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Appendix B

Reference table

Reference Table

Information requested	Response and location within document
The preliminary documentation for the proposal must include:	
(a) Specified information included in the original referral.	
(b) Additional information you provide in response to this request	
(c) Any other information specified in this request or provided during the referral or assessment process.	
Please note the department may require further information, in addition to the information required below, should new issues come to light during the assessment stage.	Noted.
The preliminary documentation must address the matters set out below.	
1. General content, format and style	
The preliminary documentation must be written so that any conclusions reached can be independently assessed, and	The information requested by the Department has been provided in the locations indicated in this cross-reference table (included as Appendix B of the preliminary documentation). Relevant information from the EPBC Referral for the SGP North Solar Farm Project has been incorporated into this preliminary documentation and supplemented with the following to provide sufficient information to allow the Minister to make an informed decision whether to approve the Project and to enable interested stakeholders to understand the environmental consequences of the Project: • supplementary ecological survey data including targeted MNES surveys and BioCondition assessments; and
1.1 Include a reference table indicating where to find information and links within the document to relevant sections.	
1.2 Where relevant information was provided in the referral, please incorporate, or cross-reference to this information as necessary in the preliminary documentation.	
1.3 Contain sufficient information to allow the Minister (or delegate) to make an informed decision on whether to approve, under Part 9 of the EPBC Act, the taking of the action for the purposes of each controlling provision.	
1.4 Contain sufficient information to enable interested stakeholders to	

Information requested	Response and location within document
understand the environmental consequences of the proposed development on matters of national environmental significance (MNES).	• further definition of key Project elements, including refinement of the spatial location and overall Development footprint required for the Project.
1.5 Ensure all work and conclusions:	
(a) are presented clearly, unambiguously, succinctly and objectively.	The work and conclusions presented in this PD are based on evidence gathered from field investigations and supported by literature which is referenced in Section 4. Scientific methodologies have are clearly communicated, consistent with relevant survey guidelines and, where limitations exist, these have been acknowledged in the assessment. Reporting is supported by maps based on Project-specific baseline data and publicly available datasets. Relevant conservation advice, recovery plans, threat abatement plans, species profiles and guidelines have been considered in the definition of habitat descriptions, impact mitigation and offset strategies for the Project.
(b) are evidence-based and the evidence is provided;	
(c) use scientifically robust methodologies appropriate to the purpose, including a justification of why the methodology/s was selected;	
(d) details of the methodology describe in a manner that allows an independent suitably qualified practitioner to describe the same method; and state any limits of the chosen approach.	
(e) are supported by maps, plans, diagrams, baseline surveys or other descriptive detail. Maps provided must be consistent with the department's Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects (2021)	
(f) maps must clearly identify development footprints, buffer zones, and any conservation areas where impacts will be avoided, and areas of adjacent habitat that would be subject to indirect impacts, including areas that are to be retained within and adjacent to the site.	
(g) use active language and state clear commitments (e.g., 'must' and 'will') where appropriate, particularly in describing avoidance, mitigation and management actions and outcomes.	

Information requested	Response and location within document
(h) demonstrate the use of the most up to date statutory documents* including Approved Listing Advice(s), Conservation Advice(s), Recovery Plan(s), Threat Abatement Plan(s) or comparable policy guidelines, and approved survey methods.	
(i) demonstrate the use of up-to-date; policy guidelines, scientific methods, information, data and species-relevant survey methods.	
(j) appropriately reference all sources using the Harvard standard. The reference list must include the address of any internet pages used as data sources.	
1.6 Are able to be read as a stand-alone document and must include summaries of all relevant information referenced or provided in appendices. Complex or detailed technical information, studies or investigations necessary to support the main text should be attached to the main document as appendices.	The PD has been prepared as a stand-alone document and includes summaries of all relevant information referenced or provided in the appendices.
2. Description of action	
2.1 The preliminary documentation must include:	
(a) A description of all components of the proposed action (such as pre-construction, construction, operational and decommissioning) including the staging, sequencing, duration and timing.	Section 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 These sections include a description of all components of the proposed action, including staging, sequencing, duration and timing.
(b) A description of the anticipated start and completion dates of all actions such as the extent, staging, progression and timing of clearing undertaken over the construction period. The description should include at a minimum: i) All infrastructure to be constructed and method/progression of construction.	Section 3.1 and 3.2, Table 3.1 These sections describe the infrastructure required and the method/progression of construction.

Information requested		Response and location within document
ii)	Proposed existing, temporary and permanent fencing, including a description of each fencing type and location. Include a schematic diagram of fence types and a map of where fences are proposed to be located.	Section 3.1.8, Plate 3.1, Figure 3.2 This section provides a description of the fencing proposed for the solar farm, including illustrations of proposed fencing and a map showing the alignment of the proposed fence.
iii)	Ancillary and supporting infrastructure including (but not limited to): temporary workforce accommodation camp, site office and maintenance building, internal access tracks, site access points, stockpile and laydown areas.	Section 3.1 This section describes ancillary and supporting infrastructure required for the solar farm, including temporary site offices, internal access tracks, site access points and laydown areas. No temporary workforce accommodation is proposed.
iv)	Mapped locations, including the size in hectares, of any proposed fire breaks/asset protection zones.	Section 3.1.9, Figure 3.2 This section describes and maps the location of the proposed asset protection zone.
v)	Other actions, including but not limited to, material storage and disposal, temporary structures for soil or water quality management.	Section 3.1.7 This section describes temporary construction areas required to support the Project. Temporary structures for soil and water management will be accommodated within the Development footprint.
vi)	Actions related to waste management and management of spills/contaminants/pollutants and method of treatment and disposal of waste and contaminated material, standards and minimum thresholds required for removal / disposal.	Section 3.3 and 3.4 Provides a description proposed waste management treatment and disposal for the Project.
(c)	A description of the anticipated start and completion dates of all actions such as the extent, staging, progression and timing of clearing undertaken over the construction period.	Section 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4, Table 3.1 Describes the anticipated start and completion dates of all phases of the Project, including timing of proposed construction activities.
(d)	A description of the planned decommissioning after the completion of the action and any restoration or ongoing activities planned for the project location.	Section 3.4 Includes a description of planned decommissioning activities.

Information requested	Response and location within document
(e) The location, extent and size (in hectares) of the total project footprint, disturbance / impact footprint, and of any adjoining areas (beyond the impact area) that may be subject to direct or facilitated impacts, including edge effects, noise or light spill, vehicle access or other associated activities.	Section 1.4.1, Section 3, Figure 3.2 Includes a description of the Development footprint (which equates to the Project area), including mapping.
(f) A description, with supporting spatial information, detailing all site access roads and any other shared infrastructure with adjacent projects/ areas to be constructed to facilitate the proposed action.	Section 3, Figure 3.1 and 3.2 Includes a description of site access roads and shared infrastructure with Arrow Energy's Surat Gas Project, including mapping.
Please describe any changes to the project or disturbance footprints that may have occurred since the original referral. Please note these changes may require a formal variation request.	Section 1.4.1 The Development footprint assessed in the PD (30.1 ha) has been refined and represents a change to the proposal as originally assessed in the EPBC Referral which considered the impacts of clearing across a broader 61.9 ha area.
2.2 Provide a description and accurate mapping of associated infrastructure beyond the project footprint (e.g. any access roads) and how the proposed action is connected to existing or proposed infrastructure.	Section 3, Figure 3.1 Includes a description of Arrow Energy's adjoining Surat Gas Project infrastructure and the connectivity between this existing (approved) project infrastructure and the solar farm, including mapping.
2.3 Provide a description of the transmission line required to connect this project to other infrastructure, including any third-party responsibilities such as referral, ownership, construction or operation.	Section 3.1.10, Figure 3.2 Includes a description of the transmission line required to connect the Project to Arrow's approved hybrid power facility, including a description of third party responsibilities.
2.4 Provide a description of the intended land uses proposed as part of the completed development, including of any proposed rehabilitation and/or conservation areas and associated ongoing activities, and details of the intended party that would be responsible for future management activities.	Section 3.3.1, Figure 3.3 Provides an overview of post-development land use including a description of the intended parties responsible for future management activities.
2.5 Details of any local or State government planning scheme, or plan or policy under any local or State Government planning system that applies or is likely to apply to the proposed action. Details should include, but are not limited to:	Section 2 Provides an overview of applicable policy and legislation and environmental assessments relevant to the Project.

Information requested	Response and location within document
(a) what environmental assessment of the proposed action has been, or is being carried out under the scheme, plan or policy (b) application/approval numbers for existing applications where relevant (c) obtained approvals or additional approvals that are required	
3. Description of the environment and Matters of National Environmental Significance	
The preliminary documentation must provide a description of the environment affected by and surrounding the proposed action area, over both the short and long term, including:	
3.1 A description of the environment present within and in the vicinity of the referral area, including the total area (hectares) for each discrete land cover type/vegetation community present in the referral area.	Section 5, Table 5.3 Includes a description of the environment in the vicinity of the Development footprint, including the total area of vegetation community types.
3.2 A description of the environment more broadly including previous and current land use within and surrounding the proposed action area, including but not limited to the intensity, extent, and recovery of the site from past actions and natural disturbance (e.g. historical clearing, site management, fire history, land use for agriculture).	Section 5 A description of key features of the Development footprint.
3.3 A description of surrounding vegetation, Regional Ecosystems (RE), natural and human features specific to the project area, including detailed mapping on the site boundaries	Section 5.4.1, Figure 5.6 A description of vegetation communities in the Development footprint, including mapping.
3.4 A description of the current site cover by invasive flora and fauna, and any fencing or barriers to dispersal to listed threatened species or ecological communities including detailed mapping.	Section 5.4.3, Section 5.5.3.1 Describes invasive flora and fauna species recorded on the site.

Information requested	Response and location within document
3.5 A description of any potential listed threatened species or ecological community (including but not limited to those listed in this request for information) that occur in the project area and adjacent areas.	Section 6, Appendix F Describes listed threatened species with the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Development footprint, including a full likelihood of occurrence of all species at Appendix F.
Please ensure that a recent Protected Matters Search Tool report is generated and used during the assessment before submitting the draft preliminary documentation to identify any additional species (listed at the time of the controlled action area) that may be affected by the proposal.	A recent PMST search was generated on the 23 February 2026.
3.6 For listed threatened species and ecological communities that have the potential, or are likely, to be present at and in the vicinity of the project site, including but not limited to those listed in this request, please provide a likelihood of occurrence assessment including the following:	Appendix F, Table 6.1 A detailed likelihood of occurrence assessment is provided for all species considered likely to occur or possibly occurring in the Development footprint in Table 6.1. This also includes an assessment of yakka skink (unlikely to occur) which is listed in the information request.
(a) Information on the abundance, distribution, ecology and habitat preferences of the species or communities.	Section 6.2 and 6.3 Provides a description of relevant characteristics of likely to occur and possibly occurring MNES species.
(b) Quantification of the extent of habitat (including maps, identifying known or potential habitat) on site and, where feasible, in the broader landscape.	Figures 6.1 to 6.6, Table 7.2 Detailed mapping showing the predicted extent of habitat for relevant species considered likely to occur or possibly occurring in the Development footprint. The extent of habitat for each relevant MNES is quantified in Table 7.2.
(c) Quality and importance of known or potential habitat for the species or communities.	Section 6.2 The quality and importance of known or potential habitat is described for relevant MNES.

Information requested	Response and location within document
(d) Information detailing known populations or records within at least five kilometres of the development footprint and (if known) the size of these populations.	Table 6.1, Appendix F Includes information about known populations or records within 50 km of the Development footprint.
(e) Conclusions on the likelihood of occurrence of listed threatened species and ecological communities within the project site, or with an area of impacts outside the project site.	Section 6.4 Includes a conclusion about the likelihood of MNES species to occur in the Development footprint.
Likelihood or occurrence and habitat assessments must be informed by up-to-date desktop and field surveys and informed by relevant departmental documents (e.g., approved Conservation Advice, Recovery Plans, draft referral guidelines and Listing Advice, and SPRAT Database) and/or species experts.	
3.7 Up to date and site-specific baseline and survey data at the impact site(s), and if relevant, the proposed offset site(s) site, including: (a) Information on the survey methodology or technique used (e.g., thermal detection, camera trapping, tree hollow search, SAT surveys etc).	Section 4.2, Appendix C Offset Proposal Provides a description of field surveys undertaken for the impact and offset sites respectively.
(b) When surveys were conducted (e.g. dates, time of day, season, etc) and survey effort (e.g. two hours for every one hectare within a 5-hectare areas.	Section 4.2, Table 4.1, Appendix C Offset Proposal Summarises the survey effort and timing.
(c) Map/s of survey points or transects and how the survey points or transects were selected.	Figure 4.1, Figure 4.2, Appendix C Offset Proposal Illustrates the spatial location of survey points and transects.
(d) An assessment of the adequacy of any surveys undertaken with reference to any relevant scientific literature and/or statutory documents. In particular, the extent to which these surveys were appropriate for the species and undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidelines.	Table 4.2 Provides an assessment of the adequacy of the survey effort with reference to relevant literature and guidelines for target species.
(e) Results of all surveys undertaken. Include raw data sheets of all surveys undertaken as attachments to the documentation.	Sections 5.4 and 5.4, Appendix G, Appendix H

Information requested	Response and location within document
	Summary results of all surveys are included in the PD. Appendix G includes raw data sheets for all surveys. Appendix H provides a list of all flora and fauna species recorded in the Study area.
3.8 Based on survey data and with reference to relevant statutory documents, provide a clear description of the total extent and quality of habitat present within and surrounding the proposed action area for each species or ecological community potentially present or impacted by the proposed action. For all species with residual significant impacts the method used to quantitatively assess the quality of habitat must be discussed and endorsed by the department before being applied.	Table 6.1, Table 7.2, Appendix C Offset Proposal, Appendix D Offset Management Plan A description of habitat quality for MNES species likely to occur and possibly occurring in the Development footprint is provided in Table 6.1. The total extent of habitat within the Development footprint for all relevant MNES species is provided in Table 7.2. Appendix C details the methods applied to quantitatively assess the quality of habitat for all MNES species for which residual significant impacts are likely or possible.
Survey requirements Survey timing Please note that some surveys can take more than a year to complete to ensure they are undertaken in the correct season. The department generally cannot accept survey data that's more than 5 years old because: • populations of species can change due to fires, drought, flooding and land management changes. • some species' ranges can shift due to climate change. If your data is older than 4 years when you start planning your project, the department recommends you undertake further up to date surveys. For information on survey methodologies approved by the Australian Government, please refer to https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/advice/surveys-and-data.	Only surveys undertaken since 2020 have been considered in developing this PD.
Precautionary principle Failing to survey appropriately for threatened species that may be present at a site could result in the department applying the precautionary principle with regard to residual significant impact determinations.	Survey adequacy for target MNES is addressed in Table 6.1.

Information requested	Response and location within document
That is, if no supporting evidence (such as survey results) is presented to support the claim of species absence, then the department may assume that the species is in fact present. The department will not accept claimed species absence without effective validation such as through application of survey guidelines, other survey techniques (for example, a state guideline or an accepted industry guideline), or statements from relevant species experts. Where a claim of absence is made, proposals must provide a robust evaluation of species absence.	As many of the target species are highly mobile, it has been conservatively assumed that they are present in the Development footprint where suitable habitat has been identified. The precautionary principle has also been applied by taking account of recent records within 50 km when assessing likelihood for mobile fauna.
4. Impact Assessment	
Based on the information provided in the referral, additional information provided in support of the referral, information provided in the SPRAT database, and online observation records, the department considers the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on listed threatened species and communities (section 18 & section 18A), and on the following MNES, including but not limited to: • Corben's Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) – Vulnerable • Greater Glider (southern and central) (*Petauroides volans*) – Endangered • Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus* (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)) – Endangered • South-eastern Glossy Black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*) – Vulnerable	
Based on information in the referral documentation, suitable foraging and potential roosting habitat for Corben's Long-eared Bat is present within the project footprint. The species has been recorded within 2 km of the site. The proposed action would likely result in the clearing of 39.4 ha of habitat. Suitable microhabitat for roosting may be present in regrowth and burnt vegetation on the site.	Section 6.2.1, Figure 6.1, Section 9.1 Habitat mapping for Corben's long-eared bat has been reviewed and updated for this PD. A revised significant impact assessment for this species is presented based on the Development footprint (rather than the broader Project area which formed the basis of the previous assessment).
The referral considers that suitable foraging habitat and dispersal habitat in low quality vegetation connecting to larger patches of high-quality habitat for the Greater Glider is present within the project footprint. There are several historical records of the species within 10 km of the site. The proposed action would likely result in the clearing of 39.4 ha of habitat critical to the survival of the species.	Section 6.2.2, Figure 6.2, Section 9.2 Habitat mapping for the greater glider has been reviewed and updated for this PD. A revised significant impact assessment for this species is presented based on the Development footprint (rather than the broader Project area which formed the basis of the previous assessment).

Information requested	Response and location within document
Based on information in the referral documentation, suitable habitat for breeding, foraging, shelter, and dispersal for the Koala is present within the project footprint. Historical records occur within 9 km of the project site. The proposed action would likely result in the clearing of 62 ha of habitat critical to the survival of the species.	Section 6.2.3, Figure 6.3, Section 9.3 Habitat mapping for the koala has been reviewed and updated for this PD. A revised significant impact for this species is presented based on the Development footprint (rather than the broader Project area which formed the basis of the previous assessment).
In addition, the referral considers that suitable foraging habitat for the South-eastern Glossy Black- cockatoo is present within the project site. Historical records occur within 2 km of the site. The proposed action would likely result in the clearing of 39.4 ha of habitat critical to the survival of the species.	Section 6.2.4, Figure 6.4, Section 9.4 Habitat mapping for the south-eastern glossy black-cockatoo has been reviewed and updated for this PD. A revised significant impact for this species is presented based on the Development footprint (rather than the broader Project area which formed the basis of the previous assessment).
Based on all the information available to the department (including the PMST, which suggests the presence of the following species or communities in the area of the proposal), and without further detailed assessment of potential impacts, the department considers that the proposed action may significantly impact on other listed threatened species including but to limited to the following: • Belson's Panic (*Homopholis belsonii*) – Vulnerable • Curly-bark Wattle (*Acacia curranii*) – Vulnerable • Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*) – Vulnerable • Dunmall's Snake (*Furina dunmalli*) – Vulnerable • Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) – Vulnerable • Squatter Pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*) – Vulnerable • Yakka Skink (*Egernia rugosa*) – Vulnerable	Table 6.1, Section 6.2, Section 6.3, Sections 9.5, 9.6 and 9.7 The likelihood of occurrence of these species has been reviewed, with results presented in Table 6.1. Further detailed assessment of species assessed as 'likely to occur' or 'possibly occurring' are provided in Sections 6.2 and 6.3. Significant impact assessments for squatter pigeon, diamond firetail and Dunmall's snake are presented in Sections 9.5, 9.6 and 9.7 respectively.
Note that this may not be a complete list and it is your responsibility, as the proponent, to ensure that any species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act at the time of the controlled action decision, which may be present or potentially significantly impacted, are assessed as part of the preliminary documentation.	Noted.

Information requested	Response and location within document
The preliminary documentation must include an up-to-date assessment of potential impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed action.	Section 7, Section 9 Revised impact assessments have been prepared based on the Development footprint (rather than the broader Project area which formed the basis of the previous assessment).
Consideration of impacts must not be confined to the immediate area of the proposed action but must also consider the potential of the proposed action to impact on adjacent areas that are likely to contain populations and/or habitat for MNES.	Section 7 Considers impacts on adjacent areas likely to contain populations and/or habitat for MNES.
4.1 Include a clear description of the total extent and quality of the following: (a) Project footprint (including the total extent of habitat present for each relevant protected matter).	Table 7.2, Section 9 Quantifies habitat for each relevant protected matter and assesses the quality of habitat for individual MNES.
(b) direct and indirect impact areas (including the total extent of habitat for each relevant protected matter to be impacted).	Table 7.2, Section 9 Quantifies direct impacts for individual MNES with indirect impacts considered as part of the significant impact assessment for each.
(c) total areas proposed to be retained/avoided (including the total extent of habitat present for each relevant protected matter to be avoided).	Figure 7.1 Shows the extent of habitat to be retained.
(d) any water courses, waterbodies, or drainage lines.	Section 4, Figure 5.4 Identifies drainage lines and catchment boundaries in the vicinity of the Development footprint.
4.2 For all significant impacted listed threatened species and ecological communities including but not limited to those of section 4 of this document, please: (a) Complete a revised, up-to-date, habitat suitability assessment of the referral area, considering species-specific habitat requirements in accordance with relevant statutory documents including but not limited to: listing advices, conservation	Section 6.2 Revised, up-to-date habitat suitability assessments have been prepared with reference to species-specific habitat requirements referenced in listing advice, recovery plan, scientific literature, other publicly available information and the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1.

Information requested	Response and location within document
advices, recovery plans, Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 and publicly available information.	
(b) Provide mapping or revised and expanded mapping showing the extent of suitable habitat for the species in relation to the disturbance footprint and broader referral area.	Section 6.2 Includes revised mapping showing the extent of suitable habitat in the Development footprint / Project area.
(c) Demonstrate that previous and any additional or new surveys for the species have been completed in accordance with relevant Commonwealth, State or local council guidelines (or best available peer reviewed information).	Table 4.2 Provides an assessment of the adequacy of the survey effort with reference to relevant literature and guidelines for target species.
(d) Provide information regarding the total area proposed to be retained/avoided (including the total extent of habitat present to be avoided) at the referral area.	Section 7.1.1, Section 7.1.2, Figure 7.1 Provides information regarding the total area to be retained/avoided for each vegetation community/habitat type in the vicinity.
(e) Confirm the area of habitat that will be directly and indirectly impacted by the proposed action, including but not limited to areas where: i) Connectivity to surrounding habitat will be retained, removed or functionally compromised/lost. ii) Adjacent habitat will be subject to the intensification of ongoing impacts (for example, through increased vehicle movement and/or hydrology changes).	Section 7.1.1, Section 7.1.2, Table 7.1 Quantifies the area of habitat directly and indirectly impacted by the Project.
(f) Ensure that all classification and quantification of habitat, and all references to the extent of impact to protected matters, are consistent throughout the preliminary documentation and supporting mapping.	Habitat classifications and calculations have been checked and are consistent throughout the PD including mapping.
(g) An up-to-date assessment of potential impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed action must also include the species-specific details.	Section 7, Section 9 Provides up-to-date assessments of potential impacts that may occur as a result of the Project. Species-specific details are considered in Significant Impact Assessments for each relevant MNES.

Information requested	Response and location within document
4.3 To inform points 4.1 and 4.2, please provide an assessment of the direct, indirect, facilitated and cumulative impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed action at a site-specific, local, and regional scale. The assessment should include consideration of:	Section 7, Section 9 These sections includes an overview of all impacts that may occur as a result of the Project and their potential to have a significant impact on relevant MNES.
(a) The nature, likelihood, significance, and extent of impacts and whether any relevant impacts are likely to be known, unpredictable or irreversible.	Section 7, Section 9 These sections includes an overview of all impacts that may occur as a result of the Project and their potential to have a significant impact on relevant MNES.
(b) timing and whether the impact is temporary or permanent.	Section 7, Section 9 These sections includes an overview of all impacts that may occur as a result of the Project and their potential to have a significant impact on relevant MNES.
(c) species specific habitat requirements such as number and location of hollow bearing trees, number and location of nest trees, refuge habitat, foraging and breeding habitat, sheltering or other microhabitat features relevant to the species within and surrounding the development footprint (if applicable).	Section 6 This section includes an assessment of species-specific habitat requirements present for relevant MNES.
(d) whether connectivity and movement opportunities in the surrounding area may be retained, removed or functionally lost or compromised.	Section 7.1.2
(e) adjacent areas of habitat that may or will be subject to intensification of ongoing impacts (for example, through increased human and vehicle presence) including mapping.	Section 7.1.1, Section 7.1.2
(f) direct, indirect or facilitated impacts that may result from the proposed action including, but not limited to, the following: i) Edge effects – including the potential for the introduction of weed species and pathogens in the referral area and adjacent environment.	Section 7 This section provides an overview of all impacts that may result from the Project.

Information requested			Response and location within document
	ii)	Vehicle movement – potential increase of vehicles to strike fauna in the pre- construction, construction, and operation phase of the project	
	iii)	Areas demarcated for stockpiles and laydown.	
	iv)	Increased presence of vertebrate predators (e.g., dogs, cats, foxes, pigs, rodents) – pre-construction, construction and operation phases have the potential to increase dog presence in the referral area and adjacent environment.	
	v)	Earthworks – potential to generate dust emissions from the removal of vegetation and movement of soil in the pre-construction and construction phase of the project.	
	vi)	Disturbance from increased noise, artificial light, sediment generation and other relevant stressors during construction and operation of the proposed action.	
	vii)	Chemical pollution and contamination to surrounding waterways during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the solar farm.	
	viii)	Contamination of the environment and potential hazards including but not limited to fire and chemical leeching from solar panels and associated infrastructure.	
(g)		Cumulative impacts, where potential project impacts on MNES are in addition to existing impacts of other activities (including current or future developments by the proponent and other proponent in the region and vicinity).	Section 7.6 This section considers potential cumulative impacts for the Project and other nearby projects.
(h)		Please review the following policy statement, providing guidance on what impacts constitute a 'indirect consequences(s)', under paragraph 527E(1)(b) of the EPBC Act.	Section 7.5 This section outlines the facilitated impact considerations for the Project.
(i)		Facilitated impacts may include (but are not limited to) the risk of injury or mortality to MNES from vehicle strike as a result of increased traffic within and surrounding the site.	Section 7.5 This section outlines the facilitated impact considerations for the Project.

Information requested	Response and location within document
4.4 Include current maps and coordinates/shapefiles showing the total project footprint, total disturbance/direct and indirect impact areas, areas of habitat for MNES proposed to be retained	Figure 1.2, Figures 6.1 to 6.6. A shapefile of the Development footprint has been provided to the Department.
4.5 Include details of any policy guidelines, relevant studies, surveys, or consultations with species experts/field specialists, which were not included in the referral or additional information provided in support of the referral	All relevant material relied upon in developing the PD is referenced throughout the text. A list of referenced material is provided in Section 13.
5. Avoidance, mitigation and management measures	
The information available in the referral indicates that there is substantial area within the project footprint with protected matters present or likely to be present.	
The mitigation hierarchy is a process that is used to limit the amount of damage an action, such as a development, will have on the environment. There are three steps, and each step must be followed in order and to the greatest extent possible before moving on to the next. These steps are: 1. **Avoid** harm to the environment within and surrounding the project area. 2. **Reduce** or mitigate environmental damage within and surrounding the project area. 3. Identify **offsets** within the region that compensate for the significant residual impacts to listed species or ecological communities.	
The preliminary documentation must provide information on proposed avoidance, safeguards and mitigation measures to deal with the relevant impacts of the proposed action on MNES: 5.1 Demonstrate that you have applied the mitigation hierarchy and exhausted all options to avoid and mitigate harm to protected matters, before resorting to environmental offsets. In doing this, you must demonstrate that any avoidance or mitigation measures will provide ecological benefits to the species in the long-term. For example, on-site avoidance/ conservation areas must be connected or provide connectivity	Section 8 This section provides a description of how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied to the Project.

Information requested	Response and location within document
opportunities for species in the broader landscape, and must include enduring mitigation of impacts from adjacent development.	
5.2 Provide details (including a summary list or table) of avoidance and mitigation measures proposed to be undertaken to prevent or minimise impacts on protected matters (or their habitat) from the proposed action area, including:	Section 8.1, Section 8.2, Table 8.1 This section provides details of the avoidance and mitigation strategies which will be implemented to avoid and minimise impacts on protected matters.
(a) a description of avoidance measures that have been considered and applied. For example, project site selection to avoid valuable habitat, micro-siting of infrastructure to avoid impacts on habitat on site, or avoidance of any activity that may indirectly impact on essential lifecycle processes for species	
(b) a description of proposed safeguards and mitigation measures to minimise and manage relevant impacts of the action, with reference to relevant statutory or policy documents at the Commonwealth and State level (e.g., Guideline: State Development Assessment Provisions (State Code 25)).	Table 8.2
(c) pre-clearance and clearance procedures to ensure that species are detected and managed to minimise mortality, stress, injury, or introduction of disease.	Section 8.2, Table 8.1 Details of pre-clearance and clearance procedures are provided in this section.
(d) measures for avoiding key features relevant to impacted threatened species such as preferred roosting trees or microhabitat features (e.g., comprehensive survey and mapping of tree, soil, and habitat features and implementation of a vegetation management plan to guide vegetation clearing).	Section 8.2, Table 8.1 Details of measures for avoiding key habitat features for relevant MNES are provided in this section.
(e) measures to address the risk of species, for example; the Koala, entering the solar farm and becoming trapped/isolated without resources for shelter whilst in the site and safe movement opportunities to get out of the solar farm, along with sufficient information on the location and design of these measures.	Section 8.2.2.1

Information requested	Response and location within document
(f) fine particle and dust control management and erosion and sediment control management	Section 8.2.1.6, Section 8.2.1.7, Section 8.2.2.5
(g) a demonstration of the process of avoidance and mitigation measures applicable to impacts to MNES and associated habitats. This includes a detailed explanation involving site selection during the feasibility study, including the assessment of cleared land/already disturbed land. Provide figures and/or a summary where applicable.	Section 5, Section 8.1 Details of the site selection process and assessment of existing disturbed land is provided in these sections.
(h) ongoing management of direct and indirect impacts due to increased likelihood of human presence, attacks by vertebrate pests, and injury caused by negotiating various fence types.	Sections 8.2.1.4, 8.2.1.8, 8.2.2.1 and 8.2.2.4
(i) details of how speed reduction is to be achieved (e.g., traffic calming devices) and plans showing the locations of each of these features and the manner in which they will be implemented).	Section 8.2.2.3
(j) information on safe road design and placement, including installation of crossing warning signs, wildlife threshold marking on road (include maps and imagery).	Section 8.2.2.3
(k) the locations and size of any proposed fauna movement solutions, fire breaks, no-go or buffer zones (including buffers between the construction footprint or remaining habitat in the referral area and adjacent to the site), and potential fencing, including: i) the location of any movement solutions, fire breaks, buffer zones, or fencing.	Section 3.1.8, Section 8.2.2.1, Section 8.2.2.2, Figure 3.2
ii) the characteristics of the fauna movement solutions, fire breaks, buffer zones and fencing (height, length, wildlife proof measures etc.).	Section 8.2.2.1, Section 8.2.2.2 Fire breaks, fencing and buffer zones are discussed in this section.

Information requested	Response and location within document
iii) whether the proposed measures, such as fencing will provide a wildlife barrier to/from/within the proposed action area.	Section 7.1.2, Section 7.2.2, Section 8.2.2.1
(l) a description of the environmental outcomes the measures are expected to achieve including provision of any baseline data or proposed monitoring to demonstrate progress towards achieving these outcomes.	Section 8.1, Section 8.2.1 - 8.2.4, Section 8.3 The intended outcomes and recommended monitoring are discussed in these sections.
(m) information on the timing, frequency, and duration of the measures to be implemented.	Section 8 Proposed mitigation measures for discrete phases of the Project are discussed in this section.
(n) an actual or estimated cost of the mitigation measures.	Estimated costs of mitigation will be calculated as part of the development of the Construction Environmental Management Plan and/or Decommissioning Plan as appropriate.
(o) any proposed management plans including (but not limited to) the Weed and Pest Management Plan, and Bushfire Management Plan.	Section 8.2 Management plans that will apply to the development are discussed in this section.
5.3 Provide an assessment of the predicted effectiveness of each proposed avoidance or mitigation measure, noting that the effectiveness of a particular measure is a reflection of confidence in the anticipated outcome. The assessment of effectiveness should be evidence based and include examples of demonstrated success of a particular measure to achieve the desired avoidance/mitigation outcome.	Section 8 Discussion of the effectiveness of proposed avoidance and mitigation measures is included in this section.
5.4 For each measure proposed, indicate the: (a) Impacts that are being avoided and/or the significance of impacts being reduced through mitigation.	Section 8 Details of mitigation measures are discussed in this section. All proposed mitigation measures are based on established industry best-practice and are known to be effective in mitigating impacts on fauna. The proposed monitoring program relating to EPBC Act species is detailed in Section 8.3 and Table 8.3.
(b) Scientific basis for conclusions being drawn.	
(c) An evidence-based likelihood of success/risk assessment.	
(d) Responsible party.	

Information requested	Response and location within document
(e) Environmental outcomes to be achieved.	
(f) Milestone/performance/completion criteria.	
(g) Proposed monitoring and evaluating program.	
(h) Contingency measures.	
5.5 Proposed management plans need to be consistent with the Environmental Management Plan Guidelines - DCCEEW, and must include:	Section 8 An overview of site-specific management plans to be developed for the Project and detailed information about their contents is provided in this section. Reporting and review mechanisms to demonstrate compliance with the commitments made within the Preliminary Documentation are provided within Table 8.3. Table 8.3 also includes the trigger values for corrective actions, timing and frequency of monitoring and proposed corrective actions if trigger values are reached.
(a) A table of commitments made in the plan to achieve the environmental outcomes, and a reference to exactly where these commitments are detailed in the plan.	
(b) Commitments capable of ensuring that the environmental outcomes are achieved.	
(c) Reporting and review mechanisms to demonstrate compliance with the commitments made in the plan.	
(d) An assessment of risks relating to achieving the environmental outcomes and risk management strategies and/or mitigation measures that will be applied to address identified risks.	
(e) Impact avoidance, mitigation and/or repair measures, and the timing of those measures.	
(f) Details on each proposed management action including (but not limited to): soil and topsoil management, erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, dust control, regular cleaning or solar panels, weed management, rehabilitation of the project site to its original state or to an agreed-upon condition.	
(g) A monitoring program of the effects of management measures which must include:	
i) Performance indicators	
ii) Trigger values for corrective actions.	

Information requested		Response and location within document
iii)	The timing and frequency of monitoring, ensuring monitoring is capable of detecting trigger values and changes to performance indicators.	
iv)	Proposed corrective actions if trigger values are reached.	
v)	Links to other relevant plans or conditions of approval (including state or territory approval conditions).	
5.6	Describe any statutory or policy basis for the proposed measures, including reference to the SPRAT Database and relevant approved conservation advice, recovery plan or threat abatement plan, and a discussion on how the proposed measures are not inconsistent with relevant plans. For example, the National Recovery Plan for the Koala states the goal: '*To stop the trend of decline in population size of the listed Koala, by having resilient, connected, and genetically healthy metapopulations across its range, and to increase the extent, quality and connectivity of habitat occupied.*' Please provide a discussion on how the proposed action is not inconsistent with relevant species' objectives or alternatively, how the proposed avoidance, mitigation/management and offsetting actions will compensate for any residual significant impacts, thereby ensuring consistency with the objective for relevant EPBC Act species	Table 8.2 This table assesses the consistency of proposed mitigation measures against relevant policy documents for relevant MNES.
5.7	All proposed measures must consider the 'S.M.A.R.T' principle: • S – Specific (protected matter-specific objectives, methods, outcomes, and repeatability) • M – Measurable (baseline information, quantifiable, auditable) • A – Achievable (timeframes, financial and human resources) • R – Relevant (conservation advice, recovery plans, threat abatement plans • T – Time-bound (set implementation, performance and completion timeframes)	Section 8.2, Section 8.3
6.	**Proposed offsets**	
Where residual significant impacts to listed threatened species or ecological communities remain after application of all reasonable avoidance and mitigation measures, a compensatory environmental offset in accordance with the *Environment Protection and*		Section 10, Appendix C Offset Proposal

Information requested	Response and location within document
Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offsets Policy (EPBC Offsets Policy) is required.	Appendix D Offset Management Plan
Offsets must be specific to the species or ecological community being impacted, must address the attribute of the protected matter that is impacted, and must deliver an outcome for the protected matter that is demonstrably equal or better than if neither the impact nor the offset occurred. Offsets are not intended to make proposed actions with unacceptable impacts, acceptable.	
If an offset is required, prior to publication, the preliminary documentation must include an: **Offset Proposal** – The Offset Proposal must provide detail about the proposed offset site or sites including baseline survey information (including threats such as weed cover and pest species surveys), habitat or vegetation quality scores, how the offset will be managed, and evidence that the protected matter is present or uses the offset site. The Offset Proposal must demonstrate how the proposed offset is suitable and meets the principles of the EPBC Offsets Policy and must include sufficient information for the department to assess it using the EPBC Offsets Assessment Guide.	Appendix C Offset Proposal
Offset Management Plan (OMP) – The OMP supports the Offset Proposal and must detail all the management activities to be undertaken at the offset site including setting environmental objectives, milestones, monitoring and reporting measures. Management plans and activities must be targeted towards the specific plant, animal or ecological community (protected matter) that is being offset. If there is more than one offset site, then a separate OMP must be prepared for each site.	Appendix D Offset Management Plan
For further details regarding offset requirements and the requirements of an Offset Proposal and OMP, see Attachment B.	
7. Habitat quality assessment	
A methodology that is suitable for each listed threatened species or threatened ecological community (i.e., endorsed by the department or supported by literature) where there is a residual significant impact must be used to assess habitat quality, noting the same scoring mechanism must be used at both impact and offset sites.	Appendix C Offset Proposal Appendix D Offset Management Plan

Information requested	Response and location within document
The department encourages proponents to consult and seek endorsement from the department on a proposed method prior to undertaking any habitat quality assessment at both impact and offset site(s).	These documents present the project specific MHQA methodology used to assess the habitat quality scores at the impact and offset areas.
The department currently prefers habitat quality scoring methods for each prescribed matters to be consistent with the Modified Habitat Quality Assessment (MHQA) method. The MHQA tool derives habitat quality scores using an adaptation of the Queensland Government's Guide to determining terrestrial habitat quality version 1.2 (DEHP Guide).	
The MHQA aligns, as far as possible the DEHP Guide with the requirements of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy for determining habitat quality scores. In aligning with this policy, all habitat quality scoring methods are required to generate future scores for 'with' and without' offset scenarios. Forecast gains or loss in habitat quality score must be substantiated by scientific information and via the endorsed MHQA (or alternative) method.	Appendix C Offset Proposal Appendix D Offset Management Plan These documents present the MHQA spreadsheet (.xlsx) template including the habitat quality scoring calculations at the impact and offset areas, as well as the projected future scores in line with the Offsets Assessment Guide.
To support the habitat quality assessment, a link to the DEHP Guide, a MHQA scoring guide, and a MHQA scoring spreadsheet template (.xlsx) are provided herein. When calculating offsets, please refer to the department's published guidance: How to use the Offsets Assessment Guide.	
A precautionary approach to forecasting scores should be applied, with all limitations and uncertainties considered, documented and integrated within the 'Confidence in Result % (Quality)' value applied in the Offset Assessment Guide (offset calculator). Please also note the following: • If you propose a habitat quality gain of more than 2 points, or an achieved future habitat quality score 'with offset' of 9 or 10, it becomes less certain that the conservation outcome can be achieved. The justification of effectiveness of your proposed management measures and associated habitat quality score improvements and (reflected in the confidence in result) must be supported by substantial evidence. Higher habitat quality gains will generally be associated with lower 'confidence in result' scores in the Offset Assessments Guide to reflect the difficulty associated with achieving the conservation outcomes. In these cases, it is likely that outcomes-based commitments will be required in the associated management plan for the site, including specifying binding metrics to be met to demonstrate quality improvement. For further information, please contact the	Appendix C Offset Proposal Appendix D Offset Management Plan These documents present the proposed habitat quality gains to be achieved at the offset area including the Offsets Assessment Guide inputs and supporting justifications.

Information requested	Response and location within document
department to discuss the metrics that will be used to demonstrate achievement of quality standards.	
If you intend to propose an alternative methodology for assessing and scoring habitat quality for any/all of the prescribed matters likely to experience significant residual impacts as a result of the proposed action, the alternative methodology must: • directly relate to habitat requirements of the species and factors associated with the viability of the prescribed matter, and align with information contained in the SPRAT database and relevant statutory/departmental documents, and • be substantiated with appropriate field surveys in accordance with the relevant survey guidelines or using a scientifically robust and repeatable methodology.	Appendix C Offset Proposal Appendix D Offset Management Plan These documents present the project specific MHQA methodology used to assess the habitat quality scores at the impact and offset areas.
Where there are any inconsistencies between the habitat assessment approach and information contained in the SPRAT database, the inconsistencies must be discussed with the department prior to the submission of the assessment documentation and must be supported by scientific evidence including published research, independent expert advice and information derived from field surveys.	
8. Economic and social matters	
If not previously provided in the referral documentation, the preliminary documentation must: 8.1 Provide details on the social and economic costs and/or benefits or undertaking the proposed action, including the basis for any estimations of costs and/or benefits. Where possible, please include the total economic capital investment and economic ongoing value of the Project.	Section 11
8.2 Identify if economic benefits and employment opportunities are in addition to what would have been expected if the action were not to take place.	
8.3 Provide details of any public stakeholder consultation activities, including the outcomes of those consultations.	

Information requested	Response and location within document
8.4 Provide details on the potential annual emissions abatement (tCO2-e) achieved by the proposed action.	Section 1.1, Section 12
Indigenous engagement 8.5 Identify the existing or potential native title rights and interests, including any areas and objects that are of particular significance for Indigenous peoples and communities, possibly impacted by the proposed action and the potential for managing those impacts.	Section 11.2.1 Details of engagement with Indigenous stakeholders are provided in this section.
Describe any Indigenous consultation that has been undertaken, or will be undertaken, in relation to the proposed action and their outcomes. This should include: (a) Details regarding the specific Indigenous groups and Traditional Owners consulted and an indication of the areas, both tangible and intangible, of cultural significance across the project site; and	
(b) A discussion about how impacts to areas and/or objects of Indigenous cultural significance (tangible and intangible are avoided, mitigated or minimised.	
The department considers that best practice consultation, in accordance with the *Interim Engaging with First Nations People and Communities on Assessment and Approvals under the EPBC Act 1999 (2023)* includes: (a) Identifying and acknowledging all relevant affected Indigenous peoples and communities.	
(b) Committing to early engagement.	
(c) Building trust through early and ongoing communication for the duration of the project, including approvals, implementation and future management.	
(d) Setting appropriate timeframes for consultation and submission formats; and	
(e) demonstrating cultural awareness and ensuring cultural safety.	

Information requested	Response and location within document
Describe any state requirements for approval or conditions that apply, or that the proponent reasonably believes are likely to apply, to the proposed action with regards to Indigenous peoples and communities.	The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* is the primary piece of legislation relevant to the Project with respect to Indigenous People and communities. Further details are provided in Section 2.2.2, Section 2.2.2.1 and Section 11.2.1 of the PD.
9. Ecologically sustainable development	
If not previously provided in the referral, the preliminary documentation must: Provide a description of how the proposed action meets the principles of ecologically sustainable development, as defined in section 3A of the EPBC Act, which are as follows: (a) decision making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations.	Section 12 Outlines how the proponent has regard to ESD principles in developing the Project.
(b) If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.	
(c) the principle of inter-generational equity – that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.	
(d) the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision making.	
10. Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action	
Include details of any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against: (a) the person proposing to take the action	Section 1.3 Details regarding the environmental record of the proponent are provided in this section.

Information requested	Response and location within document
(b) for an action for which a person has applied for a permit, the person making the application	
(c) if the person is a body corporate—the history of its executive officers in relation to environmental matters	
(d) if the person is a body corporate that is a subsidiary of another body or company (the parent body)—the history in relation to environmental matters of the parent body and its executive officers	
11. Ecological data provision	
The preliminary documentation must include an appendix of occurrence records (both sightings and evidence of presence) for all listed threatened and migratory species identified during field surveys for the proposed action. This data may be used by the department to update the relevant species distribution models that underpin the publicly available Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST). The species occurrence records must be provided in accordance with the department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) using the species observation data template. Ecological data will be managed in accordance with the department's Policy on Accessing and Sharing Biodiversity Data.	No threatened or migratory species have been recorded within the Development footprint.