

## Appendix A

# **Draft PER Guidelines and Checklist**

# **Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project**

**EPBC 2024/10044**

**PER Guidelines supplied by DCCEEW on 24 March 2025**

## PER Guideline Checklist

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<b>SPECIFIC CONTENT</b>	
<b>1. GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
This should provide the background and context of the action including:	
a. the title of the action	<b>Section 1.4</b> of the PER Report.
b. the full name and postal address of the designated proponent	<b>Section 1.5</b> of the PER Report.
c. a clear outline of the objective of the action	<b>Section 1.6</b> of the PER Report.
d. the location of the action	<b>Section 1.7</b> of the PER Report.
e. the operational life of the action, including estimated time needed for construction, operation, decommissioning, and rehabilitation	<b>Section 1.8</b> and <b>Section 2.3.3</b> of the PER Report.
f. the background to the development of the action	<b>Section 1.9</b> of the PER Report.
g. how the action relates to any other actions (of which the proponent should reasonably be aware) that have been, or are being, taken or that have been approved in the region affected by the action	<b>Section 1.10</b> of the PER Report.
h. the current status of the action	<b>Section 1.11</b> of the PER Report.
i. the consequences of not proceeding with the action.	<b>Section 1.12</b> and <b>Section 2.6.2.1</b> of the PER Report.
<b>2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION</b>	
2.1 A detailed description of all pre-construction, construction, operational and ongoing maintenance, decommissioning and rehabilitation activities relevant to the action. This is to include at least the precise location (including coordinates and/or detailed maps) of all works to be undertaken, structures to be built, and upgrades to existing infrastructure on the site (e.g. roads).	<b>Section 2.1</b> , <b>Section 2.2</b> and <b>Section 2.3</b> of the PER Report.
2.2 The anticipated start and completion dates of all stages and/or components of the proposed action, such as the staging and timing of clearing during construction, length of the operational period, or the commencement and completion of rehabilitation activities post-construction and post-completion of the action.	<b>Section 2.4</b> of the PER Report.
2.3 A description of the action, including details on how the works are to be undertaken and design parameters for those components of the action that may have relevant impacts. This may include, but is not limited to, the design details of transmission lines and substations, the method and location of construction material and soil storage, and the types of fencing proposed to be used.	<b>Section 2.1</b> , <b>Section 2.2</b> and <b>Section 2.3</b> of the PER Report.

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<p><b>2.4</b> The layout for the proposed action area, detailing key infrastructure such as overhead transmission lines, transmission line towers and tower pads, access tracks, laydown areas, substations and related conductor brake and winch sites, and fencing. Where an indicative layout is provided, clearly identify which areas or components are subject to change.</p> <p>This section must include details of any environmental design features of project components.</p> <p>Mapping and coordinates for each of the above, consistent with the DCCEEW map guidance, must also be provided.</p>	<b>Section 2.2 of the PER Report.</b>
<p><b>2.5</b> The location, extent, and size (in hectares) of the proposed action footprint, including the project area, the disturbance footprint, and areas of avoidance.</p> <p>The disturbance footprint must include all areas that will be impacted by the proposed action. This includes areas of temporary disturbance (such as, but not limited to, areas that will be cleared during construction but allowed to naturally regenerate throughout operation).</p>	<b>Section 2.2 and Section 7.0 of the PER Report.</b>
<p><b>2.6</b> The location, extent, and size (in hectares) of any areas beyond the impact area that may be subject to indirect or facilitated impacts, including edge effects, noise, light spill, vehicle access, erosion, changes to water quality or quantity/availability, or other associated activities.</p>	<b>Section 6.4.2, Section 6.5.2, Section 6.6.1, Section 6.8 and Section 6.9 of the PER Report.</b>
<p><b>2.7</b> A description of the intended land uses proposed as part of the completed development, including of any proposed open space and/or conservation areas and associated ongoing activities, and details of the intended party that would be responsible for future management activities.</p>	<b>Section 2.1 of the PER Report.</b>
<p><b>2.8</b> A description of any changes to the project area or disturbance footprint that may have occurred since the original referral. Please note these changes may require a formal variation request.</p>	<b>Section 2.5 of the PER Report.</b>
<p><b>3. FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES</b></p> <p>This section must describe any feasible alternatives to the action to a reasonably practicable extent, including:</p>	
<p>a. the alternative of taking no action</p>	<b>Section 2.6.2.1 of the PER Report.</b>
<p>b. a comparative description of the impacts of each alternative on the MNES protected by controlling provisions of Part 3 of the EPBC Act for the action</p>	<b>Section 2.6.2.2 of the PER Report.</b>
<p>c. sufficient detail to make clear why any alternative is preferred to another</p>	<b>Section 2.6.2.2 of the PER Report.</b>
<p>d. a discussion of the short, medium, and long-term advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives.</p>	<b>Section 2.6.2.2 of the PER Report.</b>
<p>e. If there are no feasible alternatives, provide sufficient information as to why this is the case. In particular, explain with supporting evidence why there are not alternatives for constructing this project elsewhere which would result in reduced impacts on MNES.</p>	<b>Section 2.6.2.2 and Section 2.6.3 of the PER Report.</b>

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<b>4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>4.1</b> A full description of the hydrology in the project area including water courses and water bodies within and adjacent to the project area.	<b>Section 3.2 and Appendix D Surface Water Impact Assessment</b> of the PER Report.
<b>4.2</b> A map displaying the water resources within and, as far as practicable, adjacent to the project area. This map should, at a minimum, display the distribution of water courses, water bodies, and drainage lines within the project area, and provide an understanding of their location relative to project infrastructure.	<b>Section 3.2.1 and Section 3.2.2</b> of the PER Report ( <b>Figure 3.1 – Figure 3.6</b> ).
<b>4.3</b> A description of soil types across the project area to enable an assessment of potential impacts of sedimentation and run-off associated with the action on MNES, including, but not limited to, information on their erodibility.	<b>Section 3.3.2</b> of the PER Report ( <b>Figure 3.7</b> ).
<b>4.4</b> Information on topography and elevation across the project area and surrounds to enable an assessment of the potential impacts to MNES such as sediment run-off and erosion. Include a map with clearly labelled contour intervals.	<b>Section 3.4</b> of the PER Report ( <b>Figure 3.7</b> ).
<b>4.5</b> Where relevant pre-existing water quality monitoring data exist (including monitoring conducted by other entities, such as state departments) these may be used within the PER. Where baseline water quality data is not available, details of if and how baseline water quality data will be collected must be included, including reference and comparison to relevant policies such as those mentioned in point 6.3.2.  Information on how the baseline water quality data will inform Construction Water Quality Objectives and relevant management plans (such as, but not limited to, the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan discussed at point 7.2.2. below) must also be included.  The PER must specify how this baseline data will be used to inform monitoring, avoidance, mitigation, and management measures relevant to water quality.	<b>Section 3.2.1</b> , Water Quality Management Plan ( <b>Appendix G</b> ) and Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Plan ( <b>Appendix L</b> ) of the PER Report.
<b>4.6</b> A description of the vegetation communities within and adjacent to the project area, including the area (in hectares) they each cover.  The department notes that Queensland's BioCondition Assessment Manual can be used to establish a measurable baseline of vegetation condition in the project area. BioCondition attributes fit within the Modified Habitat Quality Assessment (MHQA) which is the department's preferred method for the calculation of threatened species habitat quality scores. See Attachment C for further information on MHQA.	<b>Section 5.2.1</b> of the PER Report.
<b>4.7</b> A map displaying the vegetation communities within and, as far as practicable, adjacent to the project area. This map should, at a minimum, display the distribution of vegetation at a regional ecosystem (REs) level within the project area, and provide an understanding of their location relative to project infrastructure. Mapping may be supported by a combination of field and desktop data, noting that field data must be adequate to validate assertions made about vegetation communities.	<b>Section 5.2.1.2</b> of the PER Report ( <b>Figure 5.1 series</b> )
<b>4.8</b> Details of the scope, timing (survey season/s) and methodology for studies or surveys used to provide information on the vegetation communities and water resources.	<b>Section 4.1</b> (vegetation communities) and <b>Section 4.2</b> (water resources) of the PER Report

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<p><b>5. MATTERS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE (MNES)</b></p> <p><b>5.1 General MNES information</b></p> <p>The PER must include a detailed assessment of the presence, or likelihood of presence, of MNES in the project area and its vicinity.</p> <p>Relevant impacts are impacts that the action will have or is likely to have on a matter protected by a controlling provision. The PER should focus on matters protected by a relevant controlling provision (as listed in the preamble of this document).</p> <p>It is the proponent's responsibility to be aware of any changes to the distribution of listed threatened species and ecological communities and information available in the Species Profile and Threats (SPRAT) Database. A recent report from the department's Protected Matters Search Tool must also be considered and included as an appendix to the PER.</p> <p>The PER must address, at a minimum, the following MNES <b>and any other listed threatened species and communities listed under the EPBC Act at the time of the controlled action decision that may be impacted by the project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Listed threatened species and communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (north and south) and Nandewar bioregions – endangered</li> <li>ii. subtropical Eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and Southeast Queensland bioregions – endangered</li> <li>iii. subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh – vulnerable</li> <li>iv. Cycas megacarpa – endangered</li> <li>v. koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) – endangered</li> <li>vi. greater glider (southern and central) (<i>Petauroides volans</i>) – endangered</li> <li>vii. yellow-bellied glider (<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>) – vulnerable</li> <li>viii. northern quoll (<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>) – endangered</li> <li>ix. water mouse (<i>Xeromys myoides</i>) – vulnerable</li> <li>x. ghost bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>) – vulnerable</li> <li>xi. squatter pigeon (southern) (<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>) – vulnerable</li> <li>xii. collared delma (<i>Delma torquata</i>) – endangered.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. World Heritage Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. National Heritage Place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Values of the Great Barrier Reef National Heritage Place.</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. The environment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chapter 5.0</b> of the PER Report.</p>

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<p><b>5.1.1</b> Describe each listed threatened species that is known, likely, or has the potential to occur in the project area.</p> <p>Specify the EPBC Act listing status, distribution, habitat, and life history for each species. These descriptions are to align with the information in the SPRAT Database and relevant DCCEEW documents.</p> <p>Include a description of the key threatening processes applicable to each relevant threatened species.</p>	<b>Section 5.4</b> of the PER Report.
<p><b>5.1.2</b> Identification and description of known historical records of protected matters in the broader region.</p> <p>All known records must be supported by an appropriate source (i.e., Commonwealth and State databases, Queensland Government's WildNet, Atlas of Living Australia, published research, publicly available survey reports, etc.), and, where possible, include the year of the record and a description the habitat in which the record was identified.</p>	<b>Section 5.4</b> (threatened species) and <b>Section 5.5</b> (migratory species) of the PER Report.
<p><b>5.1.3</b> A habitat assessment for the relevant protected matters, including outside the project area where they have the potential to be impacted (including downstream).</p> <p>Habitat assessments must be informed by desktop searches and field surveys, with reference to relevant departmental documents (e.g. approved conservation advices, survey guidelines, referral guidelines and listing advice, the SPRAT Database) and relevant literature.</p> <p>Please note, the department does not accept the consideration of only Queensland Regional Ecosystem (RE) mapping to determine habitat for protected matters. Further, habitat assessments must not only consider remnant vegetation, but also non-remnant vegetation and regrowth vegetation.</p>	<b>Chapter 5.0</b> of the PER Report.
<p><b>5.1.4</b> Details of the scope, methodology, timing and effort of field surveys to identify protected matters in the project area and surrounds, including:</p> <ol data-bbox="309 917 1657 1219" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="309 917 1657 981">mapping that shows the type, location, and extent of surveys relative to proposed project infrastructure. Where meander methods are used, GPS tracks should be included in this mapping.</li> <li data-bbox="309 987 1657 1076">how surveys were undertaken in accordance with relevant Commonwealth, State and/or best practice survey guidelines, including departmental survey guidelines: <a href="https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/advice/surveys-and-data">https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/advice/surveys-and-data</a>.</li> <li data-bbox="309 1083 1657 1181">evidence that surveys were recently enough (e.g. within 5 years), and were undertaken over a sufficient scale and period to adequately determine the likely presence or absence of the targeted species or value, or confirmation that a precautionary approach was taken where this was not possible (i.e. assumed presence).</li> <li data-bbox="309 1187 1657 1219">if relevant, the justification for divergence from relevant Commonwealth, State and/or best practice survey guidelines.</li> </ol> <p>Attach all referenced ecological surveys as supporting documents to the PER.</p>	<b>Section 4.1</b> of the PER Report.
<p><b>5.1.5</b> Where relevant, provide clear definitions (including any thresholds or exclusions used) for categories of habitat use (breeding, foraging, dispersal, etc). This must include definitions for habitat critical to the survival of the species.</p> <p>Definitions of habitat critical to the survival of the species must, in the first instance, align with those provided in DCCEEW documentation or the SPRAT database. Where a definition for habitat critical to the survival of the species cannot be found in these documents, then the definition provided in the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 should be adopted.</p>	<b>Section 8.1</b> of the PER Report.

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<p><b>5.1.6</b> Detailed mapping of habitat (within, adjacent to and downstream of the project area, where relevant) for all listed threatened species and ecological communities that may be impacted by the project, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. is specific to the habitat requirements for each listed species and community (i.e. does not only illustrate relevant Queensland Res or broad habitat types)</li> <li>b. includes an overlay of the project disturbance footprint</li> <li>c. identifies any specific habitat requirements (e.g. breeding, foraging, dispersal, known important habitat, suitable habitats, roosting, etc.)</li> <li>d. includes, where relevant, the regional context, and illustrates connectivity of habitat in the broader landscape</li> <li>e. includes known records of individuals derived from desktop analysis and field surveys</li> <li>f. is provided separately as attachments in JPEG format.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Section 8.2 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>5.1.7</b> The area of habitat for each relevant protected matter, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. total habitat within the project area (in hectares)</li> <li>b. where relevant, habitat in the project area and surrounds (in hectares and/or through descriptive mapping).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Section 8.2 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>5.1.8</b> Where potential habitat for protected matters is identified in the project area, an assessment must be undertaken regardless of whether the species was recorded. As such, the potential for occurrence of these species must also be considered and assessed.</p>	<p><b>Section 8.2 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>5.1.9</b> An appendix of occurrence records (both sightings and evidence of presence) for all threatened species and ecological communities identified during field surveys for the project. The data may be used by the department to update the relevant species distribution models underpin the publicly available Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST). Species occurrence records must be provided in accordance with the department's <i>Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018)</i> and using the department's <i>Species observation data template</i>. Sensitive ecological data must be identified and treated in accordance with the department's <i>Sensitive Ecological Data—Access and Management Policy V1.0 (2016)</i>.</p>	<p><b>Section 5.4.1 (Figure 5.4), Section 5.5 (Figure 5.5) and Appendix N of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>5.2.1</b> Definitions of the threatened ecological community consistent with the <i>National recovery plan for the Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions ecological community 2010</i> (SEVT Recovery Plan) and considering the <i>Approved Conservation Advice for Semi-evergreen Vine Thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions 2023</i> (SEVT Conservation Advice).</p>	<p><b>Section 8.2.1.1 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>5.2.2</b> Maps of all areas of semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (north and south) and Nandewar bioregions (SEVT) within the project area and surrounds. Clearly indicate which areas have been ground-truthed within this mapping.</p>	<p><b>Section 8.2.1.1 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>5.2.3</b> Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the community's presence throughout the site, considering any relevant DCCEEW documentation or available guidelines, and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken.</p> <p>Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of community's presence/absence across the site including consideration to the survey effort.</p>	<p><b>Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10) of the PER Report.</b></p>

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5.2.4 Definitions of the threatened ecological community considering the <i>Approved Conservation Advice for the Subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and South East Queensland bioregions 2022</i> (SEF Conservation Advice).	<b>Section 8.2.1.2</b> of the PER Report.
5.2.5 Maps of all areas of subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and Southeast Queensland bioregions (SEF) within the project area and surrounds. Clearly indicate which areas have been ground-truthed within this mapping.	<b>Section 8.2.1.2</b> of the PER Report.
<p>5.2.6 Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the community's presence throughout the site, considering any relevant DCCEEW documentation or available guidelines, and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken.</p> <p>Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of the community's presence/absence across the site including consideration to the survey effort.</p>	<b>Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10)</b> of the PER Report.
5.2.7 Definitions of the threatened ecological community considering the <i>Conservation Advice for Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh</i> (STCS Conservation Advice).	<b>Section 8.2.2.1</b> of the PER Report.
5.2.8 Maps of all areas of subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh (STCS) within the project area and surrounds. Clearly indicate which areas have been ground-truthed within this mapping.	<b>Section 8.2.2.1</b> of the PER Report.
<p>5.2.9 Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the community's presence throughout the site, considering any relevant DCCEEW documentation or available guidelines, and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken.</p> <p>Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of community's presence/absence across the site including reference to the survey effort.</p>	<b>Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10)</b> of the PER Report.
<p><b>Cycas megacarpa – Endangered</b></p>	
<p>5.2.9 Habitat descriptions based on the <i>National Multi-species Recovery Plan for the cycads, Cycas megacarpa, Cycas ophiolitica, Macrozamia cranei, Macrozamia lomandrodes, Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi and Macrozamia platyrhachis (2007)</i>.</p> <p>The department considers that habitat for <i>Cycas megacarpa</i> includes areas within a radius of at least 80 m from all individuals. Where ground-truthing has not occurred and there are records of the species in the vicinity, all areas of potential habitat are considered likely habitat.</p>	<b>Section 8.2.3.3</b> of the PER Report.
<p>5.2.10 A map or maps of all <i>Cycas megacarpa</i> habitat within the project area and surrounding region.</p> <p>Mapping must display all records of the species within and surrounding the project area relative to project infrastructure, and provide context for the location of the project area relative to known populations.</p>	<b>Section 8.2.3.3</b> of the PER Report.
5.2.11 Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the species presence and abundance throughout the site, considering any relevant DCCEEW documentation or available guidelines, and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken.	<b>Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10)</b> of the PER Report.

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<p>Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of species presence/absence across the site including reference to the survey effort.</p>	
<p><b>Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) – Endangered</b></p>	
<p><b>5.2.12</b> Habitat descriptions consistent with the <i>National Recovery Plan for the Koala Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)</i> (2022), and based on relevant DCCEEW documents, including but not limited to <i>Identifying habitat for the endangered Koala</i> (2022), the <i>Conservation Advice for Phascolarctos cinereus (Koala) combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory</i> (2022) (Koala Conservation Advice), as well as <i>A review of koala habitat assessment criteria and methods</i> (2021).</p>	<p><b>Section 8.2.6.3 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p>Please note, the department considers koala habitat to comprise the total set of resources required by koalas to meet the needs of individuals' survival and reproduction, and habitat that maintains viable metapopulation processes. This can include forests or woodlands (including remnant, regrowth, and modified vegetation communities) containing species that are koala food trees, or any shrubland with emergent koala food trees. The department considers that this definition includes mixed Eucalypt regrowth.</p>	
<p>In addition, the Koala Conservation Advice considers dispersal habitat to include paddock trees (and the safe intervening matrix for traveling between trees) and any trees that are not food trees but are commonly used by the species for shelter or predator avoidance.</p>	
<p>Habitat critical to the survival of the species includes any habitat with characteristics required to meet the species needs. This includes foraging, breeding and dispersal habitat; patches and corridors important for maintaining gene flow; and areas of climate refugia such as drainage lines, riparian zones, and patches that are resilient to drying conditions. Climate refugia includes both occupied and currently unoccupied habitat.</p>	
<p><b>5.2.13</b> A discussion of vegetation composition and structure within the project area and surrounding landscape (i.e. locally important koala trees, known food trees, habitat connectivity, biodiversity corridors, etc) and its relevance to the species use of the project area.</p>	<p><b>Section 8.2.6.3 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>5.2.14</b> Maps of all koala habitat across the project area and surrounds, clearly identifying breeding/foraging/dispersal, climate refugia, and dispersal only habitat types. Clearly indicate which areas have been ground-truthed within this mapping.</p>	<p><b>Section 8.2.6.3 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>5.2.15</b> Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the species presence and abundance throughout the site, that survey effort and methodology are consistent with the <i>Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened mammals 2011</i> and <i>A review of koala habitat assessment criteria and methods 2021</i>, and any other relevant DCCEEW documentation and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken. Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of species presence/absence across the site including consideration to the survey effort.</p>	<p><b>Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10) of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>Greater glider (southern and central) (<i>Petauroides volans</i>) – Endangered</b></p>	
<p><b>5.2.16</b> Habitat descriptions based on Conservation Advice for <i>Petauroides volans</i> (greater glider (southern and central)) (2022) as well as Guide to greater glider habitat in Queensland (2022).</p>	<p><b>Section 8.2.6.2 of the PER Report.</b></p>

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<p>For the greater glider, the department considers that habitat use-types may include;</p> <p><b>Foraging/Dispersal Habitat:</b> Areas containing locally important dominant/co-dominant trees for foraging, such as (but not limited to) <i>Corymbia citriodora</i>, <i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i>, <i>E. tereticornis</i>, <i>E. crebra</i>, <i>C. intermedia</i> and <i>E. portuensis</i>.</p> <p><b>Potential Denning Habitat:</b> Areas within or adjacent to foraging habitat that contain appropriate trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) greater than 30 cm, but less than the RE threshold for large trees.</p> <p><b>Likely Denning Habitat:</b> Areas within or adjacent to foraging habitat that contain appropriate trees with a DBH greater than the Queensland RE threshold for large trees. Please note, the department considers greater glider habitat to be all areas of eucalypt forest or woodland (including remnant and regrowth vegetation) that contain hollow-bearing trees.</p> <p>Where a large tree DBH threshold is not known for a relevant RE, minimum DBH thresholds of 20 cm for non-eucalypts and 30 cm for eucalypts should be used.</p> <p>Please note, consistent with the conservation advice, the department considers that trees with DBH greater than 30 cm may be used as a proxy for assessing whether trees contain hollows suitable for the greater glider, noting that ground-based hollow surveys are known to be unreliable (compared to tree-climbing based surveys or the use of DBH proxies).</p>	
5.2.17 Identification of key denning and foraging resources, including the presence and density of tree hollows across the site (see notes in information request 5.2.16 above).	Section 8.2.6.2 of the PER Report.
5.2.18 Maps of all current denning, future denning and foraging/dispersal habitat across the project area and surrounds. Clearly indicate which areas have been ground-truthed within this mapping.	Section 8.2.6.2 of the PER Report.
<p>5.2.19 Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the species presence and abundance throughout the site, that survey effort and methodology are consistent with the <i>Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened mammals 2011</i>, and any other relevant DCCEEW documentation or best practise examples (such as the <i>Forest Protection Survey Program Survey Guideline – Spotlighting and Call Playback (V4.1)</i>) and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken.</p> <p>Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of species presence/absence across the site including consideration to the survey effort.</p>	Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10) of the PER Report.
<b>Yellow-bellied glider (<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>) – Vulnerable</b>	
5.2.20 Habitat descriptions based on the <i>Conservation Advice for Petaurus australis australis (yellow-bellied glider (south-eastern)) 2022</i> .	Section 8.2.7.11 of the PER Report.
5.2.21 Identification of key denning and foraging resources, including the presence and density of tree hollows across the site (see notes in information request 5.2.16 above).	Section 8.2.7.11 of the PER Report.
5.2.22 Maps of all habitat (denning, foraging, dispersal) across the project area and surrounds. Clearly indicate which areas have been ground-truthed within this mapping.	Section 8.1.7.11 of the PER Report.

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<p><b>5.2.23</b> Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the species presence and abundance throughout the site, that survey effort and methodology are consistent with the <i>Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened mammals 2011</i>, and any other relevant DCCEEW documentation or best practise examples (such as the <i>Forest Protection Survey Program Survey Guideline – Spotlighting and Call Playback (V4.1)</i>) and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken.</p> <p>Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of species presence/absence across the site including consideration to the survey effort.</p>	<b>Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10) of the PER Report.</b>
<b>Northern quoll (<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>) – Endangered</b>	
<p><b>5.2.24</b> Habitat descriptions based on <i>National Recovery Plan for the Northern Quoll Dasyurus hallucatus (2010)</i>.</p> <p>Areas of breeding, foraging, and dispersal habitat must be clearly identified and the total area (in hectares) of each habitat-type within both the project area and the disturbance footprint stated. The department considers that habitat for the northern quoll includes:</p> <p>Breeding/denning rocky areas (such as ranges, escarpments, gorges, major drainage lines or treed creek lines), structurally diverse eucalypt forest and woodlands containing large diameter trees, termite mounds, or hollow logs, dry rainforests and vine thickets, sandy lowlands and beaches, shrubland, grasslands and desert within the species' range.</p> <p><b>Foraging/dispersal:</b> vegetated areas surrounding breeding/denning habitat.</p> <p><b>Habitat critical to the survival of the species:</b> habitat critical to the survival of the northern quoll generally includes areas within the modelled species distribution that provide shelter for breeding and refuge from threats or that connects important populations, usually consisting of offshore islands, rocky habitats, and structurally diverse woodlands. Important populations of the Northern Quoll are defined as high density populations that persist alongside threats, populations not under threat from cane toads, and populations subject to ongoing conservation or research actions.</p>	<b>Section 8.2.6.5 of the PER Report.</b>
<p><b>5.2.25</b> Maps of all breeding, foraging, and dispersal habitat across the project area and surrounds. Clearly indicate which areas have been ground-truthed within this mapping.</p>	<b>Section 8.6.2.5 of the PER Report.</b>
<p><b>5.2.26</b> Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the species presence and abundance throughout the site, that survey effort and methodology are consistent with the <i>Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened mammals: Guidelines for detecting mammals listed as threatened under the EPBC Act (2011)</i> (DCCEEW Mammal Survey Guidelines), the <i>EPBC Act referral guideline for the endangered northern quoll Dasyurus hallucatus (2016)</i>, and any other relevant DCCEEW documentation and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken. Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of species presence/absence across the site including consideration to the survey effort.</p>	<b>Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10) of the PER Report.</b>
<b>Water mouse (<i>Xeromys myoides</i>) – Vulnerable</b>	
<p><b>5.2.27</b> Habitat descriptions consistent with the <i>National Recovery Plan for the Water Mouse (Xeromys myoides) 2024</i>, and considering the <i>Conservation Advice for Xeromys myoides (Water Mouse) 2021</i> and the <i>Referral guideline for the vulnerable water mouse Xeromys myoides 2015</i>.</p>	<b>Section 8.2.7.9 of the PER Report.</b>

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<p>5.2.28 Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the species presence and abundance throughout the site, that survey effort and methodology align with guidance provided in the <i>Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened mammals: Guidelines for detecting mammals listed as threatened under the EPBC Act 2011</i> and <i>Referral guideline for the vulnerable water mouse Xeromys myoides 2015</i>, and any other relevant DCCEEW documentation, and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken. Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of species presence/absence across the site including consideration to the survey effort.</p>	<p><b>Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10) of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>Ghost bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>) – Vulnerable</b></p>	
<p>5.2.29 Habitat descriptions considering the <i>Conservation Advice Macroderma gigas ghost bat 2016</i> and <i>A review of ghost bat ecology, threats and survey requirements 2022</i>. Specific consideration should be given to whether roost caves, and especially maternity roost caves, are present in the region.</p>	<p><b>Section 4.1.7.4 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p>5.2.30 Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the species presence and abundance throughout the site, that survey effort and methodology align with guidance provided in <i>Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened bats 2010</i>, <i>A review of ghost bat ecology, threats and survey requirements 2022</i>, the <i>Northern Territory guidelines for surveying for the ghost bat at the landscape scale 2024</i>, and the <i>Queensland Targeted species survey guidelines Ghost bat Macroderma gigas 2011</i>, and any other relevant DCCEEW documentation, and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken. Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of species presence/absence across the site including consideration to the survey effort.</p>	<p><b>Section 4.1.7.4 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>Squatter pigeon (southern) (<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>) – Vulnerable</b></p>	
<p>5.2.31 Habitat descriptions based on <i>Conservation Advice Geophaps scripta scripta squatter pigeon (southern) (2015)</i> and any other available, relevant information. State the total area (in hectares) of each of breeding, foraging and dispersal habitat type, including consideration of disturbed (non-remnant vegetation) areas.</p> <p>The department considers the habitat types should be defined as:</p> <p><b>Breeding Habitat:</b> Any remnant or regrowth open-forest to sparse, open-woodland or scrub dominated by Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Acacia or Callitris species, on sandy or gravelly soils (including but not limited to areas mapped as Queensland land zones 3, 5 or 7) and within 1 km of a suitable permanent waterbody.</p> <p><b>Foraging Habitat:</b> Any remnant or regrowth open-forest to sparse, open-woodland or scrub dominated by Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Acacia or Callitris species, on sandy or gravelly soils (including but not limited to areas mapped as Queensland land zones 3, 5 or 7) and within 3 km of a suitable, permanent or seasonal waterbody.</p> <p><b>Dispersal Habitat:</b> Any forest or woodland occurring between patches of foraging or breeding habitat that facilitates movement between patches of foraging habitat, breeding habitat and/or water bodies, and areas of cleared land less than 100 metres wide linking areas of suitable breeding and/or foraging habitat.</p> <p>5.2.32 A map of all water bodies (including farm dams/troughs, and clearly differentiated permanent or seasonal waterbodies) within and surrounding the proposed project area with an overlay of the different habitat features (e.g. breeding, foraging, dispersal).</p>	<p><b>Section 8.2.7.8 of the PER Report.</b></p> <p><b>Section 8.2.7.8 of the PER Report.</b></p>

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<p><b>5.2.33</b> Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the species presence and abundance throughout the site, that survey effort and methodology are consistent with the Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Birds. EPBC Act survey guidelines 6.2 2010, and any other relevant DCCEEW documentation and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken. Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of species presence/absence across the site including consideration to the survey effort.</p>	<p><b>Section 4.1.8 (Table 4.10) of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>Collared delma (<i>Delma torquata</i>) – Vulnerable</b></p> <p><b>5.2.34</b> Habitat descriptions based on the <i>Approved Conservation Advice for Delma torquata (Collared Delma) 2008</i>, the <i>Draft Referral guidelines for the nationally listed Brigalow Belt reptiles</i>, and considering recent records from adjacent regions.</p> <p><b>5.2.35</b> Evidence that surveys were adequate to detect the full extent of the species presence and abundance throughout the site, that survey effort and methodology align with guidance provided in the <i>Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened reptiles. EPBC Act survey guidelines 6.6, 2011</i> and “<i>An overview of monitoring methods for the collared delma 2024</i>”, and any other relevant DCCEEW documentation, and clearly identify any limitations associated with the surveys undertaken.</p> <p>Provide evidence and justification for the level of certainty of species presence/absence across the site, including consideration to the species cryptic nature and survey effort.</p>	<p><b>Section 8.2.7.2 of the PER Report.</b></p> <p><b>Section 4.1.8 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>5.3 The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, World Heritage Property, and National Heritage Place Environment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park</b></p> <p><b>5.3.1</b> Provide a description of the environment of the Great Barrier Reef that occurs downstream of the project area, and which may be impacted by the project. This must include information about the location (including distance along the Calliope River, in kilometres, of the project from the relevant controlling provisions) physical features, condition, historical context, and current uses. Include information on the hydrological connection of the project area to the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>The environment is defined in section 528 of the EPBC Act as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities</li> <li>• natural and physical resources</li> <li>• the qualities and characteristics of locations, places, and areas</li> <li>• heritage values of places</li> <li>• the social, economic, and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned in the above items.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Section 5.6 of the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>World Heritage Property</b></p> <p><b>5.3.2</b> Describe the Outstanding Universal Values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property that occur downstream of the project area. These can be accessed here: <a href="https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/great-barrier-reef/world-heritage">https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/great-barrier-reef/world-heritage</a>. Include a discussion of the values which may be impacted by the proposed action</p>	<p><b>Section 5.7 of the PER Report.</b></p>

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<b>National Heritage Place</b>	
<p><b>5.3.3</b> Describe the national heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef National Heritage Place that occur downstream of the project area. These values are available at: <a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl">https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl</a>. Include a discussion of the values which may be impacted by the proposed action.</p> <p>The values of the Great Barrier Reef National Heritage Place are consistent with the four outstanding universal values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property.</p>	<b>Section 5.8</b> of the PER Report.
<b>6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	
<p><b>6.1.1</b> An assessment of all relevant impacts to MNES, including impacts during the construction, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation stages of the project.</p> <p>The following information must be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an assessment of all relevant impacts (direct, indirect, facilitated, and cumulative) to MNES</li> <li>a detailed assessment of the nature, extent and duration of the likely short-term and long-term relevant impacts</li> <li>a statement whether any relevant impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable, repeated (for example as part of maintenance or decommissioning), or irreversible</li> <li>analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts</li> <li>which component/s and stage/s of the action are of relevance to impacts on each MNES</li> <li>a discussion of any environmental design features and their relevance to mitigating impacts to MNES</li> <li>any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts.</li> </ul>	<b>Chapter 6.0</b> of the PER Report.
<p><b>6.1.2</b> At a minimum, an assessment of potential impacts to MNES arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>habitat loss and individual mortality from vegetation clearing</li> <li>habitat creation as a result of the proposed action changing resource availability</li> <li>habitat fragmentation and patch isolation within the project area and surrounds, including consideration of:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the project's proximity to state and regional biodiversity corridors</li> <li>width of easements and any implications on habitat connectivity and the dispersal ability of threatened species</li> <li>species' movement patterns and site utilisation (including consideration of likely launch heights and gliding distances for glider species, supported by scientific literature)</li> <li>height of electricity infrastructure and risk of obstruction and entanglement of threatened species</li> <li>height of fencing infrastructure and risk of obstruction and entanglement of threatened species.</li> </ul> </li> <li>collision with, entanglement in, and/or electrocution by project infrastructure</li> </ul>	<b>Chapter 6.0</b> of the PER Report.

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a discussion on expected impacts from increased edge effects on patches that remain outside the disturbance footprint, including increased weed prevalence and light disturbance.</li> <li>• increased prevalence of invasive plants and animals</li> <li>• increased vehicle collisions with fauna</li> <li>• altered fire regimes</li> <li>• altered hydrology</li> <li>• changes to erosion and sedimentation processes, and subsequent effects on soil stability and water quality</li> <li>• chemical pollution of soils and waterways</li> <li>• environmental pollution, including light, dust, and noise pollution</li> <li>• site alienation resulting in fauna avoiding the project area.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6.1.3</b> Consideration of the sites' hydrology and topography and, at a minimum, the potential for impacts to MNES that arise from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased sediment and erosion run-off associated with vegetation clearing, earthworks, and altered surface run-off</li> <li>• changes in the hydrology of stream beds and banks, and changes to hydrological regimes within and downstream of the project area</li> <li>• changes to water quality in the watercourses within and downstream of the project area</li> <li>• increased rates of nutrient enrichment and eutrophication</li> <li>• increased sediment loads including potential impacts to benthic communities (as they relate to values of the GBRWHA and GBRNHP, and the environment within the GBRMP)</li> <li>• waterway pollution and changes in water quality (including pH) from construction (e.g. from construction materials associated infrastructure) or other activities</li> <li>• effect of construction on groundwater and natural seepage in the area during the wet season.</li> </ul> <p>The PER should include information on flood dynamics and hydrology of the project area, the intensity and quantum of water over single flood events, and the intensity of slope angles throughout the project area.</p>	<b>Section 6.6 of the PER Report.</b>
<p><b>6.1.4</b> Where relevant, consideration of predicted future climatic conditions in the assessment of impacts to MNES. This should include how changes in climate and the frequency and severity of weather events may interact with, exacerbate, or reduce the impacts of the action on MNES over time. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased erosion and run-off associated with predicted increases in high rainfall events and how this may compound the impacts of vegetation clearance</li> <li>• loss, fragmentation, or drying of potential climate refugia for MNES as a result of the project – consider the potential impacts of removing or otherwise impacting this climate refugia for the long-term survival of MNES in the region</li> </ul>	<b>Section 6.13 of the PER Report.</b>

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increased risk of fire as a result of the project under drier conditions and periods of extreme heat</li> <li>changes in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that may exacerbate impacts to MNES within the project area and downstream</li> <li>inclusion of different climate scenarios in any hydrological modelling.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6.1.5</b> Identification and discussion of all cumulative impacts, where potential impacts are in addition to impacts from other activities in the region. This must include consideration of impacts from projects that are currently operational, or that are considered reasonably likely to occur during the operational life of the proposed action. This may include, but is not limited to, current or proposed wind and solar projects that may connect to the proposed transmission line, or additional transmission infrastructure. The consideration of cumulative impacts must include, but should not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sedimentation and run-off</li> <li>impacts to environmental values of land, air, water, public health, and the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems</li> <li>impacts to listed threatened species and ecosystems, including through habitat loss, fragmentation, availability, and quality</li> <li>impacts to ecosystem resilience, including potential exacerbation of the effects of climate change</li> </ul> <p>The PER must also outline ways in which the assessment and management of cumulative impacts could be progressed further on a collective basis.</p>	<b>Chapter 10.0</b> of the PER Report.
<b>Table 6.2 – Listed Threatened Species and Ecological Communities</b>	
<p><b>6.2.1</b> A discussion of the potential and likelihood of MNES collision with transmission infrastructure, and potential impacts to protected matters as a result of these, including potential changes to species utilisation of the proposed action area.</p>	<b>Section 6.5.1.1</b> of the PER Report. <b>Section 8.2</b> of the PER Report.
<p><b>6.2.2</b> Justification, with supporting evidence, as to how the project will not be inconsistent with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australia's obligations under the Biodiversity Convention, the Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</li> <li>A recovery plan or threat abatement plan.</li> </ul> <p>Justification, with supporting evidence, as to how the project has taken into account any relevant approved conservation advice.</p>	<b>Section 6.10</b> of the PER Report.
<p><b>6.2.2</b> A summary table containing the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>species or ecological community</li> <li>habitat description</li> <li>habitat area (ha) within the project area and disturbance footprint</li> <li>likelihood of occurrence</li> <li>direct and indirect impacts</li> </ul>	<b>Section 8.2</b> of the PER Report.

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• safeguards and mitigation measures</li> <li>• significance conclusion.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.2.3</b> Quantification of the direct and indirect loss and/or disturbance of protected matters and their habitat as a result of the project. This must include the area (in hectares) for each type of habitat, the quality of the habitat to be impacted, and quantification of the number individuals to be impacted (where applicable).	<b>Chapter 6.0</b> of the PER Report.
<b>Table 6.3 – Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, World Heritage Property, and National Heritage Place</b>	
<b>6.3.1</b> An assessment of potential impacts to water quality, with consideration of the amount and types of sediment that will be disturbed or pollutants that will be introduced, and the quantities that will potentially be released into watercourses within and downstream of the project area, including the Great Barrier Reef.	<b>Section 6.6.1 and Appendix D Surface Water Impact Assessment</b> of the PER Report.
<b>6.3.2</b> A description of how the project will meet the requirements of the <i>Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022</i> , the <i>Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan 2021-25</i> , the <i>Water Plan (Calliope River Basin) 2006</i> , and the <i>Fitzroy Region Calliope catchment water quality targets</i> , or the most recent version of these documents at the time of PER publication. Consideration must be given to soils, hydrology and hydrological modelling, and the potential effects of extreme weather events across the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the project.	<b>Section 6.11 and Appendix D Surface Water Impact Assessment</b> of the PER Report.
<b>6.3.3</b> A qualitative characterisation of the following aspects of likely erosion and sedimentation impacts on Great Barrier Reef water quality (with reference to at least the <i>Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022</i> , and associated catchment level water quality targets): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• timing and duration (including construction versus operational impacts)</li> <li>• composition of contaminants (including any chemical pollutants)</li> <li>• local climatic conditions (including flood propensity and frequency of intense rainy periods)</li> <li>• soil type(s) and erodibility</li> <li>• hydrological connection to the Great Barrier Reef.</li> </ul>	<b>Section 6.6.1, Section 6.11 and Appendix D Surface Water Impact Assessment</b> of the PER Report.
<b>6.3.4</b> An assessment of any potential impacts to MNES considering the above.	<b>Section 6.9 and Chapter 9</b> of the PER Report.
<b>7 AVOIDANCE, MINIMISATION, MITIGATION, AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES</b>	
<b>Table 7.1 Avoidance, Minimisation, Mitigation and Management Measures</b>	
<b>7.1.1</b> A detailed summary of specific measures proposed to be undertaken by the proponent to avoid, minimise, mitigate and manage relevant impacts of the project on MNES, for all stages of the project. Include any details of any relevant measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate and manage impacts required through other Commonwealth, State and local government approvals.	<b>Chapter 7.0 and Appendix J Draft MNES Management Plan</b> of the PER Report.

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<p><b>7.1.2</b> Include details of specific and measurable environmental outcomes to be achieved for relevant MNES (e.g. performance targets and criteria, objectives, milestones). All commitments must be drafted using committal language (e.g. ‘will’ and ‘must’) when describing the proposed measures.</p> <p>Any commitments by the person proposing to take the action must be clearly distinguished from recommendations or statements of best practice made by the document author or other technical expert.</p>	<p><b>Section 7.3 and Appendix J Draft MNES Management Plan</b> of the PER Report.</p>
<p><b>7.1.3</b> All measures must be developed to meet the ‘S.M.A.R.T’ principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S – Specific (what and how)</li> <li>• M – Measurable (supported by baseline information, number/value, quantifiable, auditable)</li> <li>• A – Achievable (with consideration of e.g., timeframe, money, personnel)</li> <li>• R – Relevant (consistent with conservation advices, recovery plans, threat abatement plans, scientific literature)</li> <li>• T – Time-bound (specific timeframe to complete, include timeframe, duration and frequency).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Section 7.3 and Appendix J Draft MNES Management Plan</b> of the PER Report.</p>
<p><b>7.1.4</b> Provide discussion on the measures proposed to avoid, minimise, mitigate and/or manage impacts to MNES from habitat loss and fragmentation, including those proposed within the referral. This may include, but should not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Implementation of buffer zones or retention areas around, for instance, high quality habitat or riparian areas and underneath transmission infrastructure</li> <li>b. retention of vegetation around or underneath infrastructure, where possible, to support foraging or dispersal of MNES</li> <li>c. micro-siting of infrastructure to utilise existing clearance areas and avoid habitat fragmentation and patch isolation, with consideration of whether avoidance areas would still be connected to habitat in the broader landscape</li> <li>d. Ensuring that patches of threatened ecological communities are not reduced below functional size (e.g. SEVT are not reduced below 2 ha)</li> <li>e. Implementation of pre-clearance surveys and fauna-friendly clearance techniques (e.g. slow felling of potential hollow bearing trees, halting clearance when MNES are detected to allow time for natural dispersal)</li> <li>f. Implementation of speed limits</li> <li>g. where fencing is proposed, incorporating fauna friendly design where possible to avoid fauna obstruction/entanglement (e.g. in areas where barbed wire is not a human security or safety requirement).</li> </ol>	<p><b>Section 7.3 of the PER Report and further detail provided in Appendix J.</b></p>
<p><b>7.1.5</b> Provide discussion on proposed pre-clearance and clearance procedures to ensure fauna are detected and managed to minimise mortality, stress, injury, or introduction of disease.</p> <p>Describe any statutory or policy basis for the proposed procedures (e.g. any state or local government requirements).</p>	<p><b>Section 7.3 and Appendix J Draft MNES Management Plan</b> of the PER Report.</p>
<p><b>7.1.6</b> Provide discussion on the measures employed to avoid, minimise, mitigate and/or manage impacts to MNES from short- and long-term erosion and sedimentation, including those proposed within the referral. This may include, but should not be limited to:</p>	<p><b>Section 7.3, Appendix D Surface Water Impact Assessment and Appendix J Draft MNES</b></p>

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identification of potentially affected waterways, tributaries and drainage lines</li> <li>scheduling of activities (e.g., avoiding construction during wet periods)</li> <li>implementation of best-practice erosion and sediment control measures, including the details of the type and location of erosion and sediment control devices to be installed, based on the anticipated soil, weather and construction conditions</li> <li>minimising the extent and duration of soil disturbance</li> <li>prompt stabilisation of disturbed areas</li> <li>controlling water movement through the project area, including the diversion of clean flows around disturbed areas</li> <li>the development of performance criteria</li> <li>regular monitoring during construction, operation and decommissioning to ensure performance criteria are being maintained. A monitoring plan for erosion and sediment controls following a heavy rainfall event (&gt;25 mm in 24 hours), to identify and undertake any necessary rectification works, must be outlined and justified.</li> </ul>	Management Plan of the PER Report.
<p><b>7.1.7</b> Proposed measures must be based on best available practices, appropriate standards, evidence of success for other similar actions and supported by published scientific evidence.</p> <p>The SPRAT Database, conservation advice, recovery plans and associated statutory and policy documents may provide a starting point for relevant mitigation and management measures.</p>	Section 7.3 and Appendix J Draft MNES Management Plan of the PER Report.
<p><b>7.1.8</b> Include an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the proposed measures.</p>	Section 5.4 of the MNES Management Plan (Appendix J) of the PER Report.
<p><b>7.1.9</b> Provide bushfire mitigation and management measures, including information on preventing the spread of bushfires that may start as a result of the project to areas outside of the project area.</p>	Section 7.3 and Appendix J Draft MNES Management Plan of the PER Report.
<p><b>7.1.10</b> Provide details of ongoing management, including monitoring programs to support an adaptive management approach, that validate the effectiveness of the proposed measures and overall demonstrate that environmental outcomes will be achieved</p>	Section 7.5 and Appendix J Draft MNES Management Plan of the PER Report.
<p><b>7.1.11</b> Details of tangible, on-ground corrective actions that will be implemented in the event the monitoring programs indicate that the environmental outcomes have not or will not be achieved and include triggers for these corrective actions.</p> <p>Note that provision of environmental offsets will also be expected for any residual significant impact (see section 9).</p>	Section 7.3 and Appendix J Draft MNES Management Plan of the PER Report.

## 7.2 Management Plans

### Table 7.2 Management Plans – Information Required

PER Guideline Section	Section of the PER
<p><b>7.2.1</b> A detailed outline of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that sets out the framework for management, mitigation and monitoring of relevant impacts of the action, including any provisions for independent environmental auditing.</p> <p>The EMP needs to address the project phases (construction, operation, decommission) separately. It must state the environmental objectives, performance criteria, monitoring, reporting, corrective action, responsibility and timing for each environmental issue.</p> <p>The EMP should also describe contingencies for events such as heavy or prolonged rainfall.</p> <p>In the construction phase of the EMP, include management measures such as dust suppression and enforcement of reduced construction zone vehicle speeds.</p>	<p><b>Section 7.3 and Appendix K to the PER Report.</b></p>
<p><b>7.2.2</b> A Sediment and Erosion Management Plan outlining avoidance, mitigation and monitoring of sediment loads (see section 7.1.6) and developed in accordance with best-practice guidelines such as the <i>International Erosion Control Association (IECA) Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Manual (2008)</i>.</p>	<p><b>Section 7.3 and Appendix K to the PER Report</b> describes the approach to erosion and sediment control. An ESCP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.</p>
<p><b>7.2.3</b> A Bushfire Management Plan, outlining the measures that will be taken to avoid, mitigate, and manage potential impacts of the proposed action. This should be developed in accordance with best-practise guidelines, such as the <i>CFA's Design Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities (2023)</i>.</p>	<p><b>Section 7.3 and Appendix K to the PER Report</b> describes the approach to bushfire management. A BMP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.</p>
<p><b>7.2.4</b> A Rehabilitation Management Plan. Requirements are set out in section 8.</p>	<p><b>Section 7.4 and Appendix K of the PER Report.</b> A RMP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.</p>
<p><b>7.2.6</b> An Offset Management Plan (OMP). Requirements are set out in section 9 and in Attachment C.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 11 and Appendix F to the PER Report.</b></p> <p>An OMP will form part of the Final PER for DCCEEW assessment.</p>
<b>8 REHABILITATION REQUIREMENTS</b>	
<b>Table 8 Rehabilitation – information required</b>	
<p><b>8.1.1</b> A summary of all areas that will be rehabilitated.</p> <p>This must include maps showing the area/s that will be rehabilitated, provision of the size (in hectares) of these areas, and identification of the relevant vegetation community/communities of these areas.</p>	<p><b>Section 7.4 of the PER Report</b> describes the approach to rehabilitation. A RMP will be</p>

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The maps and associated discussion must clearly identify when each area is proposed to be rehabilitated (e.g. post-construction, during operation, post-decommissioning, etc).	prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.
8.1.2 Information on whether any post-construction rehabilitation sites will be subsequently cleared during the decommissioning stage, measures to subsequently rehabilitate these areas, and the associated timeframe for rehabilitation completion.	<b>Section 7.4</b> of the PER Report describes the approach to rehabilitation. A RMP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.
8.1.3 Details of rehabilitation methods and how they meet best practice standards, including for the restoration of habitat for relevant MNES and avoidance of sedimentation and/or erosion.	<b>Section 7.4</b> of the PER Report describes the approach to rehabilitation. A RMP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.
8.1.4 Rehabilitation acceptance criteria and the procedures, including contingency measures, that will be undertaken to achieve them. Acceptance criteria and rehabilitation methods must be consistent with the SMART format.  The relevance of these acceptance criteria to MNES must be explicitly discussed.	<b>Section 7.4</b> of the PER Report describes the approach to rehabilitation. A RMP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.
8.1.5 A summary of the dominant species that will be included in the rehabilitation site.	<b>Section 7.4</b> of the PER Report describes the approach to rehabilitation. A RMP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.
8.1.6 Information on management of the rehabilitation site, including, but not limited to, weed and pest management.	<b>Section 7.4.2</b> of the PER Report describes the approach to rehabilitation. A RMP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.
8.1.7 Details of a monitoring program to determine the success of rehabilitation activities implemented by the proponent, including any contingency measures and when they would be triggered.	<b>Section 7.5</b> of the PER Report describes the approach to rehabilitation. A RMP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.

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<p><b>8.1.8</b> The details of any rehabilitation activities proposed to be undertaken as required by Commonwealth, State or Territory, and local government legislation.</p>	<p><b>Section 7.4</b> of the PER Report describes the approach to rehabilitation. A RMP will be prepared for DCCEEW approval prior to construction.</p>
<h2>9 OFFSETS</h2>	
<p><b>Table 9.1</b> Offsets – information required</p>	
<p><b>9.1.1</b> An assessment of the likelihood of residual significant impacts occurring on relevant MNES, after avoidance, mitigation and management measures have been applied.</p> <p>Significance of impacts to MNES must be undertaken in accordance with the <i>Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1</i>.</p> <p>Provide a clear and definitive conclusion on the significance of impacts, including the extent and nature of residual impacts.</p>	<p><b>Section 8.0</b> of the PER Report.</p>
<p><b>9.1.2</b> A summary of the proposed environmental offset/s and key commitments to achieve a conservation gain for each protected matter.</p>	<p><b>Section 11.4</b> of the PER Report.</p>
<p><b>9.1.3</b> Include an OMP as an appendix to the PER. The OMP must meet the information requirements set out in Attachment C, and must be prepared by suitably qualified ecologist and in accordance with the departments <i>Environmental Management Plan Guidelines</i>.</p>	<p><b>Appendix F</b> to the PER Report.</p> <p>An OMP will form part of the Final PER for DCCEEW assessment.</p>
<p><b>9.1.4</b> The environmental offset/s proposed for the project must meet the core principles of the <i>Offset Policy</i>.</p>	<p><b>Section 11.2</b> of the PER Report.</p>
<p><b>9.1.5</b> Offset proposals must engage specifically with the ecological requirements of the protected matter.</p> <p>For example, for a species like the greater glider, management measures such as weeding and fencing will not generally be accepted as suitable compensation for the loss of hollows suitable for denning, which is a limiting habitat requirement for the species.</p> <p>Expanding upon this example, where denning resources are proposed to be impacted, offset proposals should demonstrate an increase in the quality and/or availability of denning resources at an offset site, relative to the quantum of impact. Offsets proposals based on creation of hollows (or artificial denning resources) must realistically address whether they will be used by greater gliders, whether they will attract predator or competitor species and their durability, accompanied by suitable monitoring and performance measures. Deviations from these principles will need to be explained and justified.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 11.0</b> of the PER Report.</p>
<h2>10 OTHER APPROVALS AND CONDITIONS</h2>	
<p><b>Table 10.1 – Other approval and conditions information required</b></p>	
<p><b>10.1.1</b> The PER must include information on any other requirements for approval or conditions that apply, or that the proponent reasonably believes are likely to apply, to the project. This must include:</p>	<p><b>Section 1.13 and Appendix C Description of Commonwealth and State Legislation</b> of the PER Report.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. details of any local or state government planning scheme, or plan or policy under any local or state government planning system that deals with the project, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. what environmental assessment of the project has been, or is being, carried out under the scheme, plan or policy</li> <li>ii. how the scheme provides for the prevention, minimisation and management of any relevant impacts</li> <li>iii. description of any approval that has been obtained from a state, territory or Commonwealth agency or authority (other than an approval under the EPBC Act), including any conditions that apply to the action.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. a statement identifying any additional approval that is required</li> <li>c. a description of the monitoring, enforcement and review procedures that apply, or are proposed to apply, to the action.</li> </ul>	
<p>Attach relevant Commonwealth, state, or territory, and local government approvals and permits received prior to submission of the PER as supporting documents to the PER.</p>	
<b>11 CONSULTATION</b>	
<b>Table 11.1 Consultation Information Required</b>	
<b>11.1.1</b> Any consultation about the action, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any consultation that has already taken place</li> <li>b. proposed consultation about relevant impacts of the action</li> <li>c. if there has been consultation about the project, any documented response to, or result of, the consultation</li> <li>d. identification of affected parties, including a statement mentioning any communities that may be affected and describing their views.</li> </ul>	<b>Chapter 12.0</b> of the PER Report.
<b>11.2 Indigenous Engagement Information Required</b>	
<b>11.2.1</b> Identify existing or potential native title rights and interests that may be impacted by the project, including any areas and objects that are of particular significance to Indigenous peoples and communities. Include information on how these impacts will be managed.	<b>Section 12.6.1</b> of the PER Report.
<b>11.2.2</b> Describe any Indigenous consultation that has been undertaken, or will be undertaken, in relation to the project and their outcomes. This should include details regarding the specific Indigenous groups and Traditional Owners consulted. The department considers that best practice consultation, in accordance with The Interim Engaging with First Nations People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (interim guidance) – DCCEEW (2023) includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring cultural safety</li> <li>• building and maintaining trust</li> <li>• engaging early and often</li> </ul>	<b>Section 12.6</b> of the PER Report.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>negotiating suitable timeframes</li> <li>negotiating suitable submission formats.</li> </ul>	
<b>11.2.3</b> Describe any state requirements for approval or conditions that apply, or that the proponent reasonably believes are likely to apply, to the project with regards to Indigenous peoples and communities.	<b>Section 12.6.4</b> of the PER Report.
<b>12 ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD OF PERSON(S) PROPOSING TO TAKE THE ACTION</b>	
<b>Table 12.1 – Environmental Record Information Required</b>	
<b>12.1.1</b> The information provided must include details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, state or territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the person proposing to take the action</li> <li>for an action for which a person has applied for a permit, the person making the application.</li> </ol>	<b>Section 1.5.1</b> of the PER Report.
<b>12.1.2</b> If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework must also be included.	<b>Section 1.5.1</b> of the PER Report.
<b>13 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS</b>	
<b>Table 13.1 – Economic and Social Matters Information Required</b>	
<b>13.1.1</b> The economic and social impacts of the action, both positive and negative, must be analysed. Matters of interest may include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>details of any public consultation activities undertaken, and their outcomes (see section 11)</li> <li>projected economic costs and benefits of the project, including the basis for their;</li> <li>estimation through cost/benefit analysis or similar studies</li> <li>employment opportunities expected to be generated by the project (including construction and operational phases).</li> </ol>	<b>Section 13.0</b> of the PER Report.
<b>13.1.2</b> Economic and social impacts should be considered at the local, regional and national levels. Details of the relevant cost and benefits of alternative options to the project, as identified in section 3 above, should also be included.	<b>Section 13.0</b> of the PER Report.
<b>14 INFORMATION SOURCES PROVIDED IN THE PER</b>	
<b>Table 14.1 – Sources Information Required</b>	
<b>14.1.1</b> For information given in a draft PER, the draft must state: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the source of the information</li> <li>how recent the information is</li> <li>how the reliability of the information was tested</li> <li>what uncertainties (if any) are in the information.</li> </ol>	<b>Section 15.0</b> of the PER Report.

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<p><b>15 CONCLUSION</b></p> <p><b>Table 15.1 – Conclusion Information Required</b></p> <p><b>15.1.1</b> An overall conclusion as to the environmental acceptability of the action should be provided, including discussion on compliance with principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development and the objects and requirements of the EPBC Act (see Attachment A). Reasons justifying undertaking the action in the manner proposed should also be outlined. Measures proposed or required by way of offset for any unavoidable impacts on MNES, and the relative degree of compensation, should be restated here.</p>	<b>Section 14.0</b> of the PER Report.