

# Everleigh Solar Park Project - revised

Application Number: 01387

Commencement Date: 26/08/2022

Status: Declared

## 1. About the project

### 1.1 Project details

#### 1.1.1 Project title \*

Everleigh Solar Park Project - revised

#### 1.1.2 Project industry type \*

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

#### 1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Solar Farm

#### 1.1.4 Estimated start date \*

24/10/2022

#### 1.1.4 Estimated end date \*

30/03/2054

## 1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Everleigh Solar Park Project (the Project and the Proposed Action) is located on a greenfield site approximately 22 km south of Chinchilla and 77 km west of Dalby, in southern Queensland (refer Att. 1, Figure 1, pp 4). Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd (Everleigh) is wholly owned by Dream Project Incubators Pty. Ltd. and is the Proponent for the Proposed Action.

The action consists of installation of solar panels and the installation of transmission line along a 'utility corridor' approximately 7.5 km in length. The Project will also require the building of a substation to connect to the Powerlink 'Orana' transmission substation, immediately west of the substation site (refer Att. 1, Figure 1, pp 4).

The Project is anticipated to take one and a half years to construct and has been designed to generate approximately 139 Mega Watts Direct Current and produce electricity for a minimum of 30 years. At the end of the operational period all infrastructure will be removed from the site.

The Project is located at 148 Clynes Road, the Kogan – Condamine Road, and the Crossroads and comprises a total area of approximately 209 hectares (ha) across three Lots and one road reserve as follows:

Everleigh solar park site at Lot 8 on RP190982 – 202 ha site with an approximate 168.2 ha disturbance footprint (refer Att. 1, Figure 4, pp2 7).

Utility Corridor (Lot 4 on ROG 3414, Lot 3 on RG569 and a road reserve) approximately 7 ha

Substation Site (Lot 3 on RG569) with an approximate footprint of 2 ha.

It is noted the substation site is not considered as part of this referral. The area in which the substation is situated has already been subject to Commonwealth approval by DAWE as part of the EPBC Act referral for the Edenvale Solar Park project (referral number: 2020/8663). As such, the Proposed Action for this EPBC Act referral comprises the Everleigh solar park site and the utility corridor only.

The Substation will host a step-up transformer and associated facilities to elevate the voltage of the electricity from 33 kV to 275 kV. An overhead transmission line will connect Substation to Orana Substation (owned and operated by Powerlink).

The Project will consist of the following features:

Solar park site: this site will host a photovoltaic (PV) solar park with a maximum generating capacity of approximately 139 MW. It is anticipated that a total of approximately 215,000 solar panels will be installed on the site. The exact number of panels will be determined at

the time of detailed design when selection of PV panels is confirmed. The panels will be mounted on single-axis tracking structures that will track the sun from east to west throughout the day to maximise electricity generation. Additional elements include the construction of internal roads, operations and maintenance facilities, equipment and vehicle storage, administration building, control room/site offices, and a car park (minimum space for 5 vehicles). These elements will be maintained during the operational life of the project.

Utility Corridor: electricity generated at the Solar Park Site will travel via a 33 kV utility corridor (9.2 m wide). The utility corridor has been optimised and will now cross Lot 4 on ROG3414 and run along the northern inside boundary of Kogan-Condamine Road reserve. After crossing Avenue Road the corridor continues along the southern boundary of Lot 3 on CP RG569. Recent optimisations have reduced vegetation clearing by circa 50%. Further design changes may result in a modification to the current technical solution including changes to the alignment and/or width of the corridor, voltage of powerlines, or the implementation of an overhead solution. While these design changes may occur, the final design solution will comply with the maximum vegetation clearing areas calculated in this application.

Activities associated with the Project that will cause a disturbance to the environment include:

Limited vegetation clearing

The site is flat and no major earthworks are necessary, only minor earthworks will be required for establishing foundations for project buildings and minor trenching for cabling along the utility corridor.

Minor impacts associated only with construction such as increased local traffic, potential noise and dust settlement. Given the heavily cleared landscape associated with the project surrounds these impacts are considered to be very minor and temporary (during construction).

Impacts associated with the Project and recommended mitigation measures are addressed in Att 1, Section 5, pp 26-32).

The environmental benefits associated with the Project include a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and reduced reliance on fossil fuel sources of energy, as well as positive outcomes for the local community. It is not expected that the Project will have any negative impacts to the character, amenity and land use values of the site and surrounding area.

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

No

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

#### **Commonwealth**

Controlled Action: This EPBC Act Referral is submitted to determine if the Proposed Action may be a controlled action under the EPBC Act, i.e. as having or is likely to have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

#### **State Approvals**

A Development Application (DA) to WDRC was made in accordance with the requirements of Queensland's Planning Act 2016. The Project also triggers the following two State Codes under the Planning Regulation 2017:

State Code 1: State transport corridor; and

State Code 6: Protection of the state transport corridor.

It is a requirement of WDRC and the State Government that proponents with Code Assessable development applications for renewable energy projects undertake public consultation to make the local community and business/industry sectors aware of the Project and provide an opportunity for feedback participation in the Project development and/or construction/operation phases.

Referral agencies for the DA application were as follows:

State Assessment and Referral Agency as the Concurrence Agency

Powerlink Queensland as an Advice Agency

QCLNG as an Advice Agency (due to the presence of a pipeline easement)

Due to the Project requiring works within a 'State road corridor' a Traffic Impact Assessment specific to the Project was undertaken as required under the Planning Regulation 2017.

Agency advice responses with approval conditions for the Project were provided by SARA on 4 February 2022 and Powerlink Queensland on 12 January 2022. SARA noted written approval is required from the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads to carry out road works on a state-controlled road prior to any works being carried out in the road reserve.

#### **Local Government Approvals**

Development Approval: Western Downs Regional Council: The DA was granted on 10 March 2022. The Project was considered to be Code Assessable Development and was assessed under the WDRC Planning Scheme 2017 (the Planning Scheme).

Triggers for environmental assessment under the Planning Scheme include impacts to values mapped within the Project area under the Vegetation Overlay and Waterway and Wetlands Overlay maps. The Project area is located within the Rural Zone under the Planning Scheme. The Project area was not mapped as containing any of the following:

Biodiversity Areas  
A Waterway Corridor  
A Wetland.

The Project is consistent with current zoning requirements and the applicable development codes. Approvals currently in place for the Project are as follows:

Material Change of Use  
Reconfiguring a Lot.

The following Development Permits are still required to be obtained prior to the Project undertaking any works:

Building Work  
Operational Work.

**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. \***

Thirteen residential properties were identified with a 5 km radius of the Project. All were approached, however only eight residences were able to be contacted. All that were able to be contacted were supportive of the Project.

Everleigh has and continues to undertake consultation with the following groups:

Chinchilla Community Commerce & Industry Inc  
The Dalby Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Origin Energy  
Arrow Energy  
Queensland Department of Main Roads  
Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy  
Powerlink Queensland

All parties had expressed no significant concerns over the Project at the time the DA was submitted.

The Barunggam People are the indigenous stakeholders for the Project. The Project has secured and registered a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) with the Barunggam People (refer Att. 4 please note - Attachment 4 will not be made publicly available due to cultural sensitivity reasons).

The Project is also located within the Origin Energy and Arrow Energy Coal Seam Gas fields. The Project team worked together with them to develop design, construction and operational solutions which exclude the gas wells from the Project footprint. The Project has previously received confirmation of support from both Origin Energy and Arrow Energy.

## 1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

**Privacy Notice:**

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

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

### 1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? \*

Yes

Referring party organisation details	
<b>ABN</b>	54169579275
<b>Organisation name</b>	Epic Environmental Pty Ltd
<b>Organisation address</b>	Level 17, 95 North Quay Brisbane 4000
Referring party details	
<b>Name</b>	Brett Taylor
<b>Job title</b>	Associate Environmental Scientist
<b>Phone</b>	0439564918
<b>Email</b>	btaylor@epicenvironmental.com.au
<b>Address</b>	Level 17, 95 North Quay, Brisbane 4000

## 1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

No

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

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details	
<b>ABN</b>	62627091525
<b>Organisation name</b>	Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd

**Organisation address** Suite 70, Level 12 269 Wickham Street, Brisbane 4000

Person proposing to take the action details

**Name** Alfonso Vega de Seoane

**Job title** Director

**Phone** 0400215783

**Email** avega@dpigroup.org

**Address** Suite 70, Level 12 269 Wickham Street, Brisbane 4000

**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. \***

There have been no proceedings (past or present) under Commonwealth, State or Territory law against Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd, including its management personnel, regarding the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in Australia.

Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd is committed to enhancing environmental sustainability through decarbonising the electrical supply in their role as a renewable energy focused development company. In addition to the environmental benefits associated with reducing carbon emissions, Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd strives to deliver positive local environmental benefits when developing energy projects.

Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd's commitment to environmental sustainability is demonstrated by adoption of the following principles:

- Prioritisation of development sites that are not considered to have significant impacts on environmental values
- Incorporation of naturally occurring site elements into development design and avoiding areas of high ecological value
- Exploration of methods to incorporate existing land uses into project design
- Compliance with all environmental legislation and planning regulations.

Everleigh Solar Park will be managed in accordance with the attached ASLAT Quality Policy (refer Att. 2-ASLAT Quality Policy 2018).

## 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** 62627091525

<b>Organisation name</b>	Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd
<b>Organisation address</b>	Suite 70, Level 12 269 Wickham Street, Brisbane 4000
Proposed designated proponent details	
<b>Name</b>	Alfonso Vega de Seoane
<b>Job title</b>	Director
<b>Phone</b>	0400215783
<b>Email</b>	avega@dpigroup.org
<b>Address</b>	Suite 70, Level 12 269 Wickham Street, Brisbane 4000

### 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	54169579275
Organisation name	Epic Environmental Pty Ltd
Organisation address	Level 17, 95 North Quay Brisbane 4000
Representative's name	Brett Taylor
Representative's job title	Associate Environmental Scientist
Phone	0439564918
Email	btaylor@epicenvironmental.com.au
Address	Level 17, 95 North Quay, Brisbane 4000

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

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

ABN	62627091525
Organisation name	Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd
Organisation address	Suite 70, Level 12 269 Wickham Street, Brisbane 4000
Representative's name	Alfonso Vega de Seoane
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0400215783
Email	avega@dpigroup.org
Address	Suite 70, Level 12 269 Wickham Street, Brisbane 4000

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## Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

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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

### 1.4.3 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

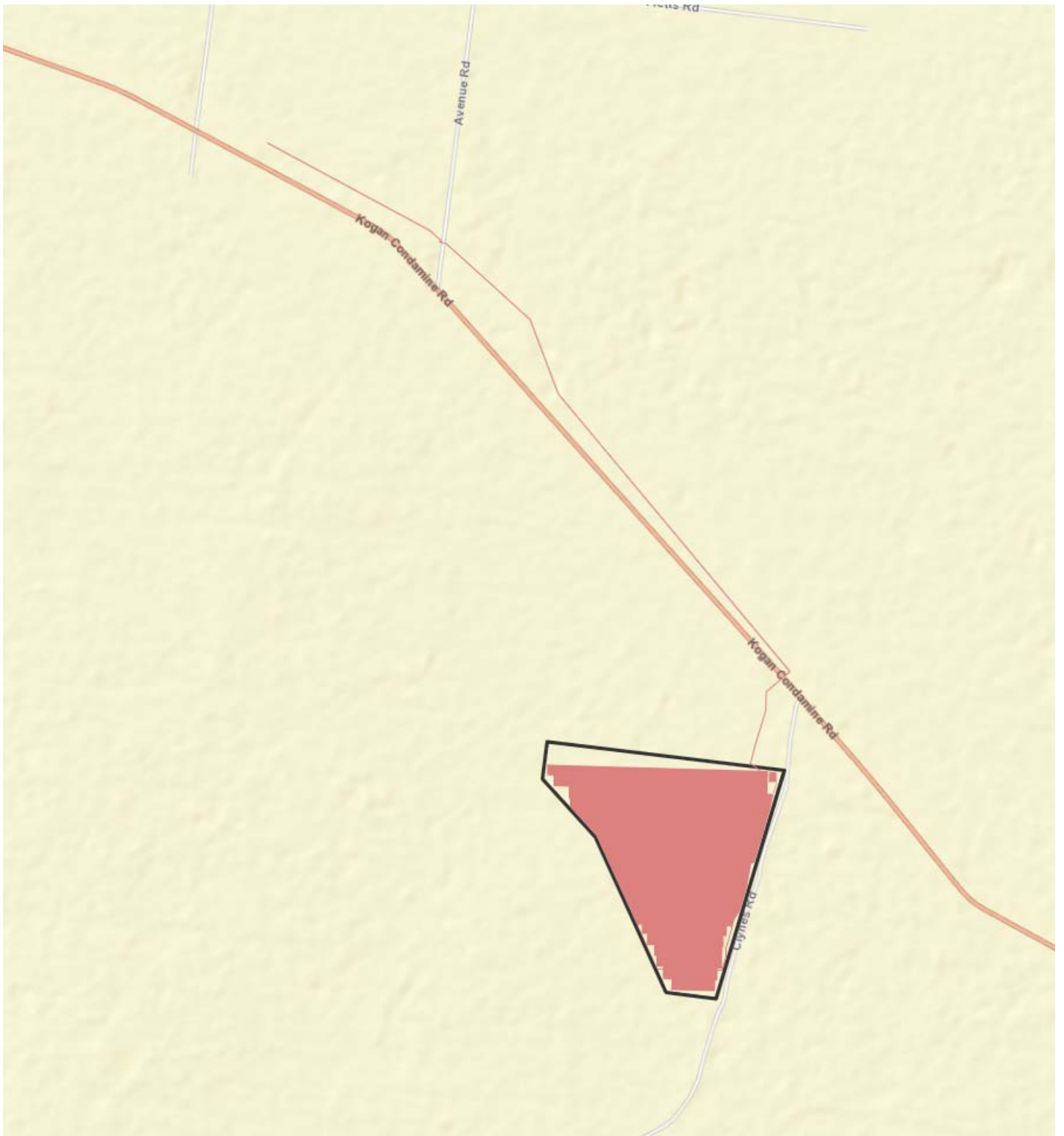
## 1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

### 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? \*

148 Clynes Road, Crossroads 4406 and Kogan – Condamine Road

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

Queensland



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

No

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

The solar park is on freehold land within Lot 8 on RP190982. The eastern portion of the utility corridor (approximately 600 m in length) lies on freehold land within Lot 4 on ROG3414. The central portion of the utility corridor is located within a State controlled road easement. The final 1.5 km of the utility corridor is located on freehold land within Lot 3 on RG569. The Proposed Action lies within the Western Downs Regional Council Local Government Area.

## 3. Existing environment

### 3.1 Physical description

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

The Proposed Action is located approximately 20 km south of the town of Chinchilla and 19 km north-west of the village of Kogan. The Proposed Action area is located adjacent to the southern boundary of the Edenvale Solar park which is currently under construction. Lands to the north and east of the Proposed Action have been substantially cleared for cattle grazing and agriculture. Extant vegetation is largely associated with road easements and vegetated waterways. Lands to the west and south-west remain relatively well-timbered and are currently used for coal seam gas production.

The Proposed Action area itself has experienced extensive disturbance. The entirety of the proposed solar park area appears to have been cleared in the past. The majority of the site now comprises grassland with scattered shrubs and tall paddock trees. Small areas of largely regrowth communities occur in the north of the site. The corridor of vegetation along the Kogan-Condamine Road associated with the utility corridor is a relatively continuous tract of vegetation extending east and west of the Proposed Action. Avenue Road already bisects this tract providing a 20 m wide gap in the vegetation within the utility corridor alignment.

Pest plant species included three exotic species identified as a listed pest plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and/or as a WoNS: Mother-of-millions (*Bryophyllum delagoense*); Common Pest Pear (*Opuntia stricta*) and Velvety Tree Pear (*Opuntia tomentosa*). A weedy grass layer was noted in some areas (grassland and woodland habitats) with a heavy cover of introduced species including commonly: Red Natal Grass (*Melinis repens*), African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), and Guinea Grass (*Megathyrus maximus*).

A detailed Traffic Impact Assessment has been carried out for the Proposed Action (refer Att.5 Traffic Impact Assessment). The Project will be accessed via Clynes Road for both construction and operational purposes. The entrance for site construction will be located on Clynes Road on the north-east boundary of the property, 650 m south of the intersection with the Kogan Condamine Road, which will be the major transport route used to access the project. Kogan-Condamine Road is a bitumen sealed 2-lane road. Clynes Road has a gravel road surface with an unsealed pavement. The site access is to be designed to accommodate B-double vehicles and it is recommended that the existing pavement width on Clynes Road be widened to accommodate these vehicles. This will not require further clearing of vegetation as the formation width of the road is already over 7 m. The entrance from Clynes Road will be retained as the site entrance for the operational phase of the project. The existing residential use to the west of the solar farm will remain. A new access road to the residential property located to the west of the site will be constructed at the southern end of Lot 8 on RP 190982 to replace the existing access road (refer Att.5, Figure 3, page 5).

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

The Proposed Action area is largely cleared of native remnant vegetation with no permanently occupied habitation. The nearest house is approximately 350 m west of the Proposed Action. The solar park site has been cleared for livestock grazing in the past, but is not currently used for that purpose. Approximately 4.3 km of the utility corridor is located within a State controlled road reserve and is not subject to other uses. The final 1.5 km of the utility corridor is located on lands currently subject to cattle grazing.

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

There are no outstanding natural features or any other important/unique values associated with the Proposed Action.

### **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 Proposed Action is situated within an area of flat topography with elevation remaining almost unchanged from north to south (approximately 314 m above sea level (asl)). The western boundary of the Project sits at approximately 318 m asl and marginally declines to a low point of 310 m asl in the north-east corner of the solar park area. Similarly, the utility corridor traverses lands varying between only 310 to 313 m asl along the length of the alignment.

## **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.**

Desktop assessments, including searches of publicly available databases were undertaken to identify any MNES with potential to occur in the Proposed Action area. Site assessments were carried out in August 2018 and March 2022 by Epic Environmental Pty Ltd (Att. 1, Section 3.1.2 and 3.2, pp 6-7). The results of the assessments are provided in the Project Ecological Assessment Report (Att. 1, Section 4.2, pp 10-13 and Section 4.3, pp 13-25).

#### **Flora assessment**

A total of 108 species of vascular plant was identified within the Proposed Action area. No flora species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable under the EPBC Act was recorded. Twelve of the recorded species are introduced weeds including two *Opuntia* species listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS).

The Proposed Action is located within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion (BBSB). Within the BBSB the Proposed Action intersects the Inglewood Sandstones subregion. The majority of the Proposed Action area is dominated by cleared grazing lands with the exception of several small patches of regrowth vegetation within the solar park site. Much of the site retains non-remnant open grassland with scattered trees and shrubs. There are small areas of short regrowth often supporting stands of Beefwood (*Grevillea striata*). In the north of the solar park site there are patches of vegetation comprising high-value regrowth (HVR) woodland and a stand of remnant woodland fringing a drainage line in the north-east corner of the site. Road corridor vegetation within the proposed transmission line corridor is comprised predominately of remnant Poplar Box woodland with a small patch of HVR low closed-forest dominated by Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) also identified (adjacent to the Proposed Action). Five vegetation communities (regional ecosystems (REs)) were verified as present during the surveys. These were as follows:

- RE 11.3.1 – *Acacia harpophylla* dominated regrowth low open-forest on alluvial flat (HVR - 0.35 ha)
- RE 11.3.18 – *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland on alluvium (remnant - 0.14 ha; HVR – 0.63 ha)
- RE 11.3.25 – *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* dominated woodland (remnant - 1.31 ha)
- RE 11.5.1 – *Eucalyptus populnea* dominated regrowth open woodland with associated *E. crebra* and *E. siderophloia* (HVR – 1.33 ha)  
RE 11.5.1a – *Eucalyptus populnea* dominated woodland (remnant – 4.285 ha; HVR – 6.37 ha)

#### Fauna assessment

The combined field surveys recorded 66 terrestrial fauna species, comprised of 16 mammal, 46 bird and four reptile species. Two species of feral animal were recorded: European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Goat (*Capra hircus*) Only one threatened species listed under the EPBC Act was recorded during the August 2018 survey: Greater Glider (Endangered – EPBC Act and NC Act) was recorded in riparian and adjacent habitat along Wambo Creek. This habitat is located approximately 1 km north of the utility corridor and remains isolated from and not relevant to the Proposed Action. Little if any suitable habitat for the species is considered present within the Proposed Action area. One recorded reptile species, Golden-tailed Gecko (*Strophurus taenicauda*), is listed as Near Threatened under the State NC Act. No bird species listed as Migratory under the EPBC Act was recorded in either survey.

In general, habitat quality on the Solar park site was limited due to past disturbance and tree clearing for cattle grazing. No livestock were present at the time of the March 2022 survey and it appears the site is no longer used for cattle grazing. As such, areas with small scattered regrowth were common across the Solar park site with scattered larger trees and limited patches of older regrowth. The road corridor provides a largely continuous tract of dry sclerophyll vegetation which has also been subject to degrading practices with relatively few mature hollow-bearing canopy trees present and an often weedy ground layer.

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

The Proposed Action area is largely mapped as comprising non-remnant (Category X under the State *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act)) vegetation under State Government vegetation mapping (QG 2022). Refer to the Ecological Assessment Report (Att. 1, Section 4.3.1, pp13-16), attached to this referral for further details on native vegetation. There are five vegetation communities identified as present as remnant (Category B) or HVR (Category C) based on the vegetation mapping for the Proposed Action as described below. Only four of these are located within the proposed disturbance footprint (RE 11.3.1 is located outside of the Proposed Action area). One of the observed Regional Ecosystems (REs) is listed as of Endangered status under the VM Act. This vegetation community contains floristic elements analogous to the Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and codominant) Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) although is less than the size threshold (0.5 ha) required to be considered an occurrence of the TEC.

Field-verified REs and their status under the VM Act are:

- RE 11.3.1 – Endangered (regrowth) - 0.35 ha
- RE 11.3.18 – Least Concern (remnant and regrowth) - 0.77 ha
- RE 11.3.25 – Least Concern (remnant) - 1.31 ha
- RE 11.5.1/11.5.1a – Least Concern (remnant and regrowth) – 13.17 ha

Within the Proposed Action, there is a single soil unit mapped under the Atlas of Australian Soils classification (Northcote et al. 1960-68): VA24: hard pedal mottled-yellow duplex soils occurring on gently undulating plains. The underlying geology of the Proposed Action is dominated by the Kumbarilla Beds, described as: sand, red sandy soil, silt and some gravel; floodout and sheet sand with some alluvium, all of Quaternary age (QG 2022, refer Att 3 References).

## 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 heritage places or heritage values applicable to the Proposed Action

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

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Duty of Care Assessment was undertaken for the adjacent Edenvale Solar Park (adjacent to the north of the Proposed Action) by Everick (August 2018) in support of the DA application for that Project (refer Att. 6 - please note Attachment 6 should not be made publicly available due to cultural sensitivity reasons). The Duty of Care assessment investigated the cultural heritage requirements of lands associated with that Project and included all lands associated with the current Proposed Action. The assessment was carried out in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Duty of Care Guidelines 2004. The cultural heritage party recorded for the Project area is the Barunggam People.

A search of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Database and Register revealed 12 mapped Aboriginal cultural heritage artefact scatters and isolated finds within the search area associated with the search area for the Edenvale Solar Park Project. This included four finds associated with the current Proposed Action area, all of which are located in close proximity to (although not within) the utility corridor (refer Att. 6, Attachment B, pp. 13-15). No finds were located within the solar park site. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) has been secured with the Barunggam People (the indigenous stakeholders for the Project) and registered with the Queensland State Government.

Crossroads Land Pty Ltd is the Proponent for the CHMP with the Barunggam. Under the CHMP the Proponent and it may nominate Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd as Nominee to the CHMP to undertake its Cultural Heritage obligations under the CHMP during delivery of the project.

## 3.4 Hydrology

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

The Proposed Action is located on an area of flat topography. No major earthworks or levelling are required for the Proposed Action and no impacts to local hydrology are expected. The Project area is located within the Condamine River catchment. Three mapped 1st order and one 2nd order watercourse intersect the Project area (QG 2022, refer reference list in Att 3 References) draining towards the north into Wambo Creek (Att 1, Figure 2, pp 9). Wambo Creek drains into the Condamine River approximately 18.3 km west-north-west of the Project. The mapped watercourses intersecting the Project area appear to be highly ephemeral and often with little to no bank definition. At the time of the March 2022 survey pooled water was present in a single watercourse intersected by the utility corridor to the north of Kogan-Condamine Road.

There are no natural wetlands associated with the Proposed Action. There are two small farm dams occurring within the solar park site. One is centrally located and will be removed as a result of the Proposed Action. A second dam is located in the north-west and is outside of the proposed disturbance footprint.

# 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	Yes	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 nearest world heritage matter is the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, the nearest portion of which (Main Range National Park) is over 200 km south-east of the Project. No direct or indirect impacts on a world heritage area are possible.

### 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 nearest national heritage matter is the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, the nearest portion of which (Main Range National Park) is over 200 km south-east of the Project. No direct or indirect impacts on a world heritage area are possible.

**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
Yes		Banrock Station Wetland Complex
Yes		Narran Lake Nature Reserve
Yes		Riverland
Yes		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? \***

Yes

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

Please provide a response to the question above.

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

—

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

—

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

Please provide a response to the question above.

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

Please provide a response to the question above.

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

Table with 3 columns: Direct impact, Indirect impact, Species. Rows include Adclarkia cameroni and Adclarkia dulacca.

<b>Direct impact</b>	<b>Indirect impact</b>	<b>Species</b>
No	No	Adclarkia dulacca
Yes		Anomalopus mackayi
No	No	Anomalopus mackayi
Yes		Cadellia pentastylis
No	No	Cadellia pentastylis
Yes		Calidris ferruginea
No	No	Calidris ferruginea
Yes		Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami
No	No	Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami
Yes		Chalinolobus dwyeri
No	No	Chalinolobus dwyeri
Yes		Dasyurus hallucatus
No	No	Dasyurus hallucatus
Yes		Delma torquata
No	No	Delma torquata
Yes		Dichanthium setosum
No	No	Dichanthium setosum
Yes		Egernia rugosa
No	No	Egernia rugosa
Yes		Erythrorichis radiatus
No	No	Erythrorichis radiatus
Yes		Falco hypoleucos
No	No	Falco hypoleucos
Yes		Furina dunmalli
Yes	No	Furina dunmalli
Yes		Geophaps scripta scripta
No	No	Geophaps scripta scripta
Yes		Grantiella picta
No	No	Grantiella picta
Yes		Hirundapus caudacutus
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus
Yes		Homopholis belsonii
Yes	No	Homopholis belsonii
Yes		Lepidium monoplocoides
No	No	Lepidium monoplocoides



Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
Yes		Maccullochella peelii
No	No	Maccullochella peelii
Yes		Nyctophilus corbeni
No	No	Nyctophilus corbeni
Yes		Petauroides volans
No	No	Petauroides volans
Yes		Petaurus australis australis
No	No	Petaurus australis australis
Yes		Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)
Yes	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)
Yes		Pteropus poliocephalus
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus
Yes		Rostratula australis
No	No	Rostratula australis
Yes		Xerothamnella herbacea
No	No	Xerothamnella herbacea

#### Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes		Coolibah - Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions
Yes		Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains
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. \*

##### Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

Potential to occur (not considered likely).

No individuals or signs of presence observed during site surveys. There is a single Wildlife Online record within the 10 km database search radius (location unknown). Several ALA database records in the surrounding area, particularly in the State Forests to the east and south-east between the Project area and Dalby. The nearest record is from 1992 and is 14.6 km east of the Project. The nearest recent record is from 2012 and located in Condamine State Forest, 28 km to the west (Att. 3 ALA 2022). In the region of the Proposed Action River Red Gum is the preferred (or primary) forage tree species of Koala (Att. 3 AKF 2015; Wu et al.2012). The Project proposes to clear 1.31 ha of such habitat within the solar park site (RE11.3.25). The remaining habitat that will be cleared is dominated by Poplar Box as a canopy species. Poplar Box occurs in varying density in these areas with some patches actually dominated by lower storey species such as *Callitris glaucophylla* and *Allocasuarina luehmanii*. The Project proposes to clear 4.285 ha of remnant Poplar Box woodland and a further 8.33 ha of regrowth vegetation communities (RE11.5.1/a) which is widespread in the surrounding area and region.

##### Dunmall's Snake (*Furina dunmalli*)

Potential to occur (not considered likely). No individuals or signs of presence observed during site surveys. There is a single ALA record from 2000 located approximately 7 km west of the Project area, labelled as collected from the 'Old Condamine Highway'. Further afield there is a 1978 Queensland Museum record from Miles (46 km north-west of the Project) and a 2009 record located 56 km west. The species has been found in a wide range of habitats, including forests and woodlands dominated by Brigalow or other acacias on black

alluvial cracking clay and clay loams. It also occurs in open forest and woodland on sandstone-derived soils (Att. 3 Brigalow Belt Reptiles Workshop 2010; Hobson 2012). However, preferred habitat appears to be Brigalow growing on cracking black clay and clay loams (Cogger et al. 1993). All records in the past 20 years have been from remnant vegetation (Att. 3 Chapple et al. 2019). Remnant eucalypt woodlands occur along the utility corridor. There is no Brigalow within the Project footprint but White Cypress Pine and Buloke do occur. There is none of the preferred cracking clay soils or sandstone derived soils in either the Solar park site or the utility corridor. The entire area is dominated by vegetation on land zone 5 (loamy and sandy plains and plateaus). Shelter elements (i.e. fallen woody debris) in much of the Project area is scarce or non-existent due to previous tree clearing. A conservative approach has been taken to the assessment. While the species possibly occurs, the habitat present is considered to be of low quality. The Project proposes to clear 4.285 ha of potential remnant vegetation which is low-value habitat for Dunmall's Snake within the utility corridor.

#### Belson's Panic (*Homopholis belsonii*)

Potential to occur (not considered likely).

Not recorded during targeted searches for the Project. Scattered occurrences in the wider area surrounding the Project, particularly east of Dalby and west of Miles. Nearest record is from 2015 and located in a disturbed open woodland approximately 11.5 km west of the Project (Att. 3 ALA 2022). Belson's Panic is a perennial grass that spreads by the stolons and typically reaches 0.5 m in height. This species is known to occur in dry woodland habitats on poor soils, such as those derived from basalt. It occurs on rocky hills supporting *Eucalyptus albens* and in *Geijera parviflora* woodland; flat to gently undulating alluvial areas supporting *Casuarina cristata* forest; and soils and plant communities of *Eucalyptus populnea* woodlands. It may also be associated with shadier areas of *Acacia harpophylla*, *Acacia melvillei* and *Acacia pendula* communities; in *Eucalyptus orgadophila* communities; and on roadsides. Small isolated patches of suitable Poplar Box woodland habitat (RE11.3.18) on alluvial soils occur within the Proposed Action area. A regrowth patch of RE 11.3.18 (Poplar Box woodland on alluvium) is approximately 0.63 ha and located in the north-west of the Solar park area. An area of remnant RE 11.3.18 is located within the utility corridor (0.145 ha within the Project footprint). This patch was disturbed with a heavy coverage of weedy grasses in the ground layer.

Following clearing and construction no direct or indirect impacts from the Project are expected on any of the identified species.

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

No

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

The Proposed Action area has largely been cleared for livestock grazing with scattered small areas of regrowth and remnant vegetation often with a weedy grass layer present. Vegetation clearing will impact a maximum of 5.595 ha of remnant and 8.33 ha of regrowth vegetation communities, much of which comprises vegetation which is common and widespread in the surrounding area (RE 11.5.1).

The National recovery plan for the Koala (Att. 3 DAWE 2022) notes an imperative to conserve populations in areas with specific population and environmental criteria. The Recovery plan does not provide a clear description of 'habitat critical to the survival' of Koala but does identify several activities that should be avoided in order to halt the decline and promote recovery of the species. Koalas have not been observed in or near the Project area either currently or recently and there is no evidence that Koala uses habitat within the Project area or nearby surrounds. The woodlands associated with the area comprise widespread communities much of which is disturbed regrowth and located within a heavily cleared landscape. The Project will not erect structures that will provide an impermeable barrier to movement across the landscape and it is noted that habitat to the east and north of the Project has already been heavily cleared of woody vegetation. Pre-clearance surveys will be carried out by a fauna spotter-catcher prior to clearing of the identified habitat areas to ensure no Koala individuals are harmed (should any be found to be present). The clearing within the utility corridor will be linear (9.2 m wide clearing area) and will leave identical habitat adjacent to the Project. The clearing will be carried out along the existing edge of the road corridor vegetation (i.e. fragmentation will not occur). There is abundant similar habitat in the surrounding area that will remain undisturbed. The Project will not increase additional threats to the species in the area. There is no reason to believe this habitat would serve as a climate refuge or that a population (should one occur) would be part of a valued population or comprise critical habitat.

A detailed assessment in accordance with the MNES Significant impact guidelines 1.1 (Att. 3 DotE 2013) identified no significant impacts considered as likely on this species (refer Att 1, Section 5.4.2.1, pp 34-37).

The Project proposes to clear 4.285 ha of potential remnant vegetation which is low-value habitat for Dunmall's Snake within the utility corridor. This habitat is dominated by Poplar Box on sandy soils which the species is not associated with. The clearing will be linear (9.2 m wide clearing area) and will leave identical habitat adjacent to the Project. Pre-clearance surveys will be carried out by a fauna spotter-catcher where suitable shelter sites occur in suitable remnant habitat within the clearing footprint (large woody debris). The clearing will be carried out along the existing edge of the road corridor vegetation (i.e. habitat fragmentation will not occur). There is abundant similar habitat in the surrounding area that will remain undisturbed. Vegetation clearing within the solar park site will remove scattered patches of regrowth vegetation on sandy soils which are very unlikely to support the species.

A detailed assessment in accordance with the MNES Significant impact guidelines 1.1 (Att. 3 DE 2013) identified no significant impacts considered as likely on this species (refer Att. 1, Section 5.4.2.2, pp 37-40).

Important populations or habitat critical to Belson's Panic are not identified in the species literature. The species occurs as far south as Gunnedah (in NSW) and west to Miles/Roma. The Project area is not on the edge of the species distribution. Suitable habitat within the Project area is restricted to isolated small patches within the overall footprint. There is no evidence an important population would

potentially occur. Due to their small size, patches of suitable habitat for Belson's Panic within the Project area are unlikely to be critical to the survival of the species. These areas of remaining suitable habitat have been extensively searched for Belson's Panic. There is abundant identical habitat in the surrounding region.

A detailed assessment in accordance with the MNES Significant impact guidelines 1.1 (Att. 3 DE 2013) identified no significant impacts considered as likely on this species (refer Att. 1, Section 5.4.2.3, pp 40-43).

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

No

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

The area for the Proposed Action has been selected partly based on the poor ecological values and lack of habitat supporting MNES already existing on the site. No threatened species or evidence of MNES species presence has been observed. Habitat for threatened flora/fauna and migratory fauna species is very limited across much of the Proposed Action area. While four threatened species have some potential to occur none of these are considered as known or likely to occur. One threatened bird species is almost completely aerial in habits and will not be impacted. The Proposed Action area has largely been cleared for livestock grazing with scattered small areas of regrowth and remnant vegetation often with a weedy grass layer present. There is no reason to believe the clearing of a maximum of 9.74ha of remnant and 8.33 ha of regrowth vegetation communities, much of which comprises vegetation which is common and widespread in the surrounding area (RE 11.5.1), would have a significant impact on any of the identified MNES. Fauna spotter catchers will conduct pre-clearance surveys prior to vegetation clearing works of the identified habitat to minimise potential for injury/mortality of any MNES species, should any be found to be present.

Any potential ecological impacts to the Proposed Action area from clearing, dust, altered fire regimes, water contaminants, pest species and cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible at worst.

The proponent considers the Project is not 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. \***

Mitigation measures designed to avoid or reduce impacts of the Proposed Action will be documented in a Project Environmental Management Plan (EMP). These mitigation measures will address specific construction and operational conditions and commitments to minimise (as much as feasible for the Project to progress) impacts to ecological values.

The proponent has sought to reduce potential impacts to ecological values/MNES throughout the Project design phase and in discussions with DCCEEW has reduced the disturbance footprint (refer Att. 1, Section 5.2, pp. 30-31). The proponent will seek to further mitigate during any potential impacts during detailed design phase. The site for the Proposed Action was selected based on the minor ecological values present on the site of the solar park (i.e. lands being largely cleared of former vegetation communities) and proximity to existing power infrastructure (reducing the impact associated with a transmission line/utility corridor). The site also provides ease of land access, site logistics, and has community support.

Further refinements to the Project layout will be considered as the design process continues. Current design refinements have moved the eastern portion of the utility corridor further west to avoid better quality habitat associated with a creek line to the immediate north-east of the solar park (east of Clyne Road). The utility corridor now traverses directly north from the Solar park site through non-remnant lands. Final design of the utility corridor may reduce the overall area of impact through avoiding earthworks (should an overhead powerline be employed for that aspect of the Proposed Action).

Proposed mitigation measures have been detailed in Att. 1 (Section 5.2, pp 29-31) and are summarised with relevance to MNES as follows:

- Vegetation clearing extent will be clearly demarcated
- Clearing to remove habitats in stages, allowing fauna to move away from disturbed areas
- Tree felling will be carried out in such a way as to minimise potential impacts on resident fauna where habitat shelter features are identified
- Fauna spotter catchers to carry out preclearance surveys where suitable woody vegetation is present and during clearing of such habitat
- Ongoing habitat rehabilitation to reduce long-term environmental impact (habitat loss)
- Dust suppressed using water trucks/wetting to keep dust related impacts to a minimum
- Onsite speed limits will be established to minimise dust caused by vehicle movements and reduce potential for collisions with fauna
- Fire management regimes will be developed and implemented
- Measures to ensure weeds/seeds are not introduced onto site
- Weed monitoring of the site and weed monitoring strategies will be developed as part of the Project EMP
- An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be developed and implemented as part of the Project EMP to avoid any impacts to local waterways
- During operation dust accumulated on PV arrays will be cleaned with water only wherever possible

The potential value of the Proposed Action area to MNES is minimal at best and the Project itself is of a relatively benign impact, particularly following completion of construction. With the application of these management and mitigation measures (at a minimum), it is not expected that any matters that may potentially occur within or near the site will be significantly impacted as a result of the Project.

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

No offsets are considered as required for the Proposed Action

**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		Actitis hypoleucos
Yes		Apus pacificus
Yes		Calidris acuminata
Yes		Calidris ferruginea
Yes		Calidris melanotos
Yes		Cuculus optatus
Yes		Gallinago hardwickii
Yes		Hirundapus caudacutus
Yes		Motacilla flava
Yes		Myiagra cyanoleuca
Yes		Rhipidura rufifrons

**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. \***

Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*)  
 Potential to occur: Rufous Fantail occurs in moist habitats, including closed forests, coastal scrubs, mangroves and along watercourses and gullies, and urban/rural areas during mid-year migration (Att 3. Higgins et al. 2006). The species migrates north in early autumn and returns to southern Australia in early spring to breed, wintering on Cape York Peninsula, the Torres Strait and New Guinea (Att 3. Higgins et al. 2006; Menkhorst et al. 2017). Rufous Fantail is common in suitable habitat along the eastern seaboard (Att 3. Menkhorst et al. 2017).

There are sparse records of the species in the region surrounding the Project area. The nearest record is from the 1980s and is located 17km west of the Project (Att 3. ALA 2022). In the region it would be mostly along well-vegetated creek lines, which are absent from the Proposed Action area.

Species may occur in a variety of habitats in the region, mainly in winter. The species may use habitat with a dense lower storey such as occurs in the Proposed Action area. The Project will result in clearing approximately 9.74 ha of remnant and 8.33 ha of regrowth vegetation communities. These communities largely comprise common and widespread vegetation in the region. No indirect impacts are expected following completion of construction of the Project

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

No

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

It is not known if Rufous Fantail actually occurs in the area. The species remains widespread across eastern Australia. The Proposed Action area is not at the limit of the range of Rufous Fantail, nor is it within an area where the species is declining. The remnant vegetation present remains common in the wider area surrounding the Proposed Action. The region is not known to support an ecologically significant proportion of the population, 1,500 individuals are required for the location to be nationally important (Att 3. DE 2015). There is no reason to believe the minor area of potential habitat within the Proposed Action area would be of importance to the species or support an 'ecologically significant proportion of the population'.

An assessment identified no potential for significant residual impacts on this species (refer Att 1, Section 5.4.2.4, pp 43).

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

No

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

The area for the Proposed Action has been selected partly based on the poor ecological values and lack of habitat supporting MNES already existing on the site. No threatened species or evidence of MNES species presence has been observed. Habitat for threatened flora/fauna and migratory fauna species is very limited across much of the Proposed Action area. While four threatened species and two migratory species have some potential to occur none of these are considered as known or likely to occur. The Proposed Action area has largely been cleared for livestock grazing with scattered small areas of regrowth and remnant vegetation often with a weedy grass layer present. There is no reason to believe the clearing of a maximum of 9.74 ha of remnant and 8.33 ha of regrowth vegetation communities, much of which comprises vegetation which is common in the surrounding area (RE 11.5.1), would have a significant impact on any of the identified MNES.

Any potential ecological impacts to the Proposed Action area from clearing, direct mortality, dust, altered fire regimes, water contaminants, pest species and cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible.

The proponent considers the Project is not a controlled action.

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

Mitigation measures designed to avoid or reduce impacts of the Proposed Action will be documented in a Project Environmental Management Plan (EMP). These mitigation measures will address specific construction and operational conditions and commitments to minimise (as much as feasible for the Project to progress) impacts to ecological values.

The proponent has sought to reduce potential impacts to ecological values/MNES throughout the Project site selection and will seek to further mitigate during any potential impacts during detailed design phase. The site for the Proposed Action was selected based on the minor ecological values present on the site of the solar park (i.e. lands being largely cleared of former vegetation communities) and proximity to existing power infrastructure (reducing the impact associated with a transmission line/utility corridor). The site also provides ease of land access, site logistics, and has community support.

Further refinements to the Project layout will be considered as the design process continues. Current design refinements have moved the eastern portion of the utility corridor further west to avoid better quality habitat associated with a creek line to the immediate north-east of the solar park (east of Clyne Road). The utility corridor now traverses directly north from the Solar park site through non-remnant lands. Final design of the utility corridor may reduce the overall area of impact through co-location with an existing utility corridor associated with the Edenvale Solar Park and/or avoiding earthworks (should an overhead powerline be employed for that aspect of the Proposed Action). Proposed mitigation measures have been detailed in Att. A (Section 5.2, pp 29-31) and are summarised with relevance to MNES as follows:

- Vegetation clearing extent will be clearly demarcated
- Clearing to remove habitats in stages, allowing fauna to move away from disturbed areas
- Tree felling will be carried out in such a way as to minimise potential impacts on resident fauna where habitat shelter features are identified
- Fauna spotter catchers to carry out preclearance surveys where suitable woody vegetation is present and during clearing of such habitat
- Ongoing habitat rehabilitation to reduce long-term environmental impact (habitat loss)
- Dust suppressed using water trucks/wetting to keep dust related impacts to a minimum
- Onsite speed limits will be established to minimise dust caused by vehicle movements and reduce potential for collisions with fauna
- Fire management regimes will be developed and implemented
- Measures to ensure weeds/seeds are not introduced onto site
- Weed monitoring of the site and weed monitoring strategies will be developed as part of the Project EMP
- An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be developed and implemented as part of the Project EMP to avoid any impacts to local waterways
- During operation dust accumulated on PV arrays will be cleaned with water only wherever possible

The potential value of the Proposed Action area to MNES is minimal at best and the Project itself is of a relatively benign impact, particularly following completion of construction. With the application of these management and mitigation measures (at a minimum), it is not expected that any matters that may potentially occur within or near the site will be significantly impacted as a result of the Project.

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

Offsets are not considered applicable to the Proposed Action.

**4.1.6 Nuclear**

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is a solar project. There are no 'nuclear' materials or activities involved.

#### **4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area**

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is located over 250 km west of the nearest coastline.

#### **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 nearest point of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is over 300 km north-east of the Project. No direct or indirect impacts are possible.

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is a solar farm project. It is not a coal mine or coal seam gas project.

#### **4.1.10 Commonwealth Land**

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Protected Matters Search results (refer Appendix A in Att. 1) did not identify any Commonwealth Lands associated with the Proposed Action or surrounds. As such, there will be no direct or indirect impacts on this matter.

#### **4.1.11 Commonwealth heritage places overseas**

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

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

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

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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. \***

The Protected Matters Search results (refer Appendix A in Att. 1) did not identify any Commonwealth Heritage Places associated with the Proposed Action or surrounds. The Proposed Action is located within Australia. As such, there will be no direct or indirect impacts on this matter.



## 4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

## 4.2 Impact summary

### Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

*None*

### Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth heritage places overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

## 4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

A regional scale multicriteria analysis site selection process was undertaken to select the most suitable site for solar park projects.

Consultation undertaken as part of these investigations indicated the capacity to export electricity from the site to the national grid was a key factor for site selection and as such, excess capacity at the Orana electrical substation was used as a starting point to identify a suitable site.

The proposed site was then identified as the preferred site due to the availability of an abundant solar source, proximity to transmission lines and Orana substation, low population density in the area and the limited nature of environmental constraints at the site.

WDRC have been strongly supportive of the Project due to the highly suitable location. In discussions with DCCEEW the alignment of the utility corridor has been subject to substantial refinement in order to reduce the disturbance footprint and environmental impacts, particularly to Koala (refer text in Att. 1, Section 5.2, pp. 30-31). The eastern portion of the utility corridor has been moved further west to avoid better quality habitat associated with a creek line to the immediate north-east of the solar park (east of Clyne Road). The utility corridor now traverses directly north from the solar park site through non-remnant lands avoiding better quality habitat north-east of the solar park. The width of the utility corridor has now been reduced from 15 m to 9.2 m wide. The western 1.5 km portion of the utility corridor has been moved north of the road reserve into the adjacent property, thereby impacting far less vegetation. Overall these refinements have reduced the impact of the utility corridor on remnant vegetation by close to 50% compared to the original project design.

Further design changes may result in a modification to the current technical solution including changes to the alignment and/or width of the corridor, voltage of powerlines, or the implementation of an overhead solution. While these design changes may occur, the final design solution will comply with the maximum vegetation clearing areas calculated in this application.

No other alternatives were proposed following the investigation process and selecting the Proposed Action area.

## 5. Lodgement

### 5.1 Attachments

#### 1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

#1.	Att 1-Everleigh-Ecology Report Rev0 final	Document	Ecology Assessment Report for Everleigh Solar Park Project (August 2022)
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#### 1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

#1.	Att. 4 CHMP Crossroads solar parks	Document	Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Solar park
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#### 1.3.2.17 (Person proposing to take the action) Proposer's history of responsible environmental management

#1.	Att 2 -ASLAT Quality Policy 2018	Document	Quality policy project will be governed under
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#### 3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

#1.	Att. 5 Traffic Impact Assessment	Document	Traffic impact assessment for project
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#### 3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

#1.	Att 3- References	Document	Reference list for referral
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#### 3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

#1.	Att 6. Cultural Heritage Desktop Report	Document	Cultural heritage due diligence assessment associated with Edenvale and Everleigh solar parks
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## 5.2 Declarations

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### Completed Referring party's declaration

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

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ABN	54169579275
Organisation name	Epic Environmental Pty Ltd
Organisation address	Level 17, 95 North Quay Brisbane 4000
Representative's name	Brett Taylor
Representative's job title	Associate Environmental Scientist
Phone	0439564918
Email	btaylor@epicenvironmental.com.au
Address	Level 17, 95 North Quay, Brisbane 4000

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

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

By checking this box, I, **Brett Taylor of Epic Environmental Pty Ltd**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. \*

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

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### Awaiting 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.

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ABN	62627091525
Organisation name	Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd
Organisation address	Suite 70, Level 12 269 Wickham Street, Brisbane 4000
Representative's name	Alfonso Vega de Seoane
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0400215783
Email	avega@dpigroup.org
Address	Suite 70, Level 12 269 Wickham Street, Brisbane 4000

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

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

I, **Alfonso Vega de Seoane of Everleigh Solar Park Pty Ltd**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that

giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. \*

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

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### ● **Awaiting Proposed designated proponent's declaration**

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

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Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

I, **Alfonso Vega de Seoane of Everleigh Solar Park 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. \*