Yanco Delta Wind Farm - Dinawan Transmission Line

Application Number: **02860** Commencement Date: **04/04/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Yanco Delta Wind Farm - Dinawan Transmission Line

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 *

01/01/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/01/2063

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Proposed Action details

Yanco Delta WF Project Pty Ltd as trustee for the Yanco Delta WF Project Trust (**Proponent**) has existing State and Commonwealth approvals for the construction, operation and decommissioning and associated infrastructure of the Yanco Delta Wind Farm (YDWF/Project), located approximately 10km north-west of Jerilderie in New South Wales within the South-West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

YDWF was approved on 21 December 2023 under section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) as a State Significant Development (SSD) consent SSD 41743746, granted by a delegate of the NSW Minister for Planning. The SSD Consent was subsequently modified on 13 June 2024 to clarify specific turbine coordinates (Modification 1). The project was determined to be a controlled action and obtained approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 21 February 2024 (the **Approved Action**). The Approved Action was assessed in accordance with the New South Wales and Commonwealth Government EPBC Act assessment bilateral agreement.

The proposed Dinawan Transmission Line, based on a different disturbance footprint, was previously assessed as a component of the Approved Action. As there are multiple projects connecting to the Dinawan Substation, a coordinated approach to the delivery of transmission infrastructure is required. The Proponent has elected to refer the Dinawan Transmission Line (the **Transmission Line Proposed Action**) separately to the Yanco Delta Wind Farm (YDWF) Proposed Action to ensure that the assessment of the Yanco Delta Wind Farm Proposed Action is not delayed while transmission design and requirements are resolved.

The Transmission Line Proposed Action would connect the YDWF's central primary substation to Transgrid's Dinawan Substation, following McLennons Bore Road and through private property within a 60 metre wide corridor east of Cadell Road between McLennons Bore Road and the Dinawan Substation (the **Project Area**). Transmission line poles would be micro-sited within this corridor.

The Transmission Line Proposed Action includes the construction, operation, maintenance, and (where required) decommissioning of the following key components:

- A proposed 28 km, 330 kV transmission line to connect the central primary substation to Transgrid's Dinawan Substation
- Expansion of Transgrid's Dinawan Substation to include two additional 330 kV bays and auxiliary services to support the connection of the YDWF to the National Energy Market.

There are multiple alignment options under consideration which may alter the final Disturbance Footprint within the Project Area. One of the alignment options was assessed to inform this referral and the accompanying biodiversity report (**Attachment 1 - Yanco Delta Wind Farm, Network Transmission Connection, EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report**). The alignment option assessed is considered representative of the likely impacts of the Transmission Line Proposed Action on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). All alignment options under consideration fall completely within the Project Area, although the final option (to be identified during detailed design) may have a different alignment and consequently a different Disturbance Footprint.

The Disturbance Footprint of the Transmission Line Proposed Action (based on the assessed option) is an estimated 107.6 ha. The Project Area is approximately 976 ha in area and is defined as the property boundaries of associated land parcels within which works (disturbance) could occur. The alignment options include:

Wind Farm Project Area

- Approximately 3.5 km of transmission line across private property from the YDWF between the central primary substation and McLennons Bore Road, within an approximately 60m wide corridor.

McLennons Bore Road transmission options include:

- Assessed option- 50 metre by 80 metre construction area around each tower for a length of approximately 17km along McLennons Bore Road and vegetation outside of the above disturbance areas would be maintained at its current height
- Alternate option- an approximate 60 metre wide proposed easement in the private property to the south of McLennons Bore Road, for a length of approximately 6km from the Project Energy Connect (PEC) crossing point within McLennons Bore Road to the Cadell Road intersection (noting the majority of this area is an existing fire break and already clear of vegetation).
- Additional option – an approximate 200m wide investigation corridor has been included in the Project Area to provide an additional alignment option in private property to the north of McLennons Bore Road, if required.

Project Energy Connect (PEC) transmission line crossing point options include:

- Assessed option- Partially divert the YDWF transmission line onto private property to the south of McLennons Bore Road around existing PEC structure.
- Alternative option- Road realignment of McLennons Bore Road for a length of approximately 950 metres around the PEC Crossing area to create additional space for transmission structures within the southern road reserve.

Cadell Road transmission options include:

- Assessed option- an approximate 60 metre wide corridor east of Cadell Road between McLennons Bore Road and the Dinawan 330kV substation (a length of approximately 6.8km).
- Alternative option- Transmission line within the Cadell Road reserve area for approximately 6.8km with 25 metre by 60 metre construction area around each pole structure location and additional disturbance areas to accommodate brake and winch set up sites for cable pulling at two locations. Realignment of a 700 metre section of Cadell Road to accommodate the transmission line within the road reserve.

The disturbance footprint also includes a 60-metre-wide corridor for a length of 750 metres to allow for the 330 kV transmission line from the intersection of Kidman Way and Cadell Road to the allocated Dinawan substation bay located on ministerial holdings.

For the purposes of this referral, the Disturbance Footprint is preliminary. It is anticipated that the location and footprint of project components relevant to the Dinawan Transmission Line may change in response to the outcomes of technical and environmental investigations undertaken as part of the assessment process.

Potential Impacts

Much of the Disturbance Footprint is unavoidably located in vegetated areas that support threatened ecological communities (TECs) under the EPBC Act. Weeping Myall Woodland is the dominant TEC within the Project Area and is listed as ‘endangered’ (effective 7 Jan 2009) under the EPBC Act. The Disturbance Footprint is also located in vegetated areas that provide habitat for threatened or migratory species listed as MNES.

Based on currently available information, (**Attachment 1 – Yanco Delta Wind Farm, Network Transmission Connection, EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Section 2.1, page 7**) construction and maintenance of the Dinawan Transmission Line is anticipated to disturb approximately 39.7 ha of the Weeping Myall Woodland TEC. There would also be a limited impact on the Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains TEC, with an estimated 0.15 ha to be disturbed.

Vegetation clearing and trimming would be required on a periodic basis on some sections of the Dinawan Transmission Line to ensure adequate clearance is maintained for the life of the infrastructure. The requirements differ across the proposed transmission alignment, with expected disturbance as follows for the assessed option:

- Between the YDWF central primary substation and McLennons Bore Road (3.5 km):
    - trimming of vegetation to 4 m in height across the 60m wide easement,
    - full clearing of 60 m x 60 m pads for tower construction,
    - clearing for brake and winch sites,
    - a 5m access track within the easement
- Along McLennons Bore Road (17km):
    - vegetation maintained at current height over length of line within Mclennons Bore Road with trimming required for any future growth,
    - full clearing of 40 m x 80 m pads for tower construction, brake and winch sites and provision for full clearing where the connection interfaces with Project Energy Connect
- East of Cadell Road (6.8km):
    - trimming of vegetation to 4 m in height across the 60m wide easement,
    - full clearing of 60 m x 60 m pads for tower construction,
    - clearing for additional brake and winch sites
    - a 5m access track within the easement

Along Cadell Road to Dinawan Substation (to connect to Project Energy Connect) the transmission easement is identified as an approximate 60m wide corridor for future design purposes. This represents the maximum disturbance footprint subject to detailed design. The clearing of vegetation discussed in this assessment is based on a 60m wide easement along the total length, and excluding the sealed road corridor which is wholly within the designated corridor. The loss of vegetation is an overestimate of the expected future loss as not all the land within the corridor is required for construction.

Offsets

The residual biodiversity impacts of the Project will be offset under the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme which is an accredited process. Accordingly, the Project will be required to retire the required biodiversity offset credits in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy prior to impacts occurring.

Project Need

The Dinawan Transmission Line is a critical component of the YDWF Project.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

No

1.2.4 Related referral(s)

EPBC Number	Project Title
2022/09214	Yanco Delta Wind Farm
2025/10179	Yanco Delta Wind Farm

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

The Dinawan Transmission Line, which is the subject of this referral, is one of two separate actions required for the development and delivery of the YDWF. The YDWF Proposed Action has been separately referred (EPBC 2025/10179). The proposed Dinawan Transmission Line, based on a different disturbance footprint, was also previously assessed as a component of the Approved Action (EPBC 2022/09214). Key components of the YDWF Proposed Action include:

- Up to 208 WTGs with a total generating capacity of approximately 1,500 megawatts (MW), each with a maximum tip height of approximately 270 metres and an associated hardstand and laydown areas
- A 800MW/800 megawatt hour (MWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Electrical reticulation infrastructure including:
    - A central primary substation
    - Four collector substations and associated 330 kilovolt (kV) power lines to connect to the central primary substation
    - Associated infrastructure
- A temporary workers accommodation facility and associated infrastructure which is intended to accommodate up to 710 workers during the peak construction period
- Permanent ancillary infrastructure including:
    - operation and maintenance facility
    - internal access tracks
    - underground and overhead cabling
- Wind monitoring masts
- Temporary construction facilities including:
    - a main construction compound which incorporates site offices, parking, water storage, wastewater treatment plant, water treatment plant for potable water, laydown area, diesel storage tanks for fueling construction vehicles and equipment and other construction compound requirements
    - Additional site compounds, laydown areas, stockpiles, concrete batch plants and temporary roads for construction purposes
- Upgrades to local roads, including local intersection widening works on oversize and/or over mass (OSOM) routes, limited to works within the Project Area.

The Dinawan Transmission Line is essential enabling infrastructure for the YDWF. Proposed separation of the referrals is to allow for the coordinated delivery of multiple transmission projects into the Dinawan Substation, which may progress more slowly than the YDWF Proposed Action due to the complexity of access arrangements and negotiations around the transmission projects. The Proponent's submission of a separate referral seeks to ensure that there is no impact on assessment timeframes for the YDWF Proposed Action.

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

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The YDWF, including the Dinawan Transmission Line, being the Approved Action, was determined to be a controlled action, assessed under the bilateral agreement with NSW and was approved in February 2024 (**EPBC 2022/09214**) (refer to **Attachment 3 – YDWF EPBC Approval**).

An assessment of the significance of potential impacts of the Transmission Line Proposed Action on listed MNES has been prepared in consideration of the self-assessment process described in Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DoE 2013) against the significant impact criteria for each identified potential MNES (**Attachment 1 –** Y**DWF EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report**). The Biodiversity Assessment Report concludes that a significant impact is likely on threatened species and communities and that the Transmission Line Proposed Action should be a controlled action.

State

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)

State Significant Development Consent (SSD 41743746) was granted on 21 December 2023 for the construction, operation and decommissioning of up to 208 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 270 m AGL and associated infrastructure. An administrative modification (Modification 1) was submitted to amend the wind turbine coordinates and development layout mapping detailed in Appendix 1 of the Instrument of Consent. The modification did not result in any changes to the approved project and was approved by the Director, Energy Assessments on 13 June 2024.

A request to modify consent will be submitted to the DPHI under section 4.55(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) (Modification Application 2) in mid-2025 seeking approval under the EP&A Act for the Proposed Action and the Transmission Line Proposed Action. For modifications to SSD approvals, it must be demonstrated that the change, if carried out, would result in a development that would be substantially the same development as the development for which consent was originally granted.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is currently being prepared for the Transmission Line Proposed Action in accordance with the requirements of the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM 2020). An assessment of the impact of the Transmission Line Proposed Action as a whole on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) recorded or predicted to occur in the Project Area has been prepared based on field surveys completed in keeping with the BAM, previous surveys for the Approved Action and desktop assessments.

Offsetting requirements for residual impacts to MNES will be identified in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme which is an accredited process under the EPBC Act.

Local Environmental Plans (LEPs)

The Transmission Line Proposed Action would be located on land zoned as RU1 – Primary Production under both the Conargo Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and the Jerilderie LEP. The Transmission Line Proposed Action would be located on rural land with agricultural land use, including for grazing, cropping and irrigated cropping.

The Transmission Line Proposed Action meets the definition of ‘electricity generating works’ under the Standard Instrument – Principal Local Environmental Plan (Standard Instrument), being a building or place used for the purpose of ‘making or generating electricity’. The Project would be located in land zoned RU1 – Primary Production where electricity generating works are not permissible under the Conargo LEP and Jerilderie LEP.

However, Section 2.36(1) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 provides that ‘development for the purpose of electricity generating works may be carried out by any person with consent on any land in a prescribed rural, industrial or special use zone’. Land which is zoned RU1 – Primary Production is prescribed rural zone for the purposes of 2.36(1) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021. Therefore the Project would be permissible with consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

Renewable Energy Zone Policy

The Proposed Action is located within and forms a key component of the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW REZ), one of the five REZs in the NSW Government’s Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, declared in November 2021 under the NSW *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*. The REZ will enable the connection of multiple renewable

energy generator projects and battery storage projects with existing and new transmission network infrastructure.

The South West REZ was formally declared by the Minister for Energy under section 19(1) of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* and published in the NSW Gazette on Friday 4 November 2022.

As Infrastructure Planner, EnergyCo will make decisions such as assessing and recommending REZ network infrastructure projects and, if needed to maintain community support for the REZ, preventing generation or storage projects from connecting in a specified area within the REZ (if those projects have not received development consent).

The access rights network, which is a subset of the REZ declaration network infrastructure, is specified in the South West REZ Access Scheme.

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. *

EIS consultation

The (then) Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) publicly exhibited the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Approved Action, which included the YDWF and the Dinawan Transmission Line, from 18 November 2022 until 15 December 2022, advertised the exhibition in The Australian, Hay Riverine Grazier, Deniliquin Pastoral Times and the Leeton Irrigator and notified landowners in proximity to the Project Area.

DPE received eight public submissions (two objections, four supporting and two comments). Advice was received from 15 State or Commonwealth government agencies and one local council (Murrumbidgee Council) provided comments on the Project. DPE consulted with government agencies and Murrumbidgee Council on key issues and inspected the site on two occasions. No agencies, councils or utility providers objected to the Project, with a number recommending the implementation of mitigation and management measures. DPE also met with residents located near the site, none of which objected to the Project.

Previous proponent engagement

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Project commenced in 2020. During the preparation of the EIS, the following consultation and stakeholder activities were undertaken:

- Dedicated Project website, email address and phone number to provide Project updates and capture any concerns or feedback
- Face-to-face meetings with neighbouring landowners within 10 kilometres of a proposed WTG
- Two community drop-in sessions
- Distribution of Project factsheets to the wider community
- Meetings with the Jerilderie Country Women's Association and Jerilderie Police
- Consultation with the Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Cummeragunja Local Aboriginal Land Council and registered Aboriginal parties
- Meetings, briefings and correspondence with government agencies and stakeholder including local Council, NSW DPE, the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), NSW Biodiversity Conservation and Sciences, Transgrid - Lumea, AirServices Australia and NSW Rural Fire Service.

Consultation since acquisition

Since acquiring the YDWF in April 2024, the Proponent has participated in monthly meetings with NSW DPHI with respect to the existing SSD Development Consent and has also engagement with the Commonwealth DCCEEW in relation to proposed project changes.

Engagement with host landowners and neighbours has also been a critical part of the project development. The Proponent has worked to strengthen relationships with host landowners and neighbours through various engagements in person, on-site and through other mediums (including emails, phone calls, text messages). The following is a summary of the key matters that the Proponent has discussed with host landholders to date:

- the location of turbines and other associated infrastructure required for the YDWF project;
- property specific land use and constraints (including location of fences, gates, services, farming plans, irrigation equipment etc); and
- upcoming activities, to ensure landowners receive notification in advance prior to site access requirements (e.g. access for site inspections, geotechnical investigations, ecology surveys, cultural heritage surveys, aerial surveys, cadastral surveys and met mast installation and maintenance).

A Project Modification engagement action plan outlining the approach and activities for consulting and engaging with stakeholders regarding the proposed modification to the SSD Consent is under development.

Proposed engagement activities

As the Project progresses through environmental and planning assessments, the following engagement activities will be undertaken:

- Ongoing Development of Strategic Partnerships: Engagement will continue to advance partnership discussions with Business NSW and Charles Sturt University. These collaborations aim to support long-term social and economic outcomes for the region.
- First Nations Partnerships: The Proponent is committed to deepening our partnerships with First Nations communities through a tiered approach, ensuring engagement at local, regional, and national levels. The Proponent will work collaboratively to ensure that benefit-sharing initiatives are aligned with First Nations priorities and values.

- Establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG): The CRG will facilitate ongoing dialogue and support the design of a Community Investment Program aligned with local needs and context. It will provide insights into local priorities, concerns, and opportunities, ensuring that community voices are central to the decision-making process.
- Community survey and engagement to inform and refine priorities for benefit Sharing. The delivery of a survey through Voconiq's Local Voices program alongside other methods of engagement to facilitate inclusive engagement and understand diverse local perspectives. This feedback will help to inform how the Proponent structures benefit-sharing initiatives, ensuring they reflect the community's needs and interests.
- Community Information Sessions: Where appropriate, information sessions will be held to provide project updates, address questions, and share information about upcoming activities. These sessions will be tailored to meet the needs of different stakeholders and encourage open dialogue.

First Nations Engagement

The Project's First Nations Engagement Strategy is progressing well, strengthened by the appointment of a Senior First Nations Engagement Lead in June 2024 to manage and oversee the engagement strategy, which to date has included:

- Meetings with Griffith and Cummeragunja LALC's in August 2024,
- Engagement with the Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre located in Deniliquin.
- Meetings with Jethi Aboriginal Corporation at their Cultural Centre in Jerilderie.
- Site walkovers with RAP parties for Cultural Heritage.
- Meetings with First Nations businesses including ESI group
- Engagement with the Deniliquin ACLO.
- Attendance at events, including the opening of Wamarra's office in Wagga and attendance at Supply Nations Conference in August 2024, which involved further engagement of First Nations business suppliers.
- Sponsors of the Inaugural Indigenous Jerilderie Football and Netball Round.
- Continuing of engagement for RAP parties for cultural heritage management

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

No

Referring party details

Name	Jason Richard
Job title	Environmental Advisor
Phone	0457 750 157
Email	jason.richard@originenergy.com.au
Address	180 Ann Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	42676356915
Organisation name	YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Conal McCullough
Job title	General Manager - Development and Construction
Phone	0418 615 521
Email	conal.mccullough@originenergy.com.au
Address	100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

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. *

Yanco Delta Wind Farm Pty Ltd (YDWF) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Origin Energy Power Limited (OEPL), which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of Origin Energy Limited, an ASX listed company. Earlier this year, the EPBC Act approval for the Yanco Delta Wind Farm was transferred from YDWF to Yanco Delta WF Project Pty Ltd as trustee for the Yanco Delta WF Project Trust (Project Trust). The Project Trust is also a wholly owned subsidiary of OEPL. The Trust Deed has been provided as an attachment to this referral but contains sensitive and/or confidential information and will not be published.

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. *

The Proponent is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Origin Energy Limited (Origin Energy), an environmentally responsible company committed to conducting its business in a manner which ensures high standards of environmental management and performance.

As Australia's largest energy retailer, Origin Energy has committed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Origin Energy continues to implement the recommendations by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) to disclose climate-related risks and opportunities. The established emissions reduction goals and climate change reporting commitments align with Origin Energy's strategic priority to effectively manage the transition to a low-carbon economy. Origin Energy is a member of the We Mean Business coalition with the aim of accelerating corporate action on climate change. In 2015 Origin Energy was the first energy company in the world to sign up to seven commitments as follows:

- Report climate change information-Commit responsible corporate engagement in climate policy
- Adopt a science-based emissions reduction target
- Set measures to factor in a cost of carbon internally, to judge its effect on investment decisions to drive down carbon emissions
- Become Australia's leading renewable and low-carbon energy provider, helping customers to procure electricity from renewable sources and procure 100 per cent of energy from renewable sources for Origin Energy's office premises, and where possible, all other operations by 2050
- Reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) (that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions)
- Remove commodity-driven deforestation from all supply chains.

As part of Origin Energy's sustainability objectives, Origin Energy aims to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of its energy production and distribution and non-producing assets. Origin Energy also takes all feasible steps to eliminate or minimise any adverse impact that its activities have on the environment. More information about Origin Energy's environmental history and details about specific activities undertaken as part of its responsible environmental management is available in its annual Sustainability Reports on Origin Energy's website; **Sustainability reports - Origin Energy**.

Origin Energy and its subsidiaries have previously referred the following projects under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999:*

- EPBC 2024/09788 - Darling Downs Battery Energy Storage System (Qld)
- EPBC 2022/09293 - Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion (NSW)
- EPBC 2021/8956 - Eraring Battery Energy Storage System (NSW)
- EPBC 2010/5417 – Darling Downs Power Station 2 (Qld)
- EPBC 2009/4913 – Gas Pipeline Crossing at Mount Emu Creek (Vic)
- EPBC 2006/2881 – Water pipelines, Mortlake Power Station (Vic)
- EPBC 2005/1995 - Construction and operation of a gas fired power station (Qld)
- EPBC 2005/1984 – Victorian Generator Project (Vic)

The Proposed Action will be undertaken in accordance with Origin Energy's environmental policy and framework - **https://www.originenergy.com.au/wp-content/uploads/origin_our_approach_environment.pdf**

The Proponent does not have any 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 them.

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

One of Origin Energy's core values is caring about our impact – on each other, the environment and the communities in which we work. Our Health, Safety and Environment Policy describes how we think about, plan and manage health, safety and environmental (HSE) risks and initiatives across our business.

The Transmission Line Proposed Action will be undertaken in accordance with Origin Energy's environmental policy and framework - **https://www.originenergy.com.au/wp-content/uploads/origin_our_approach_environment.pdf**

Origin's Health Safety and Environment Policy is built around:

Our principal duty of care – We care about the wellbeing of our people and our impact on the environment.

Our HSE aspiration – To conduct our business in a way that causes no harm to the health and safety of people and has no unforeseen impacts to the environment.

Origin Energy is committed to protecting the environment and consequently manages health, safety and environment (HSE) matters as critical business activities. In support of Origin Energy's overarching Health, Safety and Environment Policy, Origin Energy's HSE Management System ensures that environmental risks associated with Origin's operations are either avoided or kept to as low as reasonably practicable. Origin Energy aims to comply with all environmental regulations and conditions attached to approvals to operate and promptly reports any non-compliance to relevant authorities as part of its ongoing commitment of responsible environmental management.

The HSE management system mandates the minimum performance-based outcomes for managing HSE risks and/or impacts and conforms to the requirements of ISO 14001.

The Origin Corporate Governance Structure assesses the environmental and social risks associated with operations and projects. Operations are managed using policies and procedures to control remaining environmental and social risks. Projects are developed with precautionary engineering and management measures in place to mitigate or manage key environmental and social risks. Local communities and other stakeholders are consulted through the life cycle of an asset to understand and manage the environmental, economic, and social impacts of activities and to maximise the benefits. Environmental and social risk management is subject to periodic audits and assurance.

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	42676356915
Organisation name	YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Conal McCullough
Job title	General Manager - Development and Construction
Phone	0418 615 521
Email	conal.mccullough@originenergy.com.au
Address	100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

Name	Jason Richard
Job title	Environmental Advisor
Phone	0457 750 157
Email	jason.richard@originenergy.com.au
Address	180 Ann Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN/ACN	42676356915
Organisation name	YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Conal McCullough
Representative's job title	General Manager - Development and Construction
Phone	0418 615 521
Email	conal.mccullough@originenergy.com.au
Address	100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint

Project Area: 976.17 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 107.75 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

McLennons Bore Road, Jerilderie, New South Wales 2716 (see Attachment 4).

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

New South Wales

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

No

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

A significant portion of the Transmission Line Proposed Action would be located within McLennons Bore Road and would occupy Crown land, of which Murrumbidgee Council and Edward River Council are the lessee. Consultation with Councils regarding the use of Crown land has been carried out. These Crown land areas are also Travelling Stock Reserves with medium to high conservational values.

The Transmission Line Proposed Action is proposed to be located on freehold land between the central primary substation and McLennons Bore Road and to the east of Cadell's Road. The Proponent is currently working with landholders to secure necessary tenure where required on freehold land.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

Vegetation types vary across the transmission connection footprint reflecting variation in soil type, topography and disturbance history. Weeping Myall (*Acacia pendula)* woodland dominates much of the transmission connection footprint and is in high condition due to its presence outside of private property and within road reserve which has generally been affected by less clearing and disturbance. There are scattered small areas of open grassland derived from cleared Myall in patches along the road reserve and it is evident that the corridor has been used as a travelling stock route and tree clearing has occurred historically. Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) woodland occurs in low-lying areas and associated with Delta Creek at the southern end of Cadell Road and a large depression at the western end of McLennons Bore Road. Small, isolated patches of Lignum (*Duma florulenta)* and Nitre Goosefoot (*Chenopodium nitrariaceum*) occur in depressions.

In the landscape these habitats within the road reserve provide locally significant biodiversity links and wildlife corridors. These habitats provide dependable links for birds, microbats, and large macropods within existing sheep and cattle grazing practices. The woodland patches provide very important stepping stones for native fauna between open natural grassland. Old drainage lines and large swamps with lignum and nitre goosefoot also provide important linkages for wildlife movement in the landscape. Plant community types vary in condition and patch sizes across the Project Area. These biodiversity values have conservation significance and represent key constraints to the Proposed Action.

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

Aside from including existing roads, including associated road reserve, the existing use of land within the Project Area is agriculture, including mainly used as grazing pastures for sheep, and grazing.

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

No outstanding natural features or other unique values within the Project Area itself.

The Jerilderie Nature Reserve is about 40 kilometres from the Project Area for the Transmission Line. Three small nature reserves of South West Woodland are located eight kilometres west, 17 kilometres east, and 23 kilometres south of the Project Area. Oolambeyan National Park is located approximately 45 kilometres north-west of the Project Area. The Murray Valley National Park is located 70 kilometres south-west of the Project Area.

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 topography of the Project Area is relatively flat with very gentle undulations, sloping gently down gradient from east to west. The ground surface typically lies between 108m at the central primary substation and 114 metres AHD at the Dinawan Substation.

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.

Surveys completed to date

Extensive ecological surveys have completed across the YDWF Project Area, which includes the area subject to a separate referral for the YDWF and the majority of the Dinawan Transmission Line Referral Project Area since 2020, including:

- Rapid Plant Community Type (PCT) assessment and mapping in 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025
- Vegetation integrity assessment in 2022
- Targeted threatened flora surveys in 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025
- Bird and bat utilisation studies in 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025
- Targeted fauna surveys in 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025

An overview of the ecosystems and species recorded is presented below. A comprehensive description of ecological values is presented in the Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1**) and in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) for the Approved Action (**Attachment 5a and 5b**).

Bioregion

The Project Area is located within the Riverina bioregion (Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia: IBRA) and wholly within the Murrumbidgee IBRA sub-region. The Riverina bioregion lies in southwest NSW, extending into central-north Victoria. It ranges from Ivanhoe in the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion south to Bendigo, and from Narrandera in the east to Balranald in the west. The Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers and their major tributaries, the Lachlan and Goulburn Rivers, flow from the highlands in the east, westward across the Riverina plain. Characteristic landforms of the Murrumbidgee IBRA sub-region include alluvial fan with distributary channels and floodplains and undulating plains with depressions. The Riverina covers the alluvial fans of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers west of the Great Dividing Range and extends down the Murray. The region is relatively constrained by sediments from northern Victorian rivers, the Murrumbidgee fan and the Cadell fault. Soils are typically highly fertile red brown earths and grey clays with deep siliceous sands on elevated dunes.

Rivers and Streams

There is one creek in the Project Area, Delta Creek – an ephemeral waterway that is crossed by the Dinawan Transmission Line close to the central primary substation. Aside from Delta Creek, there are some minor drainage depressions that hold water during rainfall and flooding and drain in a south-westerly direction. A slope dips toward Delta Creek in the Project Area. Several minor topographic depressions on the floodplain hold water for longer, creating scattered swamp environments within the Project Area.

Wetlands

There are no Ramsar Wetlands or Important Wetlands as listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia located within the Project Area.

Areas of outstanding biodiversity value

Areas of declared critical habitat that were listed under the now repealed Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) have become declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value (AOBVs) in NSW with the commencement of the BC Act. AOBVs are special areas with irreplaceable biodiversity values that are important to the whole of NSW, Australia or globally. These are areas declared by the Minister for the Environment. There are no declared AOBV within the Project Area.

Plant Community Types

The Project Area predominantly comprises areas of open Weeping Myall (Acacia pendula) woodlands, and native grassland in a flat landscape. In low lying areas there are occurrences of River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) along drainage lines and creeks.

Threatened Ecological Communities

The following two TECs are known to occur within the Dinawan Transmission Line Project Area:

- Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act.
- Weeping Myall Woodlands listed as endangered under the EPBC Act.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

The level of groundwater dependence of vegetation communities in the Project Area was identified using the Atlas of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and the Risk Assessment Guidelines for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems released by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). No PCTs with a high groundwater dependence and potential for interaction occur within the Project Area.

Threatened Species Habitat

Suitable habitat for threatened species within the Transmission Line Disturbance Footprint comprise the following:

- Suitable habitat occurs on sandy deposits associated with PCT 17 and PCT 26 for *Austrostipa wakoolica*. However, there are limited areas of PCT17 and many of these areas are heavily disturbed
- High quality Weeping Myall Woodland with mixed aged trees, coarse woody debris and a diversity of understorey and groundcover species
- Flat cracking clays on grassland, including natural grassland supporting specialist grassland flora and fauna. Provides suitable habitat for Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*), *Convolvulus tedmoori, Brachyscome muelleroides, Brachyscome papillosa, Leptorhynchos orientalis, Sclerolaena napiformis, Swainsona murrayana, Swainsona plagiotropis* and *Swainsona sericea*
- Large patches and scattered isolated patches of Eucalypt woodland with an abundance of hollow-bearing trees, trees with small to large stick nests and fallen logs of various sizes.

Threatened Flora

No threatened flora species have been recorded from the Dinawan Transmission Line Project Area. Of the threatened plant species recorded across the broader YDWF Project Area, none of these have been recorded within the Dinawan Transmission Line Project Area. However, there is potential for threatened species from the YDWF Project Area to occur and the AoS has been prepared based on the area of associated PCT mapped within the transmission connection footprint (Disturbance Footprint).

Three threatened flora species considered to be a MNES have been recorded within the broader YDWF Project Area (refer **Attachment 1 – Yanco Delta Wind Farm, Network Transmission Connection, EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Section 2.2, page 9**):

- Slender Darling Pea (*Swainsona murrayana*) – vulnerable
- Winged Peppercress (*Lepidium monoplocoides*) – endangered
- Chariot wheels (*Maireana cheelii*) – vulnerable

In addition to the species listed above, an additional five threatened flora species are considered to have a moderate to high likelihood of occurring in the Dinawan Transmission Line Project Area:

- A Speargrass (*Austrostipa wakoolica*) – endangered
- Claypan Daisy (*Brachysome muelleroides*) – vulnerable
- Mossgiel Daisy (*Brachsysome papillosa*) – vulnerable
- Turnip Copperburr (*Sclerolaena napiformis*) – endangered
- Red Darling Pea (*Swainsonia plagiotropis*) - vulnerable

Threatened Fauna

One threatened fauna species has been recorded from the Dinawan Transmission Line Project Area, the Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*), which is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

The following threatened fauna species (MNES) are known to occur in the broader YDWF Project Area (refer **Attachment 1 – Yanco Delta Wind Farm, Network Transmission Connection, EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Section 2.3, page 10**):

- Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) – critically endangered
- Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) – vulnerable

In addition to the species listed above, the following threatened fauna species are considered to have a moderate to high likelihood of occurrence in the Dinawan Transmission Line Project Area:

- Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) – vulnerable
- Grey Snake (*Hemiaspis damelii*) – endangered
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – vulnerable

Migratory species

Attachment 1 – Yanco Delta Wind Farm Network Transmission Connection EPBC Referral Assessment Report, Section 2.4 (page 10) and Appendix B (page 68) assesses the likelihood of occurrence of Migratory and Marine species.

Thirteen listed migratory or marine species may occur in the Dinawan Transmission Line Project Area. Based on extensive biodiversity surveys completed across the YDWF Project Area over the past 4 years, suitable habitat does not exist within Dinawan Transmission Line Project Area for most migratory or marine species identified by database searches. The following migratory or marine species are considered moderately likely to occur in, or adjacent to, the Dinawan Transmission Line Project Area based on the presence of suitable habitats:

- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) – marine under EPBC Act (known to occur in the YDWF Project Area)
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Cattle Egret (*Ardea ibis*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Black-eared Cuckoo (*Chalcites osculans*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*) - marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) - marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)

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

Within the assessed Disturbance Footprint there are 107.66 hectares of native vegetation, comprised of four PCTs:

1. Black Box – Lignum woodland wetland of the inner floodplains in the semi-arid (warm) climate zone (mainly Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion) (PCT 13)
2. Lignum shrubland wetland of the semi-arid (warm) plains (mainly Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion) (PCT 17)
3. Weeping Myall open woodland of the Riverina Bioregion and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion (PCT 26)
4. Curly Windmill Grass - speargrass - wallaby grass grassland on alluvial clay and loam on the Hay Plain, Riverina Bioregion (PCT 46)

The above listed PCTs correspond to three vegetation classes (Keith, 2004) in the Project Area, that represent different broad habitat types used to stratify fauna survey, including:

- Inland Riverine Forests
- Inland Floodplain Woodlands
- Riverine Plain Grasslands.

3.3 Heritage

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

The Project Area contains no Commonwealth heritage places, World Heritage Properties or National Heritage Places.

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

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) was prepared as part of the EIS in 2022. The ACHAR will be updated and accompany the application to modify the SSD Consent to be submitted to the NSW DPHI in mid 2025. Key findings to date in relation to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the Project Area (as documented in the ACHAR for the Approved Action, which also includes the YDWF Project area) are:

- No places listed on the National, Commonwealth or Local Environment Plan heritage lists are located in the Project Area as described in the ACHAR for the Approved Action.
- A search of the National Native Title Tribunal database found that there were no Native Title claims currently registered in the Project Area as described in the ACHAR for the Approved Action.
- Two Aboriginal cultural heritage sites have been identified adjacent to McLennon Bore Road and both comprise artefact scatter sites.

Based on the aesthetic, historic and social context of the identified Aboriginal objects, the Project Area is considered to be of moderate cultural heritage significance. The Aboriginal objects present within the Project Area are tangible expressions of Aboriginal life prior to contact and have potential to connect the contemporary community with traditional practices that have been disrupted by colonial activity.

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 is one creek in the Project Area, Delta Creek – an ephemeral waterway that is crossed by the Dinawan Transmission Line close to the central primary substation.

Aside from Delta Creek, there are some minor drainage depressions that hold water during rainfall and flooding and drain in a south-westerly direction. A slope dips toward Delta Creek in the Project Area. Several minor topographic depressions on the floodplain hold water for longer, creating scattered swamp environments within the Project Area.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

There are no World Heritage Properties within, or proximate to the Project Area.

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 World Heritage Properties within, or proximate to the Project 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	Banrock Station Wetland Complex
No	No	Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes
No	No	Riverland
No	No	The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland

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 proximate to the Project Area. The nearest wetland of international importance, identified by the Protected Matters Search Tool, is the Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes, located approximately 200 – 300 km downstream of the Project Area.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Aprasia parapulchella	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	Austrostipa wakoolica	
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern
No	No	Brachyscome muelleroides	Mueller Daisy
No	No	Brachyscome papillosa	Mossgiel Daisy
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	Crinia sloanei	Sloane's Froglet
No	No	Euastacus armatus	Murray Crayfish
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Galaxias rostratus	Flathead Galaxias, Beaked Minnow, Flat-headed Galaxias, Flat-headed Jollytail, Flat-headed Minnow
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
Yes	Yes	Hemiaspis damelii	Grey Snake
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Leipoa ocellata	Malleefowl
No	No	Lepidium monoplocoides	Winged Pepper-cress
No	No	Litoria raniformis	Southern Bell Frog,, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
No	No	Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (eastern), Eastern Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
No	No	Maccullochella macquariensis	Trout Cod
No	No	Maccullochella peelii	Murray Cod

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Macquaria australasica	Macquarie Perch
No	No	Maireana cheelii	Chariot Wheels
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
No	No	Pedionomus torquatus	Plains-wanderer
No	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
Yes	Yes	Polytelis swainsonii	Superb Parrot
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Sclerolaena napiformis	Turnip Copperburr
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Swainsona murrayana	Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions
No	No	Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia
Yes	Yes	Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains
Yes	Yes	Weeping Myall Woodlands
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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

Yes

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

The EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1, Appendix B, page 68**) provides an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of threatened species and communities in the Project Area, building on the results of an extensive field survey program over the past four years. An assessment of significance has been completed for listed threatened species and listed ecological communities (TEC) with a moderate to high likelihood of occurring and that are likely to have important habitat in the Project Area in accordance with EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines (Department of Environment, 2013). The assessment of significance is presented in **Appendix A of Attachment 1**.

Threatened ecological communities

The following ecological communities are known to occur in the Project Area and will be directly impacted by the Proposed Action:

- Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains – critically endangered ecological community under EPBC Act (known to occur)
- Weeping Myall Woodlands - endangered ecological community under EPBC Act (known to occur).

Threatened flora

The following flora species have a moderate to high likelihood occurring in the Project Area and may be directly or indirectly impacted by the Transmission Line Proposed Action:

- A Spear-grass (*Austrostipa wakoolica*)– endangered under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Winged Peppercress (*Lepidium monoplocoides*) – endangered under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Turnip Copperburr (*Sclerolaena napiformis*) – endangered under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Slender Darling Pea (*Swainsona murrayana*) - vulnerable under EPBC Act (highly likely)
- Red Darling Pea (*Swainsona plagiotropis*) - vulnerable under EPBC Act (highly likely)
- Claypan Daisy (*Brachyscome muelleroides*) - vulnerable under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Mossgiel Daisy (*Brachyscome papillosa*) - vulnerable under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Chariot Wheels (*Maireana cheelii*) – vulnerable under EPBC Act (moderately likely).

Threatened fauna

The following threatened fauna species (MNES) are known or have a moderate to high likelihood occurring in the Project Area and may be impacted by the Transmission Line Proposed Action:

- Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) – critically endangered (moderately likely)
- Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) – vulnerable under EPBC Act (known to occur)
- Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) – vulnerable under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – vulnerable/ migratory under EPBC Act (high likelihood)
- Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) – vulnerable (moderately likely)
- Grey Snake (*Hemiaspis damelii*) – endangered (moderately likely)

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. *

Assessments of significance (AoS) for the Proposed Action have been prepared and are included in **Attachment 1 – Yanco Delta Wind Farm, Network Transmission Connection, EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Appendix A, page 33.**

Significance assessments have been completed in accordance with the *EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines* (DoE, 2013). Whether or not an action is likely to have a significant impact depends upon the sensitivity, value, and quality of the environment that is affected, and upon the intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impacts (DoE, 2013). Importantly, for a 'significant impact' to be 'likely', it is not necessary for a significant impact to have a greater than 50 % chance of happening; it is sufficient if a significant impact on the environment is a real or not a remote chance or possibility (DoE, 2013). This advice has been considered while undertaking the assessments.

Impacts on these entities are described as a loss of vegetation and habitat (direct impacts), in addition to a range of indirect impacts. The loss of vegetation has been calculated based on a disturbance footprint relevant to the revised transmission connection footprint.

Considerable effort has gone into avoiding impacts to identified entities which has benefited from the amount of survey data gathered for the EIS prepared for the Approved Action in addition to targeted surveys relevant to the transmission connection footprint. Significant areas of the proposed action will be occupied by internal transmission easements, that will be subject to refinement during a detailed design phase. This is expected to result in reduction of the areas stated in the biodiversity assessment report as likely to experience vegetation loss, as large areas of grassland and low-lying Myall Woodland will remain in situ within the easements.

The AoS conclude that significant impacts are likely to occur on the following species and communities:

- Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains – Likely (**Appendix A.1.1, page 33**)
- Weeping Myall Woodlands - Likely (**Appendix A.2.1, page 37**)
- Superb Parrot – Likely (**Appendix A.5.3, page 55**)
- Painted Honeyeater – Likely (**Appendix A.5.4, page 57**)
- Grey Snake – Likely (**Appendix A.4.2, page 47**)

A significant impact on threatened species and communities is considered likely and when considering the potential for cumulative impacts.

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. *

Under the EPBC Act an action will require approval from the Minister if the action has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on a MNES. The AoS conclude that significant impacts are likely to occur on the following species and communities:

- Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains – Likely (**Appendix A.1.1, page 33**)
- Weeping Myall Woodlands - Likely (**Appendix A.2.1, page 37**)
- Superb Parrot – Likely (**Appendix A.5.3, page 55**)
- Painted Honeyeater – Likely (**Appendix A.5.4, page 57**)
- Grey Snake - Likely (**Appendix A.4.2, page 47**)

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. *

Construction of the Dinawan Transmission Line will result in clearing of vegetation to accommodate permanent access tracks and tower pads, in additional to partial loss of biodiversity values associated with vegetation (tree) trimming within proposed transmission easements. The clearing of vegetation has potential to remove habitat that is suitable for MNES threatened fauna species and will directly impact TECs.

Requirements for vegetation trimming beneath transmission lines have been minimised through responsive design. Tower heights will be raised as necessary to ensure safe clearance to vegetation beneath transmission lines at the time of construction (i.e. tower heights will vary depending on the height of existing vegetation). There may be a need to trim some vegetation over the operational life of the Transmission Line Proposed Action to maintain appropriate clearances.

A Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP) will be developed for the Transmission Proposed Action. The BBAMP will utilise the bird survey data obtained across the Bird and Bat Utilisation Studies that have been undertaken to date to identify specific bird and bat species that are at risk of collision with overhead cabling and power lines or the transmission line and electrocution. For higher risk species, a strategy is expected to be developed in consultation with BCS focused on identifying key sections of overhead cabling and power lines or the transmission line where mitigation is required and will include deploying bird divertors, with day/night reflectors within approved buffer distance. The plan is expected to include the following in consultation with BCS:

- Regular monitoring in overhead cabling and power lines or the transmission line easements for evidence of bird / bat collision (intervals to be determined in consultation with BCS)
- Monitoring of taller structures for evidence of raptor nest building
- Developing target trigger for number of high-risk species incidents
- Deploying species specific bird / bat divertors / flappers / reflectors in areas where a defined number of incidents have occurred.

Measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts to threatened species and communities will be further investigated and developed to address the potential impacts of the Transmission Line Proposed Action as design and environmental assessment progresses.

A range of management measures, management plans and further surveys, investigations and/or assessments are proposed to further minimise, mitigate or manage potential impacts on migratory species. In addition, there will be continued refinement of the Transmission Line Proposed Action’s project design, construction areas and construction methodology to minimise the extent of impacts on migratory species.

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

The Transmission Line Proposed Action will be required to offset the residual biodiversity impacts of the Project in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. An Offset Delivery Strategy is currently being prepared for the Transmission Line Proposed Action and appropriately incorporated as part of a wider strategy relevant to the YDWF. Offset credit obligations for the Dinawan Transmission Line will be calculated separately within the BDAR, however, credit obligations will be retired through the delivery of a project wide strategy which addresses both the YDWF and external transmission components.

Impacts and offset requirements for the approved project footprint for the Dinawan Transmission Line will be documented in the BDAR. Biodiversity credits will be calculated using the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and BAM Calculator (BAM-C) and comprise both ecosystem and species credits.

Offset Delivery options for the Approved Action were reviewed in 2024 (**Attachment 2** and it was found that (at the time) there were sufficient like for like credits available to retire the ecosystem credit obligation of the Approved Action. This document has been attached to the referral but will not be made publicly available because it contains sensitive information which may compromise the Project's ability to secure appropriate offsets. The Transmission Line Proposed Action may rely on a range of offset delivery options, including land-based offsets delivered through Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSAs) within and surrounding the Project Area as well as credit purchases directly from the market and (as a last resort) payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

Preliminary offset investigations undertaken on behalf of the Proponent have found that there is approximately 3,900 ha of land with offset potential within the YDWF Project Area, which is in close proximity to the proposed Dinawan Transmission Line. Further, an additional 667 ha of land which supports relevant MNES, including TECs which are expected to be significantly impacted by the Transmission Line Proposed Action, have been identified on a nearby landholding. The Proponent is actively investigating all available options to ensure offsets can be secured for the Transmission Line Proposed Action.

The biodiversity values expected to be impacted by the Transmission Line Proposed Action occur across a broad landscape, and there may be landholders within the local area and broader subregion with an interest to conserve biodiversity values on their properties and establish a BSA.

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
Yes	Yes	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	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	Myiagra cyanoleuca	Satin Flycatcher

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 Proposed Action is likely to directly impact migratory species by clearing vegetation during construction which comprises habitat and is also likely to indirectly impact migratory species by introducing infrastructure such as transmission lines which are a collision and electrocution risk to some bird species.

The EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1**) provides an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of migratory species in the Project Area, building on the results of an extensive field survey program over the past four years. An assessment of significance has been completed for migratory species with a moderate to high likelihood of occurring and are likely to have important habitat in the Project Area in in accordance with EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines (Department of Environment, 2013). The assessment of significance is presented in **Appendix A.6 of Attachment 1**.

The following migratory or marine species are considered moderately likely to occur in, or adjacent to, the Project Area based on the presence of suitable habitats:

- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundopus caudacautus*) – migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) – marine under EPBC Act (known to occur in the broader YDWF Project Area)
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Cattle Egret (*Ardea ibis*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Black-eared Cuckoo (*Chalcites osculans*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*) - marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) - marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)

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 EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1, Appendix A.6, page 63**) provides an assessment of potential impacts on migratory species in accordance with Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE, 2013). The assessment found that:

- The Rainbow Bee-eater is the only Migratory species that has been recorded in the YDWF Project Area from 24 months of BBUS surveys. The BBUS surveys have covered 50 sites, including sites adjacent to the Transmission Line Project Area.
- There are no areas which would be considered “Important habitat” for any migratory species within the Transmission Line Project Area.
- The proposed works are not considered likely to seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of most of the populations of migratory species which may occur in the Project Area.
- Neither the White-throated Needletail or Fork-tailed Swift has been recorded in the Project Area from almost 24 months of dedicated seasonal bird surveys. While there remains some potential to occur in the Project Area on occasion, or sporadically, the absence of a population, or regular visits suggests that the habitat is not important for these populations.

Significant impacts on migratory species are considered unlikely to occur as a result of the Transmission Line Proposed Action.

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 EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1, Appendix A.6, page 63**) provides an assessment of potential impacts on migratory species in accordance with Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE, 2013). The AoS found that there are no areas of 'important habitat' for any species within the Project Area, and that the proposed works are not considered likely to seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of most of the populations of migratory species which may occur in the Project Area. The AoS concludes that significant impacts on migratory species are unlikely to occur. On that basis, migratory species are not considered a relevant controlling provision for the Proposed 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. *

Construction of the Dinawan Transmission Line will result in clearing of vegetation to accommodate permanent access tracks and tower pads, in additional to partial loss of biodiversity values associated with vegetation (tree) trimming within proposed transmission easements. The clearing of vegetation has potential to remove habitat that is suitable for MNES migratory fauna species.

Requirements for vegetation trimming beneath transmission lines have been minimised through responsive design. Tower heights will be raised as necessary to ensure safe clearance to vegetation beneath transmission lines at the time of construction (i.e. tower heights will vary depending on the height of existing vegetation). There may be a need to trim some vegetation over the operational life of the Dinawan Transmission Line to maintain appropriate clearances.

Measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts to migratory species will be further investigated and developed to address the potential impacts of the Transmission Line Proposed Action as design and environmental assessment progresses. There is expected to be refinement of the Transmission Line Proposed Action's project design, construction areas and construction methodology to minimise the extent of impacts on migratory species.

A Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP) will be developed for the Transmission Line Proposed Action. The BBAMP will utilise the bird survey data obtained across the Bird and Bat Utilisation Studies undertaken to date to identify specific bird and bat species that are at risk of collision with overhead cabling and power lines or the transmission line and electrocution. For higher risk species, a strategy will be developed in consultation with BCS focused on identifying key sections of overhead cabling and power lines or the transmission line where mitigation is required and will include deploying bird divertors, with day/night reflectors within approved buffer distance. The plan will include the following in consultation with BCS:

- Regular monitoring in overhead cabling and power lines or the transmission line easements for evidence of bird / bat collision (intervals to be determined in consultation with BCS)
- Monitoring of taller structures for evidence of raptor nest building
- Developing target trigger for number of high-risk species incidents
- Deploying species specific bird / bat divertors / flappers / reflectors in areas where a defined number of incidents have occurred.

Identifying locations for specific measures and the monitoring method for testing effectiveness.

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

The Transmission Line Proposed Action will be required to offset the residual biodiversity impacts of the Dinawan Transmission Line in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. An Offset Delivery Strategy is currently being prepared for the Transmission Line Proposed Action.

Impacts and offset requirements for the approved project footprint will be documented in the BDAR. Biodiversity credits will be calculated using the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and BAM Calculator (BAM-C) and comprise both ecosystem and species credits.

Offset Delivery options for the Approved Action were reviewed in 2024 (**Attachment 2** and it was found that (at the time) there were sufficient like for like credits available to retire the ecosystem credit obligation of the Approved Action. The Transmission Line Proposed Action is likely to rely on a range of offset delivery options, including land-based offsets delivered through Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSAs) within and surrounding the Project Area as well as credit purchases directly from the market and (as a last resort) payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

Preliminary offset investigations found that there is approximately 3,900 ha of land with offset potential within the YDWF Project Area itself, which is in close proximity to the proposed Dinawan Transmission Line. Further, an additional 667 ha of land which supports relevant MNES, including TECs which are expected to be significantly impacted by the Transmission Line Proposed Action, have been identified on a nearby landholding. As discussed above, the Proponent is actively investigating all available options to ensure offsets can be secured for the Proposed Action.

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

The Proposed Action does not involve a Nuclear Action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

—

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 does not involve activities 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 Proposed Action will not directly impact the Great Barrier Reef (GBR), nor is it located in a reef draining catchment. No impacts are expected on the GBR because of 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 large coal mining or coal seam gas development and this matter is not a relevant consideration.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

The Proposed Action would not impact 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.

—

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 would not impact any Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas, directly or indirectly.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The broader YDWF Project, which necessitates construction of the Dinawan Transmission Line, would provide a significant amount of new generation capacity which would support the transition towards increased renewable energy penetration in the National Energy Market (NEM) and facilitate the planned retirement of coal fired power stations in NSW. Not proceeding with the broader YDWF Project does not meet the NSW need for generation capacity or the Commonwealth and State climate change commitments to transition to renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

In addition, not proceeding with the broader YDWF Project would result in the loss of significant financial benefit to the region, and sufficient clean energy to power the equivalent of approximately 700,000 homes would not be realised.

The supply of additional generation capacity would help meet load demand as a result of the retiring thermal generation. The use of wind power as the predominant generation type for the broader YDWF Project has been driven by the following factors:

- Wind energy can be harnessed at night, particularly in the evening when electricity demand is high; solar energy, as an alternative, cannot be harnessed at night or during cloudy conditions
- Night generation takes advantage of spare network capacity to charge batteries or for off-site pumped hydro storage
- WTGs release less carbon dioxide (CO_2) to the atmosphere. Generally, a WTG produces 4.64 grams of CO_2/1 kilowatt hour (kWh) while a solar panel produces 70 grams of CO_2/1kWh (Regen Power, 2021)
- Wind power consumes less energy and produces more energy compared to solar power
- Solar requires 30-35 times the land area per MWh produced, therefore, would not be conducive with areas that have high native vegetation value or important agricultural land
- Onshore wind energy generation is one of the lowest-cost technologies and this cost is projected to continue to decrease in the near future.

Further, the broader YDWF Project would deliver renewable, low-cost energy to the NEM and would contribute to the NSW Government's 2050 net zero emissions target. Renewable energy such as wind energy would contribute towards cleaner electricity generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate potential impacts of climate change. The broader YDWF Project would also provide opportunities for local and regional investment, accompanying the growth of the renewable energy sector across NSW and in the South-West REZ. The broader YDWF Project location is also considered appropriate based on the following:

- There is low population density and homogenous agricultural land use within and surrounding the broader YDWF Project Area and, as a result, the number of sensitive receivers would be minimised
- Preliminary consultation with the local community, including neighbours to the Project, has received positive feedback
- The broader YDWF Project is expected to be highly compatible with existing pastoral land uses, as minimal impact to current agricultural activities are expected during both construction and operation.
- Early consultation with landowners and neighbours, including offering to enter into participation agreements with owners of all habitable dwellings within eight kilometres of any WTG
- The broader YDWF Project would have good access to the proposed electricity transmission infrastructure that would be built as part of Project EnergyConnect, as well as being located in a strategically supported REZ

The terrain is generally flat and is expected to result in simple construction compared to other geographic areas.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - Newtwork Transmission Connection - Biodiversity Assessment Report .pdf Biod	14/05/2025	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	Attachment 3 - YDWF EPBC Approval.pdf EPBC app	13/05/2025	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	Yanco Delta WF Project Trust - Trust Deed.pdf	09/04/2025	Yes	

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 4 - Land Parcels within Dinawan TL Project Area.pdf Description of land parcels in the Project Area	02/05/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 5a - BDAR part 1.pdf BDAR for the approved action, part 1	13/05/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 5b - BDAR part 2.pdf BDAR for the Approved Action, Part 2	13/05/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 2 - YDWF_Biodiversity Offset Options (1).pdf Biodiversity report, including Assessments of Significance for MNES	02/05/2025	Yes	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

Name	Jason Richard
Job title	Environmental Advisor
Phone	0457 750 157
Email	jason.richard@originenergy.com.au
Address	180 Ann Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000

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

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

☑ By checking this box, I, **Jason Richard**, 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	42676356915
Organisation name	YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Conal McCullough
Representative's job title	General Manager - Development and Construction
Phone	0418 615 521
Email	conal.mccullough@originenergy.com.au
Address	100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

☑ 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, **Conal McCullough of YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT 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, **Conal McCullough of YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT 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. *