverine species, listed as endangered under both the EPBC Act and TSP Act, has not been previously recorded in the Forth River catchment
- Hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor)* – a population of over 100 plants was observed in highland *Poa* grassland west of the proposed WAF in March–April 2025. This species is listed as endangered under the EPBC Act. Less than 0.1 ha of the suitable highland *Poa* grassland habitat for the hoary sunray will be impacted by the Cradle Mountain Road–Dove River Road intersection upgrade works. No hoary sunray plants were recorded within the disturbance footprint.

Fauna

Five terrestrial fauna habitat types were recorded within the disturbance footprint: shrubby dry forest, wet forest, rainforest, wet scrub and tussock grassland. The wet and dry forests and grasslands provide potentially suitable habitat for the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*), spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*), and eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*), which are all listed under the EPBC Act.

Records exist for all three species within 5 km of the disturbance footprint. Camera trap surveys targeting wombat burrows as potential den sites detected multiple Tasmanian devils and spotted-tailed quolls foraging within the upper storage area. There are likely to be resident populations of Tasmanian devils and spotted-tailed quolls within the disturbance footprint. There is unlikely to be a resident population of the eastern quoll within the disturbance footprint, although the species may occur in low density on occasion throughout the Project area, particularly moving along anthropogenic linear features such as roads and easements. Since the first referral was submitted in July 2023, an intensive camera trapping campaign was undertaken in the areas of potentially suitable vegetation types for eastern quolls (dry eucalypt forests and grassland). No evidence of any eastern quolls was detected during any of these 5,448 total camera trap days/nights across all seasons from July 2023 until August 2025.

Five birds listed as threatened under the EPBC Act were identified as potentially occurring. Two eagle nests occur within 1 km of the proposed transmission line alignment. The nests are of indeterminate species and may belong to the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) (endangered under both Acts) or white-bellied sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) (vulnerable under the TSP Act and listed as marine under the EPBC Act).

There are three records of swift parrots (*Lathamus discolor*) within 5 km of the Project area. *Eucalyptus delegatensis* and *E. obliqua* forest within the disturbance footprint may provide opportunistic foraging resources for individuals moving west after breeding near the east coast.

Two records of blue-winged parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) occur within 5 km of the disturbance footprint. Highland *Poa* grassland vegetation community located within the footprint of the upper storage and regrowth dry eucalypt woodland at the WAF site may provide suitable foraging habitat.

The Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*) was detected on passive acoustic recorders placed in potential breeding habitat. Although screech calls were recorded, follow-up surveys including inspections of tree hollows found no evidence of breeding or roosting within the disturbance footprint.

There are no records of white-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) within 5 km of the disturbance footprint; however, this aerial species, also listed as migratory under the EPBC Act, has been recorded across the Central Plateau and may occur over the Project area. The white-throated needletail is a summer visitor to Tasmania, occurring from January to April, where it forages above the tree canopy or over pastureland.

No aquatic fauna species listed under the EPBC Act or TSP Act were recorded, and none are considered likely to occur. The PMST identified the giant freshwater crayfish (*Astacopsis gouldi*) (vulnerable under both Acts) as potentially present, with records downstream in Lake Barrington and its tributaries. However, it has not been recorded in the upper Forth catchment upstream of Lake Barrington, and targeted physical and eDNA surveys detected no evidence of the species in Lake Cethana or its tributaries. *Astacopsis gouldi* has not been recorded in the upper Wilmot catchment upstream of Wilmot Dam, which forms Lake Gairdner. Targeted physical and eDNA surveys also found no evidence of the species in three tributaries flowing into Lake Gairdner.

The PMST also identified Australian grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*) (vulnerable under both Acts) as potentially present; however, this obligate migratory species is unlikely to occur in the upper Forth or Wilmot catchments due to dams acting as barriers to migration.

The PMST identified twelve other EPBC-listed threatened fauna species and eight other EPBC-listed migratory bird species as potentially occurring. These species, listed below, are unlikely to occur due to absence of suitable habitat, or they were not recorded during targeted surveys (Attachment 3 – Appendix C.3 – Pages 224 to 247):

- Eastern barred bandicoot - Tasmania (*Perameles gunnii gunnii*) – Vulnerable
- Ptunarra brown butterfly (*Oreixenica ptunarra*) – Endangered
- Tasmanian azure kingfisher (*Ceyx azureus diemensis*) – Endangered
- Gould's petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*) – Endangered
- Alpine cool-skink (*Carinascincus greeni*) – Endangered
- Boulder cool-skink (*Carinascincus microlepidotus*) – Endangered
- Heath cool-skink (*Carinascincus orocryptus*) – Endangered
- Green and golden frog (*Litoria raniformis*) – Vulnerable
- Australian grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*) – Vulnerable
- Tasmanian giant freshwater crayfish (*Astacopsis gouldi*) – Vulnerable
- Eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) – Endangered and Migratory
- Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) – Vulnerable and Migratory
- Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Migratory
- Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*) – Migratory
- Sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – Migratory
- Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) – Migratory
- Pectoral sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) – Migratory
- Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – Migratory

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

Vegetation surveys of the disturbance footprint were completed between 2019 and 2025. The results of the surveys are described in detail in Attachment 3 – Section 3.1 – Pages 46 to 79.

Vegetation within the Project area is predominantly eucalypt forest, influenced by soil type, drainage, fire history and previous land use, including stock grazing and production forestry. Vegetation types range from *Eucalyptus nitida* forest to the north of the upper storage, and *E. amygdalina* dry forest along the new transmission line on nutrient-poor siliceous soils, to *E. delegatensis*-dominated wet and dry forests on more fertile soils elsewhere. Understorey composition varies depending on local drainage and fire history.

A large portion of the upper storage footprint occurs in highland *Poa* grassland, which shows evidence of historical clearing and grazing (cut stumps, burnt tree trunks, and weed species such as sheep sorrel *Acetosella vulgaris*). The proposed intake/outlet structure on the shore of Lake Cethana is located in *E. obliqua* dry forest.

Twenty-two (22) TASVEG mapping units were identified within the disturbance footprint, including 15 native vegetation communities, six modified communities and one waterbody. Up to 335.5 ha of native vegetation will be impacted, primarily comprising:

- 133.5 ha of wet eucalypt forest (84.5 ha mature)
- 112.0 ha of dry eucalypt forest (69.8 ha mature)
- 37.9 ha of highland *Poa* grassland (listed as threatened under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002* but not under the EPBC Act).

Of the highland *Poa* grassland, 32.2 ha will be permanently converted to form the upper storage and its access road, and 3.4 ha will be used as a transmission easement.

Two native vegetation communities and two modified communities were verified within the WAF footprint at Middlesex:

- *Eucalyptus delegatensis* dry forest and woodland
- <0.1 ha of highland *Poa* grassland
- Regenerating cleared land
- A roadside shelterbelt of non-native *Eucalyptus nitens*, classed as hardwood plantation for silviculture.

The *E. delegatensis* dry forest and woodland within the WAF footprint is entirely regrowth following previous timber harvesting.

The EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) identified four threatened ecological communities as potentially occurring within 5 km of the disturbance footprint:

- Alpine *Sphagnum* Bogs and Associated Fen
- Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania
- Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*)
- Tasmanian white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) wet forest.

None of these listed ecological communities were recorded within the disturbance footprint during surveys. A small patch of Tasmanian white gum wet forest was recorded adjacent to the transmission line alignment, outside the disturbance footprint.

3.3 Heritage

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

The Project will not impact any cultural heritage places listed on Commonwealth heritage registers, including the World Heritage List, National Heritage List, or Register of the National Estate (RNE).

Cethana Dam, located approximately 1.3 km downstream of the proposed lower intake, is listed as an Indicative Place on the RNE but will not be affected by the Project.

The disturbance footprint and associated infrastructure intersect several late 19th to early 20th century alluvial mine workings recorded on Tasmanian Government heritage management lists. These include the All Nations Mine, listed on the Tasmanian Historic Places Inventory maintained by the Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Iris and Lawkemlaw workings, listed in Mineral Resources Tasmania's Mineral Deposits database.

No heritage places listed under the Local Heritage Code or the Tasmanian Heritage Register are intersected by the Project area.

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

A review of previous heritage studies in the region indicates that most documented Aboriginal heritage sites are situated on the elevated basalt plateaux east and west of the Forth River. A cluster of sites west of the Forth River lies on a north-east-trending basalt upland between the Iris River and Bull Creek, outside the Project area.

These watercourses drain the eastern side of the Middlesex Plains, which was a significant stopping place along the main east-west Aboriginal travel route linking major kangaroo-hunting grounds at Surrey Hills to the west with ochre mines in the Gog Range east of the Forth River. The Middlesex Plains landscape was managed to create a mosaic of clearings centred on the headwaters of east-draining creeks, with open forest maintained on elevated basalt areas traversed by the east-west road providing shelter for huts and discrete observation of game.

The proposed WAF is located toward the eastern extent of this managed landscape, on the margins of land later expropriated for sheep grazing by the Van Diemen's Land Company in the late 1820s. Surveyor Henry Hellyer's 1832 map describes the WAF area as 'open forest'; consequently, it is not expected to demonstrate Aboriginal utilisation to the same degree as the more open plains around the larger Iris River.

The Project area lies north of the main east-west Aboriginal road, approximately 4 km east of Lake Gairdner, where tea-tree was reportedly gathered for spear-making (Robinson & Plomley, 2008). Robinson's journals refer to a "native road" running along a tier between the Black Bluff Range and the Forth River, which Plomley (2008) identifies as the ridge between the Lea and Iris Rivers via Stormont Hill, leading to a lagoon now inundated by Lake Gairdner. Heritage sites documented along this ridge between the Iris River and Bull Creek, traversed by Cradle Mountain Road, and the grassy clearing at the southern end of the Project area suggests that this ridgeline may have served as a secondary route connecting Lake Gairdner with the main east-west road.

West of the grassland portion of the Project area, the steep terrain and wet forest between the proposed reservoir and intake on the Forth River suggest limited Aboriginal use relative to the more open plateau country west of Lake Cethana.

Documented sites east of Lake Cethana also show a strong association with the high basalt plateaux. These sites, extending from Addison Creek in the south to Machinery Creek, follow the watershed separating the Forth and Mersey catchments through Olivers Plains, roughly aligned with Lemonthyme Road. Robinson's journals again reference the main native road passing through this area, likely corresponding to the later Van Diemen's Land Company track that skirted the south side of Gadds Hill before turning east toward Liena and Deloraine. This may explain the southern cluster of sites at Gadds Hill and a northern cluster at Olivers Plains, potentially linked by a route to the Mount Vandyke ochre mines via Mount Claude.

Few Aboriginal sites have been recorded within the Forth River valley itself. The most noticeable cluster of small open sites occurs on the south-east flanks of Dolcoath Hill, trending toward a cobble reduction site on the margin of Lake Cethana to the south of the lower intake.

Although the environmental patterning of Aboriginal sites in the Forth River valley is difficult to discern owing to the small sample size, they appear associated with benched ridgelines providing gradual descent to the river, or small prominences overlooking the valley floor. The known site distribution, likely reflecting late Holocene activity, suggests structured movement along established routes with targeted resource use nearby. As such, large or complex sites are not anticipated within the main Project area, which lies tangential to major Aboriginal movement corridors. Smaller open sites may occur in accessible terrain, representing lower-intensity activities such as hunting, plant gathering, or stone resource use.

The Project area intersects several Aboriginal heritage sites, including three small low-density artefact scatters (2–3 artefacts each) and six single-artefact finds, all within the proposed upper storage. Six previously recorded Aboriginal artefact sites are located within 500 m of Project infrastructure; five could not be re-found during field surveys.

Three additional single-artefact sites were identified during WAF surveys, two of which lie within the disturbance footprint. Confirmed and legacy Aboriginal heritage sites will be managed in accordance with the Tasmanian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

Hydro Tasmania has commenced engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to build understanding of the significance of identified sites and intangible cultural landscape values associated with the Project. Initial work to support this engagement has included mapping culturally useful plant species to help inform ongoing discussions about intangible and cultural heritage values.

3.4 Hydrology

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

The Mersey and Forth Rivers rise on Tasmania's Central Plateau and flow northwards to the coast near Devonport and Forth respectively. Cethana Dam lies on the Forth River and forms part of Hydro Tasmania's Mersey–Forth Hydropower Scheme.

On the Mersey River, the most upstream impoundment is Lake Rowallan, with Rowallan Power Station at the dam toe discharging into the Mersey River, which flows approximately 8 km before entering Lake Parangana. Lake Parangana also receives inflows from the Central Plateau via Lake Mackenzie, which diverts water through Fisher Power Station and into the lake via the Fisher River. Water from Lake Parangana is transferred west to the Forth River catchment through a tunnel to Lemonthyme Power Station which discharges to the southern end of Lake Cethana. Additional water is transferred east from Lake Gairdner to Lake Cethana via a tunnel and Wilmot Power Station. Lake Gairdner, created by Wilmot Dam, has an operating range of 11.7 m and a surface area of approximately 0.97 km² at FSL (472.44 m AHD).

Natural inflows to Lake Cethana include the Forth and Dove Rivers and several smaller creeks entering from the west and east, including Lincoln, Narrawa, Dolcoath, Star, Bull, and an unnamed creek from the northwest. The headwaters of these creeks are located downslope of the proposed upper storage. Natural inflows to Lake Gairdner are from the Iris River (southwest) and River Lea (northwest). On the western slopes of the proposed upper storage, Hinman, Brampton and Bismuth Creeks flow into Lake Gairdner. The Wilmot River originates below Wilmot Dam and flows north for approximately 40 km before joining the Forth River downstream of Paloona Power Station.

Cethana Dam is a 113 m high concrete-faced rockfill dam with a crest length of 213 m. Lake Cethana is over 90 m deep near the dam wall, with an operating range of approximately 4.58 m (FSL 220.98 m; NMOL 216.41 m). Total storage capacity is 112,210 ML and effective storage is 19,989 ML.

Cethana Power Station, located at the dam toe, discharges into the southern end of Lake Barrington, formed by Devils Gate Dam on the Forth River. Water then passes through Devils Gate and Paloona Power Stations before the Forth River flows a further 17 km to Bass Strait.

Historically and under current operation, median water level fluctuation in Lake Cethana is approximately 0.35 m over 24 hours and for 10% of the time, it is approximately 0.7 – 0.8 m over 24 hours. Cethana Dam spills for approximately 11% of the time. With the Project, Lake Cethana will continue to operate within the same range, however, modelling using PLEXOS software shows increased frequency of daily fluctuations. Spill frequency from Cethana Dam is expected to remain similar (Attachment 5 – Section 4.1 – Pages 11 to 14). Modelling also indicates no material hydrological changes elsewhere within the Mersey–Forth Scheme (Attachment 5 – Section 4.1 – Pages 15 to 17).

Water quality in Lake Cethana is oligotrophic, with low nutrient and turbidity levels and low primary productivity. Heavy metal concentrations are generally low and within ANZECC (2000) guidelines, except for elevated aluminium. Depth profiling shows a thermocline at 10–30 m during warmer months and no thermal stratification between June and September. Turbidity remains low except during large inflow events (Attachment 4 – Section 3.2 – Pages 34 to 46).

Lake Gairdner's water quality is similar, with slightly higher turbidity from wind-induced sediment resuspension and higher aluminium levels.

Creeks draining the plateau associated with the proposed upper storage are fresh, well-oxygenated, and generally low in nutrients although high nitrate levels have been recorded in several creeks. Two creeks (Narrawa and Lincoln) are slightly acidic and, together with Bismuth Creek, exhibit elevated metals including aluminium, iron, copper and zinc.

A hydrogeological assessment, conceptual model and numerical groundwater model have been completed (Attachment 6 – all Pages). The geology of the Project site is dominated by consolidated bedrock with near-surface unconsolidated soils, Tertiary basalt and Palaeozoic units (Dolcoath Granite, Moina Sandstone, Cambrian porphyry). The main structural feature is the Bismuth Creek Fault Zone, trending northwest Attachment 6 – Sections 3.4 and 3.5 – Pages 19 to 22).

The water table in both basalt and bedrock aquifers is generally shallow (<5 m below ground). Groundwater in basalt aquifers responds rapidly to rainfall recharge, with short flow paths, low salinity and visible discharge at springs. Bedrock aquifers show slower, less responsive behaviour. The groundwater table likely follows surface topography, with groundwater migrating radially from the upper storage area. Discharge is expected as baseflow to creeks and springs on slopes below the ridge (Attachment 6 – Sections 5.13 and 5.14 – Pages 56 to 60). Shallow recharge is typically fresh and near-neutral pH, while deeper sub-catchment flow paths may exhibit higher total dissolved solids (TDS) and metal concentrations (Attachment 6 – Section 5.15 – Pages 60 to 71)

Acidic water quality has been observed in some surface and groundwater monitoring locations, associated with the Bismuth Creek Fault Zone, Moina Sandstone, Cambrian porphyry, and Narrawa, Lincoln and Bismuth Creeks. These areas correlate with historical mine workings containing potential acid forming (PAF)rock. Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) assessments indicate predominantly non-acid-forming rock with low sulphide content, though discrete volumes of PAF rock with veining and disseminated sulphides may occur. PAF rock may produce acidic drainage if exposed to oxidising conditions (Attachment 6 – Sections 5.16 and 5.17 – Pages 71 to 76).

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	No	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	World heritage
No	No	Tasmanian Wilderness

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

No

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

The Project is unlikely to have a direct or indirect impact on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

The disturbance footprint is located outside the TWWHA. However, the TWWHA abuts land vested to Hydro Tasmania at the southern end of Lake Cethana (Attachment 1) approximately 4.1 km from the disturbance footprint. Construction activities will occur within the disturbance footprint, which does not overlap the TWWHA; therefore, there will be no direct impact to the TWWHA.

The boundary between Hydro Tasmania land and the TWWHA follows the 231 m AHD contour, while Lake Cethana has a Full Supply Level (FSL) of 220.98 m AHD (Title Reference P135769). The FSL represents the maximum level at which water can be stored indefinitely and corresponds with the spillway crest level of Cethana Dam. The Project will operate within the existing FSL of Lake Cethana. As there is a vertical separation of more than 10 m between the lake's FSL and the TWWHA boundary, there will be no direct impact to the TWWHA.

Model outputs indicate that the Project will increase the frequency of lake level fluctuations. The median 24-hour lake level change is predicted to increase from 0.35 m to 0.7 m for 50% of the time, and from 0.7 m to 1.1 m for 10% of the time (Attachment 4 – Section 5.1.2 – Pages 111 to 113).

While these increased fluctuations may marginally accelerate erosional processes in susceptible areas, the valley at the southern end of Lake Cethana adjacent to the TWWHA is steep sided with thin soils over bedrock. Most areas prone to slippage have already been affected by historic lake operations. Although minor localised landslides may occur in the future, the dominance of bedrock indicates large-scale slides are unlikely.

Consequently, the geomorphic and vegetation character of the valley within the TWWHA is expected to remain stable under Project operation and there will be no indirect impact on the TWWHA (Attachment 4 – Section 5.3.1 – Pages 121 to 123).

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 Project is unlikely to have a direct or indirect impact on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), which is also a National Heritage Place.

The TWWHA abuts land vested to Hydro Tasmania at the southern end of Lake Cethana (Attachment 1) approximately 4.1 km from the disturbance footprint. Construction activities will occur within the disturbance footprint, which does not overlap the TWWHA; therefore, there will be no direct impact to the TWWHA.

The boundary between Hydro Tasmania land and the TWWHA follows the 231 m AHD contour (Title Reference P135769). Lake Cethana has a FSL of 220.98 m AHD, which is the maximum level at which water can be stored indefinitely and corresponds to the spillway crest level of Cethana Dam. The Project will operate within the existing FSL of Lake Cethana. As there is a vertical separation of more than 10 m between the lake's FSL and the TWWHA boundary, there will be no direct impact on a National Heritage place.

Model outputs indicate that the Project will increase the frequency of lake level fluctuations. The median 24-hour lake level change is predicted to increase from 0.35 m to 0.7 m for 50% of the time, and from 0.7 m to 1.1 m for 10% of the time (Attachment 4 – Section 5.1.1 – Pages 113 to 115).

While these fluctuations may increase the rate of erosion in susceptible areas, the valley at the southern end of Lake Cethana adjacent to the TWWHA is steep sided with thin soils over bedrock. Most areas prone to instability have already been affected by historical lake operations. Although minor localised landslides may occur in the future, the dominance of bedrock indicates that large-scale slides are unlikely.

Therefore, the geomorphic and vegetation character of the valley within the TWWHA is expected to remain stable under Project operation and there will be no indirect impact on a national Heritage place (Attachment 4 – Section 5.4.1 – Page 137).

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

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

No

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

The closest Ramsar wetland, the Interlaken Ramsar Site, is located more than 100 km southeast of the Project area in the upper Clyde Catchment. Given this distance and the absence of hydrological or ecological connectivity, the Interlaken Ramsar Site will not be impacted. The Project will therefore have no direct or indirect impacts on any Ramsar-listed wetland.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	Yes	Aquila audax fleayi	Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, Wedge-tailed Eagle (Tasmanian)
No	No	Astacopsis gouldi	Giant Freshwater Crayfish, Tasmanian Giant Freshwater Lobster
Yes	No	Barbarea australis	Native Wintercress, Riverbed Wintercress
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Carinascincus microlepidotus	Boulder Cool-skink, Southern Snow Skink
No	No	Ceyx azureus diemenensis	Tasmanian Azure Kingfisher
No	No	Colobanthus curtisiae	Curtis' Colobanth
Yes	Yes	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (Tasmanian population)	Spotted-tail Quoll, Spot-tailed Quoll, Tiger Quoll (Tasmanian population)
No	No	Dasyurus viverrinus	Eastern Quoll, Luaner
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
Yes	No	Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor	Hoary Sunray, Grassland Paper-daisy
No	No	Litoria raniformis	Southern Bell Frog, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Oreixenica ptunarra	Ptunarra Brown, Ptunarra Brown Butterfly, Ptunarra Xenica
No	No	Perameles gunnii gunnii	Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Tasmania)

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Prototroctes maraena	Australian Grayling
No	No	Pseudocephalozia paludicola	Alpine Leafy Liverwort
No	No	Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera	Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel
Yes	Yes	Sarcophilus harrisii	Tasmanian Devil
No	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank
No	No	Tyto novaehollandiae castanops (Tasmanian population)	Masked Owl (Tasmanian)

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens
No	No	Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania
No	No	Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (Eucalyptus ovata / E. brookeriana)
No	No	Tasmanian white gum (Eucalyptus viminalis) wet forest

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. *

The Project will not have a direct or indirect impact on any Threatened Ecological Communities listed under the EPBC Act. The Project may impact two threatened flora species and three threatened fauna species listed under the EPBC Act.

Native wintercress (*Barbarea australis*)

The Project is unlikely to have an indirect impact on native wintercress. Indirect impacts to habitat quality within relevant watercourses are not expected. There may be a direct impact on this species from the operation of the emergency spillway, but the chance of this occurring is remote.

Native wintercress was recorded along an approximately 3 km reach of Bull Creek upstream of its entry to Lake Cethana. There are no previous records of this species in the Forth River catchment. It is an opportunistic riverine coloniser dependent on flow disturbance to create suitable bare ground for germination. Bull Creek is unregulated and contains small areas of suitable habitat on the rock bars above the main flow path. The shoreline of Lake Cethana does not support the species and similar hydro lakes in Tasmania have no records.

Only a short (~30 m) section at the mouth of Bull Creek lies within the Lake Cethana operational zone, already influenced by current hydropower operations and expected to remain so. The upper storage includes an emergency spillway discharging to a headwater tributary of Bull Creek. A major failure event could result in spillway activation, exposing an ~800 m reach of Bull Creek to scouring flows up to 126 m³/s. Such an event could affect the population; however, the annual probability of occurrence is less than 1 in 10,000 and is therefore considered a remote possibility.

Hydrological modelling indicates minimal change (less than 2%) in groundwater recharge and surface runoff to Bull Creek, with negligible change to high flow magnitudes critical for maintaining native wintercress habitat. Runoff from construction stockpiles could temporarily increase loads of nitrates and metals, however, the high dilution capacity in Bull Creek will substantially reduce concentrations. In addition, native wintercress occurs on elevated rock bars that are only inundated during high flows, so minor, short-term changes to water quality are unlikely to affect this species.

Further detail is provided in Attachment 4 – Section 5.4.2.1 – Pages 138 to 142.

Hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*)

The Project may have a direct impact on the hoary sunray. The Project is unlikely to have any indirect impacts on the hoary sunray.

A population of the hoary sunray was recorded in highland *Poa* grassland adjacent to the proposed WAF. Less than 0.1 ha of this grassland will be impacted during intersection upgrades at Cradle Mountain Road – Dove River Road. No hoary sunray plants have been recorded in this area, but potential habitat for this species will be permanently lost. Further detail is provided in Attachment 3 – Section 4.2 – Pages 151 to 152.

Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*)

The Project will have a direct impact on the Tasmanian devil. In the absence of mitigation measures, the construction phase of the Project may also have an indirect impact on the Tasmanian devil.

Tasmanian devils may forage across dry and wet eucalypt forest and woodland, native grassland, non-eucalypt forest and woodland, scrub, agricultural land, easement and regenerating cleared land within the disturbance footprint (Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.1 – Pages 156 to 162). The Project will directly impact the devil by permanently converting up to 140.6 ha of suitable foraging habitat to infrastructure not suitable for foraging. The up to 154.3 ha of mature eucalypt forest that will be cleared for construction may contain potential denning features, although no devil dens were found during field surveys (Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.1 – Pages 156 to 158).

In the absence of mitigation measures, the construction phase of the Project may indirectly impact the devil through increased roadkill risk, and/or if noise or vibration disturbs any undetected maternal dens. Further detail is provided in Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.1 – Pages 156 to 162.

Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*)

The Project will have a direct impact on the spotted-tailed quoll. In the absence of mitigation measures, the construction phase of the Project may have an indirect impact on the spotted-tailed quoll.

Spotted-tailed quolls may forage over wet and dry eucalypt forest and woodland, rainforest, non-eucalypt forest and woodland, scrub, and easement within the disturbance footprint (Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.1 – Pages 163 to 165). The Project will directly impact the spotted-tailed quoll by permanently converting up to 113.5 ha of suitable foraging habitat to infrastructure not suitable for foraging. The up to 157.9 ha of mature eucalypt forest and rainforest that will be cleared for construction may contain potential denning features, although no quoll dens were found during field surveys.

In the absence of mitigation measures, the construction phase of the Project may indirectly impact the spotted-tailed quoll through increased roadkill risk, and/or if noise or vibration disturbs any undetected maternal dens. Further detail is provided in Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.1 – Pages 163 to 166.

Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*)

The Project will have a direct impact on the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle. In the absence of mitigation measures, the Project may also have an indirect impact on the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle.

The Project will directly impact the species by clearing up to 15.7 ha of modelled high-quality potential future nesting habitat and 20.4 ha of marginal potential future nesting habitat, which may contain suitable trees for eagle nesting.

Construction activities may indirectly affect breeding behaviour if there is an active nest within 500 m or within 1 km line of sight, potentially causing nest abandonment. Two eagle nests were recorded between 500 m and 1 km of the disturbance footprint for the proposed transmission line alignment, but they are not within line of sight due to topography. If a new nest is established within 500 m or within 1 km line of sight of construction activities, and mitigation measures are not implemented, breeding may be disturbed. Additionally, if anticoagulant rodenticides are used to control vermin, for example at the WAF, then the Project may have an indirect impact on eagles and other raptors through secondary poisoning.

There is not expected to be a material increase in the risk of eagle collision with the new 220 kV transmission line due to the adjacent presence of existing transmission infrastructure. The new 220 kV transmission line does not pose an electrocution risk due to the space between conductors being greater than the wingspan of a Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle.

In the absence of mitigation measures, the new 22 kV distribution power supply infrastructure has the potential to indirectly impact the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle through increased collision and electrocution risks.

Further detail is provided in Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.2 – Pages 170 to 174.

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

No

4.1.4.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

Native wintercress (*Barbarea australis*)

The Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on native wintercress because:

- the shoreline of Lake Cethana does not provide suitable habitat
- the changes to the level of Lake Cethana due to the Project are unlikely to impact the native wintercress habitat in the 30 m of Bull Creek within the operational zone of the lake
- the probability of the emergency spillway scouring native wintercress populations in Bull Creek is less than 1 in 10,000 annually.
- hydrological modelling predicts minimal change (<2%) to groundwater recharge and surface runoff, with negligible impact on high flow events that sustain native wintercress habitat. Construction runoff may slightly elevate nitrates or metals, but the species occurs on elevated rock bars only inundated during high flows and is not expected to be affected.

A detailed assessment against the *Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant impact guidelines 1.1* is provided in Attachment 4 – Section 5.4.2.1 – Pages 138 to 142.

Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*)

The Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the hoary sunray because:

- clearance and conversion of less than 0.1 ha of suitable hoary sunray habitat represents approximately 0.0005% of the total highland *Poa* grassland in Tasmania
- no hoary sunray plants have been recorded within the disturbance footprint.

A detailed assessment is provided in Attachment 3 – Appendix F.9 – Pages 322 to 325.

Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*)

The Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Tasmanian devil because:

- the Project will remove up to less than half of one 400-ha devil home-range equivalent of potential foraging and denning habitat, and Tasmanian devils are non-territorial and have home ranges which range from 400 to 2,670 ha that overlap
- hunting behaviour and success of the resident devil population is not expected to change during construction or operation of the Project
- it is unlikely that breeding in Tasmanian devil dens will be disturbed because no dens were recorded during field surveys or camera trap monitoring of potential denning features, and pre-construction den surveys and appropriate den management will be implemented
- implementation of a roadkill management plan will mitigate potential indirect impacts to Tasmanian devils (Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.1 – Pages 158 to 160).

A detailed assessment is provided in Attachment 3 – Appendix F.1 – Pages 291 to 296.

Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*)

As per the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance* for a Vulnerable species (Page 10), the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the spotted-tailed quoll because the Project area does not contain an “important population” of this Vulnerable species as defined in the National Recovery Plan. Additionally,

- the Project will remove up to less than one 191-ha small spotted-tail quoll home-range equivalent of potential foraging and denning habitat, and spotted-tailed quolls have home ranges which range from 191 to 5,512 ha
- hunting behaviour and success of the resident spotted-tailed quoll population is not expected to change during construction or operation of the Project
- it is unlikely that breeding in spotted-tailed quoll dens will be disturbed because no dens were recorded during field surveys or camera trap monitoring of potential denning features, and pre-

construction den surveys and appropriate den management will be implemented.
- implementation of a roadkill management plan will mitigate potential indirect impacts to spotted-tailed quolls (Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.1 – Pages 158 to 164).

A detailed assessment is provided in Attachment 3 – Appendix F.3 – Pages 301 to 303.

Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*)

The Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle because:

- there are no eagle nests within 500 m or within 1 km line-of-sight of any proposed construction activities, making disturbance unlikely
- two known eagle nests located between 500 and 1,000 m from the transmission line disturbance footprint are screened by vegetation and terrain, making disturbance unlikely
- given the species' large territories (in the order of 2,000 ha), the removal of up to 15.7 ha of modelled high-quality potential future eagle nesting habitat and 20.4 ha of marginal potential future eagle nesting habitat is unlikely to lead to competition for suitable nest trees
- secondary poisoning of eagles will be avoided through the prohibition of anticoagulant rodenticides
- the overhead component of the new 22 kV distribution power supply infrastructure has the potential to the increase collision and electrocution risks; therefore, established TasNetworks standards to reduce these risks will be implemented in the design and construction of these overhead distribution lines (Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.2 – Pages 170 to 174).

A detailed assessment is provided in Attachment 3 – Appendix F.4 – Pages 303 to 308.

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

No

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

Under the EPBC Act, a controlled action is defined as an action likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under Part 3 of the Act. Part 3, Division 1, Subdivision C identifies listed threatened species and ecological communities as protected matters.

As detailed in the preceding sections, if the appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are implemented, the Project is unlikely to have a significant residual impact on any listed threatened species, including:

- Native wintercress (*Barbarea australis*)
- Hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*)
- Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*)
- Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*)– Tasmanian population
- Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*).

On this basis, the Project is not considered to be a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

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

Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll

In accordance with the *Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals that may impact on the Tasmanian Devil*, a suitably qualified ecologist will survey suitable Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll denning habitat (mature eucalypt forest) at least 30 days before construction begins at each site. The survey will aim to identify possible den sites and any occupant species. Camera traps may be used to confirm activity and determine the occupant species. If a Tasmanian devil or quoll den is identified, management will follow the above guidelines and advice from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tasmania). Where avoidance is not possible, a decommissioning plan will be prepared, and a permit to 'Take' obtained in accordance with the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSP Act) and the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (NC Act). Refer to mitigation measures TB 11 in Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.1 – Pages 156 to 166.

To avoid and minimise Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll roadkill, a Roadkill Management Plan (RkMP) will be prepared by the EPC Contractor to minimise vehicle strike risk. The plan will apply to roads assessed as likely to experience a 10% or greater increase in night-time traffic (defined as one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise) due to construction. The plan will follow the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service *Caring for Nature – Reducing Roadkill* guidelines and will address elevated risks for threatened species that scavenge on roadkill carcasses (e.g. Tasmanian devils, spotted-tailed quolls and Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagles). Mitigation measures will include:

- Minimising night-time construction traffic where practicable.
- Reducing Project vehicle night-time speed limits by at least 10 km/hr on roads expected to experience a 10% or greater increase in night-time traffic due to construction.
- Environmental training for site workers covering threatened species awareness, reporting procedures for vehicle strikes and roadkill, and recommended rescue procedures (e.g. reporting to Bonorong Wildlife Rescue).
- Reporting Project-related vehicle strikes and threatened species roadkill to Hydro Tasmania within 24 hours.
- Investigating Project-related threatened species roadkill incidents within three working days.
- Installing advisory signs in high-risk areas.
- Prompt removal of roadkill carcasses, if safe to do so, to reduce scavenger attraction.
- Refer to mitigation measures TB 13 in Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.1 – Pages 158 to 164.

Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle

Annual eagle nest searches will be undertaken before the start of construction and repeated until construction is complete to identify new or previously unknown eagle nests and to monitor the condition of known nests. For all eagle nests either within 500 m or 1 km line-of-sight of proposed surface works, no surface works will occur within these buffers during the breeding season (July to January inclusive, or July to February inclusive in late-season years) unless the nest is confirmed inactive for that breeding season. Where required, nest activity checks will be undertaken during the breeding season before relevant construction works commence, and repeated annually until construction of the relevant infrastructure is complete. Refer to mitigation measures TB 14 in Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.2 – Pages 170 to 174.

Anticoagulant rodenticides, especially second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides that pose a risk of secondary poisoning to raptors, will be avoided during all phases of the Project, including at the WAF. Refer to mitigation measures TB 15 in Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.2 – Pages 170 to 174.

To minimise electrocution and collision risk for birds, the new 22 kV power distribution lines will be designed and built in accordance with TasNetworks standards. Refer to mitigation measures TB 16 in Attachment 3 – Section 4.4.2.2 – Pages 170 to 174.

Hoary sunray

The final disturbance footprint will minimise disturbance of highland *Poa* grassland habitat to the smallest practicable area required for the upgrade to the intersection of Cradle Mountain Road and Dove Road. Refer to mitigation measures TB 4, TB 5, TB 6, and TB 8 in Attachment 3 – Section 4.1.1.1 – Pages 148 to 150 and Section 4.2 – Pages 151 to 152.

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

No offsets are proposed.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	No	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

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

No

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

The action is unlikely to have any direct and/or indirect impacts on the Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*), Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), or Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) because these species are unlikely to occur within the Project area (Attachment 3 – Appendix C.3 – Pages 231 to 243).

Of the migratory species identified by the PMST, only the White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudatus*) may occur within the Project area. The proposed action is unlikely to have a direct or indirect impact on the white-throated needletail, as it is an aerial species that will not be affected by vegetation clearing or construction activities. In addition, no important habitat for this species has been identified within the disturbance footprint.

A detailed assessment of potential impacts to the white-throated needletail as a migratory species, against the *Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant impact guidelines 1.1* is provided in Attachment 3 – Appendix F.8 – Pages 319 to 322.

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.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no Commonwealth Marine Areas within, adjacent to or nearby the Project area. The proposed action is therefore unlikely to directly or indirectly cause a significant impact to Commonwealth Marine Areas.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The Great Barrier Reef is not within, adjacent to, or near the Project area. The proposed action is therefore unlikely to have any direct or indirect impact on the Great Barrier Reef.

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

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

No

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

The proposed action is not a large coal mining or coal seam gas action.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

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

No

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

There is no Commonwealth land within, adjacent to, or near the Project area. The proposed action is therefore unlikely to have any direct or indirect impact on Commonwealth land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no Commonwealth heritage places overseas within, adjacent to, or near the Project area. The proposed action is therefore unlikely to have any direct or indirect impact on Commonwealth heritage places overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The objectives of the Project are to:

- Provide new firming capacity to meet the needs of a future electricity market that will have a substantially higher proportion of wind and solar generation, and to help support growing demand in Tasmania.
- Design for rapid response to market needs for reliable, deep storage that can fill supply gaps over extended periods as well as provide ancillary services to the market, which are becoming increasingly critical in a wind and solar dominated system.
- Provide increased capacity and flexibility within the hydropower system to create additional revenue opportunities.
- Improve the flexibility of Hydro Tasmania's portfolio to enable revenue streams to be more resilient to a range of future market conditions.

Hydro Tasmania has undertaken a number of studies, commencing in 2017, that have concluded that there are no alternative activities to the Project that meet the objectives.

Project location

Tasmania's geography is well suited for PHES developments due to its mountainous terrain located in close proximity to abundant water storages, including lakes and rivers. Such topography enables the construction of large storages at relatively high elevations, facilitating high heads and short connection distances (via tunnels or conveyances).

Tasmania already has an established hydropower generation system in place, with a large network of dams and hydropower stations in operation. This infrastructure can be utilised to support new pumped hydro, as existing infrastructure can potentially be used as the lower or upper storage for a pumped hydro system.

A longlist of 2,000 potential pumped hydro sites was developed using a statewide screening process undertaken in 2017. Topographic information was then analysed to identify 28 sites with high potential suitability. Hydro Tasmania conducted a concept options study in 2018 that identified 14 projects to undergo pre-feasibility studies.

In 2018–19, pre-feasibility studies were completed on the 14 potential sites identified. These studies confirmed that six sites were suitable to progress to feasibility studies. Of these six sites, the three most promising sites were progressed to the feasibility study stage in 2019. These were at Cethana, Rowallan and Tribute.

A multi-criteria analysis of the three sites was undertaken in 2020, based on a range of criteria. This process initially selected two preferred sites to consider further (Cethana and Tribute) and further analysis was done to select a preferred site. The multi-criteria analysis used technical, environmental, social and economic factors, including:

- Capacity and storage duration (and flexibility of design options for both size and duration).
- Effective management of identified risks across social, environmental, cultural and heritage, technical and Project delivery.
- Financial (costs and benefits in a future market).
- Constructability and Project schedule.

As a result, Cethana was selected as the preferred pumped hydro site.

Deep storage capacity, better cost and technical certainty, environmental and social sustainability and flexibility in sizing and capacity made Cethana the preferred site, and technical feasibility was finalised in 2021.

The study considered two alternative options for the location of infrastructure (southern and northern options) and concluded that the northernmost design option with a downstream power station cavern should be progressed.

The size of the upper storage was optimised during the feasibility study to a level that is technically feasible and cost-effective.

Project capacity and storage duration

The proposed action considers utilisation of the existing Lake Cethana as the lower storage, with construction of a new approximately 750 MW underground power station, linking underground tunnels and a new upper storage with approximately 20 hours' duration.

The feasibility study (2020) and the subsequent Project development and business case analysis (2023) confirmed that approximately 750 MW and 20 hours' storage duration is the optimal sizing to meet the objectives.

Alternative capacity and storage durations (higher and lower) were considered. The analysis showed that neither a materially larger nor smaller facility is more attractive across the range of relevant commercial, strategic and risk factors. 750 MW provides the greatest flexibility to respond to different potential future renewable energy buildouts and interconnection capacity scenarios.

For example, a smaller facility would not fully maximise the available interconnection export capacity, resulting in foregone revenue opportunities. Similarly, estimated revenue may be higher from a materially larger facility, but it would lower the market opportunity, leading to a greater risk of the asset being underutilised.

Workforce Accommodation Facility (WAF)

Options to accommodate the Project workforce that were assessed included local housing and short-term accommodation, a WAF within the main Project disturbance footprint, a WAF on Hydro Tasmania owned land and a WAF on private land. The use of local housing and short-term accommodation was found not to be viable due to insufficient available capacity. Establishing a WAF within the main Project disturbance footprint was also not considered to be viable as there is not enough available flat suitable land. The closest Hydro Tasmania owned land to the Project area that could potentially host a WAF is located at Gowrie Park. Assessment of options to establish a WAF at Gowrie Park identified that there was insufficient developable area and safety concerns associated with workforce transportation between Gowrie Park and the main Project site, due to travel times and challenging road conditions, including steep grades and winding sections along Cethana Road.

To identify suitable private land to locate a WAF, Hydro Tasmania engaged a land agent to conduct an EOI process. All land parcels identified were subject to a multi-criteria analysis against a range of criteria including proximity to the Project area, possible adverse impacts to local residents, communities and other stakeholders, impact to environmental or heritage values, compliance with the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, accessibility and proximity of services. The preferred WAF location at Middlesex was best able to meet the criteria.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Project Overview.pdf Overview figure of proposed Cethana PHES Project	12/12/2025	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2 - Engagement Summary Report.pdf Summary of engagement completed to date for the Cethana PHES Project	25/11/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Hydro Tasmania Environmental Policy https://www.hydro.com.au/docs/default-source/abo..			High
#2.	Link	Hydro Tasmania Sustainability Framework https://www.hydro.com.au/docs/default-source/def..			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.	Link	Hydro Tasmania Environmental Policy https://www.hydro.com.au/docs/default-source/abo..			High
#2.	Link	Hydro Tasmania Sustainability Framework https://www.hydro.com.au/docs/default-source/def..			High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	Att 1 - Project Overview.pdf Overview figure of proposed Cethana PHES Project	11/12/2025		High
#2.	Document	Att 3 - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment Report	28/11/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 4 - Aquatic Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Aquatic Ecology Assessment Report	01/12/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Project Overview.pdf Overview figure of proposed Cethana PHES Project	11/12/2025		High
#2.	Document	Att 4 - Aquatic Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Aquatic Ecology Assessment Report	30/11/2025		High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3 - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment Report	27/11/2025		High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3 - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment Report	27/11/2025		High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Friendly mission : the Tasmanian journals and papers of George Augustus Robinson, 1829-1834 / edited https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/4268838	01/01/2008		High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 4 - Aquatic Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Aquatic Ecology Assessment Report	30/11/2025		High
#2.	Document	Att 5 - PLEXOS Environmental Modelling.pdf Results of PLEXOS environmental modelling completed for the Cethana PHES Project	25/11/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 6a - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Report.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Report	27/11/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att 6b - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Figures 1 to 28.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Figures 1 to 28	27/11/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Att 6c - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Figures 29 to 56.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Figures 29 to 56	27/11/2025	No	High
#6.	Document	Att 6d - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Figures 57 to 84.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Figures 57 to 84	27/11/2025	No	High
#7.	Document	Att 6e - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Figures 85 to 114.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Figures 85 to 114	27/11/2025	No	High
#8.	Document	Att 6f - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Appendices.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Hydrogeological Interpretive Report - Appendices	27/11/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Project Overview.pdf Overview figure of proposed Cethana	11/12/2025		High

PHES Project					
#2.	Document	Att 4 - Aquatic Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Aquatic Ecology Assessment Report	30/11/2025		High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Project Overview.pdf Overview figure of proposed Cethana PHES Project	11/12/2025		High
#2.	Document	Att 4 - Aquatic Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Aquatic Ecology Assessment Report	30/11/2025		High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3 - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment Report	27/11/2025		High
#2.	Document	Att 4 - Aquatic Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Aquatic Ecology Assessment Report	30/11/2025		High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3 - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment Report	27/11/2025		High
#2.	Document	Att 4 - Aquatic Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Aquatic Ecology Assessment Report	30/11/2025		High
#3.	Link	Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant impact guidelines 1.1 Environment Protec https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..			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 3 - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment Report	27/11/2025	High
#2.	Link	Caring for Nature Reducing Roadkill https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/Roadkill.pdf		High
#3.	Link	Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals that may impact the Tasmanian Dev https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/Devil%20Survey%..		High

4.1.5.3 (Migratory Species) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3 - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment.pdf Cethana PHES Project - Terrestrial Ecology Assessment Report	27/11/2025		High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	48072377158
Organisation name	Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Entura
Organisation address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001
Representative's name	David Procter
Representative's job title	Principal Environmental Consultant
Phone	1300 360 441
Email	david.procter@entura.com.au
Address	4 Elizabeth Street, Hobart TAS 7000, Australia

☑ 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, **David Procter of Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Entura**, 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	48072377158
Organisation name	Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania
Organisation address	7000 TAS
Representative's name	Simon Leeper

Representative's job title	Project Director - Cethana PHES
Phone	1300360441
Email	simon.leeper@hydro.com.au
Address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001

- [x] Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

- [x] Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

- [x] I, **Simon Leeper of Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania**, 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. *

- [x] I, **Simon Leeper of Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania**, the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of **Matt Errington of Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania** as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	48072377158
Organisation name	Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania
Organisation address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001
Representative's name	Matt Errington
Representative's job title	Environmental Management Specialist - Construction
Phone	1300 360 441

Email	matt.errington@hydro.com.au
Address	GPO Box 355 Hobart Tasmania 7001

- [x] Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

- [x] Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

- [x] I, **Matt Errington of Hydro-Electric Corporation Pty Ltd t/a Hydro Tasmania**, 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.