Tall Tree Wind Farm

Application Number: **02792** Commencement Date: **21/02/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Tall Tree Wind Farm

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Wind Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2028

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2061

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Tall Tree Wind Farm ("the **Project**") is a proposed renewable energy development located within the Golden Plains Shire, south of Meredith, west of Lethbridge, North of Teesdale in Central West Victoria. The Project is within the proposed Central Highlands Renewable Energy Zone.

The referral area is currently 5,135 ha in size, comprising:

- Wind Farm Area – 5,028 ha to accommodate up to 53 wind turbine generators (**WTGs**) and associated infrastructure
- Transmission Corridor – 107 ha for a 220 kV transmission line (anticipated to be overhead), which follows a corridor of approximately 100 m in width and 11.3 km in length from Lower Plains Road, and a new electrical switchyard to the east of Taylor Road to connect to the existing Moorabool to Elaine 220 kV transmission line. The final transmission line easement width will be up to 60 m within the 100 m corridor

Refer to **Figure 1 Project Locality and Figure 2 Indicative Project Layout (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 1-2).** Project coordinates are provided in **Attachment 2** in GDA94

Permanent infrastructure

WTGs

The wind farm component of the Project will comprise up to 53 WTGs with a capacity of approximately 330 MW. An indicative turbine layout plan is provided in **Figure 2 Indicative Project Layout (Att1 – Project Figures, pg. 2)**. The final number and location of WTGs is subject to further investigation and will consider other existing environmental values and sensitivities.

The final turbine model and specification will be confirmed during detailed design and procurement. Each WTG will comprise a tower, nacelle, hub and blades:

- Up to 183 m rotor diameter
- Up to 91.5 m blade length
- Up to 250.5 m uppermost blade tip
- Up to 169 m hub height
- Up to 3 ha of ground disturbance (including hardstand) per WTG required for construction

Operations and Maintenance Area

The O&M area will be up to 100 m x 100 m plus a 50 m buffer on each side to allow for batters and asset protection, with associated fencing, landscaping and car parking

Battery Energy Storage System

The BESS facility will be up to 200 m x 400 m plus a 35 m buffer on each side for batters and asset protection. Final location and configuration will consider the Medium Voltage (**MV**) & High Voltage (**HV**) electrical configuration and potential areas of inundation following a hydrology assessment

Substation

The Project may require up to one on-site substation, anticipated to be 250 m x 250 m in size plus a 50 m buffer on each side for batters and asset protection, with associated fencing and landscaping

Switchyard

The Project will include a new electrical switchyard as part of the Transmission Corridor, connecting to the Wind Farm through the 220 kV overhead transmission line. The switchyard is anticipated to be 100 m x 150 m plus a 60 m buffer on each side for batters and asset protection

Internal access tracks

The access tracks will be approximately 6.5 m wide, plus shoulders and drainage as required. Access tracks will be constructed along existing farm tracks where possible. The location of and requirement for any new access tracks would be determined in consultation with landowners and the Country Fire Authority (**CFA**)

Site entrances

The main site entrance is proposed to be located on Meredith-Shelford Road. The entrance location and additional access will be determined by transport route assessment and environmental constraints. The referral area includes an alternative access route on Lower Plains Road. Secondary site entrances will be confirmed as part of the detailed design development phase

Underground cabling

Reticulated underground cabling will be required between WTGs and on-site substation. Cables will be direct-buried, with individual single-circuit trenches, 0.65 m wide per circuit and 1 m to 1.6 m deep

Overhead transmission line

An overhead high voltage electrical transmission line with a length of 11.3 km and 60 m wide will be required to connect the wind farm to a new electrical switchyard to the east of Taylor Road to provide connection to the existing Moorabool to Elaine 220 kV transmission line

Overhead transmission towers

Transmission towers connecting the new electrical switchyard and wind farm, will be single-circuit steel lattice or steel monopole towers, up to 70 m in height. From the centre of the towers, tower spacing will be approximately 500 m. Final tower type, height and span length will be subject to minimising impacts on farming, vegetation, and nearby properties

Semi-permanent meteorological masts

Up to four meteorological masts, will be required for a period of up to 5 years from commencement of operations. These will be guyed lattice towers each up to 170 m in height, with a small foundation, guy-wire anchor points, and underground communications connections to nearby WTGs

Temporary infrastructure

The main temporary components of the Project include:

- Construction laydown and compounds (site offices, parking and storage)
- Washdown areas
- Fencing and hoardings
- Earthworks and bunding
- One on-site borrow pit for concrete aggregates, earthworks and pavement materials
- Potentially one off-site borrow pit
- Up to four semi-permanent meteorological masts
- One or more concrete batching plants may be constructed (subject to design development, traffic impact assessment and construction methodology)

Ancillary components

The Project will require the upgrade of local public roads to support the construction phase and will be informed by a traffic impact assessment and consultation with landowners and road management authorities

A potential off-site borrow pit is also being considered. Any impacts on amenity (noise, dust, traffic), groundwater, heritage and ecology will be assessed in the planning phase.

Key construction activities

Construction of the Project is anticipated to commence in 2027 and is expected to last for 24-36 months, with a targeted operational date of 2029.

Construction activities expected to support the delivery of the Project include:

- Public road upgrades and establishment of the site entrances to accommodate Oversize Overmass vehicles
- Site establishment works including temporary site fencing and hoarding, site offices, storage and construction compound
- Displaying construction, directional and business identification signs
- Preparatory work including establishment of environment and traffic controls, designated ‘no-go’ zones and installation of permanent fencing and signage
- Construction, protection, modification, removal or relocation of utility services
- Clearing and grubbing of vegetation where permanent and temporary works are proposed
- Establishment of site borrow pit
- Earthworks and pavement construction including for construction of internal roads, drainage, laydown areas, wind turbine foundations and assembly areas
- Drainage construction including for roads, waterways and site flood mitigation
- Delivery, assembly and erection of WTG components
- Construction of electrical reticulation from wind turbines to the Project substation, including trenching and directional drilling for underground cabling, and erecting transmission towers for overhead cabling
- Construction of permanent O&M facilities
- Construction of the BESS facility, substation and switching station
- Construction of overhead transmission infrastructure including concrete foundations, steel towers and overhead lines
- Removal of development stage meteorological mast
- Installation of semi-permanent meteorological mast(s)
- Quality assurance inspections and testing activities including geotechnical testing, permanent works materials sampling and testing
- Commissioning and energisation activities
- Removal of temporary works and construction facilities
- Reinstatement of temporarily disturbed land.

Key operational activities

Operation, maintenance and monitoring of the Project includes the following activities:

- Maintenance and remote monitoring of the Project’s permanent infrastructure
- Ongoing maintenance of relevant facilities on-site, including scheduled maintenance events or the ad hoc repair and replacement of equipment, structural components, access tracks, buildings and plant, control systems, connections, and cabling
- Ongoing environmental monitoring and reporting for the Project in accordance with the relevant approval conditions

The Project is anticipated to have an operational life of 30 years based on current design life. It is expected that operational activities will be undertaken by 10 to 12 full-time equivalent employees.

Key decommissioning activities

At the end of its operational life, the Project will either extend its operational life or be decommissioned. Where the operational life is extended, the process of re-powering the Project will be subject to any relevant planning approval processes and the upgrading of project infrastructure, facilities, and equipment requirements.

Decommissioning activities will adopt a similar method to those utilised in the construction phase of the Project and will include:

- Stakeholders and landholder consultation
- Removal of above ground structures not required for the ongoing agricultural use of the land and the land rehabilitated and returned to agricultural use
- Removal of access tracks and hardstands not requested by the landowner to be retained and land rehabilitated and returned to agricultural use
- Reuse/recycle materials where possible in accordance with local waste policies and regulations in place.

Below ground infrastructure, including cabling and the WTG foundations, would be left in situ below a certain depth and appropriately managed to avoid further disturbance and minimise clearing of revegetated areas.

The Project will comply with any relevant requirements for decommissioning as stipulated under any planning approval or subsequent permit or licence that may be required. The decommissioning process will be undertaken in accordance with best practice methods available at the time of decommissioning. The decommissioning process will focus on the principles of repurpose, reuse, and recycling.

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? *

Commonwealth

- Referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (**EPBC Act**) (this referral) – for a decision as to whether it is a 'controlled action' for potential significant impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (**MNES**). The area being referred includes all works within the Project Boundary.

State

- Referral under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* – The Project is being referred for a decision as to whether an assessment is required under the Environment Effects Act.
- Planning approval pursuant to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic).
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan(s) (**CHMP**) pursuant to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic).

Depending upon the selected locations of infrastructure, specific components of the Project may be subject to the following secondary approvals and compliance requirements:

- Licence pursuant to the *Crown (Land Reserves) Act 1978* where works are required on Crown land;
- Compliance with *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and Future Act Assessment procedure in addition to the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*;
- Permit or consent under the *Heritage Act 2017* for management of impacts to historic heritage;
- Compliance with the requirements of the *Environment Protection Act 2017*;
- Permit pursuant to the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 198*8 for taking of wildlife and removal of flora species from public land;
- Authorisation pursuant to the *Wildlife Act 1975* for the taking of, or relocation of any threatened wildlife prior to and during construction activities;
- Permit or consent pursuant to the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* for noxious weeds and pest animal management;
- Permit pursuant to the *Water Act 1989* for any works within 20 metres of a designated waterway;
- Consent pursuant to the *Road Management Act 2004* for works within a road reserve;
- Consent pursuant to the *Electricity Safety Act 1998;*
- *Electricity Industry Act 2000* for license to generate, distribute and sell electricity;
- *Land Act 1958* for any works on unreserved Crown land and freehold land;
- Consent pursuant to the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* (Cth) for wind turbines located near airports, flight paths, or radar installations; and
- Work authority pursuant to the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* for the extractive activities.

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. *

A sensitively designed and comprehensive Community and Stakeholder Consultation Program is underway for the Project. Further details regarding project stakeholders and associated engagement principles, tools and activities are summarised in the Consultation Report for Referral (**Attachment 3**) – along with the outcomes of engagement to date.

Key stakeholders along with the principal engagement methods and activities are outlined in brief below:

Project stakeholders

- Host landholders
- Boundary and project site neighbours
- Community members of Meredith, Teesdale, Shelford and Lethbridge
- State and Federal Members of Parliament
- Golden Plains Shire Council
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Government agencies and departments, including the Department of Transport and Planning and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Emergency Services, including the CFA
- Lethbridge Airport
- Local community groups and organisations, businesses and educational facilities

To date, the following engagement activities have been undertaken for the project:

- *Project Website/ Community Hub:*
    - A dedicated project website/ Community Hub has been established to share project information and updates about the project with project stakeholders.
- *Community Information Sessions:*
    - Two rounds of in-person Community Information Sessions have been undertaken for the project - March 2024 (Lethbridge, Meredith and Teesdale) and November 2024 (Lethbridge, Meredith, Shelford and Teesdale).
- *Online Webinars and Information Sessions:*
    - Two online information sessions have been held - 19 September and 30 October 2024.
- *Ongoing targeted stakeholder meetings have been established with:*
    - Golden Plains Shire Council, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Aviation stakeholders, Boundary Neighbours, Stakeholder and Community Roundtable Meetings (variousimpacted stakeholder groups included).
- *Australia Post Mailouts, Local Courier Mailouts and Electronic Direct Mail:*
    - Australia Post mailouts are used to deliver project information directly to local residents' letterboxes. A local courier service has also been engaged to deliver flyers to local residents to increase local mailout reach.
- *1800 number and project email:*
    - A free 1800 number and project email has been established for stakeholders to contact the project team directly.

A robust Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed for the project that contains an Engagement Action Plan outlining the key engagement activities corresponding to each project milestone. This plan is reviewed and adjusted following each key engagement milestone to ensure that community and stakeholder feedback regarding engagement activities is considered and applied to future engagement opportunities.

Community and stakeholder engagement will continue throughout 2025 and beyond, focusing on referral submission and working with community and project stakeholders as ACCIONA Energia awaits the Minister’s decision as to the approval pathway. Once the pathway is known, ACCIONA Energia will share a draft consultation plan to illustrate its proposed engagement throughout the planning process.

ACCIONA Energia is committed to continuing the bespoke engagement activities established to date throughout the project's feasibility, investigations and EES phases to ensure that the many unique project stakeholder voices are heard and acknowledged. Additionally, ACCIONA Energia plans to bolster its engagement program by continuing to initiate proactive engagement with community stakeholders, including local educational institutions, emergency service providers, local businesses and community organisations.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	12002773248
Organisation name	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW

Referring party details

Name	Jenny Luk
Job title	Partner
Phone	+61 3 8606 4131
Email	jenny.luk@erm.com
Address	Level 8, 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

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	54600910647
Organisation name	ACCIONA ENERGY AUSTRALIA GLOBAL PTY LTD
Organisation address	3205 VIC

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Jacqueline Pertz
Job title	Project Coordinator
Phone	0448228138
Email	jacqueline.pertz@acciona.com
Address	Level 8, 11 Eastern Road, South Melbourne Vic, 3205

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

No

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

No

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

ACCIONA Energía is one of the world's largest independent renewable energy power producers with operations covering development, construction, ownership and operation of assets across 30 countries. ACCIONA Energía has over 15,000 megawatts of renewable energy assets across a range of technologies including hydroelectricity, wind, solar PV, solar thermal and biomass.

In Australia, ACCIONA Energía has a strong track record for successfully developing, constructing and operating wind farms, with over 1,800 megawatts of renewable energy installed or under construction across Queensland, Victoria, NSW and South Australia.

To date in Australia, ACCIONA Energía has constructed Waubra Wind Farm, Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm, Mortlake Wind Farm, Gunning Wind Farm and most recently MacIntyre Wind Farm and Aldoga Solar Farm. These project sites have all been constructed in compliance to environmental approval conditions and under comprehensive Environmental Management Plans (**EMPs**) and compliance to all environmental legislation as a commitment to the environment. These EMPs include a range of protection measures and processes to ensure environmental values are protected during construction and operation of wind farms, including regular internal and external environmental audit programs. No actions have been taken against ACCIONA Energía for environmental breaches. ACCIONA Energía and its associated entities have referred the following projects under the EPBC Act:

- Wallaby Creek Wind Farm Project, New South Wales (EPBC: 2023/09676)
- Keri Keri Wind Farm, New South Wales (EPBC: 2022/9176)
- Keri Keri Solar Farm, New South Wales (EPBC: 2022/09209)
- Aldoga Solar Farm Project, Queensland (EPBC: 2020/8773)
- Overhead Transmission Line – MacIntyre Wind Energy Precinct, Queensland (EPBC: 2020/8759)
- MacIntyre Wind Farm Project, Queensland (EPBC: 2020/8756)
- Karara Wind Farm Project, Queensland (EPBC: 2020/8755)
- Mortlake South Wind Farm, Victoria (EPBC: 2017/8137)
- Exmoor Windfarm Naracoorte, South Australia (EPBC: 2011/6117)
- Mortlake Wind Farm, Victoria (EPBC: 2008/4128)
- Allendale Wind Farm, South Australia (EPBC: 2007/3549)
- Laslett Wind Farm, South Australia (EPBC: 2007/3550)
- Newfield Wind Farm, Victoria (EPBC: 2007/3226)

ACCIONA Energía is also a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice for Renewable Energy Projects (the Charter). ACCIONA Energía is committed to meeting the Charter's key objectives, specifically to engage respectfully with the communities in which we plan and operate our projects, to be sensitive to environmental and cultural values, and to make a positive contribution to the regions in which we operate.

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

ACCIONA Energía is a leader in the renewable energy sector. Our Health, Safety, Environment and Quality work practices (**HSEQ**) support the ACCIONA global Integrated Management System (IMS) and consolidates our commitment to sustainable development, the provision of quality-controlled products and services that meet and exceed customer expectations, protect the environment and the health and safety of our workers and interested parties. Refer to **Att 4 – HSEQ Statement.**

ACCIONA Energía also has a number of key policies, including an Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Water Policy (refer to **Att 5 – ACCIONA Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Water Policy**). The statement of intent for each of these policy areas summarised below:

- **Environmental Policy:** ACCIONA's environmental strategy is structured around the commitment against climate change, promoting energy efficiency, rationalisation of water use and management, responsible uses of resources, applying the principles of the circular economy in the region, selection and/or use of raw materials, as well as waste management, pollution prevention, and protection of the natural environmental and biodiversity.
- **Biodiversity Policy:** for ACCIONA, biodiversity conservation and responsible use of our natural heritage, aside form being an ethical commitment, are a necessary condition for global sustainability. Aware that biodiversity itself is a highly valuable key natural asset, ACCIONA promotes its appreciation and conservation as a necessary as a necessary means for economic development and social progress.
- **Climate Change Policy:** ACCIONA considers it a priority to lead the transition towards low-carbon business models which reduce or mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. ACCIONA promotes the adoption of ambitious global emission reduction targets with the goal of keeping the global average temperature less than 2C above preindustrial levels, as well as by developing projects, products and services that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases, thus facilitating access to renewable energy. ACCIONA also encourages adapting to climate change, facilitating access to water and to resilient infrastructure.
- **Water Policy:** the main objective of ACCIONA's Water Policy is to contribute to the basic human right of access to drinking water and sanitation, as recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010. ACCIONA recognises that water is a limited and irreplaceable natural resource and so it focuses its water management strategy on water availability, quality and the ecosystem balance where it operates.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

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

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	54600910647
Organisation name	ACCIONA ENERGY AUSTRALIA GLOBAL PTY LTD
Organisation address	3205 VIC

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Jacqueline Pertz
Job title	Project Coordinator
Phone	0448228138
Email	jacqueline.pertz@acciona.com
Address	Level 8, 11 Eastern Road, South Melbourne Vic, 3205

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

ABN/ACN	12002773248
Organisation name	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Jenny Luk
Representative's job title	Partner
Phone	+61 3 8606 4131
Email	jenny.luk@erm.com
Address	Level 8, 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN/ACN	54600910647
Organisation name	ACCIONA ENERGY AUSTRALIA GLOBAL PTY LTD
Organisation address	3205 VIC
Representative's name	Jacqueline Pertz
Representative's job title	Project Coordinator
Phone	0448228138
Email	jacqueline.pertz@acciona.com
Address	Level 8, 11 Eastern Road, South Melbourne Vic, 3205

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

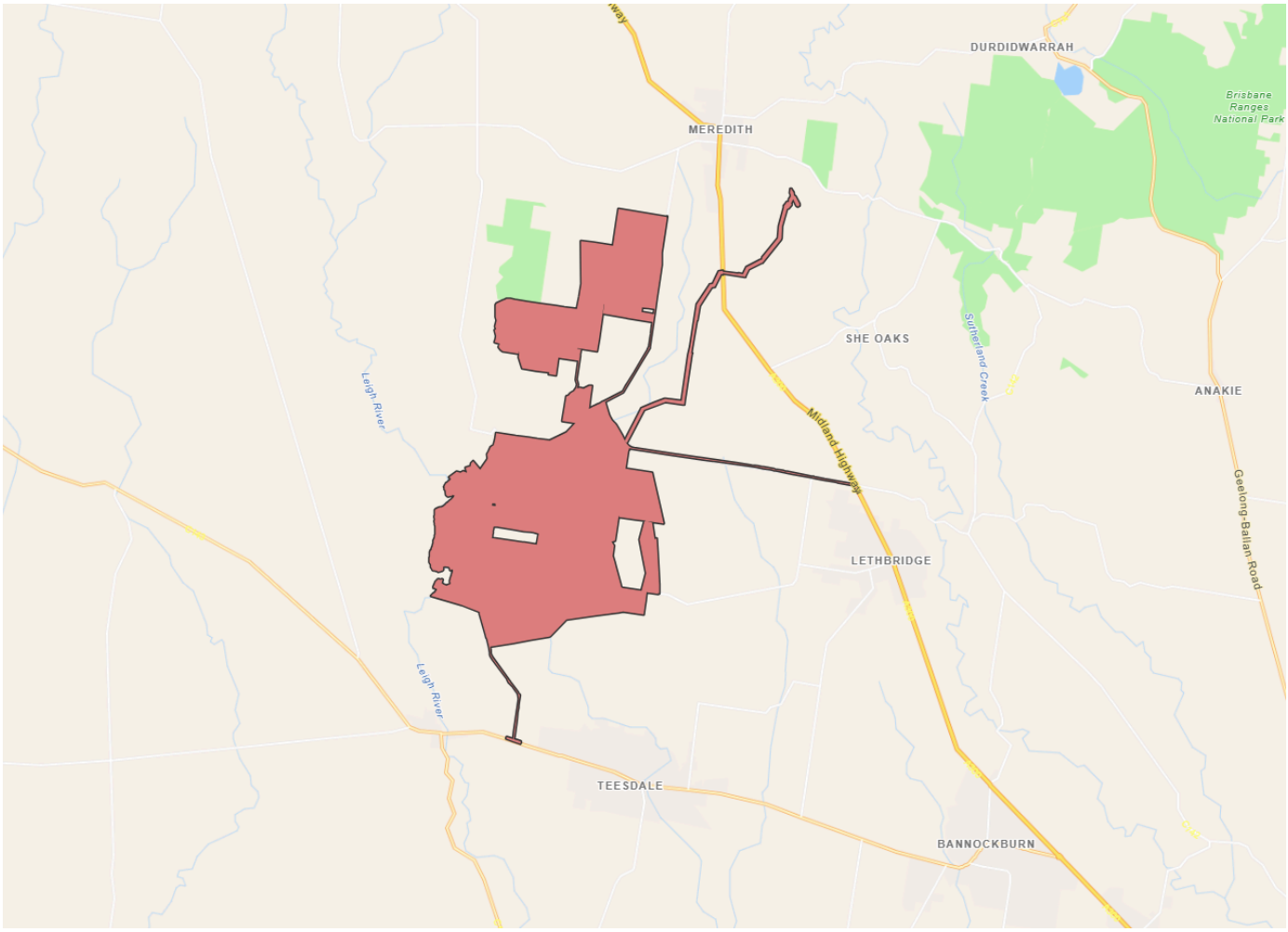
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 5127.84 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 5127.84 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Meredith-Shelford Road, Meredith 3333

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

Victoria

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 majority of the referral area is located on freehold land, with approximately 6 ha (or 1.36%) of the referral area located on Crown land, road and rail corridors, and other publicly owned land for utilities, reserves and recreation areas (refer to **Figure 3 Land Use and Tenure (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 3)**.

There are 19 residential dwellings within the referral area. Project land requirements will be secured via commercial land lease/licence agreements applied to private freehold land. The agreements will provide for long-term lease and easement arrangements that will extend for the operational life of the wind farm.

Approvals to construct cabling and access tracks over/across existing road reserves will be obtained from the relevant authority as required when the Project layout is finalised.

Native title rights and interests, as recognised in determination VCD2022/002, are held by the Wadawurrung People and administered by the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. ACCIONA Energía will comply with applicable obligations under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic). The structure, nature, and requirement for these obligations remains subject to ongoing engagement with First Peoples State Relations (**FPSR**) and the Traditional Owners.

Various utility easements may be located within the referral area. Opportunities for co-locating Project infrastructure will be explored during future stages of design development.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The referral area is situated within the proposed Central Highlands Renewable Energy Zone, between the township of Meredith to the north, Teesdale to the south, and Lethbridge to the east. The Midland Highway and the Geelong – Ballarat Railway Line (freight) are located to the east of the Wind Farm Area, and are intersected by the Transmission Corridor. The Lethbridge Airport is located approximately 5 km east of the referral area.

The Project is situated in a rural and lifestyle farming area, characterised by mid-sized pastoral holdings and some more intensive agricultural operations. The majority of the referral area is cleared and predominantly flat with some undulation, with a topography ranging between 120 m to 320 m AHD. The referral area has been used extensively for sheep grazing and other agricultural practices, however, patches of high-quality native grassland are present. Built structures are scarcely distributed through the Project site and its surrounds. These consist primarily of agricultural infrastructure such as silos, sheds and rural dwellings.

The referral area spans two bioregions, the Victorian Volcanic Plain and Central Victorian Uplands. Native vegetation is largely confined to the riparian corridors of Wilson Creek and Woodbourne Creek, as well as some areas of native grassland. Paddock trees and pockets of vegetation are also scattered across the landscape, particularly in the north and north-east of both the Wind Farm Area and Transmission Corridor.

The Bamganie State Forest is directly adjacent to the northern boundary of the Wind Farm area. In addition, the Boonderoo Nature Conservation Reserve is surrounded by (but not to be included within) the south-eastern section of the Wind Farm Area. The Brisbane Ranges National Park is located approximately 10 km to the east of the Wind Farm Area and 4.1 km to the east of the Transmission Corridor.

Various parts of the referral area intersect with areas of cultural heritage sensitivity associated with waterways, including the Native Hut Creek and Leigh River, which run through or directly adjacent to the referral area.

The Wind Farm Area and the majority of the Transmission Corridor contain regions of low probability for acid sulphate soils (**ASS**), with extremely low probability of ASS occurrence for some parts of the Transmission Corridor from the Midland Highway to the proposed switchyard. Further assessment will be undertaken to confirm the potential for highly erodible soils to occur and that could be affected by the Project.

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

The Project is situated in a rural and lifestyle farming area, characterised by mid-sized pastoral holdings and some of more-intensive agricultural operations. There are no state government declared roads within the Wind Farm Area, however the Transmission Corridor intersects the Midland Highway (a declared road) as well as the Geelong – Ballarat Railway Line (freight) to the east. The Lethbridge Airport is also located approximately 5 km east of the referral area.

The area surrounding the Project is of rural character with a number of townships in proximity including Lethbridge, Teesdale, Shelford and Meredith, located approximately 2-7 km from the referral area.

The proposed use for the referral area is for a wind energy facility and associated infrastructure as discussed in Section 1.2 of this form.

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

The referral area adjoins public land used for conservation and recreational purposes. These areas are intended to be avoided during construction and siting of Project infrastructure and will not be directly impacted by proposed activities. Land used for conservation or recreational purposes that adjoins the referral area include:

- Boonderoo Nature Conservation Reserve; and
- Bamganie State Forest.

Refer to **Figure 4 Park, Reserves, Waterways and Wetlands (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 4**).

The referral area encompasses land covered by the Environmental Significance Overlay (**ESO**) and Significance Landscape Overlay (**SLO**) of the relevant planning provisions. These overlays are planning controls designed to protect important environmental and landscape values. Specifically, the relevant local provisions of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme relevant to the site are:

- ESO1 – Barwon Water Supply Catchment
- ESO2 – Watercourse Protection.
- ESO3 – Mt Misery Creek, Surface Hill - Smythesdale, Klein And Swanston Road Area, Dereel, Swamp Road - Dereel, Yarrowee Creek, Teesdale Reserve, Moorabool Valley, Sutherland Creek, Meredith, Steiglitz
- SLO16 – Rivers of the Barwon: Leigh River (Waywatcurtan) Corridor Environs.

Refer to **Figure 5 Planning Scheme Overlay (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 5)**.

During the operational phase, there is potential for impacts to visual amenity, noting that these are intended to be mitigated upon the detailed design phase with the benefit of further technical assessments. The preliminary visual effects have been assessed as part of the **Preliminary Landscape and Visual Appraisal Assessment (Attachment 7)**. A detailed Visual and Impact Assessment (**LVIA**) will be undertaken to determine the potential to affect landscape values. However, the referral area does not include any area considered to be of regional or State importance and no such areas have been identified within the surrounding area of locality of the Project site.

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 majority of the referral area is cleared and predominantly flat with some undulation, with a topography ranging between 120 m to 320 m AHD.

3.2 Flora and fauna

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

A preliminary ecological site assessment of the referral area was undertaken between 2023 to 2025 by EHP Consulting (Attachment 6a, 6b and 6c). The assessment findings are summarised below.

Flora

Two (2) flora species listed under the EPBC Act are considered to have the highest likelihood of occurrence within the referral area and therefore may be subject to impacts by the Project:

- Matted Flax-lily *(Dianella amoena).*
- Spiny Rice-flower *(Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescnes)*.

Targeted flora surveys were undertaken for the Matted Flax-Lily (Summer) and Spiny Rice-flower (Winter), however, to-date, neither species have been found to be present within the referral area. Based on the results of the targeted surveys and the condition of potential habitats present, both species are considered unlikely to be present within the referral area. Further assessments for the Spiny Rice-flower are planned for Winter 2025. Additional targeted flora surveys are planned during Spring 2025 to capture the remaining listed flora species with a moderate to high likelihood of occurrence within the referral area, as listed in Appendix 1.4 of the Ecological Assessment (**Att 6c, pg. 185-196**).

Refer to the Ecological Assessment Report **(Att 6a, Section 2.4.1 to 2.4.2, pg. 28-29, and Section 3.5.1, pg. 77-78)** for further details on EPBC Act listed flora species.

Ecological Communities

EPBC Act PMST results predicted five (5) EPBC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities (**TECs**) to occur within 10 km of the referral area:

- *Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains.*
- *Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia.*
- *Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.*
- *Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain*.
- *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.*

However, due to the absence of key eucalypt species dominating (or formerly dominating) the canopy of patches of native vegetation, and the low coverage of native understorey vegetation where key canopy species are present, or due to the vegetation structure not meeting key thresholds, four of the five TECs listed above were assessed as absent from the referral area. Patches of vegetation within the referral area meet the thresholds that define the *Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain* (**NTGVVP**) ecological community.

A total of 171.75 ha of the NTGVVP community is present within the referral area. Of this, up to 16.31 ha is estimated to be impacted. Refer to the Ecological Assessment Report **(Att 6a, Section 3.5.3, pg. 86)** for further details on ecological communities.

Fauna

Within the referral area, assessments undertaken so far have found suitable foraging habitat and/or contain the known or modelled distribution of the following twelve (12) fauna species listed under the EPBC Act:

- Brown Treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus)* – Vulnerable.
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – Vulnerable.
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii)* – Vulnerable.
- Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar)* – Vulnerable.
- Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis major)* – Vulnerable.
- Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana)* – Vulnerable.
- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata)* – Vulnerable.
- Gang-gang Cockatoo *(Callocephalon fimbriatum)* – Endangered.

- Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata)* – Endangered.
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – Vulnerable.
- Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) – Vulnerable.
- Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon (*Tympanocryptis pinguicolla*) – Critically Endangered.

Ninety-eight (98) bird species were recorded during Bird utilisation surveys (**BUS**), consisting of 7,621 individuals. This included two EPBC Act listed species: Blue-winged Parrot (recorded within the referral area) and Brown Treecreeper (recorded adjacent to the referral area). The majority of birds recorded (78.4%) were either observed on the ground or flying below the Rotor Swept Area (**RSA**) of 54.5 to 250.5 m. A further 19.2% did not have their height recorded as they were obscured from vision (i.e. heard only), and no birds were recorded flying above the RSA. The remaining 2.4% of birds were observed flying within the RSA and mostly comprised raptor species (Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Brown Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle), larger waterbirds (Australian Pelican, Straw-necked Ibis), the Little Raven, and parrots (Galah, Long-billed Corella), with one record of the EPBC Act-listed Blue-winged Parrot within the RSA.

Five EPBC Act listed species have been recorded within or adjacent to the referral area, including:

- Brown Treecreeper – recorded during bird utilisation surveys on three occasions within the Bamganie State Forest (outside of the referral area, to the north-west) which contains habitat critical to the survival of the species. The Brown Treecreeper is likely to visit the Project site in areas where grassy woodland is present.
- Blue-winged Parrot – recorded on one occasion flying within the RSA height during bird utilisation surveys within the referral area.
- Striped Legless Lizard – several Striped Legless Lizards were detected during targeted surveys. Based on the recorded presence, a total of 38.79 hectares of confirmed Striped Legless Lizard habitat is considered to present within the referral area.
- Growling Grass Frog – one Growling Grass Frog was detected during targeted surveys, however, no impact to potential aquatic habitat for the species is proposed.
- Golden Sun Moth – to date, a total of 375.40 ha of confirmed Golden Sun Moth has been recorded within the referral area. Targeted surveys for the species are scheduled to be undertaken during the 2025 active period in areas that are yet to be surveyed. While not all parts of the referral area have been surveyed, the presence of confirmed habitat indicate that the area supports suitable habitat for the species.

Refer to the Ecological Assessment Report **(Att 6a, Section 3.5.2, pg. 79-84, and Att 6b, Figure 9 – Significant Fauna Observed, pg. 33)** for further details on fauna species, and to Appendix 2.1 of the Ecological Assessment (**Att 6c, pg. 197-201**) for the full list of fauna species either known or predicted to occur within the referral area.

Migratory species

Four (4) migratory species listed under the EPBC Act have either been recorded or have the potential to occur within 10 km of the referral area, including:

- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii)* – Vulnerable
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea)* – Critically Endangered
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor)* – Critically Endangered
- White-throated Needle-tail (*Hirundapus caudacutus)* – Vulnerable.

The risk to migratory species is considered to be low due to the lack of habitat within and around the referral area. Habitat assessments and targeted surveys found that the proposed Wind Farm Area is not located between, or in proximity to, either migratory bird feeding areas, or important, regularly used, feeding and roosting sites. While it is possible that small numbers of migratory birds could fly over the Wind Farm Area during migration, these species typically fly well above the tip of the proposed turbines. Owing to these factors, it is considered that the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on any migratory species.

Refer to the Ecological Assessment Report **(Att 6a, Section 3.5.2, pg. 85)** for further details on migratory species.

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

The referral area spans two bioregions, the Victorian Volcanic Plain and Central Victorian Uplands. Native vegetation is largely confined to the riparian corridors of Wilson Creek and Woodbourne Creek, as well as some areas of native grassland. Paddock trees and pockets of vegetation are also scattered across the landscape, particularly in the north and north-east of both the Wind Farm Area and Transmission Corridor.

Native vegetation is largely confined to riparian corridors, paddock trees, patches of native grassland and pockets of vegetation scattered across the referral area, particularly in the north and north-east of the Wind Farm Area and Transmission Corridor.

The Ecological Assessment (EHP, 2025) (**Att 6a, Section 3.1 to 3.3, pg. 56-74)** mapped a total of 489.59 ha of native vegetation within the referral area, with 74.263 ha (including scattered trees) of this total is estimated to be removed for the Project, representative of:

- 67.79 ha of native vegetation patches comprising of eight (8) Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs) grouped by conservation status as follows:
    - Endangered –
        - Creekline Grassy Woodland (EVC 68);
        - Plains Grassland (EVC 132);
        - Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55);
        - Plains Grassy Wetlands (EVC 125).
    - Vulnerable –
        - Valley Grassy Forest (EVC 47);
        - Creekline Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 164).
    - Depleted –
        - Grassy Dry Forest (EVC 22).
- 225 Large Trees in patches.
- 128 scattered trees (96 Large and 32 Small).

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (**CSIRO**) databases indicate that the Wind Farm Area contains regions where acid sulphate soils (**ASS**) have a low probability of occurrence. Majority of the Transmission Corridor contains regions where ASS have a low probability of occurrence, with extremely low probability of ASS occurrence as it passes Midland Highway to the proposed switchyard. Detailed assessment of ASS as part of a soil and contamination assessment would be undertaken to inform project design and development. The micro-siting of turbines and associated infrastructure will avoid these areas identified as having higher potential for acid sulphate soils.

No Erosion Management Overlays (**EMO**) exist within the referral area. Further assessment will be undertaken to confirm potential effects the Project may have on highly erodible soils.

3.3 Heritage

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

There are no Commonwealth heritage places located within or nearby the referral area. The closest Commonwealth heritage place is the Point Wilson Defence Natural Area, approximately 36 km southeast of the referral area.

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

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) of the entirety of the referral area. The site is traversed by various areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, particularly along existing waterways including the Native Hut Creek and Leigh River, which meander through the centre of the Wind Farm Area and along the western boundary respectively. Additionally, the Transmission Corridor intersects areas of cultural heritage sensitivity at two locations, to the east of Lower Plains Road and west of Vicary Road. Refer to **Figure 6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 6)**.

The Preliminary Heritage Assessment (ERM, 2025) **(Att 8, Section 5.1, pg. 36)** identified 54 registered Aboriginal places on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) within 5 km of the referral area. Of these, five (5) are located within the referral area, consisting of artefact scatters made predominantly of silcrete and quartzite.

Avoidance of all registered VAHR sites is intended by siting the proposed wind turbines and transmission corridor in locations that will not interfere with the VAHR sites. The identified VAHR sites predominantly comprise of artefact scatters made predominantly of silcrete and quartzite, located within close proximity to Native Hut Creek and an unnamed channel/drainage line.

Preparation and approval of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (**CHMP**) in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (VIC) will assist in mitigating the risk of damage and provide for the appropriate management of artefacts as required.

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. *

There are mapped seasonal and permanent waterways, waterbodies, and wetlands within the referral area including:

- Six unnamed DEECA current wetlands;
- Native Hut Creek;
- Leigh River;
- Woodbourne Creek; and
- Wilson Creek.

Refer to **Figure 4 Park, Reserves, Waterways and Wetlands (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 4**).

There are no Ramsar Wetlands within or in proximity to the referral area. The nearest Ramsar sites are the Western District Lakes (Murdeduke Lake) (17.5 km south) and Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula (Corio Bay) (32.7 km south-west).

There are no major wetlands listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia within or in proximity to the referral area. The nearest Important Wetland are the Werribee-Avalon Area (32.7 km south-west) and Lake Murdeduke (17.5 km south).

Overall, the Project is not expected to have any impact to Ramsar Wetlands or Important Wetlands.

All potential aquatic and terrestrial groundwater dependent ecosystems (**GDEs**) are mapped by the Bureau of Meteorology (**BoM**). The BoM Groundwater Dependent Atlas identifies that the majority of the referral area has Moderate potential GDE. There are small sections identified to have Low, High and Unclassified GDE. The potential impact to groundwater and occurrence of GDEs within the referral area will be investigated further as the Project design, location and nature of construction activities (including borrow pit activity) are determined.

The Project design will seek to avoid mapped seasonal and permanent waterways, waterbodies, and wetlands within the referral area where possible. Access track and cable crossings may be required across waterways. At this stage, a hydrology assessment has not been undertaken. The potential for construction-related impacts on water environments – including native vegetation, aquatic ecosystems, and GDE will be assessed through hydrological and ecological assessments during the detailed design phase to capture surface water and groundwater flows. These assessments will inform the design of any required access track and cable crossings to ensure the impacts are avoided or minimised to the extent practicable. Where waterway crossings are unavoidable, they will be designed in accordance with industry standards and a Works on Waterways permit will be required for these works prior to construction.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no World Heritage properties located near the referral area. The nearest World Heritage site is over 75 km away at The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens in Melbourne.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no National Heritage places located within or nearby the referral area. The closest National Heritage Place is the Eureka Stockade Gardens, approximately 36 km north of the referral area.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
No	No	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula

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

No

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

There are no Ramsar Wetlands within or in proximity to the referral area. The nearest Ramsar sites are the Western District Lakes (Murdeduke Lake) (17.5 km south) and Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula (Corio Bay) (32.7 km south-west).

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	Amphibromus fluitans	River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass
No	No	Anthochaera phrygia	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Aprasia parapulchella	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern
No	No	Caladenia concolor	Crimson Spider-orchid, Maroon Spider-orchid
No	No	Caladenia pumila	Dwarf Spider-orchid
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo
No	No	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
Yes	Yes	Delma impar	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard
No	No	Dianella amoena	Matted Flax-lily
No	No	Dodonaea procumbens	Trailing Hop-bush
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Glycine latrobeana	Clover Glycine, Purple Clover
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
Yes	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Lachnagrostis adamsonii	Adamson's Blown-grass, Adamson's Blowngrass
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Lepidium aschersonii	Spiny Peppercress
No	No	Lepidium hyssopifolium	Basalt Pepper-cress, Peppercress, Rubble Pepper-cress, Pepperweed
No	No	Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor	Hoary Sunray, Grassland Paper-daisy
No	No	Lissolepis coventryi	Swamp Skink, Eastern Mourning Skink
No	No	Litoria raniformis	Southern Bell Frog,, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Nannoperca obscura	Yarra Pygmy Perch
Yes	Yes	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Pedionomus torquatus	Plains-wanderer
No	No	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
No	No	Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens	Plains Rice-flower, Spiny Rice-flower, Prickly Pimelea
No	No	Prasophyllum suaveolens	Fragrant Leek-orchid
No	No	Prasophyllum validum	Sturdy Leek-orchid, Mount Remarkable Leek-orchid
No	No	Prototroctes maraena	Australian Grayling
No	No	Pseudomys novaehollandiae	New Holland Mouse, Pookila
Yes	Yes	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Pterostylis chlorogramma	Green-striped Greenhood
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Rutidosis leptorhynchoides	Button Wrinklewort
No	No	Senecio macrocarpus	Large-fruit Fireweed, Large-fruit Groundsel

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Senecio psilocarpus	Swamp Fireweed, Smooth-fruited Groundsel
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Swainsona murrayana	Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea
Yes	Yes	Synemon plana	Golden Sun Moth
No	No	Thelymitra epipactoides	Metallic Sun-orchid
No	No	Thelymitra orientalis	Hoary Sun-orchid
No	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank
Yes	Yes	Tympanocryptis pinguicolla	Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon
No	No	Xerochrysum palustre	Swamp Everlasting, Swamp Paper Daisy

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
No	No	Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia
Yes	Yes	Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
No	No	Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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

Yes

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

No nationally significant flora species have been recorded to date within the referral area.

One nationally significant Threatened Ecological Community, the Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains (**NTGVVP**), has been recorded within the referral area.

For the nationally significant fauna species, there is the potential for both direct and indirect impacts to Striped Legless Lizard, Golden Sun Moth, Blue-winged Parrot, Grey-headed Flying Fox, and Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon, and direct impacts to White-throated Needletail (i.e. potential collision risk but no likely indirect impacts).

Potential sources of direct impacts to listed flora and fauna species and/or TECs include:

- Removal of individuals for creation of and/or widening of access roads;
- Clearing and levelling of sites, excavations and general construction activities result in direct loss of habitat and/or species, fragmentation of habitats and communities;
- Maintenance activities during operations (e.g. access track vegetation clearance) result in accidental and direct loss of habitat and/or species;
- Night lighting, noise and vibration associated with construction and operational activities result in disturbance to fauna habitat and/or direct loss of fauna species;
- Potential disturbance or collision risk from WTGs. Whilst some impact is unavoidable, the Proponent is working on configuring the turbine layout to reduce the risk of disturbance and collision.

Potential sources of indirect impacts to listed flora and fauna species and/or TECs include:

- Reduction in potential habitat from creation of and/or widening of access roads;
- Accidental spills, erosion and sedimentation, and dust pollution due to construction activities causes a decline in water quality and quality of soils, resulting in the long-term decline or loss over time of species numbers and native vegetation area;
- Night lighting, noise and vibration associated with construction and operational activities may result in disturbance to fauna habitat and/or direct loss of fauna species. The Project will seek to avoid and minimise such impacts through further design refinements. Additionally, nighttime construction works are a rare occurrence on a wind farm project. Project working hours will comply with the *EPA Publication 1834.1 – Civil construction, building and demolition guide;*
- Vehicular movements during construction and operations introduces and/or spreads weeds, pest species or pathogens, resulting in long-term decline or loss over time of species numbers and native vegetation area.

Refer to the Ecological Assessment (EHP, 2025) (**Att 6a, Section 6.1, pg. 114-123**) for an assessment against the Significant Impact Guidelines for key species and ecological communities.

Of the key threatening processes identified under the EPBC Act, the Project has the potential to contribute to the following two:

- *Novel biota and their impact on biodiversity* – introduction of weeds to the site, or spread of existing ones within, can be mitigated by the implementation of a Weed Management Plan;
- *Land clearance* – the Project is likely to result in clearance of native vegetation that may currently support listed species or ecological communities. Targeted surveys will be conducted to determine the presence and extent of any listed matters within the site, which will be used to inform the Project design and development footprint, avoiding or reducing the impact to listed matters through land clearing. Any unavoidable impacts will be appropriately offset.

With the introduction of industry best practice management and mitigation measures, the impacts described above are likely to be reduced. Where effects on threatened species and communities cannot be avoided, best practice environmental management measures in both construction and operations would be detailed in the Project's construction and operational environmental management plans. Specific mitigation measures may be developed to address any residual effects.

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

Yes

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

At the time of submission, the magnitudes of the potential impacts to EPBC Act listed ecological communities and flora and fauna species have been calculated and assessed based on the field data and impact assessment results that commenced in August 2023 (however, it is noted that this is continuing as part of the broader ecological assessment program). No EPBC Act listed flora species have been detected within the referral area, based on targeted surveys undertaken for the Matted Flax-lily and Spiny Rice-flower to date. Further targeted flora surveys are proposed in Winter and Spring 2025 to capture the remaining listed flora species with a moderate to high likelihood of occurrence within the referral area, as listed in Appendix 1.4 of the Ecological Assessment (EHP, 2025) (**Att 6c, pg. 185-196)**.

Following targeted field surveys, suitable habitat for two EPBC Act listed fauna species (Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth) was identified within the referral area. The proposed impacts outlined in the Ecological Assessment include a direct impact of up to 3.46 ha (out of 38.79 ha) of confirmed Striped Legless Lizard habitat from the development and a direct impact of up to 84.31 ha (out of 375.40 ha) of confirmed Golden Sun Moth habitat. Although the loss of existing habitat within the referral area is considered irreversible, the impact will be mitigated through the retention, protection and enhancement of retained areas of confirmed habitat.

While surveys for the EPBC Act listed Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon have not yet been undertaken, the referral area is located within the modelled distribution for the species and is likely to contain suitable habitat.

A total of 171.75 ha of the threatened ecological community NTGVVP was identified across the referral area, which is listed as Critically Endangered. The current proposed impacts to the TEC result in the removal of up to 16.31 ha of the NTGVVP community, which meets the following criteria and thus constitutes as significant impacts:

- Reduction in the extent of an ecological community;
- Fragmentation or increase fragmentation of an ecological community, for example by clearing vegetation for roads or transmission lines cause a reduction in their extent.

Through further design refinements, the potential number of species affected, areas of disturbance and associated impacts are expected to be reduced, however, there is still potential for significant impacts to MNES. Unavoidable impacts to MNES would be offset in accordance with the EPBC Act environmental offsets policy (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2012), and management measures would be applied and/or Project specific mitigation measures would be developed and applied (where feasible).

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

Yes

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

Threatened Species

Impacts to threatened species were assessed following targeted field surveys and impact assessments as outlined in the Ecological Assessment (EHP, 2025). Confirmed presence of individuals and habitat for two EPBC Act listed fauna species were identified in the proposed impact area, being the Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth, of which up to 3.46 ha (out of 38.79 ha) of confirmed Striped Legless Lizard habitat is proposed to be impacted from the development and a direct impact of up to 84.31 ha (out of 375.40 ha) of confirmed Golden Sun Moth habitat is proposed to be impacted. The Project site is considered to support an ‘important population’ of Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth.

Threatened Ecological Communities

Due to the size of the Project and the confirmed presence of NTGVVP, it is likely that, while individual impacts may be small, cumulatively this may result in a significant impact on a TEC due to a reduction area and/or fragmentation of linear corridors. The development estimates direct removal of up to 16.31 ha of the NTGVVP community in the referral area, without impacting the remaining 155.44 ha of the community within the referral area.

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 is committed to best-practice environmental management. Infrastructure for the Project has been sited to avoid the most environmentally sensitive parts of the referral area, with impacts to be further avoided and minimised through the final design of the Project's layout.

Avoidance

Further design development to confirm the transmission corridor and siting of other Project infrastructure will consider the existing environment and identified areas of sensitivities, including cultural heritage, social, environmental and ecological, existing land holdings and existing infrastructure. Buffer zones and no-go zones would be implemented where proposed Project infrastructure may have the potential to impact on sensitive areas. This includes the remaining 155.44 ha of the NTGVVP community that is to be avoided in the referral area.

Micro-siting of WTGs and associated infrastructure including transmission cable supports and access roads will be undertaken in response to the findings of the various ecological site assessments due to occur throughout 2025 to maximise avoidance opportunities. The configuration of the WTGs has been refined through iterative design to avoid and minimise impacts to avifauna where practicable. This has included the relocation or removal of turbines and associated infrastructure from areas of higher ecological sensitivity, such as forested habitat and proximity to observed raptor nests, and the implementation of buffers (generally 200 m)around high-risk features. The layout has also sought to reduce turbine density in the north-western portion of the referral area, where bird foraging and flight activity is greatest. These measures collectively reduce the likelihood of significant avifauna disturbance or collision.

Mitigation

Where areas of sensitivities cannot be avoided, best practice measures will be implemented, where possible, to reduce the potential impact to acceptable levels. Such measures may include:

- Minimising unavoidable impacts by directing development to areas of lower biodiversity value;
- Micro-siting of infrastructure to reduce impacts to sensitive areas where they cannot be avoided;
- Adopting trenchless installation construction methodologies to minimise impacts to vegetation and the habitat of threatened species, where practicable;
- Siting and design of above-ground infrastructure to reduce landscape and visual amenity impacts;
- Implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (**CEMP**) and an Operational Environmental Management Plan (**OEMP**).
- Development and implementation of an adaptive Bat and Avifauna Management (**BAM**) Plan.

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

Any applicable Commonwealth offsets will be accounted for in an approved offset strategy. Unavoidable impacts to MNES would be offset in accordance with the EPBC Act environmental offsets policy (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2012).

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

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

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

Yes

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

Potential sources of direct impacts to migratory species associated with activities in the referral area include:

- Physical presence of turbines and turbine interactions may result in collision (injury/mortality) and barrier effects to migratory avifauna;
- Reduction of habitat through the removal of native vegetation and/or the clearing and levelling of sites, excavations and general construction activities.

Potential sources of indirect impacts to listed migratory species include:

- Accidental spills, erosion and sedimentation, and dust pollution due to construction activities causing a decline in water quality, resulting in the long-term decline or loss over time of habitat and consequently, species numbers;
- Vehicular movements during construction and operations introduces and/or spreads weeds, pest species or pathogens, resulting in long-term decline or loss over time of habitat and consequently, species numbers.

The migratory species potentially impacted by the Project are:

- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii)* – Vulnerable
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea)* – Critically Endangered
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor)* – Critically Endangered
- White-throated Needle-tail (*Hirundapus caudacutus)* – Vulnerable.

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. *

The Project site would not be classed as 'Important habitat' for Migratory species as defined under the EPBC Act *Policy Statement 1.1 Principal Significant Impact Guidelines* (Department of the Environment, 2013). The proposed Wind Farm Area is not located between, or in proximity to, either migratory bird feeding areas or important, regularly used, feeding and roosting sites. While it is possible that small numbers of migratory birds could fly over the Wind Farm Area during migration, the shorebirds (Latham's Snipe, Curlew Sandpiper) typically fly between 0.5 to 6 km in elevation, well above the tip of the proposed turbines. Similarly, while White-throated Needletail has not been observed during surveys, the species is likely to fly over the study area on occasion during migration and/or while aerially foraging, though predominantly well above RSA height.

The Ecological Assessment (EHP, 2025) (**Att 6a, Section 3.5.2, pg. 85**), informed by two Bird Utilisation Surveys (**BUS**), finds that the most abundant and recent migratory bird visitor within 10 km of the referral area is the Swift Parrot. However, the extant grassy woodland and plains woodland located within the referral area may, at best, serve as 'rest points' on route to more suitable habitats to the east within Brisbane Ranges National Park. Although remnant woodland vegetation persists within the referral area, this vegetation is located primarily along ridge lines and gullies (i.e along Wilson Creek and the western border of the Project). According to current and historical Swift Parrot annual survey results, this is not preferred habitat location for Swift Parrot.

Owing to these factors, it is considered that the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on any migratory species.

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 has identified potential direct impacts to migratory species (White-throated Needletail). However, these impacts are not anticipated to be significant based on the condition and/or suitability of potential habitats present. The potential impact to migratory species is expected to be further reduced through micro-siting around sensitive areas. Therefore, the proposed action is not considered to be a 'controlled action'.

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 engaged suitably qualified ecologists to survey and map areas of potential and known habitat to inform design development, and avoidance and mitigation measures. Specific mitigation measures will be identified as part of the detailed impact assessment process.

Avoidance measures that may be implemented include establishing no-go zones and associated buffer zones to avoid known significant ecological values to the greatest extent possible and utilising existing utilities easements to connect to existing transmission network and co-locate Project components with other infrastructure where possible.

Applicable mitigation measures and controls include:

- Develop a Bird and Bat Management Plan containing adaptive management practices to be applied where they are likely to be helpful or necessary;
- Micro-siting WTGs and associated infrastructure to maximise separation from the edges of remnant vegetation (out of woodland areas, wetlands) and significant fauna habitat (including a 200 m buffer from known raptor nests).

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

No offsets are proposed relating to migratory species for the Project.

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. *

There are no Nuclear Actions proposed as part of this proposed action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

The referral area does not include, nor will it affect any areas within the Commonwealth marine area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The Great Barrier Reef Marina Park Area does not occur within the referral area nor will it be affected by the proposed action.

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

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

No

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

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

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

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

No

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

The proposed action will avoid direct and/or indirect impact to any Commonwealth land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no recognised overseas Commonwealth Heritage places within the referral area or that will be affected by the proposed action.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

No alternatives have been considered for the proposal. The Project site was selected following extensive site selection process across the entire state of Victoria. The Project site within the broader Barwon region was found to be the most suitable location relative to comparable sites primarily due to the available wind resource, proximity to a point of connection to the electricity network, good road access, predominant land use of grazing and cropping and suitable setbacks to other sensitive areas. It is also within the State Government's proposed Central Highlands Renewable Energy Zone (**REZ**).

The Wind Farm Area has been through iterative layouts including a reduction in the number of turbines from the original scope of 60 turbines. The Project land has been reduced by more than 2,400 ha, including removal of turbines and supporting infrastructure from identified high value vegetation and habitat areas and in efforts to reduce amenity impact to surrounding townships and neighbours.

With regards to the proposed Transmission Corridor, the proponent explored numerous transmission route options. The selection of the preferred Transmission Corridor in this referral was informed through consultation with proposed landholders and consideration of engineering design and environmental investigations. The alignment of the Transmission Corridor originally avoided a section of Rural Conservation Zone under the local planning scheme, to the east of Taylor Road. However, following consultation with potential landholders and due to presence of an existing dam, the alignment was relocated to intersect this area (refer to **Figure 7 Planning Scheme Zones (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 7)**. The route within the Rural Conservation Zone follows lower topography, reducing visual impact compared to the original route.

The proponent will continue to seek to avoid areas of environmental sensitivity as the Project progresses through to the detailed design phase.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_ProjectFigures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	09/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att2_GDA94 Project Coordinates.pdf Referral area coordinates in GDA94	05/06/2025	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att3_Consultation Report for Referral.pdf Consultation summary for Referral	05/06/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_HSEQ Statement.pdf Acciona Health Safety Environment Quality Statement	22/04/2021	No	High
#2.	Document	Att5_Acciona Environment Biodiversity Climate Change and Water Policy.pdf ACCIONA Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Water Policy	19/04/2018	No	High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_ProjectFigures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	08/07/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_ProjectFigures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	08/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att7_Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal.pdf Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal	04/06/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att6a_Ecological Assessment.pdf Ecological Assessment - main body	05/06/2025	No	High

#2.	Document	Att6b_Ecological Assessment.pdf Ecological Assessment - figures	05/06/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att6c_Ecological Assessment.pdf Ecological Assessment - appendices	05/06/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att6a_Ecological Assessment.pdf Ecological Assessment - main body	04/06/2025	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_ProjectFigures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	08/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att8_Heritage Assessment (redacted).pdf Heritage Assessment - redacted	02/06/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att8_Heritage Assessment (unredacted).pdf Heritage Assessment - unredacted	02/06/2025	Yes	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_ProjectFigures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	08/07/2025	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	Att6a_Ecological Assessment.pdf Ecological Assessment - main body	04/06/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att6c_Ecological Assessment.pdf Ecological Assessment - appendices	04/06/2025	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	Att6a_Ecological Assessment.pdf Ecological Assessment - main body	04/06/2025	No	High
#2.	Link	EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Principal Significant Impact Guidelines https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..			High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_ProjectFigures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	08/07/2025	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	12002773248
Organisation name	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Jenny Luk
Representative's job title	Partner
Phone	+61 3 8606 4131
Email	jenny.luk@erm.com
Address	Level 8, 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

☑ 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, **Jenny Luk of ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	54600910647
Organisation name	ACCIONA ENERGY AUSTRALIA GLOBAL PTY LTD
Organisation address	3205 VIC
Representative's name	Jacqueline Pertz

Representative's job title	Project Coordinator
Phone	0448228138
Email	jacqueline.pertz@acciona.com
Address	Level 8, 11 Eastern Road, South Melbourne Vic, 3205

☑ 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, **Jacqueline Pertz of ACCIONA ENERGY AUSTRALIA GLOBAL 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. *

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☑ I, **Jacqueline Pertz of ACCIONA ENERGY AUSTRALIA GLOBAL 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. *