

Hellyer Wind Farm

Application Number: **01048**Commencement Date: **11/04/2022**Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Hellyer 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 *

1/01/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

1/01/2056

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Hellyer Wind Farm is a wind energy project, involving up to 48 wind turbines generating up to 300 megawatts (MW) of power. The project is sited on privately owned land, currently used for commercial forestry operations, in northwest Tasmania. The site is dominated by existing plantations, and the majority of proposed infrastructure will be located within these plantation areas, to limit the clearance of native vegetation.

The preferred turbine model is yet to be selected. At this stage the following turbine specifications are proposed, subject to change during the design phase - generating capacity (up to 8 MW), hub height (160 m), blade length (90 m), tip height (250 m), maximum turbine number (48). The model selected will influence the final number of turbines and layout, all of which will be contained within the nominated project area shown on the attached maps.

Turbine layout will be dependent on several factors including wind modelling, eagle nesting sites, proximity to existing infrastructure and other site constraints, which will become apparent during the detailed site investigation phase. The majority of turbines are expected to be sited within existing plantations, avoiding impact on native vegetation.

Preliminary investigations, including early stage wind monitoring and eagle nest searches, have been undertaken and have informed the preliminary layout (Att 1, Figure 1). A minimum 1 km buffer has been applied to all known eagle nest sites.

Each turbine will be connected via underground cables, and possibly overhead powerlines, to new collector substations, within the project area. At this stage the project is expected to involve one or two new collector substations. To transfer power from the collector substations to the grid, two options are currently being considered.

Option 1: A new connection switchyard, located centrally on site, that would connect to the existing 110kV line (Hampshire – Waratah Tee). This option would involve the construction of a new switchyard within the project site, but otherwise does not rely on any new transmission infrastructure beyond that already available.

Option 2: A new transmission line to be constructed from the collector substation(s) within the site through to the north eastern project boundary, to connect into the proposed 220kV Hampshire Hills switchyard (likely to be located just north of the project site, but final location yet to be determined). The proposed Hampshire Hills switchyard is not part of this proposal, but is being separately proposed by TasNetworks. As such, this option relies on infrastructure currently being proposed by other parties.

One of these two connection options will ultimately be selected. Option 2 is reliant on new transmission infrastructure being constructed by other parties (TasNetworks), and therefore is not a certainty. Option 1, however, connects to an existing transmission line crossing the project site and will be utilised if the new switchyard proposed by TasNetworks does not eventuate.

Additionally, the following ancillary elements are proposed (noting additional minor components may be identified during the design phase):

- A permanent Operations and Maintenance Building and storage area;
- Several permanent wind monitoring masts;
- Preferential use of existing roads and tracks within the site where possible, with the possibility of upgrades or widening of these existing roads and tracks if needed;
- Where existing access routes are insufficient, the construction of new roads and tracks connecting turbines and transmission infrastructure design with an all-weather surfacing;
- Temporary concrete batching plants for road base and foundation construction; and
- Temporary construction compound including site buildings (eg office, toilets etc.), laydown areas and car park.

The construction phase will also require quarried material (e.g. gravel) for foundations, roads, tracks and hardstands. This material may be sourced from existing quarries in the region, or new quarries within the project area (which, if required, will be sited to avoid environmental values. Construction is expected to take approximately 24 months.

The project area, preliminary infrastructure layout (subject to change), known eagle nest sites and other relevant landscape features are illustrated in Att 1 Figure 1.

The project area as shown in this referral is approximately 7,000 hectares, but the project footprint (disturbance area) will be a far smaller subset of this area, expected to be in the order of 465 hectares. The remaining 6,535 hectares (retention area) will be unaffected by the proposal but will continue to be used for silviculture as per existing operations.

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

Yes

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

No

1.2.4 Related referral(s)

EPBC Number	Project Title
2020/8797	Guildford Wind Farm

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

Epuron is also investigating another wind farm site nearby, the Guildford Wind Farm, which was subject to EPBC Act referral and deemed a controlled action in 2020. That project is being proposed by the same company but is separate and independent of this application.

There is no reliance between the two projects and no shared infrastructure (aside from existing public roads to be used for site access). Either project can proceed independently of the other.

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

The proposed wind farm is expected to require local and state government approval in Tasmania.

The project is subject to the provisions of the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme* and will be assessed by Burnie City Council as a discretionary planning permit application. This process is yet to commence.

The project is also subject to the provisions of the Tasmanian *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and is a Level 2 activity as stipulated under Schedule 2 of that Act (wind energy facility with capacity to generate more than 30 MW of electricity). This process is integrated with the local government assessment process and commences with the lodgment of a Notice of Intent to the Tasmanian EPA. The Notice of Intent is intended to be lodged in June 2022. The Tasmanian EPA and Burnie City Council will then undertake a combined planning and environmental assessment process for the project.

If the proposal is deemed a controlled action under the EPBC Act, Epuron seeks to have the project assessed pursuant to the Bilateral Agreement under Section 45 of the EPBC Act between Tasmanian and Australian governments.

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. *

Epuron is a founding signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects, a voluntary commitment to engage respectfully with communities, be sensitive to environmental and cultural values, and make a positive contribution to the regions in which it operates. The project team is made up of individuals with commercial and technical expertise in the unique development and management requirements of wind energy assets, and they work closely with landowners, community members, key stakeholders, government and industry organisations, to achieve the optimal outcome for each project.

Epuron commits to honouring the Best Practice Charter in its renewable energy projects.

Epuron's goals for stakeholder and community engagement are to:

- Ensure all stakeholders and the community are well informed and kept up to date on project status and developments.
- Obtain feedback and provide ample opportunities for all stakeholders and the community to communicate their views, concerns, and aspirations for the project.
- Address any stakeholder or community issues or concerns promptly.
- Work to minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits of the project for the local community.
- Wherever possible use stakeholder and community input to optimise the design.

In implementing stakeholder and community engagement Epuron commits to:

- Be proactive – connect with stakeholders and communities early in the process and regularly share information so they know what is happening and how they can interact with Epuron and provide feedback on the project.
- Be transparent – be honest and ethical in our dealings with all.
- Seek solutions – engage to understand and explore ways to minimise impacts and maximise the benefits of the project.
- Be flexible and inclusive – ensure that our engagement provides opportunities for all stakeholders and community members to have access to information and project personnel.
- Continually improve – evaluate the effectiveness of engagement and iteratively adapt the approach and activities as required.

The following stakeholder groups have been identified for the project to date:

- Elected Representatives
- Federal government agencies including Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Airservices Australia
- State government agencies including Environment Protection Authority Tasmania, Forest Practices Authority, Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania, TasNetworks, Department of State Growth, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, Heritage Tasmania and Tasmania Fire Service
- Local Councils including the relevant planning authority (Burnie City Council) and other neighbouring councils
- Nearby Communities including Tewkesbury, Hampshire, and Waratah
- Community Groups, other interest groups and stakeholders
- Landholders associated with the project (hosting wind farm infrastructure)
- Neighbouring residents

Further stakeholders will be identified as the project progresses.

Community Consultation Methods

Epuron utilises a variety of channels, methods and techniques for its stakeholder and community consultation, including direct correspondence via letter, email, phone call or meetings; project website and feedback form; newsletters; community information sessions and local media.

Consultation undertaken

To date, Epuron has carried out preliminary stakeholder and community engagement activities for the project:

- Introduced Epuron and the project to Burnie City Council (meeting) and neighbouring councils, namely Waratah-Wynyard, Kentish and Central Coast Councils (letter/email).
- Introduced Epuron and the project to local MPs for the electoral Division of Braddon (letter/email).
- Had discussions with TasNetworks regarding connection options (meeting).
- Sent a project introduction newsletter to surrounding communities in late 2020 and provided project updates in 2021 and early 2022.
- Engaged directly with interested stakeholders who have contacted Epuron.
- Held two introductory community information sessions in June 2022.

Proposed consultation

Epuron will develop a comprehensive Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan and register for the project and the project team will consult extensively based on that plan and the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) framework.

Epuron will continue to utilise a variety of channels, methods and techniques for its stakeholder and community engagement, in particular direct correspondence, meetings, project website updates, regular newsletters, information materials, local community information sessions and feedback mechanisms.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN	67141991004
Organisation name	ERA Planning and Environment
Organisation address	Level 1, 125A Elizabeth Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000

Referring party details

Name	Anahita Jungalwalla
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Job title	Manager Environment
Phone	03 6165 0443
Email	anahita@eraplanning.com.au
Address	Level 1, 125A Elizabeth Street, Hobart, 7000

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	84150163143
Organisation name	Epuron Projects Pty Ltd
Organisation address	Level 11, 75 Miller St, North Sydney, 2060, NSW, Australia
Person proposing to take the action details	
Name	Sandra Weinhold
Job title	Project Manager
Phone	(02)84567407
Email	s.weinhold@epuron.com.au
Address	Level 11, 75 Miller St, North Sydney, 2060, NSW, Australia

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

No

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

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. *

Epuron Projects Pty Ltd (Epuron) is one of the longest operating and most experienced renewable energy companies in Australia and specialises in green-field development of utility-scale wind and solar energy facilities.

Founded in 2003, Epuron has been leading the growth in Australia's wind energy generation capacity over the past two decades, including some of the country's earliest and largest wind farms. To date Epuron has designed and secured approval for seven major wind farms in New South Wales. Now owned by leading energy generators and retailers, four are in operation namely Cullerin Range Wind Farm (30 MW), Gullen Range Wind Farm (165.5 MW), White Rock Wind Farm (175 MW), and Silverton Wind Farm (200 MW)) and three are under or preparing for construction (Rye Park Wind Farm, Coppabella Wind Farm and Liverpool Range Wind Farm).

The company has 12 wind farm proposals in the planning phase in Tasmania, NSW and Queensland. In Tasmania, and in addition to the proposed Hellyer Wind Farm, Epuron has three proposed wind farms proceeding through the statutory approvals process; the proposed Western Plains Wind Farm north-west of Stanley, the proposed St Patricks Plains Wind Farm in the Central Highlands, and the proposed Guildford Wind Farm in north-west Tasmania. Epuron has also gained approvals for two solar farm projects in the north of the state.

Throughout all its renewable energy ventures Epuron has maintained a reputation for responsible environmental management and the promotion of renewable energy across Australia.

Epuron has not been subject to any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Since May 2022 Epuron Holdings Pty Ltd is now part of Ark Energy Corporation Pty Ltd, a wholly owned Australian subsidiary of Korea Zinc Co. Ltd. The development of the Hellyer Wind Farm will not be affected by the change in company ownership.

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	84150163143
Organisation name	Epuron Projects Pty Ltd
Organisation address	Level 11, 75 Miller St, North Sydney, 2060, NSW, Australia
Proposed designated proponent details	
Name	Sandra Weinhold
Job title	Project Manager
Phone	(02)84567407
Email	s.weinhold@epuron.com.au
Address	Level 11, 75 Miller St, North Sydney, 2060, NSW, Australia

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	67141991004
Organisation name	ERA Planning and Environment

Organisation address	Level 1, 125A Elizabeth Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000
Representative's name	Anahita Jungalwalla
Representative's job title	Manager Environment
Phone	03 6165 0443
Email	anahita@eraplanning.com.au
Address	Level 1, 125A Elizabeth Street, Hobart, 7000

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	84150163143
Organisation name	Epuron Projects Pty Ltd
Organisation address	Level 11, 75 Miller St, North Sydney, 2060, NSW, Australia
Representative's name	Sandra Weinhold
Representative's job title	Project Manager
Phone	(02)84567407
Email	s.weinhold@epuron.com.au
Address	Level 11, 75 Miller St, North Sydney, 2060, NSW, Australia

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

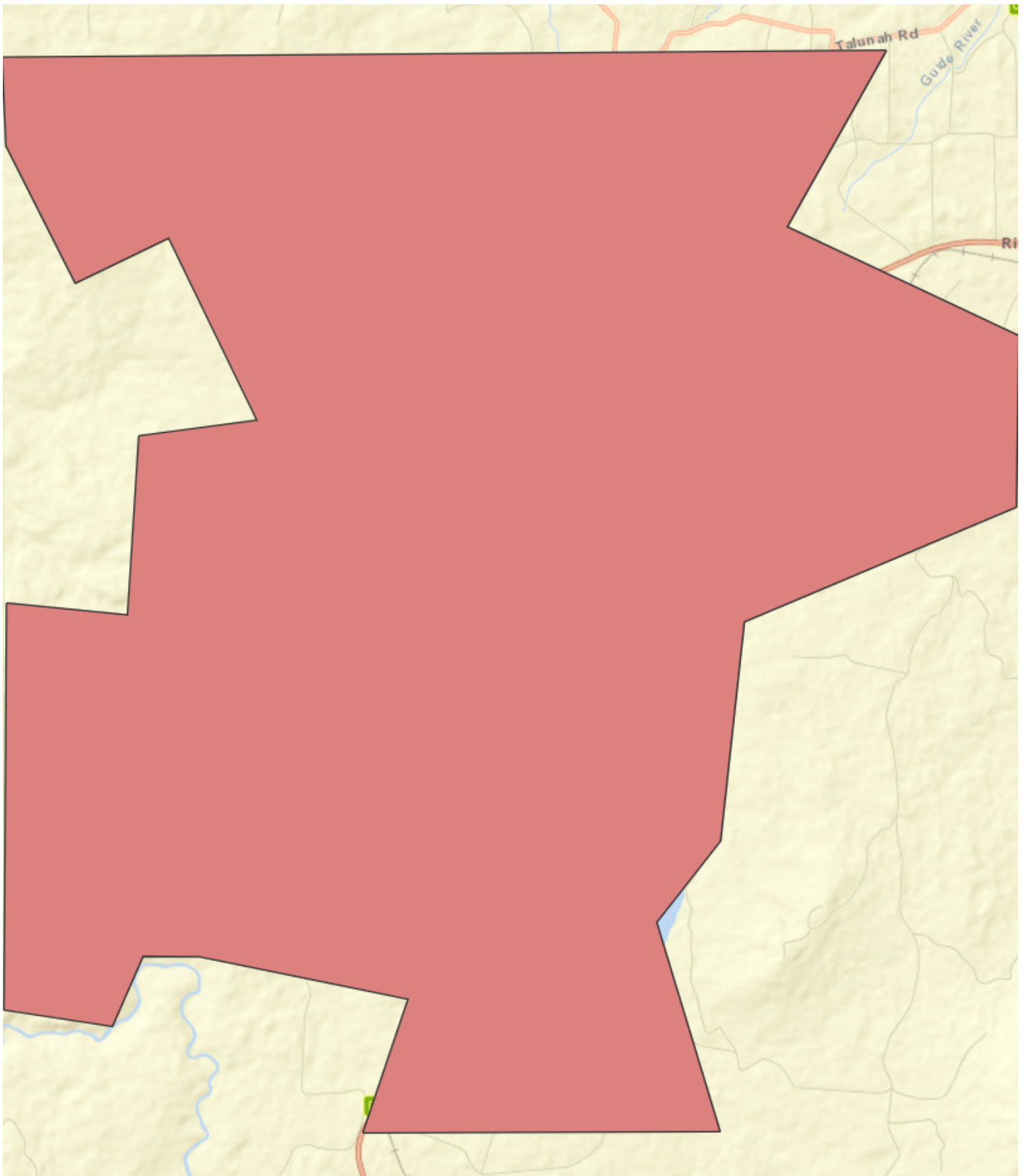
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

2753 Ridgley Highway, Hampshire, 7321

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

Tasmania

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

No

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

The project area is almost entirely comprised of land titles owned by a single landowner, The Trust Company (PTAL) Limited, managed by Forico Pty Limited. In addition, there are several linear parcels owned by the Crown (Department of State Growth and State Rail Network). These Crown land parcels form part of the rail and road network, including the Ridgley Highway and the Melba Rail Line. There will be no turbines within these Crown land parcels; however it is possible there may be some ancillary works within these parcels including transmission line crossings and possible intersection upgrades to facilitate movement of trucks onto the state road network.

There are no residential properties within the site area. There are no known residential dwellings within 1km of the site area boundary, nor within 3km of any turbine location, based on the preliminary turbine layout. The nearest township is Hampshire, approximately 3.5km east of the site boundary.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The project area lies approximately 14km northeast of Waratah, 26km southwest of Burnie and 50km southwest of Devonport. The project area as shown in this referral is approximately 7,000 hectares in size but the project footprint will be a far smaller subset of this area, expected to be in the order of 465 hectares.

There are no residential properties within the site and no known residential dwellings within 1km of the site area boundary, nor within 3km of any turbine location, based on the preliminary turbine layout. The nearest township is Hampshire, approximately 3.5km east of the site boundary. There is currently no public access to the site (aside from access along public roads such as the Ridgley Highway) as the site is dominated by plantations and associated commercial forestry operations.

The majority of the site is zoned Rural, with small sections along the road and rail corridor zoned Utilities, under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, Burnie Local Provision Schedule. The proposed use as a wind farm is considered a utilities use, which is discretionary within both zones. To that end, a rezoning will not be necessary.

The site is dominated by plantations and is currently used almost exclusively for silviculture (Att 1, Figure 2), with the exception of linear infrastructure such as road, rail and transmission lines which traverse the site. Between the plantations are scattered areas of native vegetation, many of which are within informal forest and stream side reserves.

Existing access tracks and roads traverse the site, along with existing high voltage transmission lines. The Ridgley Highway and Melba railway line run centrally through the site from south to north-east boundaries. The Burnie – Waratah high voltage transmission line runs north-south through the site. Access to the site for the project, will be from the existing Ridgley Highway (which runs through the site) and will involve the use of existing minor roads and tracks within the site (some of which may be subject to upgrade as required) and the formation of new access tracks within the site if existing tracks are insufficient.

The Surrey Hills Woodchip Mill lies along the north eastern boundary of the site (partially within the project area) and the Kara Mine lies approximately 1.5km away from the site to the south east. Both these facilities are registered Level 2 premises, regulated by the Tasmanian EPA. There are no turbines proposed for placement within the regulated areas of these facilities, but the project area does overlap part of the Surrey Hills Woodchip Mill site.

There are rivers and creeks dispersed throughout the site and Companion Reservoir lies along the south eastern boundary of the site.

Weeds are mapped across the project area, with varying densities reflecting both human access (eg weeds mapped along road lines) and survey effort.

The project area overall is highly modified and dominated by plantations. The areas of plantation, roads and transmission lines are highly modified from their natural state, but other smaller parts of the site such as remnant native vegetation, rivers and creeks are in a more natural state.

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

The project area is currently used almost exclusively for silviculture, with the exception of linear infrastructure such as road, rail and transmission lines which traverse the site. As noted previously there are other land uses adjacent to the site, including mining and residential dwellings (the closest residential dwelling being over 1km away from the site boundary). There will be no encroachment on these uses by the project.

The proposed use of the site will be a wind farm for renewable energy generation. The wind farm will be complimentary to the existing silviculture operations and will not encroach upon or compromise the existing uses of the site and its surrounds.

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

There are no areas of national park, conservation area, nature reserve or state reserve within the project area. There is a conservation covenant abutting the south eastern boundary of the site (immediately east of Companion Reservoir). This covenanted area slightly overlaps the project site, but there are no proposed turbines or other infrastructure to be located within this covenanted area. Hellyer Gorge State Reserve lies outside of the project site on the western boundary. There are several private reserves (presumed to be waterway reserves as part of forest operations) within the project site.

The site is nearby to local mountain ranges including St Valentines Peak and Companion Hill.

The Tasmanian Wilderness and World Heritage Area lies approximately 30km southeast of the project area.

Companion Reservoir lies along the south eastern boundary of the site.

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

The site is relatively flat, with some undulation, ranging from approximately 500m to 600m above sea level.

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 Tasmanian digital vegetation mapping (TasVeg) shows the site to be a mosaic of plantations and native vegetation, with plantations as the dominant mapping unit (Att 1, Fig 3). One of the native vegetation communities mapped within the site is listed as threatened under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, namely highland poa grassland, which is present as relatively small patches in the central part of the site near the Ridgley Highway.

According to the EPBCA Protected Matters Report (Att 7, p3) two EPBCA listed communities are likely to occur, namely alpine sphagnum bogs and associated ferns and Tasmanian White gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) wet forest. As outlined in Section 4 of this referral, the available TasVeg mapping indicates these communities are unlikely to occur on site based on the current TasVeg 4 dataset.

Although the site is dominated by plantation, the areas of native vegetation as well as the freshwater environments provide potential habitat for threatened and non threatened flora and fauna. A desktop Natural Values Atlas (NVA) Report generated for the project includes the following threatened (listed under state or Commonwealth legislation) flora and fauna previously recorded or predicted to occur within 500m of the site (Att 8, entire document):

- Flora - *Prasophyllum crebriflorum* (crowded leek-orchid)
- Fauna
 - *Aquila audax* subsp. *fleayi* (Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle)
 - *Accipiter novaehollandiae* (grey goshawk)
 - *Astacopsis gouldi* (giant freshwater crayfish)
 - *Beddomeia camensis* (hydrobiid snail, Cam River)
 - *Beddomeia protuberata* (hydrobiid snail, Emu River)
 - *Dasyurus maculatus* subsp. *maculatus* (spotted-tail quoll)
 - *Dasyurus viverrinus* (eastern quoll)
 - *Engaeus yabbimunna* (Burnie burrowing crayfish)
 - *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (white-bellied sea-eagle)
 - *Oreixenica ptunarra* (ptunarra brown butterfly)
 - *Prototroctes maraena* (Australian grayling)
 - *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri* (tussock skink)
 - *Perameles gunnii* (eastern barred bandicoot)
 - *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil)
 - *Tyto novaehollandiae* subsp. *castanops* (Tasmanian masked owl)

An EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (generated 22 March 2022) (Att 7, p 3-6) identified 21 listed threatened species and 9 listed migratory species predicted to occur within the project area. The threatened fauna and flora predicted to occur included some of those identified in the NVA report (listed above), but also several additional birds, aquatic species and flora. One EPBCA listed flora species, *Prasophyllum crebriflorum* (leek orchid) has previously been recorded within the project area. The project layout will avoid impacts to these known flora locations.

Whilst it is anticipated the majority of native vegetation can be avoided by careful placement of turbines and ancillary infrastructure, ecological surveys will be undertaken to ascertain the likelihood of these, and other native and threatened species, occurring on site.

Some of this work has already commenced with eagle nest searches undertaken in May 2020 (Att 2, entire document). As outlined in Section 4 of this referral, this assessment identified one nest within the project site and one nest to the north of but just outside the project site. These nests were both attributed to the wedge tailed eagle and were found to be active in in subsequent year's nest checks (Att 2, Att 3, Att 4, Att 5, Att 6). During eagle survey work both wedge-tailed eagles and grey goshawks were observed within the site.

The site will be subject to an on site natural values assessment and eagle and avifauna investigations will be ongoing.

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

According to the Land Information System of Tasmania (the LIST) desktop database, the majority of the project area is basalt, with small areas of more complex geology. There are no geoconservation sites mapped within the project area.

Vegetation across most of the site is plantation, with some areas of native vegetation which is predominately mapped as rainforest and related scrub as well as much smaller patches of wet eucalypt forest and woodland, dry eucalypt forest and woodland, non eucalypt forest and woodland, native grassland and scrub/heathland.

Turbine locations will favour areas of plantation to limit impacts to native vegetation.

The site will be subject to a natural values assessment to more fully characterise the vegetation on site.

3.3 Heritage

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

There are no Commonwealth Heritage places within the project area. The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (which is a National Heritage Place) lies approximately 30km south of the boundary of the project area.

There are no state listed heritage features, listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, within or immediately adjacent to the site.

A heritage survey will be undertaken for the site.

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

The project is in the early planning stages and as such an Aboriginal Heritage Survey is yet to be undertaken for the site. An Aboriginal Heritage Survey will be undertaken and the results used to inform the site layout.

The site has already been substantially modified from its natural state, through the establishment of plantations for commercial forestry. Avoidance of intact native vegetation (largely contained within existing stream-side and other informal reserves as part of the plantation operation) is likely to assist in avoidance of areas of potential indigenous heritage value.

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 site is relatively flat, with some undulation, ranging from approximately 500 m to 600 m above sea level.

Several waterways pass through the site including Lockwood Creek, Emu River, East Cam River, St Josephs River, Loudwater River, and Toronna Creek. Companion Reservoir lies along the south eastern boundary of the site.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

The project site lies approximately 30km north of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (a declared World Heritage property). There will be no direct impact to the World Heritage property from the project.

Analysis of terrain indicates it is possible that the wind turbines could be visible from some vantage points within the World Heritage Area (WHA), albeit at a considerable distance (over 30km). At this distance, visibility of turbines will be limited and will be viewed within the context of the broader Tasmanian landscape in the area, which includes many towns, roads, transmission lines, mines and other forms of human infrastructure within the existing view fields. The landscape between the proposed wind farm and the World Heritage Area is dominated by modified land in the form of plantations (north of Belvoir Road) and is traversed by roads (including the Ridgley Highway), railway lines and large scale transmission lines (the 220kV Sheffield - Farrell line, for example, lies less than 4km north of the WHA). Several mines and quarries are also within this landscape, including Hellyer Mine and Que River Mines (both lie within 10km of the boundary of the WHA) and Kara Mine (which lies south east of the proposed Hellyer wind farm site).

When considering the landscape surrounding the WHA more broadly, it is useful to recognise that the Tasmanian Wilderness WHA occupies almost a quarter of the land mass of Tasmania and there are major towns, mines and other significant infrastructure developments in proximity to many boundaries of the WHA. Within 10km of the WHA are several mines, the Norske Skog Papermill, several large scale transmission lines (some of which run through the WHA), power stations, and townships. The existing Cattle Hill Wind Farm lies approximately 20km from the WHA at its nearest point, noting this project was referred and assessed under the EPBC Act for other matters, but not for potential for impact on World Heritage. Tasmania's capital city of Hobart lies only 40km from the boundary of the WHA and Launceston (Tasmania's second largest city) lies just over 30km away.

The EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (p 16 to 18) state that an action is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a declared World Heritage property if there is a real chance or possibility that it will cause one or more of the World Heritage values to be lost, degraded or damaged, notably altered, modified, obscured or diminished. Given there will be no direct impact to the Tasmanian Wilderness WHA and the only potential for indirect impact is possible views of the wind turbines from vantage points in the WHA (viewed at a distance of over 30km within view fields already substantially modified from their natural state), the project is not expected to impact on the World Heritage values for which the World Heritage Area was listed.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

The project site lies approximately 30km north of the Tasmanian Wilderness, which is a National Heritage place. There will be no direct impact to the National Heritage Place from the project.

Analysis of terrain indicates it is possible that the wind turbines could be visible from some vantage points within the Tasmanian Wilderness, albeit at a considerable distance (over 30km).

At this distance, visibility of turbines will be limited and will be viewed within the context of the broader Tasmanian landscape in the area, which includes many towns, roads, transmission lines, mines and other forms of human infrastructure within the existing viewfields. The landscape between the proposed wind farm and the Tasmanian Wilderness is dominated by modified land in the form of plantations (north of Belvoir Road) and is traversed by roads (including the Ridgley Highway), railway lines and large scale transmission lines (the 220kV Sheffield - Farrell line, for example, lies less than 4km north of the WHA). Several mines and quarries are also within this landscape, including Hellyer Mine and Que River Mines (both lie within 10km of the boundary of the Tasmanian Wilderness) and Kara Mine (which lies south east of the proposed Hellyer wind farm site).

When considering the landscape surrounding the Tasmanian Wilderness more broadly, it is useful to recognise that the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area occupies almost a quarter of the land mass of Tasmania and there are major towns, mines and other significant infrastructure developments in proximity to it. Within 10km of the Tasmanian Wilderness are several mines, the Norske Skog Papermill, several large scale transmission lines (some of which run through the WHA), power stations, and townships. The existing Cattle Hill Wind Farm lies approximately 20km from the Tasmanian Wilderness at its nearest point, noting this project was referred and assessed under the EPBC Act for other matters, but not for potential for impact on National Heritage. Tasmania's capital city of Hobart lies only 40km from the boundary of the Tasmanian Wilderness and Launceston (Tasmania's second largest city) lies just over 30km away.

The EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (p 19 to 22) state that an action is likely to have a significant impact on the National Heritage values of a National Heritage place if there is a real chance or possibility that it will cause one or more of the National Heritage values to be lost, degraded or damaged, notably altered, modified, obscured or diminished. Given there will be no direct impact to the Tasmanian Wilderness and the only potential for indirect impact is possible views of the wind turbines from vantage points in the Tasmanian Wilderness (viewed at a distance of over 30km within view fields already substantially modified from their natural state), the project is not expected to impact on the National Heritage values for which the National Heritage place was listed.

Given the considerable distance and the existing infrastructure within the broader landscape, the project is not expected to impact upon the values for which the Tasmanian Wilderness was listed.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no Ramsar Wetlands in or near to the project site and as such there is no potential for either direct or indirect impacts to Ramsar Wetlands from the project.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
Yes	No	<i>Aquila audax fleayi</i>
No	No	<i>Asplenium hookerianum</i>
No	No	<i>Astacopsis gouldi</i>
No	No	<i>Astacopsis gouldi</i>
No	No	<i>Barbarea australis</i>
Yes	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Yes	No	<i>Ceyx azureus diemenensis</i>
Yes	No	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (Tasmanian population)
Yes	No	<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>
No	No	<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>
Yes	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>
No	No	<i>Hypolepis distans</i>
Yes	No	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>
No	No	<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> subsp. <i>tricolor</i>
Yes	No	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
Yes	No	<i>Oreixenica ptunarra</i>

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
Yes	No	Perameles gunnii gunnii
No	No	Prasophyllum crebriflorum
No	No	Prototroctes maraena
No	No	Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera
Yes	No	Sarcophilus harrisii
No	No	Senecio psilocarpus
Yes	No	Tyto novaehollandiae castanops (Tasmanian population)

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes	No	Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens
Yes	No	Tasmanian white gum (Eucalyptus viminalis) wet forest

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

Yes

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

<p>Fauna - impacts likely</p> <p>Although the waterways on site may support aquatic threatened species, there are no proposed works within waterways and, with suitable construction phase erosion and sediment control measures in place, no impacts to water quality or quantity expected, hence no impacts are expected to aquatic species on site.</p> <p>Gould's petrel is a pelagic marine species and is not expected to use or overfly the site, hence impacts to this species are not expected.</p> <p>The remaining fauna species identified have some potential to occur on site and hence be impacted by the project, as follows.</p> <p>The project area is known to provide habitat for the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle. Nest searches identified one nest in the project site and confirmed the presence of an additional (previously recorded) nest to the north of, but just outside of, the project site (Att 2, p 6-10). Both nests were attributed to the wedge-tailed eagle and found to be in use. Two separate adult wedge-tailed eagles were seen during the surveys. These surveys conclude the area is likely to support one to three pairs (territories) of wedge-tailed eagles. The known nest sites will be protected by a 1km buffer and the wind farm layout will be designed to avoid clearance of potential nesting habitat, hence impacts to the species through direct habitat clearance are not expected. However, the project poses potential for direct impact to wedge-tailed eagles through collision with wind turbines and power lines.</p> <p>The remaining bird species identified by desktop research (Att 7 and Att 8, entire document) may inhabit or overfly the site, albeit likely in relatively low densities given the dominance of plantation across the site and limited suitable native habitats. Although impact to bird species through habitat clearance is not expected (wind farm layout will generally avoid native vegetation clearance) the project poses risk of direct impact to avifauna through collision with turbines/power lines (potentially applicable to wedge tailed eagle, curlew sandpiper, Tasmanian azure kingfisher, white throated needletail, swift parrot, eastern curlew and masked owl).</p> <p>The ptunarra brown butterfly may occur on site, as part of the site lies within the species' potential range and its preferred poa tussock grassland habitat is mapped on site. Habitat for the species will be avoided where possible, but clearance of some small areas of habitat may be unavoidable and hence impacts to the species are possible (habitat clearance).</p> <p>The threatened mammal species identified may use parts of the site for foraging and denning. Although areas of native vegetation will generally be avoided by the wind farm design some direct impacts are possible through habitat clearance or increased fauna roadkill (potentially applicable to spotted tailed quoll, eastern quoll, eastern barred bandicoot and Tasmanian devil).</p> <p>Flora - impacts not likely</p> <p>Five threatened flora species have been identified as potentially occurring on site (Att 8, p 3-7). One of these, crowded leek-orchid, has previously been recorded on site in several locations in 2021. The other species identified have not been previously recorded but could potentially occur within the remnant vegetation patches on site. As discussed below, the site will be subject to on site ecological survey and any identified threatened flora locations or key habitat areas will be avoided through careful wind farm layout. In this way, impacts to threatened flora (through direct habitat clearance) are not anticipated.</p>
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Ecological communities - impacts not likely

According to desktop research (Att 7, p 3), there are two threatened ecological communities likely to occur in the area, alpine sphagnum bogs and associated ferns and Tasmanian White gum wet forest. Tasmanian vegetation mapping (TasVeg) provides desktop information on vegetation communities across the State. The EPBC Act listed communities do not correlate directly with TasVeg mapped units but analogous communities can be identified. The TasVeg community most commonly aligned with 'alpine sphagnum bogs and associated ferns' is 'sphagnum peatland' (ASP) and the community most commonly aligned with 'Tasmanian white gum wet forest' is 'Eucalyptus viminalis wet forest' (WVI).

There are no areas of these analogous TasVeg units mapped in the site based on the current mapping available via TasVeg 4. It is possible such communities do exist and are not accurately represented via existing desktop mapping, but large tracts are not expected and any areas identified through site surveys are expected to be avoided. In this way direct impacts to these communities (via vegetation clearance for construction) are possible but not expected.

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. *

As noted above, significant impacts are not expected to listed flora or ecological communities as these values will be mapped through site surveys and avoided through wind farm design.

Similarly significant impacts to aquatic fauna species are not expected.

Direct impacts to other listed fauna (avifauna, mammals and the ptunarra brown butterfly) through habitat clearance can, and will, be limited through careful wind farm design which will concentrate infrastructure in areas of plantation, thereby limiting the clearance of native vegetation. Through wind farm design, impacts to nest and denning sites can be largely avoided, however some loss of foraging habitat is expected. The project also has the potential to increase fauna roadkill which, if unmitigated, could have a significant impact. Most notably the wind farm poses a potential risk of avifauna collision with wind turbines and power lines which could be significant, depending on the avifauna utilisation of the site and collision risk of the final turbine layout.

The project is being referred early in the planning phase, in order to commence the assessment process and seek guidelines on the surveys and studies required, particularly for avifauna which can involve lengthy survey requirements. As the referral is being undertaken early in the process there is a degree of uncertainty around the ecological values that may occur on site and the potential for significant impact.

At this time the proponent considers impacts to listed threatened fauna species may be significant and therefore this referral is submitted seeking a controlled action decision.

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. *

As noted above, this referral is being submitted early in the planning process, prior to on-site ecological survey and bird utilisation studies. As such, there is currently limited information about the ecological values of the site and the potential for impact to listed species, therefore the precautionary principal is applied and it is assumed impacts to listed fauna species could be significant, therefore resulting in 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. *

The key mitigation measure will be avoidance. Site surveys will be undertaken, including natural values assessment and bird utilisation surveys, to inform the wind farm layout. Eagle nest sites will have a 1km buffer applied, such that no turbines are located within 1km of any known nest site. The wind farm layout will concentrate infrastructure in areas of plantation and avoid clearance of native vegetation where possible. Areas of threatened ecological communities, threatened flora and habitat for threatened fauna identified through site surveys will be avoided where possible.

By avoiding areas of native vegetation, listed ecological communities, listed flora species and habitat for listed fauna species in the wind farm design, direct impacts through habitat clearance can be largely avoided.

Mitigation measures to reduce the risk of fauna roadkill will be informed by site surveys and discussion with relevant regulators, and are likely to include limiting the construction of new roads where possible, applying on site speed limits, limiting vehicle movement from dusk to dawn and providing training to all site staff to minimise fauna collision risk.

Mitigation measures to reduce avifauna collision risk will be informed by site survey and discussions with relevant regulators and are likely to include avoidance of nests and high utilisation parts of the site where possible, painting one blade of the turbines black to improve visibility to avifauna, the use of eagle collision curtailment systems on wind turbines and carcass management (to reduce eagle scavenging near turbine locations).

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

At this time the extent of possible impact to threatened fauna is not yet fully understood and therefore the possibility of offsets has not been considered in detail. The proponent will work with the regulator to identify the need for offsets and appropriate offset measures as required.

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
Yes	No	Actitis hypoleucos
Yes	No	Apus pacificus
Yes	No	Calidris acuminata
Yes	No	Calidris ferruginea
Yes	No	Calidris melanotos
Yes	No	Gallinago hardwickii
Yes	No	Hirundapus caudacutus
Yes	No	Myiagra cyanoleuca
Yes	No	Numenius madagascariensis

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

Yes

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

The migratory species identified by the EPBC Protected Matters Search tool are all birds. The majority of the species identified are coastal or wetland species, with most generally preferring coastal areas but also known to use inland waters, particularly wetlands (Common sandpiper, sharp-tailed sandpiper, curlew sandpiper, pectoral sandpiper, eastern curlew and Latham's snipe). There are no known wetland habitats on site, but there are rivers and streams as well as Companion reservoir and site surveys (yet to be undertaken) could identify small areas of wetland habitat not previously mapped. The fork-tailed swift, white throated needletail and satin flycatcher have varied habitat preferences and could occasionally occur on site.

This EPBC referral is being made early in the planning process, in order to trigger the bilateral agreement and facilitate Commonwealth input to the Tasmanian EPA approval process. As such, site surveys are yet to be completed and the likelihood or otherwise of these migratory bird species occurring on site is not yet fully understood. The site is dominated by plantations and desktop research does not indicate any wetland areas or other habitats of high importance to the species identified. However, this cannot be confirmed until site surveys are completed, hence the precautionary principal is applied and the assumption made that the migratory species identified could use the site, albeit likely in a limited fashion.

If the identified migratory species were to use the site, there is a possibility of direct impact through either habitat clearance during construction or collision with the turbines once operational (potentially applicable to all migratory species identified, including sharp tailed shearwater, curlew sandpiper, pectoral sandpiper, satin flycatcher, common sandpiper, eastern curlew, fork tailed swift, white throated needletail and Latham's snipe).

Direct impact through habitat clearance can, and will, be avoided through careful wind farm layout (refer below). The turbines may present a collision risk for some migratory avifauna and further ecological investigations are required to quantify this risk. Experience from other similar projects suggests the potential for impact will likely be limited, particularly given the predicted low (if any) density of species at the site.

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. *

As noted above there are two potential pathways for impact to migratory birds, habitat clearance for construction and collision with wind turbines once operational.

The potential risk through habitat clearance can, and will, be largely avoided through wind farm layout which will be designed to avoid any areas of important bird habitat identified through site surveys (yet to be completed).

The risk of collision with wind turbines, however, remains a potential risk. As noted above, desktop information and experience with other similar projects suggests the potential for impact will likely be limited, particularly given the predicted low (if any) density of species at the site.

However, at this time there is insufficient site information to fully characterise the potential significance of impacts on listed migratory species therefore the precautionary principle is applied and it is assumed the impact could be significant.

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. *

As the project is being referred very early in the planning process there is currently insufficient information to confirm the likelihood of occurrence of migratory bird species on site, and hence their potential for impact from the project. As such the precautionary principal is applied and it is assumed migratory bird species may use or overfly the site, there may be collision with wind turbines and this may be at a scale deemed significant under the EPBC Act. As such we anticipate the project is a controlled action, given the information available at this time.

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

The project site will be subject to on site natural values assessment and bird utilisation surveys. This information will be used to inform the wind farm layout, which will be designed to avoid all identified areas of migratory bird habitat. Through this process direct impacts associated with habitat loss can, and will, be minimised.

Bird utilisation surveys will also be used to inform turbine layout to avoid areas of high bird usage where possible. Additional mitigation measures will be applied for avifauna as informed by ecological investigations and in consultation with the relevant regulatory bodies.

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

At this stage offsets for migratory species are not proposed and are considered unlikely to be required, given the relatively low risk of impact and availability of mitigation measures.

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

The project does not involve nuclear actions.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

The project will not be undertaken in or near to a Commonwealth Marine Area and there will be no associated impacts.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The project is not near to, or in any way associated with, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks and there will be no impact to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as a result of the project.

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

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

No

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

The project is not associated with water resources in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

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

No

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

The project will not be undertaken on or near to Commonwealth Land and will not have any impact on Commonwealth Land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth heritage places overseas

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

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

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

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

No

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

The project has no potential for impact to Commonwealth Heritage places overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- 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. *

In order to develop a wind farm project it is essential that the site selected has suitable wind resource, sufficient size to accommodate a minimum number of turbines required to achieve financial viability and landowner interest. The Hellyer site was selected as it provides all these necessary attributes as well as suitable terrain, proximity to existing transmission infrastructure, proximity to transport routes, separation from existing residential settlements and is dominated by plantations hence reducing the need for native vegetation clearance to facilitate the proposal. In this way the selected site is considered optimal and although other sites may exist in the broader landscape, this site was considered most suitable due to its benefits for wind energy production and relatively limited potential for impact to the natural environment and human amenity in comparison to other locations.

The preliminary wind farm layout has been informed by wind resource, terrain and known eagle nest sites. This preliminary layout will be further refined in response to information gather during the project planning phase including ecological values identified through site survey.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

#1.	Figures 1 to 3	Document	Figures, including site layout (Fig 1), plantations (Fig 2) and vegetation groups (Fig 3)
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1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

#1.	Clean Energy Council Best Practice Charter	Link (Webpage)	https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/advocacy-initiatives/community-engagement/best-practice-charte
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3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

#1.	Figures 1 to 3	Document	Map showing plantations
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3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

#1.	EPBC Act Protected Matters Report	Document	EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Results
#2.	Figures 1 to 3	Document	Map showing vegetation groups.
#3.	Helicopter Eagle Nest Survey Proposed Hellyer Windfarm Site North West Tasmania	Document	Eagle nest search
#4.	Natural Values Atlas Report	Document	Results of a search of the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas
#5.	Wedge-tailed Eagle Nest Activity Assessment October 2020	Document	Results of eagle nest search
#6.	Wedge-tailed Eagle Nest Activity Assessment October 2021	Document	Results of eagle nest activity assessment
#7.	Wedge-tailed Eagle Nest Productivity Assessment December 2021	Document	Results of eagle nest productivity assessment
#8.	Wedge-tailed Eagle Nest Productivity Assessment January 2021	Document	Results of eagle nest productivity assessment

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

#1.	Matters of National Environmental Significance, Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1	Link (Webpage)	https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/neg-guidelines_1.pdf
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4.1.2.3 (National Heritage) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

#1.	Matters of National Environmental Significance, Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1	Link (Webpage)	https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/neg-guidelines_1.pdf
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4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

#1.	EPBC Act Protected Matters Report	Document	EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Results
#2.	Helicopter Eagle Nest Survey Proposed Hellyer Windfarm Site North West Tasmania	Document	Eagle nest search for Hellyer site
#3.	Natural Values Atlas Report	Document	Results of a search of the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN	67141991004
Organisation name	ERA Planning and Environment
Organisation address	Level 1, 125A Elizabeth Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000
Representative's name	Anahita Jungalwalla
Representative's job title	Manager Environment
Phone	03 6165 0443
Email	anahita@eraplanning.com.au
Address	Level 1, 125A Elizabeth Street, Hobart, 7000

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, **Anahita Jungalwalla of ERA Planning and Environment**, 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	84150163143
Organisation name	Epuron Projects Pty Ltd
Organisation address	Level 11, 75 Miller St, North Sydney, 2060, NSW, Australia
Representative's name	Sandra Weinhold
Representative's job title	Project Manager
Phone	(02)84567407
Email	s.weinhold@epuron.com.au
Address	Level 11, 75 Miller St, North Sydney, 2060, NSW, Australia

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

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

I, **Sandra Weinhold of Epuron Projects 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, **Sandra Weinhold of Epuron Projects 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. *