Pottinger Wind Farm

Application Number: **01972** Commencement Date: **15/08/2023** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Pottinger Wind Farm

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Wind Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/01/2027

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

This Referral is supported by the Pottinger Wind Farm Scoping Report, which has been included as Attachment #1. The Scoping Report can also be viewed on the Planning Portal here: https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/pottinger-wind-farm.

Consistent with Section 1.3 of the Scoping Report, the Pottinger Wind Farm will consist of the construction, operation and decommissioning of a 750 MW wind farm, electrical infrastructure, other infrastructure and ancillary activities generally including the following components:

• Up to 108 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) of which each has a tip height of up to 280 m;

• Electrical reticulation network:

– Up to five main transformers and an optional second satellite substation and associated transformers, switchroom, and reactive plant;

– On-site connection to Project EnergyConnect, associated switch and other equipment at the main substation;

– Internal electrical reticulation (both underground and overhead); and

– Approximately 500 MW / 2 gigawatt hours (GWh) Battery Energy Storage (BESS);

• Other temporary and permanent infrastructure including:

– Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facility and infrastructure including site office, storage facilities, car parking and fencing;

– Accommodation facilities;

– Construction and operational compounds;

– Hardstands for WTGs and other infrastructure;

– Internal access tracks and road turning head connecting Project infrastructure;

– Meteorological masts; and

– Concrete batching plants, crushing facilities, gravel / borrow pits, construction laydown areas;

• Ancillary activities including sourcing of materials for construction; sourcing of water for construction; subdivision and boundary adjustments, visual screening and associated ancillary works;

• Access road use and Project-required upgrades:

– Project Area access: via the Cobb Highway from Jerilderie Road in the north east and West Burrabogie Road in the west, as well as emergency access; and

– Wind farm components access: via a major Port in either NSW, VIC, SA, via the Sturt Highway and/or Cobb Highway, then Jerilderie Road and/or West Burrabogie Road;

• Operational workforce of up to 40 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and construction up to 450 FTE;

• Construction generally within standard construction hours and operations 24 hours per day 7 days per week; and

• Preliminary disturbance footprint of up to 470 ha.

The Project will involve a temporary and permanent footprint that is subject to design refinement. For the purposes of this Referral, up to 470 ha has been assumed to be disturbed.

The permanent development footprint is the area that will remain altered after construction of the Project is complete and generally includes areas that the following are situated on: Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) foundations, crane pads, permanent access roads, transmission line poles and associated tracks, substations, switchyards, O&M Facilities and road upgrades required for the transport haul route.

The temporary development footprint is the area that will be disturbed during construction of the Project and rehabilitated after construction and generally includes (but is not limited to): temporary construction compound, concrete batching plants, underground transmission lines, transmission line access, laydown and assembly areas, temporary workers accommodation.

The permanent and temporary footprints will result in direct and indirect impacts to native vegetation and habitats for MNES.

The indicative project footprint has been developed following initial efforts to avoid and minimise impacts to biodiversity values as outlined above, with the estimated direct impacts (both permanent and temporary) associated with the various aspects of the project expected to include:

- Impacts to 15 NSW Plant Community Types (PCTs) (based on rapid field validation survey) of up to 416.4 ha (approx.)
- Impacts to EPBC Act listed Myall Woodland Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) (PCT 26) of up to 7.99 ha (approx.)
- Impacts to potential EPBC Act listed Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains TEC (PCT 44, 45, 45) of up to 65.36 ha (approx.)
- Impacts to NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) listed Sandhill Pine Woodland TEC (PCT 28) of up to 14.95 ha (approx.).
- Impacts to habitat for Plains Wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* of up to 4.89 ha of mapped important habitat under the BAM.
- Other threatened species habitat associated with PCTs within the subject land, including any additional EPBC Act listed species determined to be a MNES will be assessed during the environmental impact assessment phase accordingly with offsets applied under the BAM and EPBC Act policies.

The above is illustrated on Figure 1.2, p12 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm.

Further to the above, there is likely to be a requirement for minor road upgrades external to the main project area, for the transport of infrastructure components from a suitable port to site during the construction period. A number of different routes remain under consideration, and as such details of the indicative footprint locations relating to these potential external road upgrades cannot be provided at this time. It is however expected that a worst-case scenario of additional impacts associated with any required road upgrades would not result in more than 25 hectares of total impact, a portion of which is likely to involve impacts to native vegetation and associated habitats. It is considered highly unlikely that any road upgrades would result in direct impacts to MNES. It is possible that minor indirect impacts to MNES could occur in the form of possible removal of trees adjacent to existing roadways, that could on a rare occasion be used for forage resources by highly mobile aerial species. The specific locations and any associated impact will be further refined over the EIS period of the project, and all impacts to MNES will be considered and assessed as part of the BDAR in the context of the overall 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)?

Yes

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

The Project is not considered a staged development, however it is part of the larger Pottinger Renewable Energy Park, which will include a Wind Farm and Solar Farm development, the developments are being lodged separately.

As per Section 1.5, p3 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm, the Pottinger Renewable Energy Park comprises the Project and the Pottinger Solar Farm and will combine to provide a large-scale energy system in the REZ. This referral is for the Wind Farm development, and associated ancillary infrastructure as detailed in Section 1.2.1 above.

The Projects will progress generally in parallel, but determination timeframes are outside of the control of the Applicant and as such, approval for each is being sought separately.

The Pottinger Solar Farm is the subject of a separate DA. It will utilise some elements of the Project and this will be defined in its relevant documentation.

Conversely, the Project will utilise construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning infrastructure, personnel and access associated with the Pottinger Solar Farm, including (at least): access roads, O&M and workshop, substations and other infrastructure facilitating connection to the National Energy Market (NEM), BESS, workforce, switchyards and accesses.

The only other external development that the Project will require additional access to is EnergyConnect.

No existing use or continuing use rights are to be relied upon to facilitate the Project.

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The EPBC Act is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). Under the EPBC Act, if the Minister determines that an action is a 'controlled action' which would have or is likely to have a significant impact on a Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES) or Commonwealth land, then the action may not be undertaken without prior approval of the Minster.

Further flora and fauna studies will confirm biodiversity impacts, during the preparation of an EIS. At this stage however, given the potential nature and scale of the Project, an EPBC Act referral on the basis of potential to significantly impact specific Commonwealth listed TECs, birds and bats, inclusive of migratory species is being undertaken.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The Project will be assessed under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and has a capital investment cost estimated at more than $30 million. Therefore, the Project is "State Significant Development (SSD)" under Part 4 of the EP&A Act. Section 4 p33-38 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm provides detail in relation to other relevant NSW legislation.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

The Project will impact on native vegetation and biodiversity values. SSD projects must enter the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) and a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) will be required to assess biodiversity impacts following the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM 2020).

This is likely to trigger biodiversity offset liabilities for the Project in accordance with the BC Act (and potentially EPBC Act), with any offset obligations achieved by:

- **Acquiring or retiring credits that are publicly available or setting up an onsite or offsite Stewardship Site under the BOS.**
- **Making payments into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund using the offsets payment calculator (generally only suitable for small credit liabilities to risk and premium associated costs), or**
- **Funding a biodiversity action that benefits the threatened entity(ies) impacted by the development.**

Local Land Services Act Amendment Act 2016

A review of land categorisation under the *Local Land Services Act Amendment Act 2016* (LLS Act) to clarify the native vegetation management regime was undertaken. Where applicable to do so (land applicable to the LLS act i.e. rural), the potential for land to be mapped as Category 1 exempt land was evaluated, as land mapped or determined as Cat 1 land can be excluded from the BAM and are not required to be assessed, with exception to prescribed impacts in reference to relevant legislation is provided below:

- **BC Act s6.8(3): The BAM is to exclude the assessment of the impacts of any clearing of native vegetation and loss of habitat on Category 1 exempt land (within the meaning of Part 5A of the LLS Act 2013), other than any impacts prescribed by the regulations under section 6.3.**
- **BAM cl1.5: Biodiversity values not assessed under the BAM include: (d) biodiversity values associated with the assessment of the impacts of any clearing of native vegetation and loss of habitat on Category 1 exempt land (within the meaning of Part 5A of the LLS Act), other than the additional biodiversity impacts in accordance with clause 6.1 of the BC regulation; (that being prescribed impacts).**

It is noted that exemption of biodiversity assessment on Category 1 exempt land does not apply to assessments under the EPBC Act.

Fisheries Management Act 1994

Key fish habitat is defined under the FM Act as aquatic habitat important to the maintenance of fish populations generally and the survival and recovery of threatened aquatic species. Assessment of the Hay LGA (DPI, 2017) identified streams of Strahler order 3 and above within the subject land including Eurolie Creek and Nyangay Creek.

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. *

Section 5 p39-45 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm, Table 11 (p40) identifies the initial stakeholders for the Project, and Table 12 (p42) and Table 13 (p43) summarise the consultation and feedback received to date. This information has not been duplicated here, please see the above tables in the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm for further detail.

Both Hay and Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) have been consulted with via a face to face meeting, phone calls and emails. Table 14 p45 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm details the proposed future engagement to the initial stakeholders identified.

Aboriginal heritage consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the 'Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010' (DECCW 2010).

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	65006175097
Organisation name	BIOSIS PTY LTD
Organisation address	14/17-27 Power Avenue, Alexandria, Sydney, NSW, 2015

Referring party details

Name	Catriona Sexton
Job title	Graduate Environmental Planner
Phone	0438044476
Email	csexton@biosis.com.au
Address	38 Bertie Street, Port Melbourne, 3207

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	59656520437
Organisation name	POTTINGER RENEWABLES PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Tim Mead
Job title	Development Director
Phone	0419900277
Email	tim.m@someva.com.au
Address	38 Young Street, Sydney, 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? *

No

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

The Applicant is an Australia renewable energy developer and advisor, POTTINGER RENEWABLES PTY LTD.

POTTINGER RENEWABLES PTY LTD develops renewable energy projects with a focus on creating new income opportunities for landowners, supporting communities grow into new industries, and providing lower cost electricity for the needs of future Australian generations.

The Applicant's experience across project planning, design, construction and operations is aimed at creating the future clean energy infrastructure to support a transition to a low carbon economy.

Team members have been involved in the full end to end life cycle of renewables projects since 2008, working across development, construction and operation of approximately 2.3 GW of assets in Australia and Asia.

The Applicant has a history of responsible environmental management and does not have any proceedings 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

Pottinger Renewables Pty Ltd does not have an environmental policy or planning framework, however does have a history of responsible environmental management and does not have any proceedings against them.

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	59656520437
Organisation name	POTTINGER RENEWABLES PTY LTD

Organisation address	2000 NSW

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Tim Mead
Job title	Development Director
Phone	0419900277
Email	tim.m@someva.com.au
Address	38 Young Street, Sydney, 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.

ABN/ACN	65006175097
Organisation name	BIOSIS PTY LTD
Organisation address	14/17-27 Power Avenue, Alexandria, Sydney, NSW, 2015
Representative's name	Catriona Sexton
Representative's job title	Graduate Environmental Planner
Phone	0438044476
Email	csexton@biosis.com.au
Address	38 Bertie Street, Port Melbourne, 3207

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	59656520437
Organisation name	POTTINGER RENEWABLES PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Tim Mead
Representative's job title	Development Director
Phone	0419900277
Email	tim.m@someva.com.au
Address	38 Young Street, Sydney, 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)?

Yes

1.4.2 Select reason for exemption

Small Business

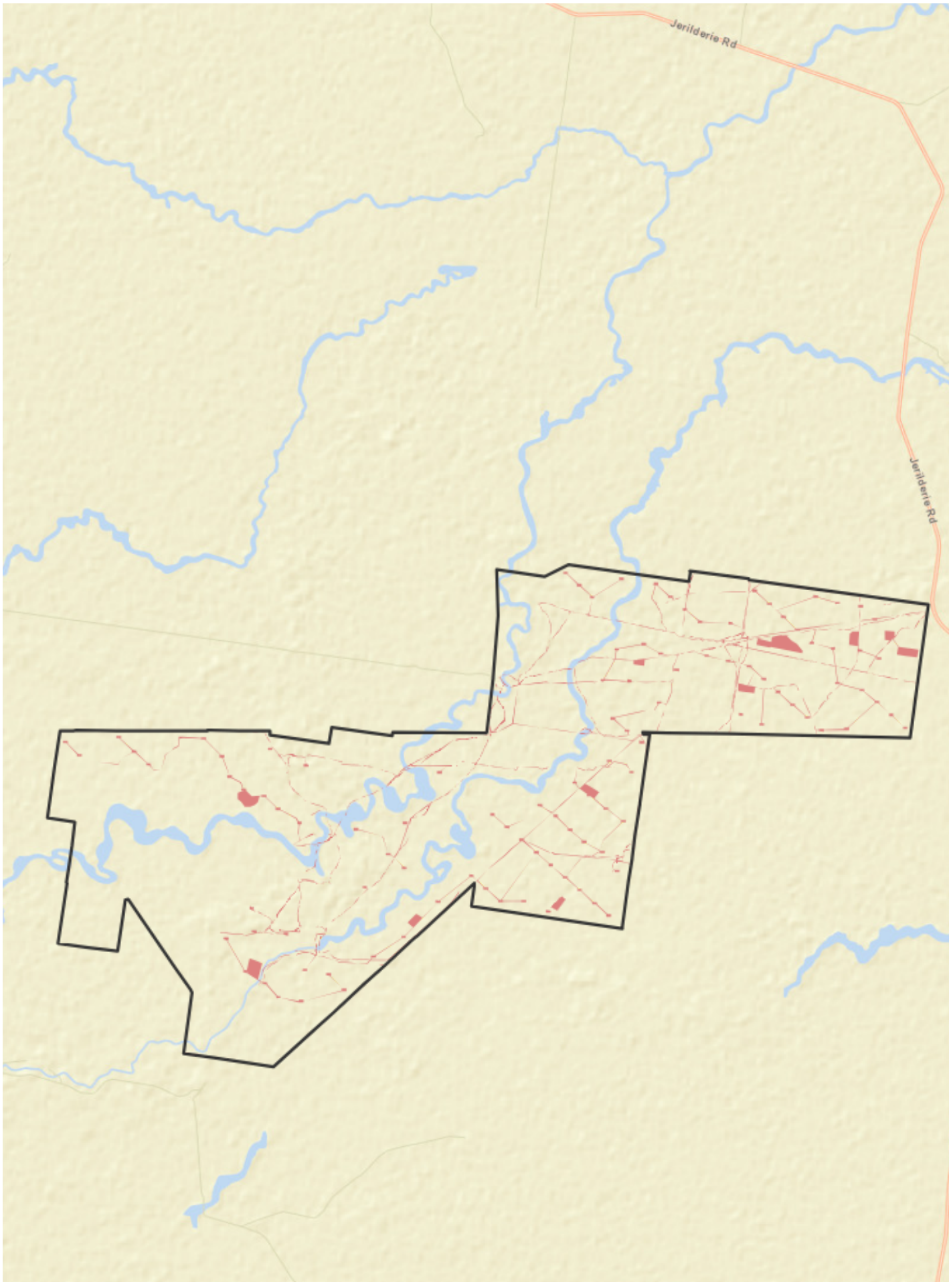
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint


Jerilderie Rd
Jerilderie Rd

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

2188 West Burrabogie Road, Booroorban NSW 2710

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? *

The Proposal is located on a single landowner property, with a small number of Crown land easements traversing the Project Area.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The subject land (as described in Section 1.3, p4 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment, equivalent to the Project Area outlined in Section 3.1, p26 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm) contains areas conducive to semi-arid chenopod dominated landscapes with grassland areas supporting various densities of woody shrubs interspersed with open Pine and Myall woodlands, with Black Box woodland/wetlands and Lignum / Nitre Goosefoot wetlands present in areas more frequently inundated. The subject land predominantly supports native vegetation, with only highly disturbed areas being a result of ongoing agricultural uses, devoid of native species. soils are generally intact expect for those areas disturbed by ongoing agricultural activities and historical access and farming requirements (i.e. dwelling and other infrastructure). Native vegetation and habitat occur in a range of condition states, however the majority would be considered to be on moderate ecological condition, with some areas occurring in a more natural state and others being more degraded by historical land management practices.

Hydrological features occur within the subject land include channels, creeks, drainage lines and farm dams. The aquatic ecological communities within the subject land and broader locality are typified by wetland specialist and lowland river generalists, generally comprising highly modified watercourses, altered flow regimes, channel formation, diversions and removal or modification of riparian vegetation. Nevertheless, during peak periods and overflow, parts of subject land and surrounds provide habitat for a diverse range, and large number of species.

The subject land has not been subject to recent major environmental events such as bush fires, floods, droughts etc, to an extent that the current condition of the environment is showing the effects of such events.

The subject land is located approximately 60 km South of Hay in NSW. The Project Area is entirely within the South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) and will connect to Project EnergyConnect. Surrounding land use is primarily rural/agricultural activities.

Land use and zoning is described in the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm, particularly in Section 5.2 of Appendix C (p130). The north-eastern part of the subject land is located within the extents of the Hay Shire Council and the south-western part in Edward River Council. The Edward River Council utilises three different Local Environment Plans (LEPs) of which Conargo LEP 2013 is applicable to the Project. The Hay Shire Council utilises the Hay LEP 2011 in its administration. The following gives an overview of the main land use zoning within the subject land:

RU1 - Primary Production

The Project and majority of the surrounding land is zoned RU1 - Primary Production. Generally, the objectives of all LEPs relevant to the Project Area and to visual impact assessment are as follows:

• To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base.

• To encourage diversity in primary industry enterprises and systems appropriate for the area.

• To minimise the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands.

• To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.

As outlined in Section 3.2.5 p28 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm, access for the proposal will be as follows:

On Site

Internal access tracks will be required for the movement of equipment and materials throughout the Project Area. These tracks will facilitate the construction of the Project, as well as maintenance works required during operation and decommissioning. Where practical, these will align with existing tracks.

External

Access to the site during construction and operation will utilise the existing road network.

Primary access will be via the Cobb Highway from Jerilderie Road in the north east (Site Entrance B), and West Burrabogie Road in the west (Site Entrance A). A third access point off Wargam Road (Site Entrance C) will be further assessed during the EIS stage. A separate Emergency Access is also available at the end of West Burrabogie Road.

The transport route from a suitable port(s) or other areas in NSW or Australia to the Project Area, as well as any required road upgrades will be identified as part of the EIS. Indicatively, major components may be via the Port of Newcastle or Port Kembla.

The port/s of origin will be refined and/or the preferred route(s) adequately assessed in the EIS.

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

The principal land uses in the subject land have included modified and native pasture grazing as well as irrigated cropping. The contemporary landscape is dominated by the physical structures associated with irrigated agriculture such as irrigation bays and banks, channels, roads, fences, farm infrastructure and regulators. Grazing activities are expected to continue following completion of the proposed development.

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

Three main watercourses exist within the subject land; Nyangay Creek, Eurolie Creek and Coleambally Outfall Drain (a concrete-lined irrigation channel), and a number of large areas of natural wetlands occur associated with Eurolie Creek, and to the north-east of the subject land.

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 subject land is generally flat, occurring on a broad floodplain, and as outlined in section 6.10.2 (p73) of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm, the subject land is located between 93 m ASL and 96 ASL.

3.2 Flora and fauna

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

The following section is consistent with Section 6.4 p56-65 and Appendix E of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm as well as Section 4 p19-49 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment. To date biodiversity values have been documented in the Project Area (wind farm site) through a combination of reviewing existing reports, database searches, inspection of state-wide vegetation modelling and preliminary field visits. Biodiversity surveys and impact assessments are currently in the preliminary stages with the following work completed:

- **January 2023 – desktop biodiversity assessment of Project area (Biosis) (summarised in the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment).**
- **January 2023 – NSW government state-wide Plant Community Type (PCT) modelling review and field mapping/validation (Biosis).**
- **February 2023 – Summer bird utilisation surveys (Year 1 winter surveys) (Biosis).**
- **February 2023 – Field assessment PCT mapping (Biosis).**
- **May 2023 – Autumn bird utilisation surveys (Year 1 spring surveys) (Biosis).**
- **June 2023 – Preparation of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment, and Appendix E of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm**

Further detail on the above surveys is provided in Section 3 p10-18 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment.

A total of 31 listed threatened species under the EPBC Act are predicted to occur within the subject land and 30 km buffer. Those considered most likely to occur include:

- **Chariot Wheels *Maireana cheelii* (Vulnerable)**
- **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri* (Endangered)**
- **Mossgiel Daisy *Brachyscome papillosa* (Vulnerable)**
- **Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta* (Vulnerable)**
- **Plains Wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* (Critically Endangered)**
- **Slender Darling Pea *Swainsona murrayana* (Vulnerable) – Recorded within the subject land**
- **Southern Bell Frog *Litoria raniformis* (Vulnerable)**
- **Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* (Vulnerable)**
- **Winged Peppercress *Lepidium monoplocoides* (Endangered)**

A total of 10 listed migratory species are predicted to occur within the subject land and 30 km buffer. Those considered most likely to occur include:

- **Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***
- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata***
- **Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos***
- **Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***
- **Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***

- **Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (note this species was not predicted to occur by the PMST search, however it is considered highly likely to occur in the subject land)**

MNES listed above, along with any other MNES recorded or predicted as likely to occur within the subject land, will require consideration as part of ongoing ecological assessments

The PMST search indicates the following species, additional to those predicted to occur through the BAM, are known or likely to occur within the search area and may require additional consideration during the survey and EIS phase:

- **Known:**
  - **Silver Perch *Bidyanus bidyanus* (Critically Endangered)**
  - **Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Endangered)**
  - **Spot-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (Endangered)**
  - **Australian painted Snipe *Rostratula australis* (Endangered)**
  - **Murray Cod *Maccullochella peelii* (Vulnerable)**
  - **Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos* (Vulnerable)**
- **Likely:**
  - **Grey Snake *Hemiaspis damelii* (Endangered)**

A search of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) threatened freshwater species indicative population mapping found two species have the potential to occur within waterways in the subject land:

- **Silver Perch – mapped within Eurlie Creek within the subject land**
- **Flathead Galaxias *Galaxias rostratus* (Critically Endangered) – mapped within the Coleambally Outfall Drain connected to Eurolie Creek direct adjacent to the subject land.**

Bird and Bat Utilisation Surveys have been completed. Threatened and migratory species known or predicted to occur within the subject land, and preliminarily determined to be most at-risk, based on a moderate or greater likelihood of occurrence, combined with a predicted high collision risk, are listed below:

- **Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***
- **Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus***
- **Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus**
- **Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos***
- **Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii***
- **White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus***

It should be noted that none of the EPBC Act above listed species were recorded during the initial BBUS work, with the final assessment of species considered to be at-risk of impact from the Project to be made following completion of the multi-seasonal BBUS work.

MNES listed above, along with any other MNES recorded or predicted as likely to occur within the subject land, will require consideration as part of ongoing ecological assessments.

Further detailed information is provided in Section 4 p19-49 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment (Biosis)

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

Desktop mapping and analysis confirmed 20 potential Plant Community Types (PCT) had been modelled as occurring within 5 km of the subject land (Riverina SVTM, OEH 2016), and the primary aim of the preliminary February 2023 field investigation was to validate the PCTs (and TECs) present within the subject land and immediate surrounds.

A total of 16 PCTs were confirmed as present during the field investigation, ranging from wetlands and woodland / wetlands, to drier sandplain / sand hill woodlands, chenopod shrubland and grasslands (Figure 2, p46 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment). Vegetation condition ranged from high condition in areas less subject to historical pressures such as clearing and grazing, to low condition in areas of ongoing disturbance from agricultural activities. The majority of the subject land's vegetation is considered to be in moderate ecological condition, subject to some level of historical/ongoing disturbance but a generally lower level of current negative pressures such as exotic species infestations, erosion, overgrazing, trampling etc.

The 16 PCTs recorded with the subject land include:

- **PCT 10 River Red Gum – Black Box Woodland Wetland**
- **PCT 13 Black Box – Lignum Woodland Wetland**
- **PCT 15 Black Box Open Woodland**
- **PCT 17 Lignum Shrubland**
- **PCT 23 Yarran tall open Shurbland**
- **PCT 24 Canegarss Swamp Grassland**
- **PCT 26 Weeping Myall Open Woodland**
- **PCT 28 White Cypress Pine Woodland**
- **PCT 44 Forb-rich Speargrass**

- **PCT 45 Plains Grass Grassland**
- **PCT 46 Curly Windmill Grass Grassland**
- **PCT 159 Old Man Saltbush Shrubland**
- **PCT 160 Nitre Goosefoot Shrubland**
- **PCT 163 Dillonbush Shrubland**
- **PCT 164 Cottonbush Shrubland**

Up to two EPBC TECs have been assessed as likely to be present within the subject land, one confirmed TEC being Myall Woodland, and one potential TEC, Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains, which requires further assessment to confirm presence. NSW BC Act listed Sandhill Pine Woodland was also recorded, and Acacia melvillei Shrubland was found to be potentially present within the broader Pottinger Energy Park boundary, approximately 11 kilometres south-west of the subject land.

- **Confirmed TECs:**
  - **Myall Woodlands:**
    - **Weeping Myall Woodlands – EPBC Act EEC**
    - **Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray-Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions - BC Act EEC**
  - **Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions – BC Act EEC**
- **Potential TECs:**
  - **Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains – EPBC Act CEEC**
  - **Acacia melvillei Shrubland in the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression bioregions – BC Act EEC**

Further detailed information is provided in Section 4 p19-49 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment (Biosis).

Soils mapped as present within the study area include the following NSW (Mitchell) Landscapes (Mitchell 2002)

Murrumbidgee Channels and Floodplains

Quaternary alluvium on seasonally inundated floodplains, active and inactive channels, billabongs, levees and swamps of the Murrumbidgee River and its effluent streams. Relief to 10m. Includes scalded alluvial flats, broad elevated floodplains and associated relict channels; isolated sandy rises, relief to 5m. Grey and brown clay with occasional areas of low sandy rise.

Murrumbidgee Depression Plains

Quaternary alluvial plains with numerous circular depressions interpreted as high floodplains or low terraces beyond the reach of average floodwaters, relief to 10m. Grey to brown clays and clay loams with linear patterns of sandy prior streams.

Murrumbidgee Scalded Plains

Quaternary alluvial plains with extensive scalding interpreted as relic floodplains or terraces. Grey, brown and red cracking clays, red brown texture-contrast soils with scalds. Levees traces evident, relief generally <1m, up to 5m on associated pans, swamps and lunettes.

Murrumbidgee Source-bordering Dunes

Sandy rises adjacent to river channels and along prior streambeds, deep red and brown sands and loams, relief 3 to 12m. Often heavily grazed and subject to wind erosion.

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.

Consistent with Section 6.6 p68-69 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm, no Commonwealth Heritage listed places were identified within the subject land or a 30 km radius.

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

As described in Section 6.5 p66-68 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm, the Project Area is situated on the lands of Wiradjuri people within the Hay and Deniliquin LALCs. The Wiradjuri people occupied and settled along the current rivers, as well as ancient rivers that now exist as

palaeochannels (i.e. rivers that have been filled with sediment). Records in the nearby Murray-Darling

Basin, around 200 km north west of the Project Area, indicate some of the oldest dates of occupation

indicating a long association with the land in this region.

Previous studies indicate that the landscape features within the Project Area with archaeological potential

include (Martin, S., Beck, W. and Davidson, I., 2007):

• Rivers – with the greatest concentration of potential archaeological sites were identified within close

proximity to water courses (i.e. within 12 km of river channels, particularly those with sandy

paleochannel features, and within 8 km of lakes);

• Open plains – in areas where wind and water erosion has stripped the topsoil along channelled plains

and which may be associated with burials;

• Large (former) open water lakes – identified to have a higher than average artefact site density' and

• Mounds – characterised by material such as ash, charcoal, fauna remains and occasionally burials and

which have been noted to be particularly dense along active and ancient streams within the Project

Area.

In addition to Aboriginal archaeological sites, it is also noted that there are significant cultural values

associated with the land in the Murrumbidgee Province. Aboriginal Dreaming is inextricably linked to the

land and common Dreaming sites along the Hay Plains may include landscape features such as bends in the

river, waterholes, palaeochannels, lakes, hills, trees or other minor features (Martin, S., & Pardoe, C., 2001).

An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database was

carried out in February 2023 for the Project Area and a buffer of 15 km. Three AHIMS sites (comprising

hearth, artefact scatters and culturally modified trees) were identified within the Project Area associated with

the Project EnergyConnect.

Section 6.5 p66-68 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm also describes the methodology for the proposed Aboriginal heritage assessment to be prepared as part of the EIS, including extensive engagement,.

3.4 Hydrology

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

The following section is consistent with Section 6.4 p56-65 and 6.10 p73-74 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm. Hydrological features occur within the subject land include channels, creeks, drainage lines and farm dams. The aquatic ecological communities within the subject land and broader locality are typified by wetland specialist and lowland river generalists, generally comprising highly modified watercourses, altered flow regimes, channel formation, diversions and removal or modification of riparian vegetation. Nevertheless, during peak periods and overflow, parts of subject land and surrounds provide significant habitat for a diverse range, and large number of species.

Aquatic and riparian areas provide a valuable and often essential resource for fauna and flora species. Within the subject land, aquatic habitats are considered to be in poor to moderate condition state generally, and provide sub-optimal to optimal habitat for aquatic species. However, this may include during a wetter season, important habitat for a range of wetland and migratory birds species.

Three main watercourses exist with Nyangay Creek and Eurolie Creek traversing the subject land in a north-east to south-west manner, flowing nearly in parallel through the central portion of the subject land, with Coleambally Outfall Drain, a concrete-lined irrigation channel, flowing generally east to west across the southern portion of the subject land, to its confluence with Eurolie Creek. Smaller tributaries of Nyangay Creek and Curtains Creek, also occur in the north-western potion of the subject land. Two large naturally occurring wetland areas, dominated by Nitre Goosefoot shrublands, occur in the north-eastern portion of the subject land. These wetlands were saturated during the field investigations undertaken in February 2023, and both were found to be providing habitat to a large number of waterbirds at the time. A number of small to moderate sized farm dams occur across the subject land, however of particular note is the large (400 meters x 400 metres approx.), elevated irrigation dam present at the confluence of the Coleambally Outfall Drain and Eurolie Creek.

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. *

None identified within the subject land or a 30km radius.

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. *

None identified within the subject land or a 30 km radius.

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 Wetlands of International Importance within the subject land or 30 km buffer. The closest Ramsar Wetlands, based on a PMST search include:

- **Banrock Station Wetland Complex (300 – 400 km downstream).**
- **The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland (400 – 500 km downstream).**
- **Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes (150 – 200 km downstream).**
- **Riverland (300 – 400 km downstream).**

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
No	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis
No	No	Austrostipa wakoolica
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus
Yes	Yes	Brachyscome papillosa
Yes	Yes	Calidris ferruginea
No	No	Climacteris picumnus victoriae
No	No	Crinia sloanei
Yes	Yes	Falco hypoleucos
No	Yes	Galaxias rostratus
Yes	Yes	Grantiella picta
No	No	Hemiaspis damelii
No	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus
No	No	Lathamus discolor
Yes	Yes	Lepidium monoplocoides
Yes	No	Litoria raniformis
Yes	Yes	Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri
No	No	Maccullochella macquariensis
No	No	Maccullochella peelii
No	No	Macquaria australasica
Yes	Yes	Maireana cheelii
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis
No	No	Nyctophilus corbeni
Yes	Yes	Pedionomus torquatus
No	No	Pezoporus occidentalis
Yes	Yes	Polytelis swainsonii
Yes	Yes	Rostratula australis
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata
Yes	Yes	Swainsona murrayana

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

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. *

Further detail on MNES, specifically Threatened Species and Endangered Communities is provided in Section 4, p19-49 and Section 5 p50-58 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment .

The construction of wind turbine infrastructure, access roads and associated facilities for the operation of the Project would require clearing of vegetation and some reshaping of the topography and landscape. These activities may result in a direct and long-term impact on the occurrence, extent and coverage of threatened flora and fauna species and ecological communities.

Indirect impacts may include the loss of feeding, refuge and breeding habitat for threatened fauna, including habitat fragmentation and the loss of habitat connectivity. Fragmentation and loss of connectivity for threatened ecological communities may also occur, with carry on effects such as reduced gene flow between flora communities.

Direct and indirect impacts during the construction phase may include clearing, changes to water flow/floodplains, sedimentation, dust deposition, erosion, weed introduction and / or spread, vehicle / machinery strike, light and noise pollution, shading and vibration from the movement of equipment and vehicles.

Operational impacts are primarily associated with the risk of turbine collision and barrier effects to threatened and protected bird and bat species. Threatened species most at risk are considered to be those with potential for ongoing population impacts once the project is operational, this includes migrating (local, regional, international) or nomadic waterbirds, which may be less able to manoeuvre around operational turbine blades. One movement through the operational wind farm may have a local population-level impact on some species. Ongoing collisions may affect the population as a whole.

Bird and Bat Utilisation Surveys are currently being undertaken to understand potential operational risk of the Project. It is intended to undertake Bird and Bat Utilisation Surveys for two years (eight seasons) prior to project commissioning.

Barriers to local waterbird movement between wetlands on the Murrumbidgee River Floodplain and other wetlands to the south may also be an indirect impact.

EPBC Act listed species and communities (MNES)

This preliminary assessment has determined the following MNES are st some risk of impact:

- **Threatened Ecological Communities:**
  - **Myall Woodlands - Likely to be impacted by direct clearing**
  - **Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains - Likely to be impacted by direct clearing**
- **Threatened species:**
  - **Plains Wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* - Likely to be impacted by clearing of habitat**
  - **Collision risk to MNES (i.e. indirect impacts to the following species)**
    - **Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii***
    - **Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***
    - **Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos***
    - **White-throated Needle-tail *Hirundapus caudacutus***
    - **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri***
    - **Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta***
    - **Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis***
  - **Direct impacts (likely/potential) from the removal of native vegetation**
    - **Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii***
    - **Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***
    - **Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos***
    - **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri***
    - **Slender Darling Pea *Swainsona murrayana***
    - **Southern Bell Frog *Litoria raniformis***
    - **Chariot Wheels *Maireana cheelii***
    - **Mosgiel Daisy *Brachyscome papillosa***
    - **Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta***
    - **Winged Peppercress *Lepidium monoplocoides***

Further information on expected key impacts to MNES include:

Weeping Myall Woodlands

Weeping Myall Woodlands occurs within the subject land as both the BC Act listed and EPBC Act listed community in the form of PCT 26. Up to 7.99 hectares of may be impacted by the project based on the current indicative development footprint.

All areas of Weeping myall woodland are considered a high constraint for this project and will be subject to ongoing avoidance and impact minimisation efforts.

Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains

The Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains TEC has the potential to occur within the subject land due to its association with PCT 44, 45 and 46. This TEC is limited to specific types of grasslands, with low cover of woody plants, characteristic of the grasslands recorded at the subject land, however further detailed investigation is required to determine the floristic composition of the grasslands. The subject land also occurs at or beyond the natural geographic extant of the TEC. Up to 65.36 ha PCTs 44, 45 and 46, potentially representing Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains TEC, may be impacted by the project based on the current indicative development footprint.

Plains Wanderer

Plains Wanderer is likely to hold the highest EPBC Act threatened species significant impact risk for the project. Mapped important habitat under the BAM for the species has been identified, alongside this a number of recent records for this species are present throughout a 10 kilometre buffer of the subject land, including records linking the subject land directly to a known population of Plains Wanderer within Oolambeyan National Park.

Plains Wanderer is traditionally associated with the grassland PCTs (PCT 44,45,46) occurring within the subject land, and is also known to occur in a number of habitats fringing grassland areas and within saltbush communities (i.e. PCT 164). Initial biodiversity constraints have recommended all areas of mapped important habitat under the BAM are avoided as a No-Go areas for development, however thorough assessment of this species' presence will be required and completed during the BDAR process. This process will including mapping of all suitable habitat, targeted surveys and detailed recommendations to continue to apply the avoid and minimise impact principles to this Critically Endangered EPBC Act listed species.

Up to 4.89 ha of mapped important habitat under the BAM may be impacted by the project based on the current indicative development footprint. All areas of PCT 44, 45, 46 and 164 have the potential to constitute habitat for this species which equate to approximately 316.62 ha of potentially impacted habitat.

Other MNES

Other threatened species (as listed above) associated with PCTs within the subject land, listed under the EPBC Act will be assessed during the environmental impact assessment phase accordingly with offsets applied under the BAM and EPBC Act policies.

Collison risk to MNES

The subject land is located is within a semi-arid environment, with habitat comprising a variety of vegetation types as well as ephemeral periodically inundated waterways and wetlands, and more permanent water bodies such as irrigation dams, farm dams and irrigation channels. Habitat provided by native vegetation, waterbodies and periodically inundated wetlands are considered suitable for a number of threatened fauna, migratory listed species, raptors, flocking birds and wading or waterbirds. Collision risk is assessed as an operational impact against MNES and as a prescribed impact under the NSW BAM.

Threatened species, especially aerial species and migrating wetland species, may be subject to a higher risk from the Project due to WTG collision and movement corridor impacts, and areas of potential habitat have been subject to avoidance and minimisation from the outset of project design. Species with a higher risk of being impacted by wind farms are considered to be those with potential for ongoing population impacts during operation, such as:

- **Migrating, especially MNES listed Migratory or nomadic waterbirds, which may be less able to manoeuvre around operational turbine blades, and operational WTGs may also affect breeding viability, inclusive of large colonial nesting events.**
- **Raptors which may manoeuvre close to turbine blades to prey on carrion below. These species are at low density in the landscape and removal of even one breeding pair may be significant at a local level.**
- **Flocking birds e.g. Superb Parrot, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo may be subject to a large number of strikes in a single event that could impact local populations.**
- **Resident or colonial roosting bats that may fly within the rotor swept area.**

Threatened and migratory species known or predicted to occur within the subject land, and preliminarily determined to be most at-risk, based on a moderate or greater likelihood of occurrence, combined with a predicted high collision risk, are listed below (and further detailed in Table 6 p43 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment):

- **EPBC Act & BC Act listed species**
  - **Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***
  - **Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus***
  - **Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos***
  - **Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii***
  - **White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus***

The overall objectives of a Bird and Bat adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP) is to provide an effective monitoring program and strategy to manage and mitigate operational issues relating to bird and bat impacts for the wind farm. Guided by the collision risk modelling and assessment as well as the WTG risk assessment, and importantly, additional baseline data, a detailed BBAMP is likely to be required to be developed prior to project approval, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, to inform adaptive management measures around the potential for collision mortality, barrier effects and behavioural displacement of resident, nomadic and migratory bird and bat species.

Construction and operational management plans will all contain an adaptive management and ongoing monitoring component. Adaptive management strategies will be receptive to any new and relevant data that may arise through ongoing assessment and monitoring and is key to the successful implementation of crucial objectives yet also allow flexibility to changing dynamics and ongoing feedback and results. Further detailed information is provided in Section 5 p50-58 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment

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. *

Further flora and fauna studies will confirm biodiversity impacts, during the preparation of an EIS, which will be subject to ongoing avoidance and minimisation efforts. At this stage however, given the potential nature and scale of the Project and expected residual impacts, an EPBC Act referral on the basis of potentially significantly impacts to Commonwealth listed threatened species and ecological communities is considered warranted.

Significant impacts have the potential to occur to MNES in relation to the following:

- **Direct impacts:**
  - **Long-term decrease in a population size**
  - **Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species**
  - **Disrupt the breeding cycle of a species**
  - **Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is**
    likely to decline
- **Indirect impacts:**
  - **Long-term decrease in a population size**
  - **Disrupt the breeding cycle of a species**

Further detailed assessment in accordance with Commonwealth Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 will be undertaken during the EIS stage and once further detail is known around project design.

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. *

Further flora and fauna studies will confirm biodiversity impacts, during the preparation of an EIS, which will be subject to ongoing avoidance and minimisation efforts. At this stage however, given the potential nature and scale of the Project and expected residual impacts, an EPBC Act referral on the basis of potentially significantly impacts to Commonwealth listed threatened species and ecological communities is considered warranted.

Thus on the basis of potential significant impacts to threatened species and ecological communities, the proposed action is considered likely to be a Controlled Action.

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. *

Avoidance and minimisation of impacts

The avoidance and minimisation of impacts to biodiversity values is a requirement under both state and Commonwealth legislation, and will be implemented throughout the Project. Avoidance and minimisation has already occurred in the initial project design phases, as a result of the initial desktop biodiversity constraints prepared by Biosis, prior to the February field investigation.

Initial desktop biodiversity constraints included larger, more conservative buffers around some higher constraint biodiversity items (based on desktop assessment only). Some avoidance buffers have been reduced following ground validation of habitat values. Biodiversity constraints have been considered at the preliminary design phase of the Project. Initial impact avoidance and minimisation strategies have been considered.

Application of the avoidance and minimisation principles in the initial pre-scoping stage of the Project has resulted in the following:

- **Areduction in the total number of WTGs proposed from 129 down to 108.**
- **No WTGs being located in No Go areas (Plains Wanderer SAll habitat).**
- **Refining the Project area to avoid high biodiversity and hydrological values identified in the original project area.**
- **Focussing development on grazed land and utilising existing tracks and access to minimise clearing.**
- **Considering wind turbine and power line exclusion zone buffers around floodplain wetlands, seasonal creek lines/flood runners and woodland patches.**
- **Minimising and/or avoiding development in areas of greater collision risk to resident birds, bats and migratory species.**
- **Considering floodplain function and flooding events in project design to minimise hydrological disruption within the landscape.**
- **No WTGs in High Constraint areas along major watercourses.**
- **Impact minimisation including minor shifts to WTG locations out of High Constraint areas where possible.**
- **Moving roads out of No Go areas where possible.**
- **Moving other ancillary infrastructure out of No Go and High Constraint areas where possible.**
- **Locating ancillary infrastructure (especially permanent infrastructure) in Moderate Constraint, or Low Constraint where possible.**

It should be noted that areas of mapped Low Constraint in the south-western portion of the subject land support existing operational agricultural activities, and as such are not available for development, hence no project infrastructure located in these areas.

Mitigation strategies that will be fully investigated during the EIS phase include:

- **Micro-siting (or removal) of turbine placements to minimise native vegetation and threatened species habitat removal, and to minimise collision risk to birds and bats. Collision risk can be minimised during the design of the**

project by avoiding areas of highest constraint and including mapped wetland areas and woodland PCTs likely to contain habitat for birds and microbats. Avoidance of areas where bird and bat activity is likely to be highest will reduce potential curtailment requirements if strikes were to occur.

- **Operational mitigation options including bird/bat deterrence measures and curtailment options (programmed or on-demand curtailment) to minimise collision risks.**

Bird and Bat adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP)

ABBAMP is to be prepared. The BBAMP is to provide an effective monitoring program and strategy to manage and mitigate operational issues relating to bird and bat impacts for the wind farm. Guided by the collision risk modelling and assessment as well as the WTG risk assessment, and importantly, additional baseline data, a detailed BBAMP is likely to be required to be developed prior to project approval (based on recent feedback from BCS on contemporary wind farm development application), in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, to inform adaptive management measures around the potential for collision mortality, barrier effects and behavioural displacement of resident, nomadic and migratory bird and bat species.

The BBAMP would include baseline data on threatened bird and bat species as well as those considered at moderate risk surrounding the development that could potentially be affected. One of the key objectives for the collection of detailed baseline data is to gather adequate information that can be replicated on the existing bird and bat species abundance prior to commencement of construction of the wind farm. This includes the setup of impact zones and control zones that would be monitored pre-construction and upon operation for an agreed amount of time. The data collected will be utilised to detect changes in the species use (including changes in activity patterns such as avoidance) of the site post-construction and during operation of the wind farm and allow for stringent mitigation measures to be implemented as and when they are required to be.

Wind and powerline constraints

Modelled biodiversity constraints for the Project have been developed in accordance with the hierarchy and method (refer to Attachment 2, Table 2 and Figure 4). Higher level constraints for wind farm projects, generally relate to the risk of impact associated with turbine strike and overhead powerline collisions, particularly for threatened and protected bird and bat species. Impacts of this nature are generally considered to be significant by regulators, and have been, and will continue to be, avoided and minimised by the Project.

Civil works constraints

Modelled biodiversity constraints for civil works associated with the Project have been developed in accordance with the hierarchy and method (refer to Table 2 p14 and Figure 4 p58 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment). Higher level constraints for civil works (i.e. roads, hardstands, WTG and transmission line towers, ancillary facility etc.), generally relate to direct and indirect impacts to TECs, threatened species populations and habitats, and areas of native vegetation.

High constraints for civil works where proposed development has been minimised, including areas within 100 to 300 meters of Mapped Important Areas of habitat for Plains Wanderer, reducing potential for indirect impacts to the highly sensitive species.

Further high level constraints are included for areas mapped as TECs (or potential TECs) listed under state or Commonwealth legislation. The Project will avoid these areas wherever possible to ensure the BC Act and EPBC Act requirement for avoidance and minimisation of impacts to biodiversity values is implemented. Mapped (potential) TECs include areas of the EPBC Act listed Critically Endangered Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains, which has the potential to occur in areas of natural grasslands across the subject land. Further detailed data collection is required to confirm the presence/absence of this TEC within the subject land, however all areas of potential TEC have been conservatively mapped as the TEC to ensure avoidance and minimisation of impacts is considered in these areas from the outset of project design.

Further detailed information is provided in the Section 5.3 p56-58 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessmen (Biosis)

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

The BOS and EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (Commonwealth of Australia 2012) are expected to apply to the assessment, generating an offset requirement for the Project. An appropriate mechanism to satisfy the Project's offset credit obligation will be established.

An offset requirement for the project's residual impacts will be determined in accordance with the BAM (as allowable under the Assessment Bilateral Agreement), which will secured via (but not limited to):

- **Acquiring or retiring credits that are publicly available.**
- **Establishing a Biodiversity Stewardship Site (or multiple sites).**
- **Making payments into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund using the offsets payment calculator.**

The above listed offsetting options have been endorsed by the Commonwealth, and all offsets for MNES subject to significant impacts will be secured in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy.

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
No	Yes	Actitis hypoleucos
No	No	Apus pacificus
No	Yes	Calidris acuminata
Yes	Yes	Calidris ferruginea
No	Yes	Calidris melanotos
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii
No	Yes	Motacilla flava
No	No	Myiagra cyanoleuca
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis
No	Yes	Plegadis falcinellus
No	Yes	Tringa stagnatilis

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. *

A total of 10 listed migratory species are predicted to occur within the subject land and 30km buffer. Those considered most likely to occur include:

- **Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***
- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata***
- **Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos***
- **Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***
- **Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***
- **Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (note this species was not predicted to occur by the PMST search, however it is considered highly likely to occur in the subject land)**

The above species are most at risk from indirect, operational impacts primarily associated with the risk of turbine collision and barrier effects to threatened and protected bird and bat species. MNES most at risk are considered to be those with potential for ongoing population impacts once the project is operational, this includes migrating (local, regional, international) or nomadic waterbirds, which may be less able to manoeuvre around operational turbine blades. One movement through the operational wind farm may have a local population-level impact on some species. Ongoing collisions may affect the population as a whole.

Bird and Bat Utilisation Surveys are currently being undertaken to understand potential operational risk of the Project. It is intended to undertake Bird and Bat Utilisation Surveys for two years (eight seasons) prior to project commissioning.

Barriers to local waterbird movement between wetlands on the Murrumbidgee River Floodplain and other wetlands to the south may also be an indirect impact.

Collison risk to MNES

The subject land is located is within a semi-arid environment, with habitat comprising a variety of vegetation types as well as ephemeral periodically inundated waterways and wetlands, and more permanent water bodies such as irrigation dams, farm dams and irrigation channels. Habitat provided by native vegetation, waterbodies and periodically inundated wetlands are considered suitable for a number of threatened fauna, migratory listed species, raptors, flocking birds and wading or waterbirds. Collision risk is assessed as an operational impact against MNES and as a prescribed impact under the NSW BAM.

MNES, especially aerial species and migrating wetland species, may be subject to a higher risk from the Project due to WTG collision and movement corridor impacts, and areas of potential habitat have been subject to avoidance and minimisation from the outset of project design. Species with a higher risk of being impacted by wind farms are considered to be those with potential for ongoing population impacts during operation, such as:

- **Migrating, especially MNES listed Migratory or nomadic waterbirds, which may be less able to manoeuvre around operational turbine blades, and operational WTGs may also affect breeding viability, inclusive of large colonial nesting events.**

Further detailed information is provided in Section 5 p50-58 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment (Biosis)

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

Yes

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

Further migratory bird utilisation studies will confirm biodiversity impacts, during the preparation of an EIS, which will be subject to ongoing avoidance and minimisation efforts. At this stage however, given the potential nature and scale of the Project and expected residual impacts, an EPBC Act referral on the basis of potentially significantly impacts to Commonwealth listed migratory species is considered warranted.

Significant impacts have the potential to occur to MNES in relation to the following:

- **Indirect impacts:**
  - **Long-term decrease in a population size**
  - **Disrupt the breeding cycle of a species**

Further detailed assessment in accordance with Commonwealth Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 will be undertaken during the EIS stage and once further detail is known around project design.

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

Yes

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

Further migratory bird utilisation studies will confirm biodiversity impacts, during the preparation of an EIS, which will be subject to ongoing avoidance and minimisation efforts. At this stage however, given the potential nature and scale of the Project and expected residual impacts, an EPBC Act referral on the basis of potentially significantly impacts to Commonwealth listed migratory species is considered warranted.

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

Avoidance and minimisation of impacts

The avoidance and minimisation of impacts to biodiversity values is a requirement under both state and Commonwealth legislation, and will be implemented throughout the Project. Avoidance and minimisation has already occurred in the initial project design phases, as a result of the initial desktop biodiversity constraints prepared by Biosis, prior to the February field investigation.

Initial desktop biodiversity constraints included larger, more conservative buffers around some higher constraint biodiversity items (based on desktop assessment only). Some avoidance buffers have been reduced following ground validation of habitat values. Biodiversity constraints have been considered at the preliminary design phase of the Project. Initial impact avoidance and minimisation strategies have been considered.

Application of the avoidance and minimisation principles in the initial pre-scoping stage of the Project has resulted in the following:

- A reduction in the total number of WTGs proposed from 129 down to 108.
- No WTGs being located in No Go areas (Plains Wanderer SAII habitat).
- Refining the Project area to avoid high biodiversity and hydrological values identified in the original project area.
- Focussing development on grazed land and utilising existing tracks and access to minimise clearing.
- Considering wind turbine and power line exclusion zone buffers around floodplain wetlands, seasonal creek lines/flood runners and woodland patches.
- Minimising and/or avoiding development in areas of greater collision risk to resident birds, bats and migratory species.
- Considering floodplain function and flooding events in project design to minimise hydrological disruption within the landscape.
- No WTGs in High Constraint areas along major watercourses.
- Impact minimisation including minor shifts to WTG locations out of High Constraint areas where possible.
- Moving roads out of No Go areas where possible.
- Moving other ancillary infrastructure out of No Go and High Constraint areas where possible.
- Locating ancillary infrastructure (especially permanent infrastructure) in Moderate Constraint, or Low Constraint where possible.

It should be noted that areas of mapped Low Constraint in the south-western portion of the subject land support existing operational agricultural activities, and as such are not available for development, hence no project infrastructure located in these areas.

Mitigation strategies that will be fully investigated during the EIS phase include:

Micro-siting (or removal) of turbine placements to minimise native vegetation and threatened species habitat removal, and to minimise collision risk to birds and bats. Collision risk can be minimised during the design of the project by avoiding areas of highest constraint and including mapped wetland areas and woodland PCTs likely to contain habitat for birds and microbats. Avoidance of areas where bird and bat activity is likely to be highest will reduce potential curtailment requirements if strikes were to occur.

Operational mitigation options including bird/bat deterrence measures and curtailment options (programmed or on-demand curtailment) to minimise collision risks.

Bird and Bat adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP)

A BBAMP is to be prepared. The BBAMP is to provide an effective monitoring program and strategy to manage and mitigate operational issues relating to bird and bat impacts for the wind farm. Guided by the collision risk modelling and assessment as well as the WTG risk assessment, and importantly, additional baseline data, a detailed BBAMP is likely to be required to be developed prior to project approval (based on recent feedback from BCS on contemporary wind farm development application), in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, to inform adaptive management measures around the potential for collision mortality, barrier effects and behavioural displacement of resident, nomadic and migratory bird and bat species.

The BBAMP would include baseline data on threatened bird and bat species as well as those considered at moderate risk surrounding the development that could potentially be affected. One of the key objectives for the collection of detailed baseline data is to gather adequate information that can be replicated on the existing bird and bat species abundance prior to commencement of construction of the wind farm. This includes the setup of impact zones and control zones that would be monitored pre-construction and upon operation for an agreed amount of time. The data collected will be utilised to detect changes in the species use (including changes in activity patterns such as avoidance) of the site post-construction and during operation of the wind farm and allow for stringent mitigation measures to be implemented as and when they are required to be.

Wind and powerline constraints

Modelled biodiversity constraints for the Project have been developed in accordance with the hierarchy and method (refer to Table 2 p14 and Figure 4 p58 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment). Higher level constraints for wind farm projects, generally relate to the risk of impact associated with turbine strike and overhead powerline collisions, particularly for threatened and protected bird and bat species. Impacts of this nature are generally considered to be significant by regulators, and have been, and will continue to be, avoided and minimised by the Project.

Civil works constraints

Modelled biodiversity constraints for civil works associated with the Project have been developed in accordance with the hierarchy and method (refer to Attachment 2, Table 2 and Figure 4). Higher level constraints for civil works (i.e. roads, hardstands, WTG and transmission line towers, ancillary facility etc.), generally relate to direct and indirect impacts to TECs, threatened species populations and habitats, and areas of native vegetation.

High constraints for civil works where proposed development has been minimised, including areas within 100 to 300 meters of Mapped Important Areas of habitat for Plains Wanderer, reducing potential for indirect impacts to the highly sensitive species.

Further high level constraints are included for areas mapped as TECs (or potential TECs) listed under state or Commonwealth legislation. The Project will avoid these areas wherever possible to ensure the BC Act and EPBC Act requirement for avoidance and minimisation of impacts to biodiversity values is implemented. Mapped (potential) TECs include areas of the EPBC Act listed Critically Endangered Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains, which has the potential to occur in areas of natural grasslands across the subject land. Further detailed data collection is required to confirm the presence/absence of this TEC within the subject land, however all areas of potential TEC have been conservatively mapped as the TEC to ensure avoidance and minimisation of impacts is considered in these areas from the outset of project design.

Further detailed information is provided in the Section 5.3 p56-58 of the attached Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessmen (Biosis)

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

The BOS and EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (Commonwealth of Australia 2012) are expected to apply to the assessment, generating an offset requirement for the Project. An appropriate mechanism to satisfy the Project's offset credit obligation will be established.

An offset requirement for the project's residual impacts will be determined in accordance with the BAM (as allowable under the Assessment Bilateral Agreement), which will secured via (but not limited to):

Acquiring or retiring credits that are publicly available.

Establishing a Biodiversity Stewardship Site (or multiple sites).

Making payments into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund using the offsets payment calculator.

The above listed offsetting options have been endorsed by the Commonwealth, and all offsets for MNES subject to significant impacts will be secured in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy.

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. *

Not applicable to this project or site/ area.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

None identified within the subject land or a 30 km radius.

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. *

None identified within the subject land or a 30 km radius.

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. *

None identified within the subject land or a 30 km radius.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

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

No

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

No Commonwealth land will be directly or indirectly impacted by the project

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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

No

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

No Commonwealth heritage places will be directly or indirectly impacted by the project

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)
- Migratory Species (S20)

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)
- 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. *

Alternatives Considered

No Project

The Project Boundary is currently used for broad acre sheep grazing. The “do nothing” scenario would allow for broad acre sheep grazing to continue however would forgo up to 450 Full Time Empoyee (FTE) jobs during construction and associated direct and indirect economic inputs to the local and regional economy of approximately $330 million during construction and $30 million during Operations. The Project’s capital investment and associated flow on effects would also not be realised.

Proposed community contributions via a Voluntary Planning Agreement and Community Benefit Fund would also not be realised.

The “do nothing” approach does not meet the objectives to develop renewable energy projects in NSW and does support the project objectives.

The Project aims to generate renewable energy and limit production of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs). To not progress the Project would not result in savings of 1.2 Mtpa of GHG and powering of 380,000 households annually. Not developing the Project would be a missed opportunity to contribute to the reduction of Australia’s use of fossil fuels for energy generation.

Alternative Sourcing of Energy

The Project lies within the area between Buronga, Hillston and Deniliquin within South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) declared in 2022.

The South West REZ policy (with other REZs) will provide up to 12 GW of renewable energy capacity in NSW. The Project will provide up to 750 MW alone.

The expected benefits of the NSW REZs are to provide: more reliable energy from significant amounts of renewable energy supply, provide energy bill savings, reduce emissions, and create community partnerships (EnergyCo, 2023).

Alternative Site Location

During Project pre-feasibility, the Applicant assessed up to three locations within the South West REZ for the Project. Primarily for biodiversity constraints reasons, the Project Area was selected as the lowest impact.

A preliminary social assessment also identified a higher level of non-associated dwelling density around other sites.

Maximised Site Layout

During pre-feasibility, upon confirmation of the proposed location, the Applicant identified a layout which maximised energy output and economic benefits to the State.

The Maximum Site Layout included 127 WTG's and approximately 500 ha of overall disturbance. Biodiversity constraints have been presented on a worst-case scenario basis to allow for consideration of impact minimisation over the life of the project, and strategies are likely to be able to be developed that balance impact minimisation with maximising the benefits a project of this nature can provide.

An iterative process was utilised to determine the optimum number of WTGs and associated infrastructure in relation to preliminary environmental assessment findings.

Further information is provided in Section 3.5 p29-32 of the attached Scoping Report for the Pottinger Wind Farm

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Scoping Report.reduce.pdf Scoping report for Pottinger Wind Farm	17/08/2023	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-..			High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	38557.PottingerEnergyPark.WindFarm.MNES.PrelimBioAssessment.FIN01.20230802.pdf Pottinger Wind Farm Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment	17/08/2023		High
#2.	Document	Scoping Report.reduce.pdf Scoping report for Pottinger Wind Farm	16/08/2023		High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	NSW ecosystems study: background and methodology, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/con..			High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link				

		Policy guiding the use of offsets under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publi..		High

4.1.5.11 (Migratory Species) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Policy guiding the use of offsets under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publi..			High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Renewable Energy Zone locations https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/renewable-energy..			High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	65006175097
Organisation name	BIOSIS PTY LTD
Organisation address	14/17-27 Power Avenue, Alexandria, Sydney, NSW, 2015
Representative's name	Catriona Sexton
Representative's job title	Graduate Environmental Planner
Phone	0438044476
Email	csexton@biosis.com.au
Address	38 Bertie Street, Port Melbourne, 3207

☑ 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, **Catriona Sexton of BIOSIS PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

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	59656520437
Organisation name	POTTINGER RENEWABLES PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Tim Mead
Representative's job title	Development Director
Phone	0419900277
Email	tim.m@someva.com.au
Address	38 Young Street, Sydney, 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, **Tim Mead of POTTINGER RENEWABLES 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, **Tim Mead of POTTINGER RENEWABLES 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. *