

# Monduran Battery Storage System

Application Number: **03111**

Commencement Date:  
**04/09/2025**

Status: **Locked**

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## 1. About the project

### 1.1 Project details

#### 1.1.1 Project title \*

#### 1.1.2 Project industry type \*

#### 1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

#### 1.1.4 Estimated start date \*

#### 1.1.4 Estimated end date \*

## 1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Eku Energy Projects (Australia) Pty Ltd, as trustee for the Eku Energy Projects (Australia) Trust, is proposing the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and underground transmission cable connection to the existing Gin Gin substation in Monduran, Queensland, Australia. The Project proposes the installation of a 300-megawatt (MW)/1,200 megawatt hours (MWh) BESS, capable of storing and exporting electrical energy to the National Electricity Market (NEM) (refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 2.1, p. 3**).

The siting for the BESS lies on the southern side of the Bruce Highway and is formally described as Lot 23 on SP158465. Powerlink's existing 275 kilovolt (kV) and 132 kV Gin Gin substation is situated on the northern side of the Bruce Highway, opposite the location of the proposed BESS, and is formally described as Lot 58 on BON1457. The BESS is proposed to connect to the existing Gin Gin substation via an underground transmission cable.

The Project involves a subdivision of Lot 23 on SP158465, which is currently a 306 hectare (ha) property, for Eku Energy to acquire a dedicated lot of approximately 10 ha to accommodate the BESS footprint, laydown areas, and supporting infrastructure.

A Project Footprint has been defined to represent the maximum area of disturbance required for the construction and operation of the Project (including both the BESS and transmission cable connection). This includes allowances for both permanent infrastructure and temporary construction requirements. The total area of disturbance from the Project is approximately 13.30 ha, including siting of the BESS and transmission cable connection to the Gin Gin substation (refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 3.1, pp. 8-9, Figure 3.1**).

The Project proposes a utility-scale lithium-ion BESS with a capacity of 300 MW power output and 1,200 MWh energy storage. The primary components of the Project include:

- Modular battery enclosures housing lithium-ion batteries for energy storage installed over one stage of 300 MW/ 1,200 MWh
- Power Conversion Systems consisting of pre-assembled inverters, medium voltage transformers, and switchgear to integrate the BESS with the local grid
- One high-voltage transformer and associated connection infrastructure to manage grid interfacing.

Security fencing will be installed around the BESS infrastructure with perimeter setbacks of 15 to 30 m from the Bruce Highway carriageway. A minimum 15 m setback is to be maintained within the fence line around the infrastructure, serving both vehicle access and natural firebreak purposes.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Appendix A** for the detailed BESS layout.

### **Grid Connection**

The BESS will be connected to the existing Gin Gin substation located approximately 250 m north, on the opposite side of the Bruce Highway. This connection will be achieved via a proposed 132 kV underground transmission cable installed through trenched conduits beneath the highway, emerging within Powerlink's easement leading to the substation.

### **Site Facilities**

Site facilities for the Project will include:

- An operations building housing monitoring, control, communications equipment, and staff amenities (approximately 20 m x 8 m x 3.5 m in size)
- A storage and warehouse/maintenance building for equipment and materials (approximately 45 m x 25 m x 4 m)
- Onsite water tanks supplied via commercial transport for construction, operations, and firefighting needs, and an on-site septic system for sewerage
- Adequate vehicle parking positioned near site access points.

## Access and Fire Management

Vehicle access will utilise existing and upgraded on-site roads connected to the Bruce Highway.

Fire management incorporates setback distances providing a minimum 15 m buffer around infrastructure, functioning as a natural fire break to reduce bushfire risk and facilitate emergency response.

## Construction Methodology and Timeline

The construction methodology will ultimately be the responsibility of the construction contractor; however, it is anticipated that construction will involve the following:

- Establishment of site offices, lay down areas and security fencing
- Road upgrades
- Perimeter fencing and lighting around the BESS infrastructure
- Construction of foundations required to support the BESS and switchyard
- Importation and installation of BESS system units and transformers
- Storage and warehouse/maintenance building
- Operations building
- Switchroom and control room building
- Fire water tanks
- Pump house.

The construction period is projected to span approximately 18 to 24 months, with the battery installation phase expected to last about three to six months. Typical working hours are anticipated to be 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, six days a week. The workforce is likely to average 80 to 100 personnel daily during construction, with potential peak days up to 150 workers. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (EMP(C)) will be developed by the appointed contractor prior to commencement.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 2.4.1, pp. 5-6** for further details.

## Operational Phase

The BESS is designed for largely automated, unmanned operation, with occasional maintenance visits by a small team (up to six workers) as required. Remote monitoring and control will support ongoing operation 24/7.

## Decommissioning and Site Rehabilitation

The BESS is intended to operate for approximately 20 years. At end-of-life, the facility will be decommissioned through dismantling and removal of infrastructure, prioritising recycling and reuse of materials. Decommissioning activities include:

- **Removal of Infrastructure:** All battery units, transformers, enclosures, wiring, and associated electrical equipment will be carefully dismantled and taken off-site
- **Recycling and Reuse:** Materials recovered from decommissioned components, including batteries, casings, transformers, and wiring, will be recycled and reused wherever feasible to minimise waste and support circular economy principles
- **Waste Disposal:** Any infrastructure or material that cannot be recycled will be disposed of responsibly in accordance with applicable environmental regulations and best practice standards
- **Site Rehabilitation:** Comprehensive rehabilitation activities will restore soil quality, stabilise the landform, and re-establish native vegetation where appropriate to return the site to a safe, stable, and environmentally sustainable condition consistent with regulatory requirements and approval conditions.

## Potential impacts

Construction activities for the Project, such as clearing and grubbing of vegetation, excavation, BESS and drainage infrastructure installation, have the potential to result in the following direct impacts on MNES:

- Vegetation clearance and removal of conservation significant species habitat, including:
  - Koala habitat (direct loss of up to 0.40 ha foraging, breeding habitat and 12.58 ha (10.16 ha of permanent, and 2.08 ha of temporary impacts) of dispersal habitat)
  - Diamond firetail critical habitat (direct loss of up to 0.19 ha)
  - Grey-headed flying-fox critical habitat (direct loss of up to 0.40 ha)
  - Fork-tailed swift critical habitat (direct loss of up to 0.21 ha)
  - Oriental cuckoo critical habitat (direct loss of up to 0.21 ha).
- Fauna injury or mortality.

Potential indirect impacts to MNES include:

- Introduction and spread of invasive fauna and flora species
- Localised and temporary change to surface water and to stormwater quality
- Increased bushfire risk
- Disturbance of conservation significant fauna due to increase in noise, vibration, lighting and dust.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 6, pp. 31-34** for further details.

### **Environmental and Compliance Management**

A comprehensive environmental and compliance management framework will govern all phases of the Project. Management measures will address:

- Biodiversity protection through careful siting and impact avoidance
- Vegetation management and minimisation of clearing
- Bushfire risk mitigation through asset protection zones and fire breaks
- Water and wastewater management tailored to operational needs
- Construction and operational noise, dust, and traffic impacts
- Ongoing collaboration with regulatory authorities and adherence to approval condition.

### **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? \***

This section identifies the legislative requirements relevant to the Project. Further detail is provided in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 4, Table 4.1, pp. 15-19.**

### Commonwealth Legislation and Policies

- **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act):** This is the principal Commonwealth environmental legislation protecting Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Based on a desktop assessment, MNES, listed threatened fauna species and migratory species were considered to have a high or moderate likelihood of occurring within the Project Footprint. This referral has been prepared in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1, and consideration of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy.
- **Draft referral guideline for 14 birds listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act:** Significant impact assessments have been completed for migratory species listed under the EPBC Act known to occur or considered to have a moderate or high likelihood of occurrence within the Project Footprint following completion of detailed desktop assessment and field surveys.
- **Species Recovery Plans and Conservation Advice:** Referenced species recovery plans and conservation advice guide specific protective measures and management approaches for threatened and migratory species potentially affected by the Project. Implementation of these plans supports conservation outcomes in compliance with EPBC Act provisions and include the following:
  - National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)
  - National Recovery Plan for the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
  - Conservation Advice for *Petauroides volans* (Greater glider (southern and central))
  - Conservation Advice for *Petaurus australis australis* (Yellow-bellied glider (south-eastern))
  - Conservation Advice for *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Koala) combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory
  - Conservation Advice for *Stagonopleura guttata* (Diamond firetail)
  - Conservation Advice for *Hirundapus caudacutus* (White-throated needle-tail).
- **Threat Abatement Plans:** Relevant threat abatement plans provide strategic frameworks for managing key threatening processes impacting MNES which may be impacted by the Project, such as:
  - Threat abatement plan for disease in natural ecosystems caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*
  - Threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats
  - Threat abatement plan for competition and land degradation by rabbits
  - Threat abatement plan for predation by the European red fox.

### Queensland Legislation

- **Planning Act 2016:** Under the Planning Act, development identified as assessable in Schedule 10 of the *Planning Regulation 2017* or by a local government planning scheme requires development approval. The Project, which involves subdivision to create a dedicated lot of approximately 10 ha and establishment of battery storage infrastructure, requires development approval for a reconfiguration of a lot and material change of use under the Bundaberg Regional Council Planning Scheme 2015.
- **Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act):** The Project will comply with requirements for clearing permits and species management program approvals, including for endangered, vulnerable, and near threatened species. Specific instruments, such as Species Management Programs (SMP) and Koala Conservation Plans, will inform the Project's biodiversity protection strategies and compliance obligations.
- **Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017:** Habitat for the Koala (*combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory*) was sighted within the Project Footprint during the field investigation and will require clearing. The Project will implement the relevant management measures from the Koala Plan within the Project Footprint. This will include

sequential clearing practices and clearing works to be conducted in the presence of a suitably qualified fauna spotter-catcher.

- **Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act):** Environmental management plans prepared for the Project will address construction and operational phase impacts in accordance with the EP Act's requirements.
- **Biosecurity Act 2014:** Identified pest species within or near the Project Footprint are managed through biosecurity measures incorporated in operational and environmental management protocols. Multiple restricted species and weeds of national significance (WoNS) were detected throughout the ecological field surveys within the Project Footprint including Balloon cotton bush (*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*), Whisky grass (*Andropogon virginicus*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Indian bluegrass (*Bothriochloa pertusa*), Thatch grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*) and Rats tail grasses (*Sporobolus spp.*). Management and mitigation measures and plans will be developed to avoid the spread of weed and pest species.
- **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (ACH Act):** Desktop searches confirmed that no cultural heritage matters are recorded in the Project Footprint. In addition, the area has been previously disturbed for grazing. Therefore, a detailed cultural heritage assessment and Cultural Heritage Management Plan are not required. The Project will still be required to implement the duty of care requirements of the ACH Act.

**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. \***

Ekü Energy has commenced a comprehensive stakeholder engagement program for the Project in the Bundaberg Region. A dedicated Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) has been developed to guide all consultation activities, prioritising early, proactive, and face-to-face engagement with local residents, landowners, Indigenous groups, and relevant government agencies to build trust and promote understanding of the Project.

### **Consultation Activities**

Engagement activities have included targeted door-knocking within a 5 km radius of the Project, formal briefings with the Bundaberg Regional Council Planning and Development Committee, outreach to local business networks, and a community drop-in session held at the Gin Gin Community Hub. These activities have provided opportunities for face-to-face discussions, presentations, distribution of project information, and ongoing communications through multiple channels.

### **Participants**

Stakeholder groups engaged comprise local residents within a 5 km radius of the Project, host landowners, Indigenous stakeholders, including First Nations groups relevant to the area such as the Port Curtis Coral Coast Trust, Bundaberg Regional Council officers and elected representatives, government agencies, local businesses, and other community organisations, as well as subject matter experts engaged by the Project team. These interactions involved one-on-one meetings, presentations to Council Planning and Development Committees, community drop-in session, and ongoing communications via various channels.

### **Duration and Timing**

Consultation commenced in 2024 and has continued through to mid-2025. It is intended that consultation will continue as the Project is developed. Notable milestones include pre-lodgement meetings with Council Planning Officers in June and December 2024, presentation to the Council Planning and Development Committee in March 2025, a community drop-in session held in Gin Gin in June 2025, and subsequent meetings that involved technical experts addressing stakeholder questions.

### **Feedback and Responses**

Central themes through consultation have included:

- Fire safety management, including prevention and emergency response planning
- Water management and protection of Lake Monduran via site drainage and containment measures
- Local economic benefits such as job opportunities, local procurement, and workforce accommodation during construction
- Cumulative impacts of regional energy projects
- Transparency and building trust through clear and consistent communication.

In response, Eku Energy has:

- Commissioned detailed technical assessments by qualified Fire Risk Consultants and Hydrologists, with outcomes integrated into Project planning and the Development Application
- Engaged Queensland Fire & Emergency Services to review safety design and support training for local fire response teams
- Developed and implemented the CSEP to ensure ongoing, transparent, and tailored stakeholder engagement throughout the Project lifecycle
- Planned additional community drop-in sessions and online engagement opportunities to maintain open communication and update stakeholders regularly.

### **Indigenous Stakeholder Engagement**

Dedicated consultation with Indigenous stakeholders, including the Port Curtis Coral Coast Trust and other Traditional Owner groups, has been initiated to recognise and respect local cultural heritage values and comply with Indigenous heritage assessment requirements. This engagement is ongoing and will form a critical component of the Project's commitment to inclusive consultation.

**Ongoing Consultation**

The engagement program remains active and will continue throughout construction and operational phases to ensure stakeholders are kept informed, their input is valued, and the Project development evolves in response to community and stakeholder 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.

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**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** 54005139873

**Organisation name** AURECON AUSTRALASIA PTY LTD

**Organisation address** 25 King Street, Bowen Hills QLD 4006

## Referring party details

**Name** Gabby Singh

**Job title** Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning

**Phone** 0420706556

**Email** gabby.singh@aurecongroup.com

**Address** 25 King Street, Bowen Hills QLD 4006

## 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** 643783528

**Organisation name** EKU ENERGY PROJECTS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD

**Organisation address** Suite 1, Level 34 360 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

## Person proposing to take the action details

**Name** Peter Scott

**Job title** Development Manager

**Phone** 0475256590

**Email** peter.scott@ekuenergy.com

**Address** Suite 1, Level 34 360 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

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

No

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

Yes

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

The trust is a standard corporate style trust, set up based on structuring advice received which structure is commonly used in the renewables industry in Australia.

**Refer to Att 2 – Trust Deed details. *This attachment is not publicly available due to sensitivity reasons***

**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. \***

Eku Energy has a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management.

There are no past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against any Eku Energy owned company, including the person proposing to take the action (Eku Energy), nor against the referring person (Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd).

**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**

Eku Energy has a suite of policies in place detailing its approach to Risk Management, Sustainability and WHSE. Eku Energy is currently developing an environmental policy and framework policy.

Eku Energy will comply with the Health, Safety and Environment Policy for this Project.

## 1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

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

Yes

#### Proposed designated proponent organisation details

<b>ABN/ACN</b>	643783528
<b>Organisation name</b>	EKU ENERGY PROJECTS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD
<b>Organisation address</b>	Suite 1, Level 34 360 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

#### Proposed designated proponent details

<b>Name</b>	Peter Scott
<b>Job title</b>	Development Manager
<b>Phone</b>	0475256590
<b>Email</b>	peter.scott@ekuenergy.com
<b>Address</b>	Suite 1, Level 34 360 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

## 1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

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### ✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

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ABN/ACN	54005139873
Organisation name	AURECON AUSTRALASIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	25 King Street, Bowen Hills QLD 4006
Representative's name	Gabby Singh
Representative's job title	Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning
Phone	0420706556
Email	gabby.singh@aurecongroup.com
Address	25 King Street, Bowen Hills QLD 4006

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### ✔ Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

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ABN/ACN	643783528
Organisation name	EKU ENERGY PROJECTS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 1, Level 34 360 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia
Representative's name	Peter Scott
Representative's job title	Development Manager
Phone	0475256590
Email	peter.scott@ekuenergy.com
Address	Suite 1, Level 34 360 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

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### ✔ Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

## 1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

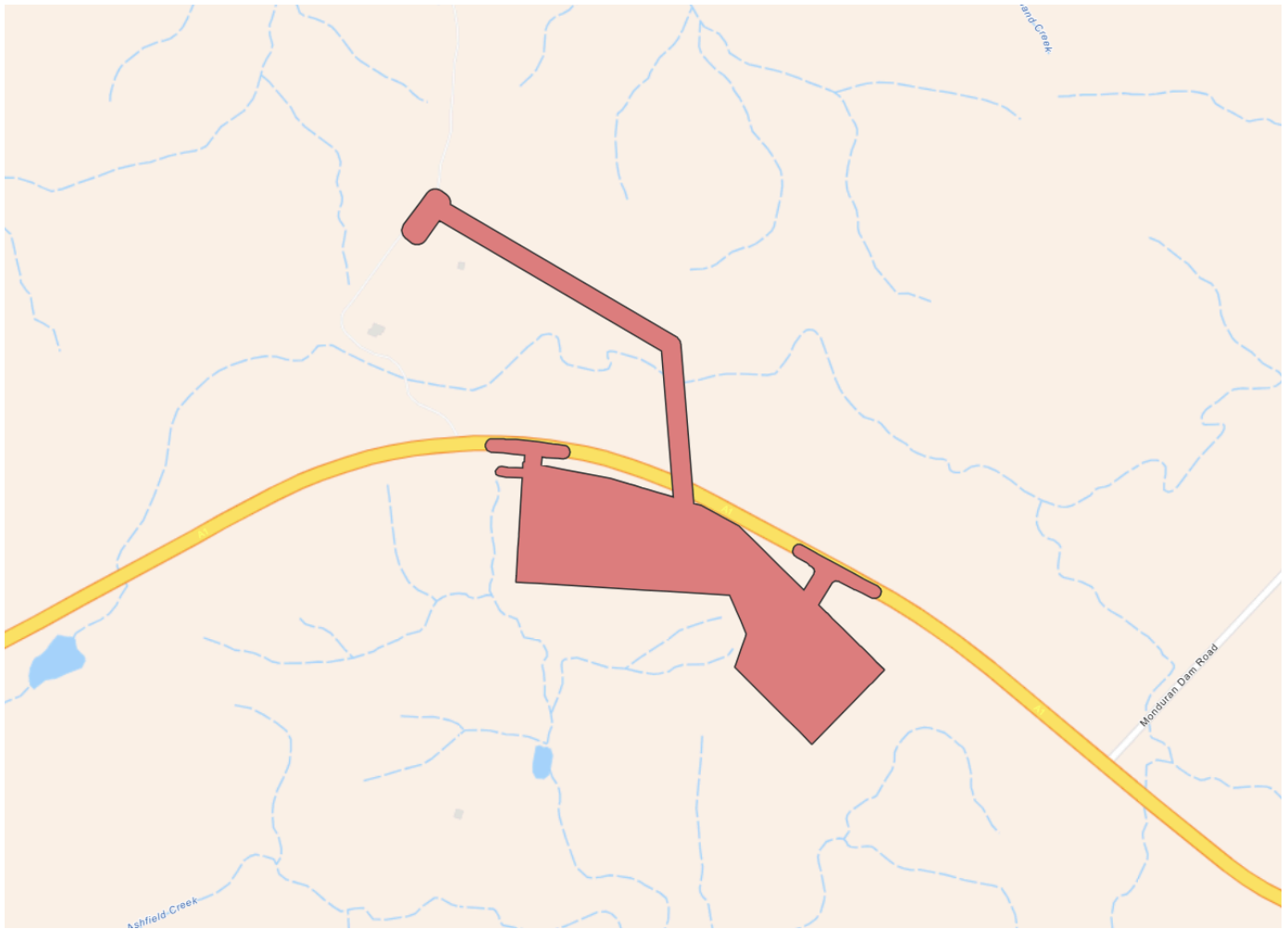
## 1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

## 2. Location

## 2.1 Project footprint



**Project Area: 13.29 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 13.29 Ha**

## 2.2 Footprint details

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

Lot 23 on SP158465 and Lot 58 on BON1457 Bruce Highway, Monduran, QLD 4671

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

Queensland

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

No

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

The Project encompasses Lot 23 on SP158465, which is freehold in tenure and owned by a private entity who is currently utilising the site for grazing purposes, and Lot 58 on BON1457, which is freehold in tenure and used by Powerlink and Ergon for electricity network infrastructure, including a high-voltage substation and transmission lines and easements.

## 3. Existing environment

## 3.1 Physical description

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

The environment surrounding the Project Footprint is characterised by a mosaic of vegetation types and existing land uses predominantly associated with grazing and pasture. Dense vegetation is mainly concentrated along waterways and riparian zones, where remnant and regrowth native vegetation communities are notably more substantial. In contrast, much of the landscape, including that within the Project Footprint itself, consists largely of pasture grassland with minimal woody vegetation cover.

Within the Project Footprint, mature vegetation is limited due to intensive grazing practices. The area exhibits large, cleared patches with legumes cultivated into the soil and a mixture of native and exotic grasses. Scattered isolated trees are present but are generally immature and insufficiently developed to support hollow-bearing fauna species dependent on such habitat features.

Dominant tree species identified within the Project Footprint include Narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*), Lemon-scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), Blue gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), and Pink bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*). Groundcover and shrub layers are primarily composed of exotic species such as Lantana camara, Indian bluegrass (*Bothriochloa pertusa*), and Thatch grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*), with isolated patches of native species like Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*), Blady grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), and various *Acacia* species.

Approximately 0.21 ha of Regional Ecosystem (RE) 12.11.14, *Eucalyptus crebra*, *E. tereticornis*, *Corymbia intermedia* woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics, has been mapped within the Project Footprint; however, no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) have been identified in this area.

Key habitat features, such as hollow-bearing trees and vegetation corridors that provide critical habitat for threatened species, are predominantly located outside the Project Footprint within surrounding remnant and riparian vegetation. The Project design has been carefully refined through micro-siting to avoid impacting these sensitive ecological values.

Five smooth barked eucalypt paddock trees are within the Project Footprint and could be considered hollow-bearing.

Throughout the Project Footprint, weed infestations are evident, including several restricted and weeds of national significance species such as Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Indian bluegrass (*Bothriochloa pertusa*), and Thatch grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*).

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5, pp. 20-30** for further detail.

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

### **Existing Land Use**

The Project encompasses Lot 23 on SP158465, which is freehold in tenure and owned by a private entity who is currently utilising the site for grazing purposes, and Lot 58 on BON1457, which is freehold in tenure and used by Powerlink and Ergon for electricity network infrastructure, including a high-voltage substation and transmission lines and easements.

The Project Footprint is predominantly flat and largely cleared of woody vegetation, with mature vegetation mainly concentrated around nearby waterways outside of the Project Footprint. Signs of intensive grazing are evident, including large cleared paddocks and areas where legumes have been cultivated into the soil. The vegetation within the Project Footprint comprises mainly of exotic and native grasses, with scattered isolated trees that are generally immature and provide limited habitat values for local fauna.

### **Proposed Land Use**

The Project proposes a change in land use in order to accommodate the development of a BESS, which is expected to have a capacity of 300 MW power output and 1,200 MWh. The BESS requires a development footprint of 13.30 ha; this includes the footprint for the establishment of the BESS use, the grid connection to the adjoining Powerlink substation and access from the Bruce Highway.

The Project proposes to subdivide Lot 23 on SP158465 and acquire approximately 10 ha to accommodate the BESS infrastructure. The Project will include modular battery assemblies mounted on engineered pad formations with bunded containment to manage potential risks, such as spills.

Drainage infrastructure will be constructed to ensure safe collection and diversion of rainwater throughout both construction and operational phases.

Access to the BESS will be established via existing local roads connecting to the Bruce Highway, with the construction of internal access tracks within the site to facilitate vehicle movement for construction and operation. Parking provisions will be arranged to support the workforce requirements.

Grid connection will be achieved through underground transmission cable connecting the BESS to the adjacent Gin Gin substation, minimising visual and environmental impacts associated with overhead powerlines.

For safety and environmental protection, the BESS area will be securely fenced. Additionally, an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) will be established and maintained around the battery storage infrastructure to reduce bushfire risk from surrounding vegetation and to provide access routes for emergency services in the event of fire to BAL-29 standards. This APZ will be within the Project Footprint, requiring no additional vegetation clearing outside of the Project Footprint to satisfy this safety requirement.

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

There are no outstanding natural features or unique values that apply to the Project Footprint.

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

The area surrounding the Project Footprint is characterised by undulating terrain featuring rolling hills and waterways that slope towards the south-west. The topography primarily comprises level (<1%) to very gently inclined slopes (1–3%) forming ridges, saddles, and crests on an east-west oriented plateau. This gently inclined plateau grades into mostly gently sloping areas, with slopes ranging from 3% to 10%, and some moderately inclined slopes between 10% and 32%. Steeper terrain with slopes exceeding 32% is found mainly in the south-western to south-eastern parts of the broader Project area, typically associated with mid- to lower slopes and drainage features.

The Project Footprint designated for the BESS infrastructure and transmission cable corridor is predominantly flat, with a gradual slope descending towards a watercourse situated south.

Elevations within the Project Footprint range from approximately 140 to 130 meters Australian Height Datum (mAHD). The construction elevation is planned to be approximately 140 mAHD, closely matching the existing substation elevation. This topographic profile supports the suitability of the area for the BESS development, facilitating engineering and drainage design considerations aligned with the natural slope and elevation variations.

The proposed BESS is not located within a marine environment.

## 3.2 Flora and fauna

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

The Project Footprint is indicative of a landscape influenced by intensive grazing, represented by large, cleared areas where legumes have been cultivated into the soil. The dominant tree species observed within the Project Footprint include Narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*), Lemon-scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), Blue gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), and Pink bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*). The groundcover and shrub layers are predominantly composed of exotic species such as Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Indian bluegrass (*Bothriochloa pertusa*), and Thatch grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*). Native groundcover species are present but in isolated patches, including Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*), Blady grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), and various *Acacia* species.

Weed infestations are prevalent throughout the Project Footprint, with restricted flora species and weeds of national significance identified during ecological surveys. These include Balloon cotton bush (*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*), Whisky grass (*Andropogon virginicus*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Indian bluegrass (*Bothriochloa pertusa*), Thatch grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*), and Rats tail grasses (*Sporobolus* spp.).

The ecological field investigations were informed by the conservation advice and national survey guidelines, Survey Guidelines for Australian Threatened Birds, Quaternary Survey technique and Queensland Government Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey Guidelines for Queensland, June 2022 (version 4) (Eyre et al. 2022). These surveys were undertaken to ground-truth the mapped ecological values of the Project area (i.e. presence of vegetation communities, flora and fauna species and fauna habitat values for threatened and migratory species). Further details of the survey effort can be found in **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 3, pp. 8-14.**

The protected matters search tool (PMST) report (refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.2, pp. 22-23 and Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Appendix B**) indicated that there may be the presence of the following within a 2 km radius of the Project Footprint:

- 3 threatened ecological communities
- 35 threatened species
- 12 migratory species.

## Flora

As a result of the field surveys and the assessment of likelihood of occurrence, no conservation significant flora species that were determined to occur within the Project Footprint (refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.3, pp. 23-25 and Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Appendix B**).

Field surveys determined that the vegetation within the Project Footprint intersects a small area of RE 12.11.14 *Eucalyptus crebra*, *E. tereticornis*, *Corymbia intermedia* woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics, but no TECs were identified within the Project Footprint based on field verification conducted in September 2024.

## Fauna

As a result of the field surveys and the assessment of likelihood of occurrence, the following listed threatened species with habitat values were considered to have a high or moderate likelihood of potentially occurring within the Project Footprint:

- Endangered:
  - Greater glider (southern and central) (*Petauroides volans*)
  - Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
  - Vulnerable:
    - Diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*)
    - Squatter pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta*)

- Grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)
- Yellow-bellied glider (south-eastern) (*Petaurus australis australis*)
- White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*).
- Migratory
  - Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)
  - Oriental cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*).

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.4, p. 26 and Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Appendix B**).

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

This Project is located approximately 14 km north-west of Gin Gin and 50 km west of Bundaberg in Queensland.

### Geology

The Project Footprint lies on metamorphic substrates with interbedded volcanics typical of the region, influencing soil types and drainage patterns. This geology supports particular REs but is largely modified due to historical land clearing and grazing. A review of publicly available mapping in Queensland Globe (Queensland Government 2025) indicates that the Project Footprint is underlain by Stony Range Basalts (Tbsr).

### Soils

The area surrounding the Project Footprint features undulating topography with rolling hills gently sloping towards local watercourses. Soils are consistent with cleared grazing land and likely exhibit compaction and disturbance from livestock activities. Soil substructure includes a groundwater divide directing flows away from sensitive water bodies (Lake Monduran), supporting hydrological separation. A review of the Geoscience Australia Portal (2025) identified the Project Footprint as containing Chromosols and Dermosols soil types. The Project Footprint was also identified to have extremely low probability of acid sulfate soils present.

### Connectivity

The landscape surrounding the Project Footprint includes patches of remnant native vegetation and riparian vegetation that provide habitat values. The Project Footprint itself is largely cleared and fragmented, with isolated trees insufficient to sustain species requiring connected habitat, such as suitably sized hollow-bearing trees for fauna.

### Vegetation

The Project Footprint consists predominantly of grasslands dominated by exotic and native grasses, including Indian bluegrass (*Bothriochloa pertusa*), Thatch grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*), and Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*). Isolated, mostly immature trees of native species such as Narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*), Lemon-scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), Blue gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), and Pink bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*) occur sparsely within the Project Footprint. Vegetation condition reflects heavy grazing pressure, with large cleared areas and a dominance of exotic ground cover species, including invasive weeds such as Lantana (*Lantana camara*).

Confirmed by field investigations, the Project Footprint intersects a small patch of remnant native woodland classified as 'Of concern' RE 12.11.14 *Eucalyptus crebra*, *E. tereticornis*, *Corymbia intermedia* woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics, mostly consisting of *Eucalyptus crebra*, *E. tereticornis*, and *Corymbia intermedia* on metamorphic substrates. No TECs were identified within the Project Footprint.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.3, pp. 23-25** for further details.

### Habitat types

Habitat within the Project Footprint is modified grassland with isolated, immature trees, providing limited habitat for threatened fauna species dependent on mature woodland or hollow-bearing trees. Surrounding areas contain larger patches of remnant woodland and riparian vegetation that offer more suitable habitat for wildlife. The Project Footprint does not include TECs, wetlands, or ecological corridors of critical importance and contains limited habitat for species such as the Koala, primarily at the site edges or adjacent properties.

## 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 EPBC PMST did not identify any Commonwealth heritage places using a 2 km radius of the Project Footprint.

The nearest World Heritage Area is the Great Barrier Reef, which is located approximately 50 km north-east of the Project Footprint. The Project will not cause any direct or indirect impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage site due to the nature of the proposed works, separation distance and the implementation of mitigation measures.

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

The Project is entirely situated within the cultural heritage party boundary of the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, and Taribelang Bunda People, who are recognised as the custodians of Indigenous heritage values in the area and were formerly known as the Port Curtis Coral Coast Claim. While there are no Native Title claims or determination applications within the Project Footprint itself, a Native Title determination approximately 1 km to the south confirms that non-exclusive Native Title rights exist for these groups.

A search of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Database and Register has confirmed that no recorded cultural heritage sites or matters exist within the Project Footprint. In addition, the area has been previously disturbed for grazing and installation of the existing Gin Gin substation.

Furthermore, there are no Designated Landscape Areas or Study Areas within a 50 km radius of the Project Footprint.

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld) provides a heritage duty of care requirement which will be implemented by the Project.

## 3.4 Hydrology

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

The Project Footprint is located within the Kolan River catchment, a tributary of the Burnett River in the lower Burnett River catchment, and falls under the Lower Burnett and Kolan Rivers Water Management Area. Several minor, non-perennial watercourses and drainage depressions are situated within 40 m of the Project Footprint.

Waterways surrounding the Project Footprint on the southern side of the Bruce Highway (associated with the BESS infrastructure) discharge into a major tributary of Ashfield Creek. Ashfield Creek is hydrologically disconnected from Tableland Creek due to local topography and surface drainage elevations. Therefore, runoff from the permanent works associated with the BESS infrastructure are not expected to contribute to baseflow in Lake Monduran. The Project Footprint, on the northern side of Bruce Highway (associated with the transmission cable connection), is intersected by one mapped first-order watercourse (classified as a drainage feature under the Queensland *Water Act 2000*) with no riparian vegetation observed within the Project Footprint. The intersected watercourse is hydrologically connected to the Lake Monduran via the Kolan River, approximately 4.6 km upstream.

The Project Footprint lies approximately 4 km outside the upper flood zone boundary of the Monduran dam flood zone and is not considered at risk of flooding.

The nearest Ramsar Wetland is the Great Sandy Strait, which is more than 100 km south-east of the Project Footprint, while the nationally important Granite Creek wetland lies about 30 km north-west. A wetland of high ecological significance along Takilberan Creek, approximately 13.5 km north-west, is also hydrologically disconnected from the Project Footprint.

Groundwater flow is separated by a divide within the soil substructure, directing flows away from Lake Monduran. No significant groundwater-dependent ecosystems or springs occur within 1.5 km of the site.

A stock bore located 400 m east of the site is hydrologically downgradient, meaning potential surface spill events could impact groundwater quality. A Stormwater Management Plan, including on-site attenuation ponds, settlement ponds, hydrocarbon detectors, and baseline water quality monitoring of surface and groundwater will be implemented by the Project.

A water study completed as part of the State development application concluded that the proposed Project presents a low environmental risk to local surface and groundwater systems, with impacts to regional water bodies such as Lake Monduran and the town of Monduran mitigated through implemented controls and monitoring.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.6 and 5.7, pp. 27-28** for further details.

## 4. Impacts and mitigation

## 4.1 Impact details

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

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

## 4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

\*

There are no listed World Heritage Properties located within the Project Footprint. The nearest World Heritage Property is the Great Barrier Reef (GBR), which is located approximately 50 km north-east of the Project Footprint. The Project will not cause impacts to the world heritage values of the GBR.

The Project Footprint for the BESS is situated within the Kolan River catchment, part of the Burnett River system, and this section of the Project Footprint does not drain directly into the Great Barrier Reef coastal embayment but indirectly through a series of watercourses and tributaries. Local hydrology identifies that runoff from Lot 23 on SP158465 discharges southward into Ashfield Creek, which is hydrologically disconnected from adjacent watercourses (such as Tableland Creek) leading to Lake Monduran, indicating no direct surface water flow from the Project Footprint for the BESS will lead directly into reef-associated waterways.

Groundwater flow is similarly separated by subsurface divides directing flows away from key regional water bodies connected to the reef.

On the northern side of the Bruce Highway and also within the Kolan River catchment, the Project Footprint intersects one first-order ephemeral waterway which is hydrologically connected to the Lake Monduran via a Kolan River tributary, approximately 4.6 km upstream, which is associated with the GBR catchment.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.6, pp. 28** and **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.7, p. 29, Figure 5.4** for further details.

Given the distance from the GBR, no direct outlet discharge, the ephemeral nature of the hydrologically connected waterways, existing land uses and the small scale of the proposed works, potential impacts from the Project on the GBR are not expected.

Overall, no direct or indirect impacts on the GBR are expected as a result of the Project due to:

- The Project Footprint is located approximately 50 km north-east of the GBR world heritage area
- There is no direct flow discharge into the GBR world heritage area
- No changes to the conveyance and storages of the existing catchments
- Implementation of construction (e.g. Erosion and Sediment Control Plan) and operational (e.g. combination of capture and treatment measures) mitigation measures will avoid any Project indirect impacts on the GBR world heritage area

The Project will not impact on any World Heritage matters, including the GBR.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 7, pp. 35-40** for further details on the avoidance and mitigation measures to be implemented for the Project.

## 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.

#### 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.

\*

There are no listed National Heritage Properties located within the Project Footprint. The nearest National Heritage Property is the Great Barrier Reef (GBR), which is located approximately 50 km north-east of the Project Footprint. The Project will not cause impacts to the national heritage values of the GBR.

Given the distance from the GBR national heritage area, no direct outlet discharge, the ephemeral nature of the hydrologically connected waterways, existing land uses and the small scale of the proposed works, potential impacts from the Project on the GBR national heritage area are not expected.

Overall, no direct or indirect impacts on the GBR national heritage area are expected as a result of the Project due to:

- The Project Footprint is located approximately 50 km north-east of the GBR national heritage area
- There is no direct flow discharge into the GBR national heritage area
- No changes to the conveyance and storages of the existing catchments
- Implementation of construction (e.g. Erosion and Sediment Control Plan) and operational (e.g. combination of capture and treatment measures) mitigation measures will avoid any Project indirect impacts on the GBR national heritage area.

The Project will not impact on any National Heritage matters, including the Great Barrier Reef. Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 7, pp. 35-40** for further details on the avoidance and mitigation measures to be implemented for the Project.

#### 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.

—

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

No

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

\*

There are no wetlands of international importance (Ramsar) within the Project Footprint as per the EPBC PMST results (Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Appendix B**).

The nearest Ramsar Wetland is the Great Sandy Strait, which is located more than 100 km south-east of the Project Footprint. The proposed works as part of the Project (Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 2, pp. 3-7**) will not have any direct or indirect impacts on Ramsar wetlands.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 7, pp. 35-40** for further details on the avoidance and mitigation measures to be implemented for the Project.

**4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities**

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

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

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

### Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Bosistoa transversa</i>	Three-leaved Bosistoa, Yellow Satinheart
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
No	No	<i>Cossinia australiana</i>	Cossinia
No	No	<i>Cupaniopsis shirleyana</i>	Wedge-leaf Tuckeroo
No	No	<i>Cycas megacarpa</i>	
No	No	<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni</i>	Coxen's Fig-Parrot
No	No	<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
No	No	<i>Delma torquata</i>	Adorned Delma, Collared Delma
No	No	<i>Dichanthium setosum</i>	bluegrass
No	No	<i>Egernia rugosa</i>	Yakka Skink
No	No	<i>Eseya albagula</i>	Southern Snapping Turtle, White-throated Snapping Turtle
No	No	<i>Erythrorchis radiatus</i>	Red Goshawk
No	No	<i>Eucalyptus raveretiana</i>	Black Ironbox
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Fontainea venosa</i>	
No	No	<i>Furina dunmalli</i>	Dunmall's Snake
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>	Squatter Pigeon (southern)

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Hemiaspis damelii	Grey Snake
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat
No	No	Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda	Star Finch (eastern), Star Finch (southern)
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
Yes	Yes	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	Potorous tridactylus tridactylus	Long-nosed Potoroo (northern)
Yes	Yes	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Samadera bidwillii	Quassia
Yes	Yes	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank
No	No	Turnix melanogaster	Black-breasted Button-quail

### Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland
No	No	Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia
No	No	Subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and South East Queensland bioregions

#### 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 potential direct and indirect impacts from the Project are described in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 6, pp. 31-34** and summarised below.

Potential direct ecological impacts due to clearing works during construction include:

- Direct removal of vegetation being:
  - Koala critical habitat (direct loss of up to 0.40 ha foraging, breeding habitat and 12.58 ha (10.16 ha of permanent, and 2.08 ha of temporary impacts) of dispersal habitat)
  - Diamond firetail critical habitat (direct loss of up to 0.19 ha)
  - Grey-headed flying-fox critical habitat (direct loss of up to 0.40 ha).

Refer **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Appendix D** for the habitat mapping.

Potential indirect impacts to MNES threatened species include:

- Introduction and spread of invasive fauna and flora species
- Localised and temporary change to surface water and to stormwater quality,
- Increased bushfire risk
- Disturbance of conservation significant fauna due to increase in noise, vibration, lighting and dust.

### Threatened ecological communities

Desktop assessments identified that the following TECs were potentially present within a 2 km radius of the Project Footprint:

- Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia – Critically endangered
- Subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and South East Queensland bioregions – Endangered
- Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland – Endangered

Field investigations confirmed that there were no TECs present within the Project Footprint and that the Project Footprint does not constitute suitable habitat requirements for any of the listed TECs. Refer **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.3, pp. 23-25** for further details.

### Threatened Flora

No threatened flora species under the EPBC Act were identified within the Project Footprint during the ecological field survey conducted in September 2024.

The detailed likelihood of occurrence assessment which was completed for threatened flora species with the potential to occur within the Project Footprint is provided within **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Appendix C**.

### Threatened fauna

Seven threatened fauna species were identified to have a high or moderate likelihood of occurrence within the Project Footprint. These species are:

- Greater glider (southern and central) (*Petauroides volans*)
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
- Diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*)
- Squatter pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta*)
- Grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)
- Yellow-bellied glider (south-eastern) (*Petaurus australis*)
- White throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*).

No threatened fauna species were identified within the Project Footprint during the ecological field assessments conducted in September 2024.

**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. \***

The current Project design has been refined to maximise use of existing disturbed areas (i.e. within cleared/grazing properties or built as close to the existing infrastructure such as the Bruce Highway and Gin Gin substation) and to either avoid or minimise vegetation clearing wherever possible. Significant impact assessments were completed for species with a high or moderate potential occurrence within the Project Footprint, following completion of a detailed desktop assessment and field assessment. Findings are described in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8, pp. 41-67.**

Overall, assessment against EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines: Matters of National Environmental Significance identified that the Project was unlikely to have a significant impact to threatened species. Summary of the findings is presented below.

### **Species habitat present**

#### **Koala habitat**

The Project Footprint contains limited critical habitat for the Koala, including approximately 0.40 ha of suitable foraging and 12.58 ha (10.16 ha of permanent, and 2.08 ha of temporary impacts) of dispersal habitat as defined by Youngentob et al. (2021). However, these habitat areas are largely isolated or within regrowth and road reserve vegetation at the edge of larger patches of remnant woodland that provide more substantial habitat and refuges for the species. Two ALA records of the Koala are within 20 km of the Project Footprint in the last 20 years, however none are within or immediately adjacent to the Project Footprint. No signs of the Koala (i.e. scats, tracks or scratches) were identified within the Project Footprint during 2024 field investigations. The Project's vegetation removal is unlikely to cause a long-term population decline, reduce the species' area of occupancy, or fragment existing populations, given the Koala's ability to disperse across open areas and the presence of surrounding connected habitats. The Project Footprint is currently dissected by the Bruce Highway, which already limits dispersal and increases vehicle strike risk, further reducing the local habitat's dispersal value. The removal of limited habitat will not disrupt breeding cycles since the Project Footprint mainly supports isolated trees without significant breeding habitat. Comprehensive management measures, including a Fauna Management Plan and pre-clearance surveys by qualified spotter-catchers, will mitigate potential impacts during clearing. The Project poses low risk of introducing invasive species or diseases due to biosecurity protocols addressing threats such as Cinnamon fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomic*) and Chlamydia. Importantly, the Project is not expected to substantially interfere with Koala recovery objectives outlined in the National Recovery Plan, as habitat connectivity and dispersal opportunities will be maintained post-construction. Overall, the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Koala.

The significant impact assessment undertaken in accordance with the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE 2013) is presented in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.2.2, pp. 46-50.**

#### **Diamond firetail habitat**

The Project may remove up to 0.19 ha of critical foraging habitat for the Diamond firetail, namely isolated eucalypt trees within lightly timbered agricultural paddocks, however the quality of this habitat is compromised by dense exotic grasses and invasive weeds. No important populations are known within 20 km of the Project Footprint, with the nearest confirmed records over 40 km away. The species is highly mobile, and the Project Footprint is situated on the edge of larger suitable woodland habitat. Project design has minimised impacts by locating infrastructure on previously disturbed land and avoiding remnant vegetation, riparian zones, and hollow-bearing trees that could support the species. The small extent of habitat to be cleared and the presence of surrounding suitable habitat reduce the likelihood of population decline or fragmentation. Overall, the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on the Diamond firetail.

The significant impact assessment undertaken in accordance with the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE 2013) is presented in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.3.1, pp. 51-53.**

#### **Grey-headed flying-fox habitat**

The Project could remove up to 0.40 ha of critical habitat for the Grey-headed flying-fox consisting of winter flowering Myrtaceae species, including *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *E. crebra*, *Corymbia citriodora*, and *E. melanophloia*. However, these are limited to isolated trees and immature vegetation within the Bruce Highway road reserve. The Project Footprint is not within 20 km of any nationally important Grey-headed flying fox camps or roosts. No Grey-headed flying fox sightings have been recorded within 20 km of the Project Footprint in the last 20 years. The Project has minimised native vegetation clearing and avoided remnant vegetation sites critical to the species. Given the species' high mobility and the availability of extensive suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape, the Project is not expected to cause long-term population declines, reduce occupancy, fragment populations, or disrupt breeding cycles and therefore, the Project works are unlikely to have a significant impact on the Grey-headed flying fox.

The significant impact assessment undertaken in accordance with the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE 2013) is presented in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.3.3, pp. 56-59.**

#### **Species habitat not present**

##### **Greater glider (southern and central) habitat**

The Project Footprint was identified to not contain critical habitat for the Greater glider (southern and central). The five smooth barked eucalypt paddock trees within the Project Footprint could be considered hollow-bearing but are not associated with a large contiguous area for eucalypt forest and do not contain large enough hollows to provide potential breeding habitat for the species. There are no known Greater glider records within the Project Footprint, with the nearest recorded sighting approximately 14 km away. Overall, the limited extent and quality of habitat affected, maintained habitat connectivity, absence of breeding habitat loss, and comprehensive management measures mean the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Greater glider.

The significant impact assessment undertaken in accordance with the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE, 2013) is presented in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.2.1, pp. 42-45.**

##### **Yellow-bellied glider habitat**

The Project Footprint was identified to not contain critical habitat for the Yellow-bellied glider. The five smooth barked eucalypt paddock trees within the Project Footprint could be considered hollow-bearing but are not supported by large, continuous areas of floristically diverse eucalypt forest, and therefore not be considered habitat critical.

This vegetation is limited to isolated trees, and immature vegetation within the Bruce Highway road reserve. No sightings or signs of the species have been recorded within 20 km of the Project Footprint in the past 20 years, indicating a low likelihood of local presence. Overall, the limited extent and quality of habitat affected, maintained habitat connectivity, absence of breeding habitat loss, and comprehensive management measures mean the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Yellow-bellied glider.

The significant impact assessment undertaken in accordance with the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE 2013) is presented in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.3.4, pp. 59-62.**

##### **Squatter pigeon (southern)**

The Project Footprint does not contain critical habitat for the Squatter pigeon (southern) as the small patches of suitable vegetation which were observed during 2024 field surveys are insufficient to sustain a significant population and are compromised by invasive exotic grasses. The area lacks key breeding habitats and is located at the edge of larger remnant vegetation surrounded by cleared grazing land, which provides more suitable habitat elsewhere. No important populations occur within or near the Project Footprint, with the nearest sightings recorded over 50 km away. Given the landscape context and lack of critical habitat present for the Squatter pigeon (southern) within the Project Footprint, the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on this MNES.

The significant impact assessment undertaken in accordance with the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE 2013) is presented in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.3.2, pp. 53-56.**

#### **White-throated needletail habitat**

The White-throated needletail is a highly mobile, primarily utilising airspace above the Project Footprint for foraging and dispersal, with limited roosting habitat present within the Project Footprint. The species does not breed in Australia, and as such, the Project Footprint is not considered to contain essential habitat for foraging, breeding, roosting or dispersal. Given the species' aerial lifestyle, large area of occupancy (~126,000 km<sup>2</sup>), absence of using habitat within the Project Footprint for breeding, and availability of surrounding habitats, the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the White-throated needletail.

The significant impact assessment undertaken in accordance with the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE 2013) is presented in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.3.5, pp. 62-65.**

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

No

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

\*

The current Project design has been developed and refined to maximise use of existing disturbed areas (i.e. within cleared/grazing properties or built as close to the existing infrastructure such as the Bruce Highway and Gin Gin substation as possible) and to either avoid or minimise vegetation clearing wherever possible. It is noted that micro-siting of the BESS location, transmission cable corridor, and the greater Project Footprint has been completed to mitigate the potential impacts to MNES. Further, the smallest footprint which will facilitate the Project construction and operation, aligned with a logical shape for a Lot subdivision, has been selected.

The Project is not considered a controlled action for impacts to threatened species as it is unlikely to result in a significant impact to any threatened species, based on the results of the significant impact assessments undertaken in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance (DoE 2013). Refer **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8, pp. 41-65.**

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

The Project has included avoidance and mitigation measures to avoid and minimise impacts to threatened species. The Project has been strategically designed and refined to avoid and minimise impacts on MNES, with particular emphasis on the micro-siting of the BESS, associated transmission cable corridor, and the broader Project Footprint. Ecological surveys completed in September 2024 informed the design process, ensuring that environmental values were identified and excluded from Project Footprint wherever practicable.

Key mitigation measures include:

- The clearing extent will be minimised, and no-go areas will be clearly shown on “clearing and grubbing” detailed design drawings and denote significant trees or no-go zones with flagging tape during construction to avoid removal of unintended areas
- Landscaping and revegetation designs will be developed with the inclusion of endemic species and specifying landscaping species to be replanted
- The Project’s temporary and permanent lighting will be designed following the Principles of Best Practice Lighting Design and the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (DCCEEW 2023c)
- The perimeter security fencing to be installed around the infrastructure is considered to serve as fauna exclusion fencing
- Environmental Management Plan (Construction) (EMP(C)) – To include detailed mitigation measures for the management of environmental impacts such as fauna, flora, noise, air, water, waste
- Development and implementation of an ESCP signed by a registered professional engineer of Queensland (or Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)) in accordance with the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) prior to construction commencing
- Stormwater Management Plan – To include the mitigation measures taken to manage surface water during the construction and operational phases of the Project
- Rehabilitation Management Plan – To set out measures to restore the site to a condition that is as close as possible to its pre-disturbance state, while minimising residual environmental impacts

Project mitigation measures are detailed in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 7, pp. 35-40**.

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

There are no proposed offsets.

#### **4.1.5 Migratory Species**

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
Yes	Yes	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey
No	No	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	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? \***

Yes

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

The PMST report recorded 12 listed migratory species as potentially occurring within the Project Footprint, including a 2 km buffer (refer **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.4.2, p. 26 and Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Appendix B**). Of these, the following three have a high or moderate likelihood to occur within the Project Footprint:

- Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)
- Oriental cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*)
- White throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*).

Refer **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Appendix D** for the habitat mapping.

Migratory species which are also listed as conservation significant (i.e. White-throated needletail) have been assessed in the relevant section above pertaining to listed threatened species.

The Project involves construction activities that have the potential to directly or indirectly impact on EPBC Act listed migratory bird species. Potential impacts for each of the listed migratory species are outlined below.

- Direct removal of habitat for migratory species being:
  - Fork-tailed swift critical habitat (direct removal of up to 0.21 ha)
  - Oriental cuckoo critical habitat (direct removal of up to 0.21 ha).

Potential indirect impacts to migratory species may include:

- Introduction and spread of invasive fauna and flora species
- Localised and temporary change to surface water and to stormwater quality
- Disturbance of conservation significant fauna due to increase in noise, vibration, lighting and dust.

Potential threats from the Project will be appropriately managed through the EMP(C).

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

\*

No

#### **4.1.5.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. \***

Significant impact assessments were completed for listed migratory species with a high or moderate likelihood of occurring within the Project Footprint (including a 2 km buffer). Findings are described in **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.4, pp. 65-66** and summarised below.

Migratory species subject to significant impact assessment (DoE 2013) include:

- Oriental cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*)
- Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)

Overall, assessment against EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines: Matters of National Environmental Significance identified the Project was unlikely to have a significant impact to migratory species. Further, the extent of habitat present within the Project Footprint does not meet the thresholds presented in the *Draft referral guideline for 14 birds listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act*, suggested to lead to a significant impact to migratory species.

#### **Oriental cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*)**

Potential important habitat for the Oriental cuckoo is present within the Project Footprint (i.e. Eucalypt woodland vegetation) (DoE 2015). The total area of predicted habitat considered important for woodland migrants that occurs within the Project Footprint (i.e. 0.21 ha) is below the guideline threshold for the Oriental cuckoo (i.e. 25,000 ha). Therefore, such habitat will not be substantially modified, destroyed or isolated.

No direct or indirect mortality of individuals is expected as a result of the Project. Given the nature of works, the Project is not likely to seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion (i.e. 1,000 individuals) of the Oriental cuckoo.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.4, pp. 65-66.**

#### **Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)**

As this species is a highly mobile aerial species and rarely lands, no important habitat for the Fork-tailed swift will be removed as a result of the Project. Therefore, no significant impact is anticipated as a result of the modification, destruction or isolation of important habitat.

No direct or indirect mortality of individuals is expected as a result of the Project. Given the nature of works, the Project is not likely to seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion (i.e. 100 individuals) of the Fork-tailed swift.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.4, pp. 65-66.**

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

No

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

\*

The Project is not considered a controlled action for impacts to migratory species as it is unlikely to result in a significant impact to any migratory species, based on the results of the significant impact assessments undertaken in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance (DoE 2013). Refer **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 8.4, pp. 65-66.**

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

The Project has included avoidance and mitigation measures to avoid and minimise impacts to migratory species. The Project has been strategically designed and refined to avoid and minimise impacts on MNES, with particular emphasis on the micro-siting of the BESS, associated transmission cable corridor, and the broader Project Footprint. Ecological surveys completed in September 2024 informed the design process, ensuring that environmental values were identified and excluded from Project Footprint wherever practicable.

Key mitigation measures include:

- The clearing extent will be minimised, and no-go areas will be clearly shown on “clearing and grubbing” detailed design drawings and denote significant trees or no-go zones with flagging tape during construction to avoid removal of unintended areas
- Landscaping and revegetation designs will be developed with the inclusion of endemic species and specifying landscaping species to be replanted
- The Project’s temporary and permanent lighting will be designed following the Principles of Best Practice Lighting Design and the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (DCCEEW 2023c)
- Environmental Management Plan (Construction) (EMP(C)) – To include specific measures for migratory birds such as sequential clearing requirements, artificial lighting requirements and pest and weed management
- Development and implementation of an ESCP signed by a registered professional engineer of Queensland (or Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)) in accordance with the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) prior to construction commencing
- Stormwater Management Plan – To include the mitigation measures taken to manage surface water during the construction and operational phases of the Project
- Rehabilitation Management Plan – To set out measures to restore the site to a condition that is as close as possible to its pre-disturbance state, while minimising residual environmental impacts.

Project mitigation measures are detailed in **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 7, pp. 35-40.**

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

No offsets are proposed.

**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.**

\*

Activities associated with the Project are not considered a nuclear action, as defined in Section 22 of the EPBC Act.

**4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area**

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

The proposed action is not located near any Commonwealth Marine Areas. The closest Commonwealth Marine Area is the Great Barrier Reef located 50 km north-east of the Project Footprint. No direct or indirect impact from the Project is expected.

**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 Marine Park (GBRMP) is located off the coast of Queensland approximately 50 km north-east of the Project. The Project will not cause impacts to the GBRMP.

The Project Footprint for the BESS is situated within the Kolan River catchment, part of the Burnett River system, and this section of the Project Footprint does not drain directly into the Great Barrier Reef coastal embayment but indirectly through a series of watercourses and tributaries. Local hydrology identifies that runoff from Lot 23 on SP158465 discharges southward into Ashfield Creek, which is hydrologically disconnected from adjacent watercourses (such as Tableland Creek) leading to Lake Monduran, indicating no direct surface water flow from the Project Footprint for the BESS will lead directly into reef-associated waterways.

Groundwater flow is similarly separated by subsurface divides directing flows away from key regional water bodies connected to the reef.

On the northern side of the Bruce Highway and also within the Kolan River catchment, the Project Footprint intersects one first-order ephemeral waterway which is hydrologically connected to the Lake Monduran via a Kolan River tributary, approximately 4.6 km upstream, which is associated with the GBR catchment.

Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.6, pp. 27-28** and **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.7, pp. 28-29, Figure 5.4** for further details.

Given the distance from the GBRMP, no direct outlet discharge, the ephemeral nature of the hydrologically connected waterways, existing land uses and the small scale of the proposed works, potential impacts from the Project on the GBRMP are not expected.

Overall, no direct or indirect impacts on the GBRMP are expected as a result of the Project due to:

- The Project Footprint is located approximately 50 km north-east of the GBRMP
- There is no direct flow discharge into the GBRMP
- No changes to the conveyance and storages of the existing catchments
- Implementation of construction (e.g. Erosion and Sediment Control Plan) and operational (e.g. combination of capture and treatment measures) mitigation measures will avoid any Project indirect impacts on the GBRMP.

The Project will not impact on the Great Barrier Reef. Refer **Att 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 5.6, pp. 27-28** and **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 7, pp. 35-40** for further details on the avoidance and mitigation measures to be implemented for the Project.

#### 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 does not involve a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development and is therefore unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact on these matters.

**4.1.10 Commonwealth Land**

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

The nearest Commonwealth Land is associated with the Bundaberg Defence Training Depot, which is 50 km east of the Project Footprint. The proposed action is therefore unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter.

**4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas**

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

The proposed action is not located near to or affected by any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas. It is therefore unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter.

**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. \*

Ekus Energy undertook a process of identifying suitable sites for the development of a BESS within the region. The following was considered when identifying a site for the Project:

- Adjacency to a Powerlink Queensland transmission substation with sufficient generation capacity
- Land and environmental attributes, including vegetation cover, ecological values, landscape ecological context, and statutory permitting and approval requirements
- Accessibility and constructability attributes, including logistics and transport access, topography, flood risk and bushfire risk
- Amenity impacts and location to sensitive receptors.

The evolution of the design has included a number of different sized footprints and locations within Lot 23 on SP158465. An area of approximately 92.7 ha was surveyed during the ecological field investigations to determine the likelihood of impacts to MNES within the greater Project surrounds. It is noted that micro-siting of the BESS location, transmission cable corridor, and the greater Project Footprint has been completed to mitigate the potential impacts to MNES. Further, the smallest footprint possible required to facilitate the Project construction and operation has been selected.

Refer **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 7, pp. 35-36** for discussion on avoidance and minimisation of impacts to MNES.

If the Project were not to proceed the following may not occur:

- Supporting the region's existing workforce by creating jobs
- Providing rapid, dispatchable energy to the electricity grid, helping to ensure consistent and stable electricity supply in the wholesale Energy Market
- Helping to support energy storage of renewable energy, including domestic rooftop solar that can be stored and discharged when it is most needed by consumers
- Contributing to improved reliability of the wholesale energy network.

Therefore, the Project is considered to be appropriately located to achieve the Project objectives and minimise environmental impacts, whereby alternative locations are not considered feasible.

Refer **Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance report, Section 2, pp. 3-7** for discussion on benefits and alternatives of the Project.

## 5. Lodgement

## 5.1 Attachments

## 1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	15/09/2025	No	High

## 1.2.6 Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents that are relevant to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2 - Trust Deed details.pdf	15/09/2025	Yes	

## 3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

## 3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

## 3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
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#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High
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## 3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	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 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	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 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

4.1.4.9 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

4.1.5.6 (Migratory Species) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

4.1.5.9 (Migratory Species) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

4.1.8.3 (Great Barrier Reef) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance Report.pdf Monduran BESS Matters of National Environmental Significance Report that provides information to support the EPBC Act referral	14/09/2025	No	High



## 5.2 Declarations

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## Completed Referring party's declaration

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

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ABN/ACN	54005139873
Organisation name	AURECON AUSTRALASIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	25 King Street, Bowen Hills QLD 4006
Representative's name	Gabby Singh
Representative's job title	Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning
Phone	0420706556
Email	gabby.singh@aurecongroup.com
Address	25 King Street, Bowen Hills QLD 4006

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

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

By checking this box, I, **Gabby Singh of AURECON AUSTRALASIA PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. \*

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

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## Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

---

ABN/ACN	643783528
Organisation name	EKU ENERGY PROJECTS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 1, Level 34 360 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia
Representative's name	Peter Scott

Representative's job title      Development Manager

Phone                                0475256590

Email                                peter.scott@ekuenergy.com

Address                              Suite 1, Level 34 360 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

- Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. \*
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. \*
- I, **Peter Scott of EKU ENERGY PROJECTS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. \*
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. \*

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### **Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration**

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

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Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

- Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. \*
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. \*
- I, **Peter Scott of EKU ENERGY PROJECTS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. \*
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. \*