

ATTACHMENT 1

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

**Table A1-1
NSW Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements – Reference Summary**

Summary of EIS Requirements	EIS Reference
General Requirements	
The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must meet the minimum form and content requirements as prescribed by Part 8 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021</i> (the Regulation) and must have regard to the <i>State Significant Infrastructure Guidelines</i> and the <i>Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline (2022)</i> (Solar Guideline).	
In particular, the EIS must include:	Executive Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a stand-alone executive summary; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a full description of the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - likely timing of the project including any stages, the key phases within each stage (site preparation, construction, commissioning, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation) and the sequencing of these stages and phases; 	Section 3, Attachment 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disturbance area; 	Section 3.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical layout of the project over time; 	Section 3.3, Figures 3-3 to 3-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - key uses and activities to be carried out on site; 	Sections 3.3, 3.4, and 3.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a high quality site plan at an adequate scale showing all infrastructure and facilities (including any infrastructure that would be required for the project, but the subject of a separate approvals process); 	Section 3, Figures 3-3 to 3-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Project Area (as per Table 1 of the <i>SSI guidelines - preparing an environmental impact statement</i>) and Development Footprint (disturbance area including but not limited to areas for infrastructure, road works, access tracks); 	Section 3 Figures 3-3 to 3-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistency in information presented in the EIS and all technical reports, including distances, development footprint, project design and infrastructure proposed, construction timeframes and receiver numbers; 	This EIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strategic justification of the project focusing on site selection and the suitability of the proposed site with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses (including existing land use, other proposed or approved solar and major projects, rural/residential development, Crown lands within and adjacent to the project site and subdivision potential) having regard to the Solar Guideline and State and Commonwealth legislation, policies and guidelines, and current initiatives to improve energy security and reliability in the National Electricity Market; 	Section 2, Section 7, Attachment 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a list of any approvals that must be obtained before the project may commence; 	Table 4-2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the terms of any proposed voluntary planning agreement with the relevant local council; 	Section 5.2.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a risk assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the project, identifying the key issues for further assessment; 	Appendix N
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an assessment of the likely impacts of the project on the environment, focusing on the specific issues identified below, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the project using sufficient baseline data; 	Section 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the likely impacts of all stages of the project (which is commensurate with the level of impact), including any cumulative impacts of the site and existing or proposed developments in the region, taking into consideration any relevant legislation, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice including the Solar Guideline and <i>Cumulative Impact Assessment Guideline</i> (DPIE, 2021); 	Section 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, mitigate and/or offset the impacts of the project (including draft management plans for specific issues as identified below); and 	Section 6, Attachment 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of the measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the environmental performance of the project; 	Section 6, Attachment 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a consolidated summary of all the proposed environmental management and monitoring measures, identifying all the commitments in the EIS; 	Attachment 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a detailed evaluation of the merits of the project as a whole having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the objects of the Act and how the principles of ecologically sustainable development have been incorporated in the design, construction and ongoing operations of the project; 	Section 7

Table A1-1 (Continued)
NSW Planning Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements – Reference Summary

Summary of EIS Requirements	EIS Reference
- the suitability of the site with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses;	Section 6.2.3, Appendix A
- feasible alternatives to the project and its key components and the consequences of not carrying out the project;	Section 2.13
• a detailed consideration of the capability of the project to contribute to the security and reliability of the electricity system in the National Electricity Market, having regard to local system conditions and the Department’s guidance on the matter.	Section 2
Estimated Development Cost and Employment	
• Provide the estimated cost (EC) of the project prepared in accordance with the relevant planning circular using the Standard Form of EDC Report.	Attachment 4
• Provide an estimate of the retained and new jobs that would be created during the construction and operational phases of the project, including details of the methodology to determine the figures provided.	Appendices L and M
In addition the EIS must also be accompanied by a declaration from a Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner that the EIS includes the information specified in the Department’s <i>Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner Guidelines</i> .	Appendix N
Key Issues	
The level of assessment of key matters must be proportionate to the likely significance of the impacts on the matter.	
In particular, the EIS must include the following:	
• Biodiversity:	
- an assessment of the biodiversity impacts of the project on terrestrial, aquatic riparian and groundwater-dependent ecosystems (including listed threatened species and communities) and impacts to National Parks and Reserves, including an assessment of the biodiversity values and the likely biodiversity impacts of the project, in accordance the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act), and having regard to the Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR);	Sections 6.5 and 6.6, Appendices D and E
- the BDAR must:	Appendix D
o be prepared using the approved BDAR template,	
o document the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework including assessing all direct, indirect and prescribed impacts in accordance with the BAM;	Section 2 and 8 of Appendix D
o assess the impacts associated with all ancillary infrastructure, including the transport route road upgrades;	Section 8 of Appendix D
o include an assessment for all SAIL in accordance with Section 9.1 of the BAM;	Section 9 of Appendix D
o be finalised by an accredited assessor as BAM-compliant within 14 days of submission;	Appendix D
- an assessment of the likely impacts on listed aquatic threatened species, populations or ecological communities, scheduled under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> , and a description of the measures to minimise and rehabilitate impacts;	Section 6.6, Appendix E
- a cumulative impact assessment of biodiversity values in the region from nearby developments; and	Sections 6.5 and 6.6, Section 8.7 of Appendix D
- if an offset is required, details of any strategy to offset any residual impacts of the project in accordance with the BC Act.	Section 10 of Appendix D, Section 2 of Appendix E
• Heritage:	
- assess the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage items (archaeological and cultural) in accordance with the <i>Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW</i> (OEH, 2011) and the <i>Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW, 2010) including results of archaeological test excavations (if required);	Section 6.7, Appendix F

Table A1-1 (Continued)
NSW Planning Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements – Reference Summary

Summary of EIS Requirements	EIS Reference
- provide evidence of consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and selecting options and mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), having regard to the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents</i> (DECCW, 2010); and	Section 6.7, Appendix F
- assess the impact to historic heritage having regard to the <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i> .	Section 6.8, Appendix G
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a detailed site water balance for the project, including the water take from each surface and ground water source, any licensing requirements, and determine whether an adequate and secure water supply is available for the development; 	Sections 6.3 and 6.4, Appendices B and C
- a detailed description of the proposed water management system, water monitoring program, erosion and sediment control measures, and other measures to mitigate surface water and groundwater impacts;	Section 6.3 and 6.4, Appendices B and C
- an assessment of the impacts of the project on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the water catchment and quantity and quality of the region’s surface and ground water; o water security for local downstream receivers including other dependent water industries; o hydrological flows on site, including any potential flooding impacts; o key water features on site, including potential impacts on riparian land; o type and extent of any dredging or reclamation activities within ‘water land’; o water-related infrastructure, basic landholder rights and the entitlements of water users; 	Appendices B, C and E
- a description of the likely changes to the hydrological regime of the area and any associated biodiversity impacts;	
- where the project involves works within 40 metres of the high bank of any river, lake or wetlands (collectively waterfront land), identify likely impacts to the waterfront land, and how the activities are to be designed and implemented in accordance with the <i>DPI Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land</i> (2018) and (if necessary) <i>Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings</i> (DPI 2003); and <i>Policy & Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation & Management</i> (DPI, 2013); and	
- a strategy to manage spoil and enhance any new landforms created.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A detailed justification of the suitability of the site and that the site can accommodate the proposed project having regard to its potential environmental impacts, permissibility, strategic context and existing site constraints, having regard to the Solar Guideline; 	Appendix A
- an assessment of impacts of the project on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the impact of the development on The Glen Nature Reserve in accordance with the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and the guidelines for <i>Development adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Services Lands</i> (DPIE,2020); 	Section 6.2
o the impact on any existing Biodiversity Offset Areas, Enhancement Areas and Rehabilitation Areas;	Attachment 6
o soils including potential impacts associated with the spoil generated by the project, the use of hydrocarbons and chemicals and a soil survey to determine the soil characteristics and consider the potential for erosion to occur;	Section 3.4 Appendices A and O
o the topography of the site, including the creation of any new landforms;	Sections 2.7 and 6.2, Appendix A
o the geotechnical stability of the site and stability of voids that may be used for spoil emplacement or water storage;	Section 3.4.14 and Attachment 6
o consideration of Crown lands, flood prone land, irrigated lands, travelling stock routes, public recreation, mining, quarries mineral or petroleum rights;	Sections 4 and 6

Table A1-1 (Continued)
NSW Planning Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements – Reference Summary

Summary of EIS Requirements	EIS Reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an assessment of the agricultural impacts in accordance with the Solar Guideline for agricultural land being used; 	Section 6, Appendix A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ completion of a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment in accordance with the Department of Industry’s Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide; 	Appendix 1 of Appendix A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consideration of existing approvals, licences, titles, tenures and rehabilitation requirements for the site, including those specified under SSD-4966 (as modified) and the associated Mining Operations Plan and Rehabilitation Management Plan; and 	Attachment 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a strategy to manage the progressive rehabilitation of the land disturbed by the project, enhance any new landforms created and describe the revised rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria to be achieved in relation to any retained infrastructure and / or disturbance areas to be utilised by the project. 	Attachment 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport and Access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the peak and average traffic generation, including over-dimensional vehicles / heavy vehicles requiring escort and construction worker transportation; - an assessment of the likely transport impacts to the site access route(s) including for over-dimension vehicles, site access point(s), any Crown land, particularly in relation to the capacity and condition of the roads, road safety and intersection performance; - a cumulative impact assessment of traffic from nearby developments; - provide details of measures to mitigate and / or manage potential impacts including a schedule of all required road upgrades (including resulting from heavy vehicle and over mass / over dimensional traffic haulage routes), road maintenance contributions, and any other traffic control measures, developed in consultation with the relevant road authority; and 	Section 6, Appendix H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape and Visual – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a landscape and visual impact assessment, for the whole project and prepared in accordance with the Solar Guideline and the <i>Technical Supplement – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment</i> for the solar components; - a detailed assessment of the likely visual impacts (including night lighting) of all components of the project on surrounding residences (including approved developments, lodged development applications and dwelling entitlements), and key locations, scenic or significant vistas and road corridors in the public domain including National Parks and Reserves and vantage points; and - details of measures to mitigate and/or manage potential impacts (including a draft landscaping plan for on-site perimeter planting, with evidence it has been developed in consultation with affected landowners); 	Section 6, Appendix I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glint and Glare – provide a glint and glare assessment prepared in accordance with the Solar Guideline. 	Appendix I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise – including an assessment of the construction noise impacts of the project in accordance with the <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i> (ICNG), operational noise impacts in accordance with the <i>NSW Noise Policy for Industry</i> (2017), blasting impacts cumulative noise impacts (considering other developments in the area), and a draft noise management plan if the assessment shows construction noise is likely to exceed applicable criteria. 	Appendix J
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions of the project; and - an assessment of the likely greenhouse gas impacts of the project including a breakdown of scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and measures to minimise emissions and consideration of climate change adaptation related to the project. 	Section 6, Appendix K

Table A1-1 (Continued)
NSW Planning Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements – Reference Summary

Summary of EIS Requirements	EIS Reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ any potentially hazardous impacts of the project; and 	Appendix O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ any public safety risks, including bushfire and flooding risks (including potential impacts on National Parks and Reserves, State Forests and Conservation Areas and downstream landholdings) and consideration of Dam Safety Committee Guidance; 	Appendices O and P
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - where there are dangerous goods and hazardous materials associated with the project provide a preliminary risk screening in accordance with State <i>Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards)</i>; and 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - where required by the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards), provide a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) prepared in accordance with <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No.6 – Guidelines for Hazard Analysis (DoP, 2011)</i> and <i>Multi-Level Risk Assessment (DoP, 2011)</i>. 	Appendix O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of potential hazards and risks including but not limited to fires, spontaneous ignition, electromagnetic fields or the proposed grid connection infrastructure against the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) <i>Guidelines for limiting exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields</i>; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify potential hazards and risks associated with bushfires / use of bushfire prone land including the risks that a solar farm would cause bush fire and demonstrate compliance with <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019</i>. 	Appendices O and P
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social: 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the social impacts of the project in accordance with <i>Social Impact Assessment Guideline</i> (DPIE, 2021), including impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the locality; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the demand for infrastructure and services in the Mid Coast local government area, including consideration of construction workforce accommodation; and 	Appendix L
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ users of nearby National Parks and Reserves (including The Glen Nature Reserve), Conservation Areas. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic: 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the economic impacts or benefits of the project for the region and the State as a whole and provide details of any proposed voluntary benefit-sharing programs in accordance with the Solar Guideline. 	Appendix M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste: 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment must identify, quantify and classify the likely waste streams to be generated during construction and operation, and describe the measures to be implemented to manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of this waste, taking into consideration capacity and availability of local landfills. 	Section 3.3.5
<p>Plans and Documents</p>	
<p>The EIS must include all relevant plans, diagrams and relevant documentation required under Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation. Provide these as part of the EIS rather than as separate documents.</p>	
<p>In addition, the EIS must include high quality files of maps and figures of the subject site and proposal.</p>	This EIS
<p>Engagement</p>	
<p>During the preparation of the EIS, you should consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, infrastructure and service providers, community groups, affected landowners and any exploration licence and/or mineral title holders. In particular, you must undertake detailed consultation with affected landowners surrounding the project, and relevant government agencies including the relevant local Councils.</p>	
<p>The EIS must:</p>	Section 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • detail how engagement undertaken was consistent with the <i>Undertaking Engagement Guide: Guidance for State Significant Projects</i> (DPIE, 2021); and 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the consultation process and the issues raised and identify where the design of the project has been amended in response to these issues. Where amendments have not been made to address an issue, an explanation should be provided. 	

**Table A1-2
Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water Assessment
Requirements – Reference Summary**

Summary of EIS Requirements	EIS Reference
General Requirements	
<u>Relevant Regulations</u> The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must address all matters outlined in Schedule 4 of the EPBC Regulations and all matters outlined below in relation to the controlling provisions.	Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, Attachment 3
<u>Project Description</u> The title of the action, background to the action and current status.	Section 3
The precise location and description of all works to be undertaken (including associated offsite works and infrastructure), structures to be built or elements of the action that may have impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).	Section 3
How the action relates to any other actions that have been, or are being taken in the region affected by the action.	Section 2.11
How the works are to be undertaken and design parameters for those aspects of the structures or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts on MNES.	Section 3
<u>Impacts</u> The EIS must include an assessment of the relevant impacts ¹ of the action on the matters protected by the controlling provisions, including:	Sections 6.5 and 6.6, Section 8 and Appendix G of Appendix D, Section 5 of Appendix E
i. a description and detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the likely direct, indirect and consequential impacts, including short term and long term relevant impacts;	Section 6.5, Sections 8 and 9 of Appendix D
ii. a statement whether any relevant impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible;	Section 8 and Appendix G of Appendix D, Appendix F of Appendix E
iii. analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts; and	Section 3 of Appendix D, Section 3 and Appendix A of Appendix E
iv. any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts.	
<u>Avoidance, mitigation and offsetting</u> For <u>each</u> of the relevant matters protected that are likely to be significantly impacted by the action, the EIS must provide information on proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to manage the relevant impacts of the action including:	Sections 6.5 and 6.6, Attachment 3, Section 8 and Appendix G of Appendix D, Section 6 of Appendix E
i. a description, and an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the mitigation measures;	
ii. any statutory policy basis for the mitigation measures;	
iii. the cost of the mitigation measures;	
iv. an outline of an environmental management plan that sets out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs for the relevant impacts of the action, including any provisions for independent environmental auditing;	
v. the name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program.	
Where a significant residual adverse impact to a relevant protected matter is considered likely, the EIS must provide information on the proposed offset strategy, including discussion of the conservation benefit associated with the proposed offset strategy.	Section 10.3 of Appendix D
For <u>each</u> of the relevant matters likely to be impacted by the action the EIS must provide reference to, and consideration of, relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including any:	Section 7 and Appendix G of Appendix D, Section 2 of Appendix E
i. conservation advice or recovery plan for the species or community;	
ii. relevant threat abatement plan for the species or community;	
iii. wildlife conservation plan for the species; and	
iv. any strategic assessment.	

¹ Relevant impacts are those impacts likely to significantly impact on any matter protected under the EPBC Act.

Table A1-2 (Continued)
Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Assessment
Requirements – Reference Summary

Summary of EIS Requirements	EIS Reference
Key Issues	
Biodiversity (threatened species and communities and migratory species)	
<u>Assessment Requirements</u>	
The EIS must identify <u>each</u> EPBC Act listed threatened species and community and migratory species likely to be impacted by the action. For any species and communities that are likely to be impacted, the proponent must provide a description of the nature, quantum and consequences of the impacts. For species and communities potentially located in the project area or in the vicinity that are not likely to be impacted, provide evidence why they are not likely to be impacted.	Section 7 and Appendix G of Appendix D, Section 4.5 and 5 of Appendix E
For <u>each</u> of the EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities and migratory species likely to be impacted by the action the EIS must provide a separate:	Appendix E and G of Appendix D, Section 5 of Appendix E
i. description of the habitat (including identification and mapping of suitable breeding habitat, suitable foraging habitat, important populations and habitat critical for survival), with consideration of, and reference to, any relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including listing advice, conservation advice and recovery plans;	
ii. details of the scope, timing and methodology for studies or surveys used and how they are consistent with (or justification for divergence from) published Australian Government guidelines and policy statements;	Section 6.5 and 6.6, Section 3 of Appendix D, Appendix A and Section 3 of Appendix E
iii. description of the relevant impacts of the action having regard to the full national extent of the species or community's range;	Sections 7 and 8 and Appendix G of Appendix D, Section 5 of Appendix E
iv. description of the specific proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to deal with relevant impacts of the action;	Section 8 and Appendix G of Appendix D, Section 6 of Appendix E, Attachment 3
v. identification of significant residual adverse impacts likely to occur after the proposed activities to avoid and mitigate all impacts are taken into account;	Appendix G of Appendix D
vi. a description of any offsets proposed to address residual adverse significant impacts and how these offsets will be established;	Section 10 of Appendix D
vii. details of how the current published NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) has been applied in accordance with the objects of the EPBC Act to offset significant residual adverse impacts; and	N/A
viii. details of the offset package to compensate for significant residual impacts including details of the credit profiles required to offset the action in accordance with the BAM and/or mapping and descriptions of the extent and condition of the relevant habitat and/or threatened communities occurring on proposed offset sites.	N/A
Any significant residual impacts not addressed by the BAM may need to be addressed in accordance with the EPBC Act 1999 Environmental Offset Policy.	Section 10 of Appendix D

NSW PLANNING SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS (ISSUED SEARS)

AND

**COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER
ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY SEARS)**

Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Section 5.16 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
Part 8 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*

Application Number	SSI-73368213
Project Name	Stratford Pumped Hydro and Solar project, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an underground pumped hydro power station and upper and lower reservoirs; • a solar photovoltaic energy generation facility with an estimated capacity of 330 MW; and • associated infrastructure, including grid connection and ancillary infrastructure.
Location	12 km south of Gloucester within the Mid Coast local government area.
Applicant	Yancoal Australia Limited
Date of Issue	16/07/2024
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must meet the minimum form and content requirements as prescribed by Part 8 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021</i> (the Regulation) and must have regard to the <i>State Significant Infrastructure Guidelines</i> and the <i>Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline</i> (2022) (Solar Guideline).</p> <p>In particular, the EIS must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a stand-alone executive summary; • a full description of the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - likely timing of the project including any stages, the key phases within each stage (site preparation, construction, commissioning, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation) and the sequencing of these stages and phases; - disturbance area; - physical layout of the project over time; - key uses and activities to be carried out on site; - a high quality site plan at an adequate scale showing all infrastructure and facilities (including any infrastructure that would be required for the project, but the subject of a separate approvals process); - the Project Area (as per Table 1 of the <i>SSI guidelines - preparing an environmental impact statement</i>) and Development Footprint (disturbance area including but not limited to areas for infrastructure, road works, access tracks); • consistency in information presented in the EIS and all technical reports, including distances, development footprint, project design and infrastructure proposed, construction timeframes and receiver numbers; • a strategic justification of the project focusing on site selection and the suitability of the proposed site with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses (including existing land use, other proposed or approved solar and major projects, rural/residential development, Crown lands within and adjacent to the project site and subdivision potential) having regard to the Solar Guideline and State and Commonwealth legislation, policies and guidelines, and current initiatives to improve energy security and reliability in the National Electricity Market; • a list of any approvals that must be obtained before the project may commence; • the terms of any proposed voluntary planning agreement with the relevant local council; • a risk assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the project, identifying the key issues for further assessment;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an assessment of the likely impacts of the project on the environment, focusing on the specific issues identified below, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the project using sufficient baseline data; - an assessment of the likely impacts of all stages of the project (which is commensurate with the level of impact), including any cumulative impacts of the site and existing or proposed developments in the region, taking into consideration any relevant legislation, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice including the Solar Guideline and <i>Cumulative Impact Assessment Guideline</i> (DPIE, 2021); - a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, mitigate and/or offset the impacts of the project (including draft management plans for specific issues as identified below); and - a description of the measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the environmental performance of the project; • a consolidated summary of all the proposed environmental management and monitoring measures, identifying all the commitments in the EIS; • a detailed evaluation of the merits of the project as a whole having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the objects of the Act and how the principles of ecologically sustainable development have been incorporated in the design, construction and ongoing operations of the project; - the suitability of the site with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses; and - feasible alternatives to the project and its key components and the consequences of not carrying out the project; • a detailed consideration of the capability of the project to contribute to the security and reliability of the electricity system in the National Electricity Market, having regard to local system conditions and the Department's guidance on the matter. <p>Estimated Development Cost and Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the estimated cost (EDC) of the project prepared in accordance with the relevant planning circular using the Standard Form of EDC Report. • Provide an estimate of the retained and new jobs that would be created during the construction and operational phases of the project, including details of the methodology to determine the figures provided. <p>In addition the EIS must also be accompanied by a declaration from a Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner that the EIS includes the information specified in the Department's <i>Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner Guidelines</i>.</p>
Key Issues	<p>The level of assessment of key matters must be proportionate to the likely significance of the impacts on the matter. In particular, the EIS must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the biodiversity impacts of the project on terrestrial, aquatic riparian and groundwater-dependent ecosystems (including listed threatened species and communities) and impacts to National Parks and Reserves, including an assessment of the biodiversity values and the likely biodiversity impacts of the project, in accordance the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act), and having regard to the Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR); - the BDAR must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ be prepared using the approved BDAR template, ○ document the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework including assessing all direct, indirect and prescribed impacts in accordance with the BAM;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ assess the impacts associated with all ancillary infrastructure, including the transport route road upgrades; ○ include an assessment for SAIL in accordance with Section 9.1 of the BAM; ○ be finalised by an accredited assessor as BAM-compliant within 14 days of submission; - an assessment of the likely impacts on listed aquatic threatened species, populations or ecological communities, scheduled under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>, and a description of the measures to minimise and rehabilitate impacts; - a cumulative impact assessment of biodiversity values in the region from nearby developments; and - if an offset is required, details of any strategy to offset any residual impacts of the project in accordance with the BC Act. ● Heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage items (archaeological and cultural) in accordance with the <i>Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW</i> (OEH, 2011) and the <i>Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW, 2010) including results of archaeological test excavations (if required); - provide evidence of consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and selecting options and mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), having regard to the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents</i> (DECCW, 2010); and - assess the impact to historic heritage having regard to the <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i>. ● Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a detailed site water balance for the project, including the water take from each surface and ground water source, any licensing requirements, and determine whether an adequate and secure water supply is available for the project; - a detailed description of the proposed water management system, water monitoring program, erosion and sediment control measures, and other measures to mitigate surface water and groundwater impacts; - an assessment of the impacts of the project on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the water catchment and quantity and quality of the region's surface and ground water; ○ water security for local downstream receivers including other dependent water industries; ○ hydrological flows on site, including any potential flooding impacts; ○ key water features on site, including potential impacts on riparian land; ○ type and extent of any dredging or reclamation activities within 'water land'; ○ water-related infrastructure, basic landholder rights and the entitlements of water users; - a description of the likely changes to the hydrological regime of the area and any associated biodiversity impacts; - where the project involves works within 40 metres of the high bank of any river, lake or wetlands (collectively waterfront land), identify likely impacts to the waterfront land, and how the activities are to be designed and implemented in accordance with the <i>DPI Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land</i> (2018) and (if necessary) <i>Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings</i> (DPI 2003); and <i>Policy & Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation & Management</i> (DPI, 2013); and - a strategy to manage spoil and enhance any new landforms created. ● Land:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a detailed justification of the suitability of the site and that the site can accommodate the proposed project having regard to its potential environmental impacts, permissibility, strategic context and existing site constraints, having regard to the Solar Guideline; - an assessment of impacts of the project on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the impact of the project on The Glen Nature Reserve in accordance with the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and the guidelines for <i>Development adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Services Lands</i> (DPIE,2020); o the impact on any existing Biodiversity Offset Areas, Enhancement Areas and Rehabilitation Areas; o soils including potential impacts associated with the spoil generated by the project, the use of hydrocarbons and chemicals and a soil survey to determine the soil characteristics and consider the potential for erosion to occur; o the topography of the site, including the creation of any new landforms; o the geotechnical stability of the site and stability of voids that may be used for spoil emplacement or water storage; o consideration of Crown lands, flood prone land, irrigated lands, travelling stock routes, public recreation, mining, quarries mineral or petroleum rights; o an assessment of the agricultural impacts in accordance with the Solar Guideline for agricultural land being used; o completion of a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment in accordance with the Department of Industry's <i>Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide</i>; o consideration of existing approvals, licences, titles, tenures and rehabilitation requirements for the site, including those specified under SSD-4966 (as modified) and the associated Mining Operations Plan and Rehabilitation Management Plan; and - a strategy to manage the progressive rehabilitation of the land disturbed by the project, enhance any new landforms created and describe the revised rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria to be achieved in relation to any retained infrastructure and / or disturbance areas to be utilised by the project. • Transport and Access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the peak and average traffic generation, including over-dimensional vehicles / heavy vehicles requiring escort and construction worker transportation; - an assessment of the likely transport impacts to the site access route(s) including for over-dimension vehicles, site access point(s), any Crown land, particularly in relation to the capacity and condition of the roads, road safety and intersection performance; - a cumulative impact assessment of traffic from nearby developments; - provide details of measures to mitigate and / or manage potential impacts including a schedule of all required road upgrades (including resulting from heavy vehicle and over mass / over dimensional traffic haulage routes), road maintenance contributions, and any other traffic control measures, developed in consultation with the relevant road authority; and • Landscape and Visual – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a landscape and visual impact assessment, for the whole project and prepared in accordance with the Solar Guideline and the <i>Technical Supplement – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment</i> for the solar components; - a detailed assessment of the likely visual impacts (including night lighting) of all components of the project on surrounding residences (including approved developments, lodged development applications and dwelling entitlements), and key locations, scenic or significant vistas and road corridors in the public domain including National Parks and Reserves and vantage points; and
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - details of measures to mitigate and/or manage potential impacts (including a draft landscaping plan for on-site perimeter planting, with evidence it has been developed in consultation with affected landowners); • Glint and Glare – provide a glint and glare assessment prepared in accordance with the Solar Guideline. • Noise – including an assessment of the construction noise impacts of the project in accordance with the <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i> (ICNG), operational noise impacts in accordance with the <i>NSW Noise Policy for Industry</i> (2017), blasting impacts cumulative noise impacts (considering other developments in the area), and a draft noise management plan if the assessment shows construction noise is likely to exceed applicable criteria. • Air: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions of the project; and - an assessment of the likely greenhouse gas impacts of the project including a breakdown of scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and measures to minimise emissions and consideration of climate change adaptation related to the project. • Hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ any potentially hazardous impacts of the project; and ○ any public safety risks, including bushfire and flooding risks (including potential impacts on National Parks and Reserves, State Forests and Conservation Areas and downstream landholdings) and consideration of Dam Safety Committee Guidance; - where there are dangerous goods and hazardous materials associated with the project provide a preliminary risk screening in accordance with <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards)</i>; and - where required by the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards), provide a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) prepared in accordance with <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No.6 – Guidelines for Hazard Analysis</i> (DoP, 2011) and <i>Multi-Level Risk Assessment</i> (DoP, 2011). - an assessment of potential hazards and risks including but not limited to fires, spontaneous ignition, electromagnetic fields or the proposed grid connection infrastructure against the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) <i>Guidelines for limiting exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields</i>; - identify potential hazards and risks associated with bushfires / use of bushfire prone land including the risks that a solar farm would cause bush fire and demonstrate compliance with <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019</i>. • Social: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the social impacts of the project in accordance with <i>Social Impact Assessment Guideline</i> (DPIE, 2021), including impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the locality; ○ the demand for infrastructure and services in the Mid Coast local government area, including consideration of construction workforce accommodation; and ○ users of nearby National Parks and Reserves (including The Glen Nature Reserve), Conservation Areas. • Economic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the economic impacts or benefits of the project for the region and the State as a whole and provide details of any proposed voluntary benefit-sharing programs in accordance with the Solar Guideline. • Waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment must identify, quantify and classify the likely waste streams to be generated during construction and operation, and describe the measures to be implemented to manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose
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	of this waste, taking into consideration capacity and availability of local landfills.
Plans and Documents	The EIS must include all relevant plans, diagrams and relevant documentation required under Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation. Provide these as part of the EIS rather than as separate documents. In addition, the EIS must include high quality files of maps and figures of the subject site and proposal.
Legislation, Policies & Guidelines	The assessment of the key issues listed above must take into account relevant guidelines, policies, and plans as identified. A list of some of the legislation, policies and guidelines that may be relevant to the assessment of the project can be found at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/Rapid-Assessment-Framework/Improving-assessment-guidance • https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/assessment/policies-and-guidelines; and • https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications#assessments.
Engagement	During the preparation of the EIS, you should consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, infrastructure and service providers, community groups, affected landowners and any exploration licence and/or mineral title holders. In particular, you must undertake detailed consultation with affected landowners surrounding the project, and relevant government agencies including the relevant local Councils. The EIS must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • detail how engagement undertaken was consistent with the <i>Undertaking Engagement Guide: Guidance for State Significant Projects</i> (DPIE, 2021); and • describe the consultation process and the issues raised and identify where the design of the project has been amended in response to these issues. Where amendments have not been made to address an issue, an explanation should be provided.
Expiry Date	If you do not lodge a Development Application and EIS for the project within 2 years of the issue date of these SEARs, your SEARs will expire. If an extension to these SEARs will be required, please consult with the Planning Secretary 3 months prior to the expiry date.

Appendix A

Guidelines for preparing assessment documentation relevant to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for proposals being assessed under the NSW Assessment Bilateral

Stratford Pumped Hydro and Solar (EPBC 2023/09733)

Introduction

1. On 11 April 2024, a delegate of the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water determined that Stratford Pumped Hydro and Solar was a controlled action under section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act controlling provisions for the proposed actions are:
 - i. listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A); and
 - ii. listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A).
2. The proposed action will be assessed in accordance with the bilateral assessment agreement Amending Agreement No. 1, and as such, is required to be assessed in the manner specified in Schedule 1 to that Agreement, including, addressing the matters outlined in Schedule 4 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (EPBC Regulations).
3. The proponent must undertake an assessment of all protected matters that may be impacted by the development under the controlling provision identified in paragraph 1. The Commonwealth Federal Minister for the Environment and Water considers that the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on threatened species and communities listed in **Appendix A**.
4. The proponent must consider each of the protected matters under the triggered controlling provisions that may be impacted by the action. Note that this may not be a complete list and it is the responsibility of the proponent to undertake an analysis of the relevant impacts and ensure all protected matters that are likely to be impacted are assessed for the Commonwealth Minister's consideration.

General Requirements

Relevant Regulations

5. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must address all matters outlined in Schedule 4 of the EPBC Regulations and all matters outlined below in relation to the controlling provisions.

Project Description

6. The title of the action, background to the action and current status.
7. The precise location and description of all works to be undertaken (including associated offsite works and infrastructure), structures to be built or elements of the action that may have impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
8. How the action relates to any other actions that have been, or are being taken in the region affected by the action.
9. How the works are to be undertaken and design parameters for those aspects of the structures or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts on MNES.

Impacts

10. The EIS must include an assessment of the relevant impacts¹ of the action on the matters protected by the controlling provisions, including:
- i. a description and detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the likely direct, indirect and consequential impacts, including short term and long term relevant impacts;
 - ii. a statement whether any relevant impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible;
 - iii. analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts; and
 - iv. any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts.

Avoidance, mitigation and offsetting

11. For each of the relevant matters protected that are likely to be significantly impacted by the action, the EIS must provide information on proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to manage the relevant impacts of the action including:
- i. a description, and an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the mitigation measures;
 - ii. any statutory policy basis for the mitigation measures;
 - iii. the cost of the mitigation measures;
 - iv. an outline of an environmental management plan that sets out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs for the relevant impacts of the action, including any provisions for independent environmental auditing;
 - v. the name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program.
12. Where a significant residual adverse impact to a relevant protected matter is considered likely, the EIS must provide information on the proposed offset strategy, including discussion of the conservation benefit associated with the proposed offset strategy.
13. For each of the relevant matters likely to be impacted by the action the EIS must provide reference to, and consideration of, relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including any:
- i. conservation advice or recovery plan for the species or community;
 - ii. relevant threat abatement plan for the species or community;
 - iii. wildlife conservation plan for the species; and
 - iv. any strategic assessment.

Note: the relevant guidelines and policy statements for each species and community are available from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Species Profiles and Threats Database:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>.

14. In addition to the general requirements described above, specific information is required with respect to each of the determined controlling provisions. These requirements are outlined in paragraphs 15-17.

¹ Relevant impacts are those impacts likely to significantly impact on any matter protected under the EPBC Act

Key Issues

Biodiversity (threatened species and communities and migratory species)

Assessment Requirements

15. The EIS must identify each EPBC Act listed threatened species and community and migratory species likely to be impacted by the action. For any species and communities that are likely to be impacted, the proponent must provide a description of the nature, quantum and consequences of the impacts. For species and communities potentially located in the project area or in the vicinity that are not likely to be impacted, provide evidence why they are not likely to be impacted.
16. For each of the EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities and migratory species likely to be impacted by the action the EIS must provide a separate:
- i. description of the habitat (including identification and mapping of suitable breeding habitat, suitable foraging habitat, important populations and habitat critical for survival), with consideration of, and reference to, any relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including listing advice, conservation advice and recovery plans;
 - ii. details of the scope, timing and methodology for studies or surveys used and how they are consistent with (or justification for divergence from) published Australian Government guidelines and policy statements;
 - iii. description of the relevant impacts of the action having regard to the full national extent of the species or community's range;
 - iv. description of the specific proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to deal with relevant impacts of the action;
 - v. identification of significant residual adverse impacts likely to occur after the proposed activities to avoid and mitigate all impacts are taken into account;
 - vi. a description of any offsets proposed to address residual adverse significant impacts and how these offsets will be established;
 - vii. details of how the current published NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) has been applied in accordance with the objects of the EPBC Act to offset significant residual adverse impacts; and
 - viii. details of the offset package to compensate for significant residual impacts including details of the credit profiles required to offset the action in accordance with the BAM and/or mapping and descriptions of the extent and condition of the relevant habitat and/or threatened communities occurring on proposed offset sites.

Note: For the purposes of approval under the EPBC Act, it is a requirement that offsets directly contribute to the ongoing viability of the specific protected matter impacted by a proposed action and deliver an overall conservation outcome that improves or maintains the viability of the MNES i.e. 'like for like'. Like-for-like includes protection of native vegetation that is the same ecological community or habitat being impacted (preferably in the same region where the impact occurs), or funding to provide a direct benefit to the matter being impacted e.g. threat abatement, breeding and propagation programs or other relevant conservation measures.

17. Any significant residual impacts not addressed by the BAM may need to be addressed in accordance with the EPBC Act 1999 Environmental Offset Policy.
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications/epbc-act-environmental-offsets-policy>.

Other approvals and conditions

18. Information in relation to any other approvals or conditions required must include the information prescribed in Schedule 4 Clause 5 (a) (b) (c) and (d) of the EPBC Regulations.

Environmental Record of person proposing to take the action

19. Information in relation to the environmental record of a person proposing to take the action must include details as prescribed in Schedule 4 Clause 6 of the EPBC Regulations.

Information Sources

20. For information given in an EIS, the EIS must state the source of the information, how recent the information is, how the reliability of the information was tested; and what uncertainties (if any) are in the information.

REFERENCES

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* - section 51-55, section 96A(3)(a)(b), 101A(3)(a)(b), section 136, section 527E
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* Schedule 4
- Amending Agreement No. 1 (2020) - Item 18.1, Item 18.5, Schedule 1
- *Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant impact guidelines 1.1* (2013) EPBC Act
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* Environmental Offsets Policy October 2012

The international conventions, management plans and principles that must be considered in relation to this proposal include:

- Listed threatened species and communities

Australia's obligations under the:

- Convention on Biological Diversity;
- the Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention);
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and
- Any relevant recovery plans or threat abatement plans.

- Listed migratory species

Australia's obligation under the:

- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention);
- the China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA);
- the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA); and
- the Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA).

Any other international agreement approved under section 209(4) of the EPBC Act.

- Relevant conservation advice/s: <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>
- Bioregional plans.
- Relevant strategic assessment reports.
- Commonwealth Listing Advice, Survey Guidelines and Referral Guidelines contain information on threatened species and ecological communities which may provide further support to proponents and NSW DPHI considering and evaluating the significance of residual impacts on the action's controlling provisions. These documents may be found in the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's Species Profile and Threats Database: <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>

Appendix A

Protected matters relevant to the Stratford Pumped Hydro and Solar (EPBC 2023/09733) project

Listed threatened species and communities and migratory species

Based on the information in the referral documentation, the location of the action, species records and likely habitat present in the area, there are likely to be significant impacts to:

- Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*) – critically endangered
- Craven Grey Box (*Eucalyptus largeana*) – endangered
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus* combined populations of Qld, NSW, and the ACT) – endangered
- Spotted-tailed Quoll (southeastern mainland population) (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (SE mainland population)) – endangered
- Subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and South East Queensland bioregions Threatened Ecological Community – endangered
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – vulnerable and migratory

Additionally, there is some risk that there may be significant impacts on the following matters and further assessment to determine if the communities and species listed below are present in the proposed action area and, if so, the extent to which they may be impacted by the proposed action, is required:

- Lowland Rainforest of subtropical Australia – critically endangered
- New Holland Mouse (*Pseudomys novaehollandiae*) – vulnerable
- Long-nosed Potoroo (northern) (*Potorous tridactylus tridactylus*) – vulnerable
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) – vulnerable
- Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) – endangered
- South-eastern Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*) – vulnerable
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – vulnerable, migratory
- Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern) (*Petaurus australis australis*) – vulnerable
- Stuttering Frog, Southern Barred Frog (*Mixophyes balbus*) – vulnerable.

Note: uncertainty around the extent and number of protected matters that may be impacted will need to be resolved through the assessment process once final alignment and construction plans have been completed.

Note: this may not be a complete list and it is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure any protected matters under these controlling provisions are assessed for the Commonwealth decision-maker's consideration.