

STRONTIAN SOLAR FARM & BESS SCOPING REPORT – PRELIMINARY BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

GRUPO COBRA

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ABBREVIATION GLOSSARY

Abbreviation	Description
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method
BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BOS	Biodiversity Offset Scheme
BV	Biodiversity Values
Cth DCCEEW	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
HBT	Hollow-bearing Tree
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
KFT	Koala Food Tree
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
NSW	New South Wales
NSW DCCEEW	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
PCT	Plant Community Type
SVTM	State Vegetation Type Map
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The proposed Strontian Solar Farm & Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project) aims to provide sustainable and renewable electricity while reducing carbon emissions and bolstering national energy security. The Project, being developed by Strontian Solar Farm Pty Ltd, is situated in Sandigo, NSW, within the Narrandera Local Government Area (Narrandera LGA), approximately 17 kilometres (km) southeast of Narrandera. The site covers approximately 670 hectares (ha) of agricultural land which is situated on land zoned as RU1 Primary Production under the *Narrandera Local Environmental Plan 2013* (Narrandera LEP) as depicted in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

The Project involves the development of a 370 megawatt (MW) direct current (DC) utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) plant (connection capacity of 328MWac), integrated with a 335MW/670MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Other infrastructure includes inverters, a substation, a control room, water storage tanks, internal roads and associated infrastructure.

An existing 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (Wagga 330 to Darlington Point) crosses the Project site. As part of the Development, it is proposed that a new on-site 330 kV substation and associated infrastructure will be constructed to allow for energy to be exported to the electricity grid.

This Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment provides the methods and results of the initial desktop investigations and site surveys carried out, an overview of the potential impacts on biodiversity and the approach for undertaking the detailed ecological studies as part of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Project.

2. SUBJECT SITE AND SURROUNDS

The proposed development is located within the Narrandera LGA and comprises the following lots:

- Lot 1 DP220430
- Lot 1 DP548128
- Lot 23 DP754538
- Lot 44 DP754538
- Lot 71 DP754538.

The Project site is located in the South Western Slopes bioregion and the Lower Slopes subregion (Figure 3).

The Project site is generally cleared and currently used for cropping and grazing activities. Surrounding land is also primarily used for cropping and grazing and the site exists in a highly cleared landscape. Buckingbong State Forest is located nearby to the southwest and generally consists of intact vegetation with a logging and plantation history. The Avonlie Solar site is located on land adjacent to the east of the site and is an existing separate project.

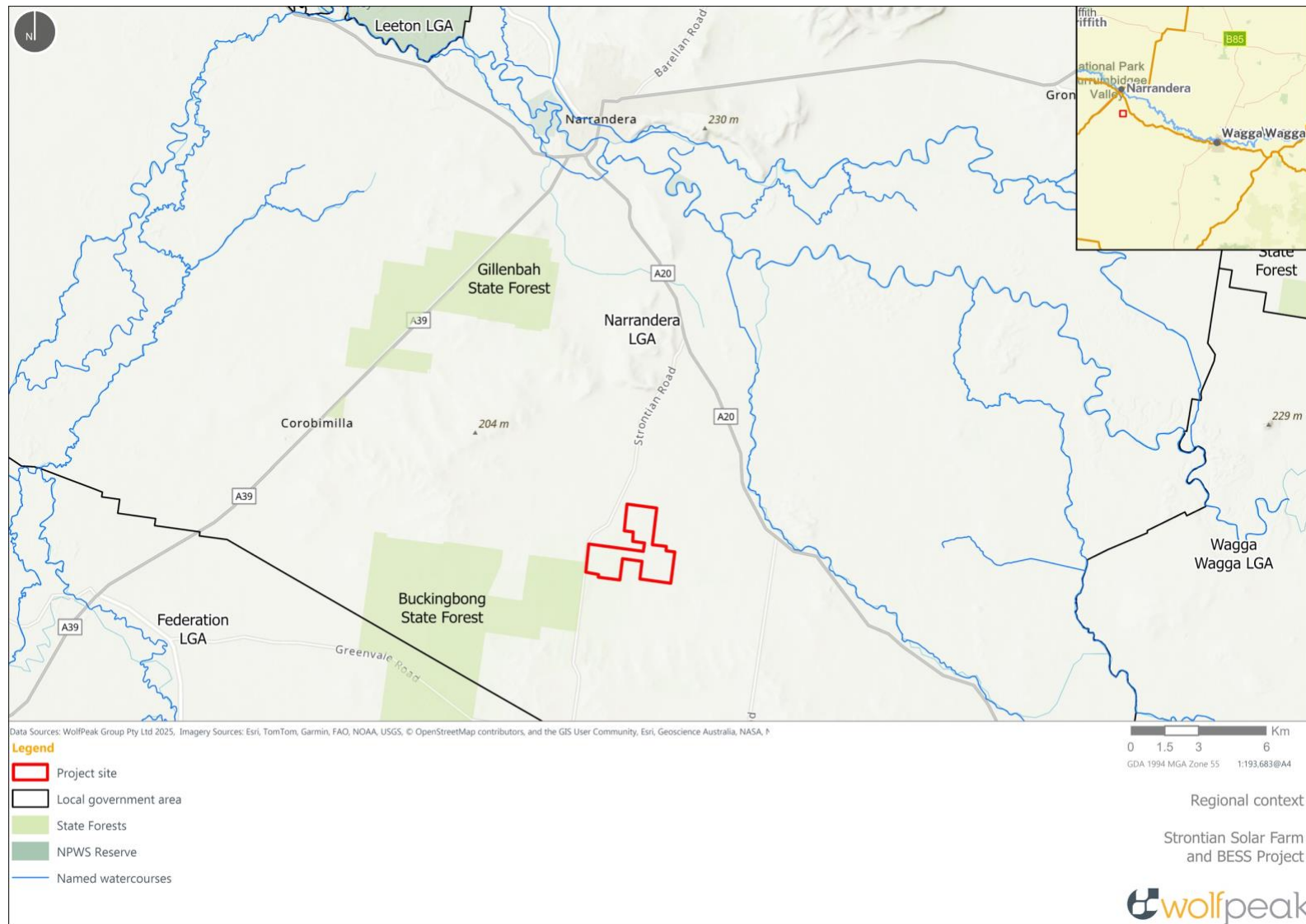


Figure 1: Regional location of the Project site

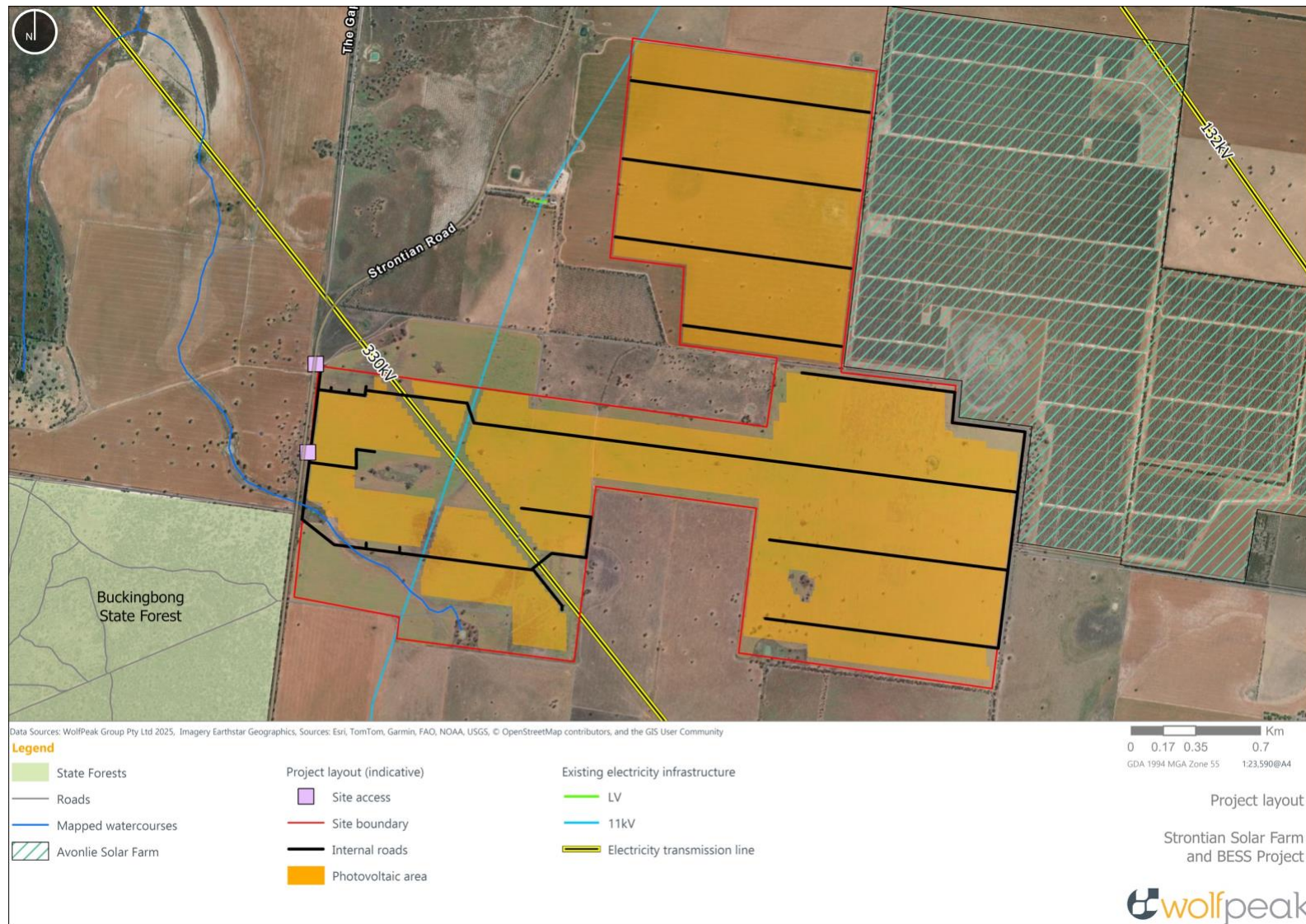


Figure 2: Indicative layout of the Project

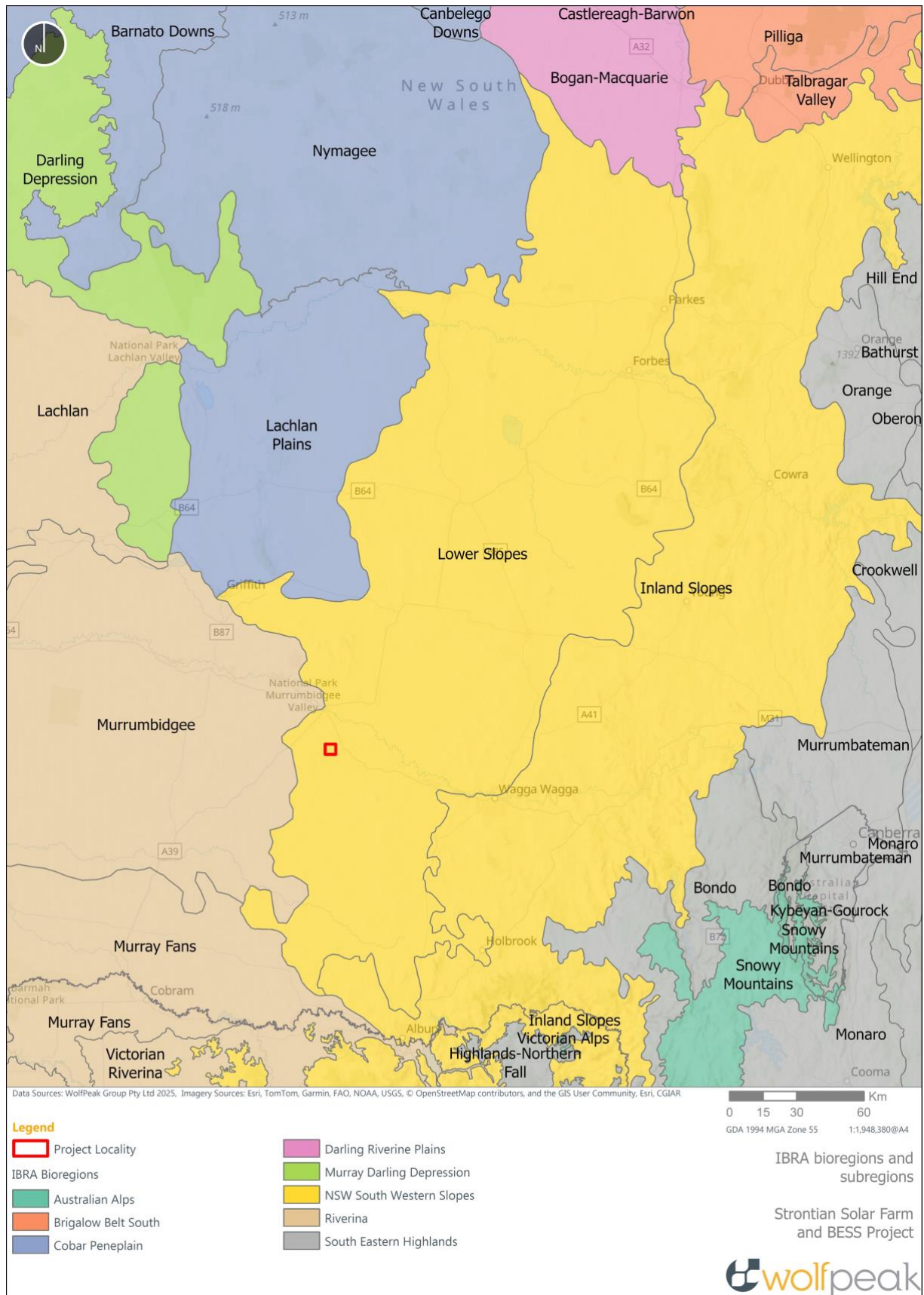


Figure 3: Bioregion and subregion

3. METHODS

3.1 Desktop study and sources of information

A desktop study was carried out prior to field surveys to gather relevant information and data. Database searches were carried out using a 10 km buffer from the Project site (the locality).

The following databases and Geographic Information System (GIS) layers were searched:

- Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Protected Matters Search Tool (DCCEEW 2024a).
- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – BioNet Atlas (NSW DCCEEW 2024a).
- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – NSW State Vegetation Type Map (DPE 2024b).
- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Biodiversity Values Map (DPE 2024c).
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* digital data layer (DPE 2019).
- NSW Department of Primary Industries – Key Fish Habitat (DPI 2024).

3.2 Site Surveys

Site surveys for the scoping study were undertaken on 14 and 15 of November 2024 and 5 June 2025 by WolfPeak's Principal Ecologist Will Steggall.

Opportunistic searches for threatened flora and fauna species were carried out during the surveys. This consisted of searches for fauna scats, tracks and feeding signs and opportunistic searches in suitable habitat for potentially occurring threatened flora and fauna species.

Random meander transects were undertaken across the site to record the vegetation types and search for threatened flora.

Targeted surveys have commenced with a survey for the Glossy Black Cockatoo between 19-21 August by WolfPeak Biodiversity team Practice Lead Gavin Thomas.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Desktop search results

Information was gathered from a desktop review to determine species of flora and fauna listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) that have been recorded within a 10 km buffer from the Project site.

4.1.1 BioNet

The following table lists the threatened flora and fauna species that have previously been identified within the locality on the BioNet Atlas (NSW DCCEEW 2024a).

Table 1: BioNet search results

Common name	Scientific name	BC Act	EPBC Act
Flora			
A spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa wakoolica</i>	E	E
Silky Swainson-pea	<i>Swainsona sericea</i>	V	-
Sand-hill Spider Orchid	<i>Caladenia arenaria</i>	E	E
Pine Donkey Orchid	<i>Diuris tricolor</i>	V	-
Amphibia			
Southern Bell Frog	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	E	V
Aves			
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	V	E
Brolga	<i>Grus rubicunda</i>	V	-
Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies)	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	V	V
Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	V	V
Dusky Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	V	-
Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>	V	-
South-eastern Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	E	E
Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	V	V
Spotted Harrier	<i>Circus assimilis</i>	V	-
Superb Parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	V	V
Varied Sittella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	V	-
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	V	-
White-fronted Chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	V	-
Mammalia			
Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	E	E
Key: Vulnerable (V), Endangered (E), Critically Endangered (CE).			

4.1.2 Biodiversity values map

NSW DCCEEW administers the State-wide mapping of areas containing high biodiversity value (BV). Any development within lands mapped as containing BV immediately requires entry into the biodiversity offset scheme (BOS). There are no BV mapped on the Project site. The nearest mapped area of BV is 5.1 km east of the Project along the Sandy Creek riparian corridor.

4.1.3 Important habitat mapping

Important habitat mapping for the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*), Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) and migratory shorebirds has been released by the NSW DCCEEW. This map defines areas of important breeding and foraging habitat for these species. Impacts on mapped areas should be avoided and minimised, and biodiversity credits are required for impacts on any mapped areas.

No important habitat mapping occurs within or near the Project. The nearest mapped areas comprise Regent Honeyeater important areas approximately 18 km south-west of the Project site.

4.1.4 State Vegetation Type Map

The NSW State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM) maps NSW Plant Community Types (PCTs) on a regional scale (NSW DCCEEW 2024). The latest revision was released in November 2024 (C2.0M2.1). The SVTM shows four different PCTs within the Project site which cover a combined area of 3.6 ha, while the remainder of the Project site is mapped as non-native vegetation. The four PCTs occurring within the Project site are detailed in Table 2 and shown in Figure 5.

Table 2: Mapped PCTs occurring within the Project site

PCT ID	PCT name	Area (ha)
70	White Cypress Pine woodland on sandy loams in central NSW wheatbelt	0.19
75	Yellow Box – White Cypress Pine grassy woodland on deep sandy-loam alluvial soils of the eastern Riverina Bioregion and western NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	1.09
76	Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils in the NSW South Western Slopes and Riverina Bioregions	0.44
80	Western Grey Box – White Cypress Pine tall woodland on loam soil on alluvial plains of NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and Riverina Bioregion	1.96

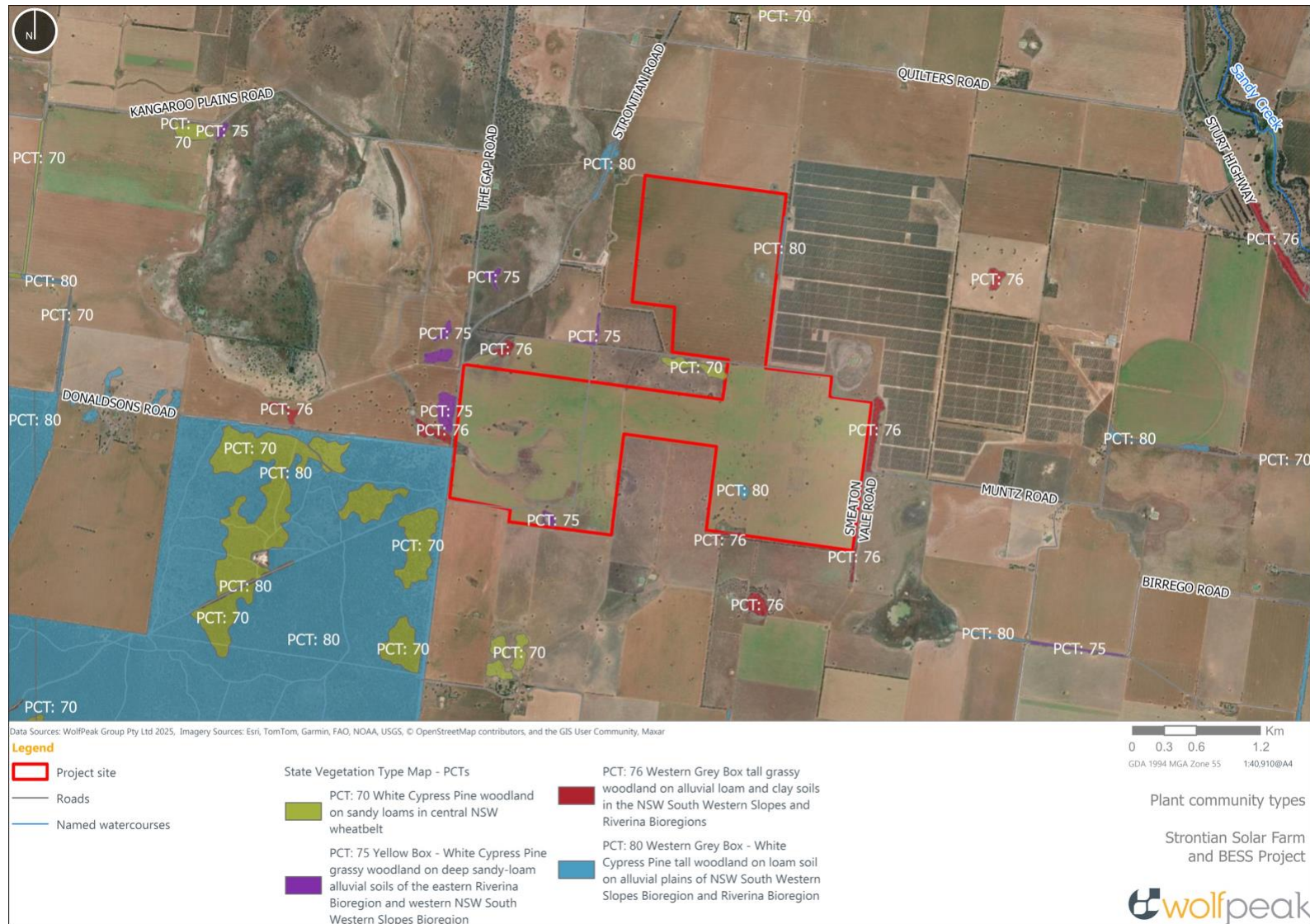


Figure 4: NSW State Vegetation Type Mapping in proximity to Project site

4.1.5 Matters of national environmental significance

Table 3 summarises the results of the Protected Matters Search Tool search. The search was undertaken using a 10 km search radius from the Project site.

Table 3: Matters of national environmental significance search results

Category	Result	Description
World Heritage Properties	None	-
National Heritage Places	None	-
Wetlands of International Importance	4	Four Ramsar listed wetlands 300-700 km away from the Proposal. Not relevant to the proposal
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	None	-
Commonwealth Marine Area	None	-
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities	4	Four listed threatened ecological communities are listed as likely to occur within the locality.
Listed Threatened Species	42	Species or species habitat is known/likely/may occur within the locality.
Listed Migratory Species	8	Migratory wetland, terrestrial and marine species or species habitat is known/likely/may occur within the locality.
Other matters protected by the EPBC Act		
Commonwealth Land	5	Various Commonwealth Lands (Australian Telecommunications Commission – Telstra Corporation Limited) occur within the buffer area.
Commonwealth Heritage Places	None	-
Listed Marine Species	16	Species or species habitat is known/likely/may occur within the locality.
Whales and other Cetaceans	None	-
Critical Habitats	None	-
Commonwealth Reserves - Terrestrial	None	-
Commonwealth Reserves - Marine	None	-

4.2 Site vegetation communities

The Project site is heavily disturbed due to cropping and grazing and has been subject to historical clearing which has reduced the suitability of site habitats to support fauna species. The Project site is situated within a heavily modified agricultural landscape which has been heavily cleared and has poor landscape connectivity.

The site inspection found that the Project site primarily comprises cropping land with scattered remnant trees (Photo 1 and Photo 2), consisting of Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), White Cypress (*Callitris glaucophylla*) and Black Cypress (*Callitris endlicheri*). Some of these trees showed signs of dieback and several dead trees were also noted throughout the Project site.

Small patches of woodland occur throughout which are dominated by Grey Box, Black Cypress, White Cypress and occasional Yellow Box as shown in Photo 3 and Photo 4. Strips of modified remnant woodland occur along part of the northern, eastern and southeastern boundary (Photo 5). These areas are dominated by Grey Box and Cypress species, the understorey shrub layer being typically absent, aside from clumps of Saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.) in some areas. The ground layer in

these communities is sparse and features a mix of native and exotic grasses and herbs with a large component of annual grasses.

A patch of derived native grassland is located adjacent to the Project site which has been amended to avoid it. This area has not been cropped but is currently grazed by sheep. The groundcover consists of a mix of native and exotic grasses including Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma* sp.), Hairy Panic (*Panicum effusum*), *Austrostipa* spp., Wild Oats (*Avena sativa*) and Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) (Photo 6).

A drainage depression is located in the southwest of the Project site which is colonised by a mix of native grass, rush and forb species including Common Rush (*Juncus usitatus*), Dock (*Rumex crispus*), Nardoo (*Marsilea* sp.) and Hairy Panic (Photo 7).



Photo 1: Cropping land with scattered paddock trees (Nov 2024)



Photo 2: Scattered paddock trees in northern section (June 2025)



Photo 3: Small patch of remnant woodland dominated by Grey Box



Photo 4: Modified remnant woodland in northeast of the site



Photo 5: Regrowth Eucalypts outside the eastern boundary on crown road



Photo 6: Derived native grassland adjoining the Project site on Lot 1 DP548128



Photo 7: Drainage depression with rush species located in the southwest of the Project site

4.3 Threatened ecological communities

The following table provides the PCTs on the Project site which have an associated threatened ecological community (TEC). The site inspection found that the Project site has vegetation that is likely to meet the criteria of Grey Box Grassy Woodlands TEC listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act. Some patches containing Yellow Box may qualify as White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland TEC, however, is in a highly degraded state. Table 4 describes the PCTs occurring within the Project site and their associated TECs.

Table 4: Plant community types occurring within the Project site and their associated threatened ecological communities

PCT	BC Act TEC	EPBC Act TEC
PCT 70: White Cypress Pine woodland on sandy loams in central NSW wheatbelt	No matching TEC	No matching TEC
PCT 75: Yellow Box - White Cypress Pine grassy woodland on deep sandy-loam alluvial soils of the eastern Riverina Bioregion and western NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.
	Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions	
PCT 76: Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils in the NSW South Western Slopes and Riverina Bioregions	Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Penepplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions	Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia
PCT 80: Western Grey Box - White Cypress Pine tall woodland on loam soil on alluvial plains of NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and Riverina Bioregion	Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Penepplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions	No matching TEC
	Mallee and Mallee-Broombush dominated woodland and shrubland, lacking Triodia, in the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	
	Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia	

4.4 Fauna habitats

Fauna habitats within the Project site generally comprise scattered paddock trees, small patches of woodland and a mix of native and exotic grassland. Many of the remnant paddock trees contain hollows which offer nesting and denning habitat for a range of species. Due to the isolated nature of these trees, they are most likely to support breeding by bird species such as parrots and cockatoos as well as microbats. Threatened avian species that could potentially use tree hollows

on site include the Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*), Brown Treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*) and Barking Owl (*Ninox connivens*).

The Project site has poor quality habitat for the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) due to the low level of landscape connectivity and limited extent of preferred foraging trees. Both Grey Box and Yellow Box are potential browse species. The nearest Koala records on BioNet occur 8 km to the north near the Sturt Highway.

The site offers good foraging habitat for raptors and potentially forest owls such as the Barking Owl and has several suitable trees that could be used for nesting. The threatened Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*) was recorded during the survey and other species which could occur include the Little Eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*).

The site habitats are likely to be too open and disturbed for threatened woodland bird species such as the Regent Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*), Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*) and Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*). Similarly, there is not enough landscape connectivity and foraging habitat to support arboreal species such as the Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) and Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*).

Several piles of paddock trees (White Cypress) removed by the landowner in 2022 occur in the southern half of the site (Photo 8) which may offer refuge habitat for common fauna species.

The only potential aquatic habitat within the Project site consists of three farm dams with limited ecological value. These were dry or almost dry during the site inspection in June 2025. There are also drainage depressions and several ephemeral soaks which would hold water temporarily after heavy rain. These areas may provide habitat for common amphibian species.



Photo 8: Felled paddock tree pile

4.5 Threatened species

The Spotted Harrier was recorded during the initial site inspection while several BioNet records of this species occur within 10 km of the Project site. An adult pair were observed flying overhead in the north of Lot 1 DP 548128 adjoining the site as shown in Figure 5. These birds would also be expected to range widely within the site as part of their territory. The Spotted Harrier is listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act.

One large raptor nest was observed during the site inspection inside the eastern boundary within the northern section of the Project site (Figure 5 and Photos 9 and 10). It was vacant at the time of survey and no raptor activity was recorded nearby. Other potential nesting trees are present within the Project site.

No threatened flora species were recorded during the site inspection; however, only opportunistic searches were undertaken. The site provides small areas of suitable habitat for several threatened flora species such as the A Spear-grass (*Austrostipa wakoolica*), Silky Swainson-pea (*Swainsona sericea*) and Pine Donkey Orchid (*Diuris tricolor*).



Figure 5: Observed threatened fauna (Spotted Harrier) and raptor nest in proximity to the Project site



Photo 9: Raptor nest in Grey Box, and signs of dieback on tree



Photo 10: Close up view of raptor nest, and signs of dieback on tree

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The Project has been designed to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity which will significantly reduce potential impacts on native vegetation and habitat, and impacts will primarily comprise removal of paddock trees.

Almost the entire footprint occurs on highly disturbed cropping land which has low biodiversity value, however, there are many scattered paddock trees that would require removal. These trees still provide biodiversity functions such as offering a nectar resource and providing hollows which could be used for breeding by bird and microbat species. They also provide stepping stones of habitat across the highly cleared landscape.

Several mapped PCTs and the potential TEC within the Project site are proposed to be retained. The drainage depression and ephemeral drainage soaks will also be retained. The Project layout is indicative and initial impacts outlined in this Scoping Report may change. The narrow strips of mapped PCTs and rows of planted trees around the edges of the Project site are recommended to be retained.

Access to the site will be via Strontian Road, and there is one large Yellow Box in the road reserve located 2km north of the site access with an overhanging limb that may require trimming or removal, if impacted (Photo 11). There is also a stand of Weeping Myall Woodland in the road reserve approximately 6km north of the site access where minor limb pruning may be required (Photo 12). These potential impacts will be assessed in detail in the EIS and BDAR.

Given the measures that have been taken to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity, it is unlikely that the Project would result in a significant impact on EPBC Act listed species or ecological communities and is therefore unlikely to require referral to the minister for approval under the EPBC Act. It is, however, noted that detailed field surveys have not yet been undertaken, and a finalised construction and development layout has not been reviewed by WolfPeak at the time of writing and final impacts are yet to be determined.



Photo 11: Tree with overhanging limb



Photo 12: Weeping Myall in road reserve

6. PROPOSED ASSESSMENT APPROACH

A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) will be prepared as part of the EIS. The BDAR will require detailed surveys in line with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM). These will collect additional vegetation data, mark habitat features and search for threatened species. This would involve a number of survey methods including threatened flora transects, habitat searches, diurnal bird surveys and placement of camera traps and ultrasonic microbat call recording devices. Surveys would need to be conducted over a 12-month period to account for seasonal survey requirements for candidate species. Field surveys are planned to be carried out in three different survey seasons (winter, spring and summer) to target the candidate threatened species which require survey. Based on the results of the site inspections, a list of threatened species for targeted survey has been prepared and is provided in Appendix A.

The BDAR is required to contain State/Commonwealth statutory assessments, an assessment of potential serious and irreversible impacts (SAIL) to any susceptible species considered likely to occur and demonstrate how the Project has avoided and minimised impacts on threatened species and ecological communities. The report would also provide recommendations to reduce impacts on flora and fauna (these may include habitat avoidance, pre-clearing surveys and clearing supervision, habitat replacement, hollow-bearing tree removal protocol and a preparation of a vegetation management plan). The BDAR will provide a detailed assessment of offset obligations (biodiversity credits) required for the development.

7. CONCLUSION

This biodiversity scoping report has reviewed background information, databases and mapping relevant to the site and provided data from a preliminary field survey of the site.

The site is highly modified as a result of historical clearing and ongoing agricultural activities and native vegetation is limited to small patches of woodland and scattered paddock trees. Preliminary analysis and site survey has identified the presence of hollow-bearing trees and other potential habitat for threatened species, as well as Threatened Ecological Communities in poor condition. One threatened fauna species, the Spotted Harrier, was recorded during the field survey.

The Project will trigger the Biodiversity Offset Scheme and a BDAR will be required to accompany the EIS, whereby avoid and minimise principles must be addressed. These principles are a key component of the BAM and the concept development design has demonstrated these by avoiding mapped areas of PCTs and TECs as well as drainage lines. This will minimise residual ecological impacts that would require biodiversity credits.

A referral is recommended under the EPBC Act for impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance, and the application is in progress.

APPENDIX A – TARGET SPECIES FOR SURVEY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Likelihood to occur	Survey season	Comments
Flora				
Ausfeld's Wattle	<i>Acacia ausfeldii</i>	Low	Spring	-
Yass Daisy	<i>Ammobium craspedioides</i>	Low	Spring	-
A spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa wakoolica</i>	Moderate	Spring	-
Bluegrass	<i>Dichanthium setosum</i>	Fair	Summer	-
Pine Donkey Orchid	<i>Diuris tricolor</i>	Low	Spring	-
Euphrasia arguta	<i>Euphrasia arguta</i>	Low	Summer	-
Tumut Grevillea	<i>Grevillea wilkinsonii</i>	Low	Spring	-
Austral Pillwort	<i>Pilularia novae-hollandiae</i>	Low	Spring	-
Prasophyllum sp. Wybong	<i>Prasophyllum sp. Wybong</i>	Low	Spring	-
Small Purple-pea	<i>Swainsona recta</i>	Low	Spring	-
Silky Swainson-pea	<i>Swainsona sericea</i>	Low	Spring	-
Fauna				
Pink-tailed Legless Lizard	<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Low	Spring	-
Superb Parrot (Breeding)	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	High	Spring	-
Golden Sun Moth	<i>Synemon plana</i>	Unlikely	-	Exclude from survey
White-bellied Sea-Eagle (Breeding)	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Unlikely	-	Exclude from survey
Little Eagle (Breeding)	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Fair	Spring	-
Square-tailed Kite (Breeding)	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Fair	Spring	-
Key's Matchstick Grasshopper	<i>Keyacris scurra</i>	Low	Spring	-
Large-eared Pied Bat	<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Fair	Summer	-
Large Bent-winged Bat (Breeding)	<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>	Low	Summer	-
Squirrel Glider	<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Unlikely	-	Exclude from survey
Squirrel Glider in the Wagga Wagga LGA	<i>Petaurus norfolcensis - endangered population</i>	Unlikely	-	Exclude from survey
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Unlikely	-	Exclude from survey
Brush-tailed Phascogale	<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Unlikely	-	Exclude from survey
Bush Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Low	Spring	-
Booroolong Frog	<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>	Unlikely	-	Exclude from survey
Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Low	Spring	-
Grey-headed Flying-fox (Breeding)	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Unlikely	-	Exclude from survey

Common Name	Scientific Name	Likelihood to occur	Survey season	Comments
Gang-gang Cockatoo (Breeding)	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Low	Spring	-
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (Breeding)	<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>	Fair	Spring	-
Barking Owl (Breeding)	<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Fair	Spring	-
Glossy Black-Cockatoo (Breeding)	<i>Calyptrorhynchus lathamii</i>	Low	Winter	-
Masked Owl (Breeding)	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Fair	Spring	-

APPENDIX B – PROTECTED MATTERS SEARCH TOOL RESULTS



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected. Please see the caveat for interpretation of information provided here.

Report created: 25-Jun-2025

[Summary](#)

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Summary

Matters of National Environment Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the [Administrative Guidelines on Significance](#).

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	4
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	4
Listed Threatened Species:	42
Listed Migratory Species:	8

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage>

A [permit](#) may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

Commonwealth Lands:	5
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	16
Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:	None
Australian Marine Parks:	None
Habitat Critical to the Survival of Marine Turtles:	None

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have

State and Territory Reserves:	1
Regional Forest Agreements:	None
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
EPBC Act Referrals:	3
Key Ecological Features (Marine):	None
Biologically Important Areas:	None
Bioregional Assessments:	None
Geological and Bioregional Assessments:	None

Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Wetlands)		[Resource Information]
Ramsar Site Name	Proximity	Buffer Status
Banrock station wetland complex	500 - 600km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area
Hattah-kulkyne lakes	300 - 400km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area
Riverland	500 - 600km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area
The coorong, and lakes alexandrina and albert wetland	600 - 700km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area

Listed Threatened Ecological Communities [Resource Information]

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Status of Vulnerable, Disallowed and Ineligible are not MNES under the EPBC Act.

Community Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia	Endangered	Community likely to occur within area	In feature area
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains	Critically Endangered	Community likely to occur within area	In buffer area only
Weeping Myall Woodlands	Endangered	Community may occur within area	In feature area
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	Critically Endangered	Community likely to occur within area	In feature area

Listed Threatened Species [Resource Information]

Status of Conservation Dependent and Extinct are not MNES under the EPBC Act.

Number is the current name ID.

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
BIRD			

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Aphelocephala leucopsis Southern Whiteface [529]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Botaurus poiciloptilus Australasian Bittern [1001]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo [67036]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Climacteris picumnus victoriae Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) [67062]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Falco hypoleucos Grey Falcon [929]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Grantiella picta Painted Honeyeater [470]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Hirundapus caudacutus White-throated Needle-tail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Lathamus discolor Swift Parrot [744]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Leipoa ocellata Malleefowl [934]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (eastern), Eastern Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Pink Cockatoo (eastern) [82926]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Melanodryas cucullata cucullata South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern) [67093]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Neophema chrysostoma Blue-winged Parrot [726]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Pedionomus torquatus Plains-wanderer [906]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Polytelis swainsonii Superb Parrot [738]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Rostratula australis Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Stagonopleura guttata Diamond Firetail [59398]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
CRUSTACEAN			
Euastacus armatus Murray Crayfish [81537]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
FISH			
Bidyanus bidyanus Silver Perch, Bidyan [76155]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In buffer area only
Galaxias rostratus Flathead Galaxias, Beaked Minnow, Flat-headed Galaxias, Flat-headed Jollytail, Flat-headed Minnow [84745]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Maccullochella macquariensis Trout Cod [26171]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In buffer area only
Maccullochella peelii Murray Cod [66633]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In buffer area only
Macquaria australasica Macquarie Perch [66632]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
FROG			
Crinia sloanei Sloane's Froglet [59151]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Litoria raniformis Southern Bell Frog, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog [1828]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
MAMMAL			
Nyctophilus corbeni Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat [83395]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT) Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) [85104]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Pteropus poliocephalus Grey-headed Flying-fox [186]	Vulnerable	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour may occur within area	In feature area
PLANT			
Amphibromus fluitans River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass [19215]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Austrostipa wakoolica [66623]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Brachyscome muelleroides Mueller Daisy [15572]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Caladenia arenaria Sand-hill Spider-orchid [9275]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Caladenia xanthochila Yellow-lip Spider-orchid [55509]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Lepidium aschersonii Spiny Peppercross [10976]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Lepidium monoplacoides Winged Pepper-cress [9190]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Sclerolaena napiformis Turnip Copperburr [11742]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Swainsona murrayana Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea [6765]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Swainsona plagiotropis Red Darling-pea, Red Swainson-pea [10804]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
REPTILE			
Aprasia parapulchella Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard [1665]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Hemiaspis damelii Grey Snake [1179]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Listed Migratory Species		[Resource Information]	
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Migratory Marine Birds			

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Migratory Terrestrial Species			
Hirundapus caudacutus White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Migratory Wetlands Species			
Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Commonwealth Lands [Resource Information]

The Commonwealth area listed below may indicate the presence of Commonwealth land in this vicinity. Due to the unreliability of the data source, all proposals should be checked as to whether it impacts on a Commonwealth area, before making a definitive decision. Contact the State or Territory government land department for further information.

Commonwealth Land Name	State	Buffer Status
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts - Telstra Corporation Limited		
Commonwealth Land - Australian Telecommunications Commission [15369] NSW		In buffer area only

Commonwealth Land Name	State	Buffer Status
Commonwealth Land - Australian Telecommunications Commission [15365]	NSW	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - Australian Telecommunications Commission [15366]	NSW	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - Australian Telecommunications Commission [15367]	NSW	In buffer area only
Unknown		
Commonwealth Land - [15376]	NSW	In buffer area only

Listed Marine Species			[Resource Information]
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Bird			
Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Bubulcus ibis as Ardea ibis Cattle Egret [66521]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Chalcites osculans as Chrysococcyx osculans Black-eared Cuckoo [83425]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Haliaeetus leucogaster White-bellied Sea-Eagle [943]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Hirundapus caudacutus White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In buffer area only
Lathamus discolor Swift Parrot [744]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Merops ornatus Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Myiagra cyanoleuca Satin Flycatcher [612]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Neophema chrysostoma Blue-winged Parrot [726]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Rostratula australis as Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato) Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area

Extra Information

State and Territory Reserves [\[Resource Information \]](#)

Protected Area Name	Reserve Type	State	Buffer Status
Buckingbong	Flora Reserve	NSW	In buffer area only

EPBC Act Referrals [\[Resource Information \]](#)

Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status
Not controlled action				
Improving rabbit biocontrol: releasing another strain of RHDV, sthrn two thirds of Australia	2015/7522	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In feature area
INDIGO Central Submarine Telecommunications Cable	2017/8127	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In feature area
Not controlled action (particular manner)				
INDIGO Marine Cable Route Survey (INDIGO)	2017/7996	Not Controlled Action (Particular Manner)	Post-Approval	In feature area

Caveat

1 PURPOSE

This report is designed to assist in identifying the location of matters of national environmental significance (MNES) and other matters protected by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) which may be relevant in determining obligations and requirements under the EPBC Act.

The report contains the mapped locations of:

- World and National Heritage properties;
- Wetlands of International and National Importance;
- Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves;
- distribution of listed threatened, migratory and marine species;
- listed threatened ecological communities; and
- other information that may be useful as an indicator of potential habitat value.

2 DISCLAIMER

This report is not intended to be exhaustive and should only be relied upon as a general guide as mapped data is not available for all species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act (see below). Persons seeking to use the information contained in this report to inform the referral of a proposed action under the EPBC Act should consider the limitations noted below and whether additional information is required to determine the existence and location of MNES and other protected matters.

Where data is available to inform the mapping of protected species, the presence type (e.g. known, likely or may occur) that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. It is the responsibility of any person using or relying on the information in this report to ensure that it is suitable for the circumstances of any proposed use. The Commonwealth cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any use of the report or any part thereof. To the maximum extent allowed under governing law, the Commonwealth will not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on the contents of this report.

3 DATA SOURCES

Threatened ecological communities

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are generated based on information contained in recovery plans, State vegetation maps and remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Threatened, migratory and marine species

Threatened, migratory and marine species distributions have been discerned through a variety of methods. Where distributions are well known and if time permits, distributions are inferred from either thematic spatial data (i.e. vegetation, soils, geology, elevation, aspect, terrain, etc.) together with point locations and described habitat; or modelled (MAXENT or BIOCLIM habitat modelling) using point locations and environmental data layers.

Where little information is available for a species or large number of maps are required in a short time-frame, maps are derived either from 0.04 or 0.02 decimal degree cells; by an automated process using polygon capture techniques (static two kilometre grid cells, alpha-hull and convex hull); or captured manually or by using topographic features (national park boundaries, islands, etc.).

In the early stages of the distribution mapping process (1999-early 2000s) distributions were defined by degree blocks, 100K or 250K map sheets to rapidly create distribution maps. More detailed distribution mapping methods are used to update these distributions when time permits.

4 LIMITATIONS

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in this report:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered vagrants;
- some recently listed species and ecological communities;
- some listed migratory and listed marine species, which are not listed as threatened species; and
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in Australia in small numbers.

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- listed migratory and/or listed marine seabirds, which are not listed as threatened, have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites; and
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

The breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Refer to the metadata for the feature group (using the Resource Information link) for the currency of the information.

Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

- [Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales](#)
- [Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria](#)
- [Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania](#)
- [Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia](#)
- [Department of Land and Resource Management, Northern Territory](#)
- [Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland](#)
- [Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia](#)
- [Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT](#)
- [Birdlife Australia](#)
- [Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme](#)
- [Australian National Wildlife Collection](#)
- Natural history museums of Australia
- [Museum Victoria](#)
- [Australian Museum](#)
- [South Australian Museum](#)
- [Queensland Museum](#)
- [Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums](#)
- [Queensland Herbarium](#)
- [National Herbarium of NSW](#)
- [Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria](#)
- [Tasmanian Herbarium](#)
- [State Herbarium of South Australia](#)
- [Northern Territory Herbarium](#)
- [Western Australian Herbarium](#)
- [Australian National Herbarium, Canberra](#)
- [University of New England](#)
- [Ocean Biogeographic Information System](#)
- [Australian Government, Department of Defence](#)
- [Forestry Corporation, NSW](#)
- [Geoscience Australia](#)
- [CSIRO](#)
- [Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns](#)
- [eBird Australia](#)
- [Australian Government – Australian Antarctic Data Centre](#)
- [Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory](#)
- [Australian Government National Environmental Science Program](#)
- [Australian Institute of Marine Science](#)
- [Reef Life Survey Australia](#)
- [American Museum of Natural History](#)
- [Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Tasmania](#)
- [Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania](#)
- Other groups and individuals

The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

Please feel free to provide feedback via the [Contact us](#) page.

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