Title of Proposal - Jim's Plain Renewable Energy Park, north-west Tasmania

Section 1 - Summary of your proposed action

Provide a summary of your proposed action, including any consultations undertaken.

1.1 Project Industry Type

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.2 Provide a detailed description of the proposed action, including all proposed activities.

Overview
The Jim's Plain Renewable Energy Park (The Project) involves the construction and operation of a wind farm in north western Tasmania. The Project is to be developed to an estimated capacity of 160 MW, involving the installation of up to 40 wind turbine generators.

The development of the wind farm will include:
• construction of access tracks from the existing Council road through the site;
• construction of hard stand areas for up to 40 wind turbine generators;
• trenching for underground cables and erection of overhead transmission line structures where suitable, for both distribution within the site and connection with the electricity grid system;
• construction of site sheds and storage areas for construction;
• construction of a site compound for operations and maintenance; and
• construction of a substation.

Access
Transport of the wind turbine components are likely to be from Burnie Port to the Jim's Plain site will be via public roads, subject to any road transport permit requirements for heavy vehicles. The construction of access roads will be located along existing tracks and disturbed areas where practical and feasible. Earthworks will be limited to the minimum necessary to provide access roads of sufficient durability for construction plant and for long term maintenance and operation of the facility.

Earthworks will involve removal of surface organic material to firm base, placement of gravelly sub-base material followed by a surface gravel layer. Excavation and fill works will be required to achieve the desired vertical grades and horizontal alignment necessary for access by heavy construction plant, e.g. lifting cranes, heavy transport vehicles.

Construction materials for the access tracks will be obtained from a quarry located to the immediate east of the area (subject to investigations for further development of this resource).

Hardstand Areas and Turbine Foundations
Hard stand areas for the wind turbines will include a cleared area of approximately 2500 square metres (50 metres by 50 metres) at each turbine site for construction of the tower foundations

and to provide a ‘hard stand’ base for the cranes.

The tower foundations will comprise of either a large gravity pad of concrete or (subject to geotechnical investigations of the underlying rock strata) a small concrete pad and rock anchoring. Approximately 40% of the proposed hardstand area will be rehabilitated and revegetated with suitable native plant species upon completion of construction, with the remaining 60% being retained for ongoing operation and maintenance of the turbines.

Erection of Wind Turbines

The layout area required for on-site assembly of turbines will be included in the hard stand area, including use of trestles laid over the heathland scrub. The tower sections, nacelle and blades will be lifted into position by cranes. The towers will be bolted to the foundation. Use of trestles will aim to reduce the extent of the hard stand area and thus reduce the extent of clearing and damage to native vegetation.

Transmission Lines and Grid Connection

The development will require a network of high voltage cables between turbines and the windfarm collector substation. These transmission lines will generally be underground, and their location determined by site evaluation and associated environmental constraints. Other alternatives will be considered in the light of the site surveys and evaluation of likely impacts arising from the environmental assessment process.

A 110kV or 220kV (subject to investigation) overhead transmission line will connect the project from the windfarm collector substation to a network substation (most likely at West Montagu). A number of route options are being investigated for the transmission line alignment, including along existing public road reserves, along Harcus River Road and Montagu Road to a sub-station at West Montagu.

The overhead transmission line alignment will be subject to further evaluation with respect to physical and environmental constraints identified during the site environmental impact assessment process.

Operation and Decommissioning

It is expected that the operational life of the project will be 25 to 30 years. During this time the main operational activities will include:

- routine maintenance and repair works to the turbines and their components
- maintenance of gravel tracks and hard stand areas
- other site monitoring for any ongoing environmental effects from the project on the surrounding areas.

In the longer term, the nature of the wind farm development will allow decommissioning to a state where only the landform would be altered (to the extent necessary for access roads and hard stand areas). The turbines can be easily removed and the hard stand areas rehabilitated. This would return the land to close to its pre-construction appearance.

1.3 What is the extent and location of your proposed action? Use the polygon tool on the map below to mark the location of your proposed action.

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	1	-40.840775664758	144.8476277288
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	2	-40.842658708854	144.85183343253
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	3	-40.84597013939	144.85586747489
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	4	-40.853176798602	144.86067399345
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	5	-40.8547998119	144.86084565482
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	6	-40.856552621603	144.85818490348
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	7	-40.856422785437	144.85646828971
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	8	-40.858175552198	144.85518082938
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	9	-40.858954544761	144.85312089286
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	10	-40.859603698233	144.85166177116
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	11	-40.859993187262	144.84951600394
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	12	-40.859538783172	144.84797105155
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	13	-40.860837072301	144.8460827764
Renewable Energy Park approximate	14	-40.860187930917	144.84325036368

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
extent			
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	15	-40.856292949017	144.83947381339
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	16	-40.853955849947	144.83578309379
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	17	-40.854085690947	144.83243569694
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	18	-40.854605052403	144.8304615911
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	19	-40.854150611352	144.82934579215
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	20	-40.850579894625	144.82883080802
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	21	-40.848567224034	144.82908830009
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	22	-40.843567745477	144.83020409904
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	23	-40.842009389347	144.83089074454
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	24	-40.841230197542	144.83106240592
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	25	-40.837723721062	144.82685670219
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	26	-40.833697537839	144.8290024694
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	27	-40.832463658549	144.83063325248
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	28	-40.831749296885	144.83501061759
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	29	-40.831099870512	144.83818635306

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	30	-40.831099870512	144.84084710441
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	31	-40.835191150467	144.84333619437
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	32	-40.837723721062	144.84410867057
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	33	-40.838957502455	144.84625443778
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	34	-40.840386062749	144.84737023673
Renewable Energy Park approximate extent	35	-40.840775664758	144.8476277288

1.5 Provide a brief physical description of the property on which the proposed action will take place and the location of the proposed action (e.g. proximity to major towns, or for off-shore actions, shortest distance to mainland).

The Project site is located at Jim’s Plain in north west Tasmania. Access to the site is from Smithton via Montagu Road to Harcus River Road and Little Harcus Road. Both are well formed gravel surfaced Council roads.

The area of investigation for the wind farm development comprises of an elevated plateau, approximately 10 kilometres from the west coast and 10 kilometres from the north coast. The overall Renewable Energy Park is approximately 500 hectares covering a length of 3 kilometres and a width of 2 kilometres, and lies between 50 metres and 90 metres above sea level. On the surrounding plains, several creeks flow in northerly and westerly directions to join the Welcome River and Harcus River, which flow northwest of the area into Bass Strait.

The vegetation of the site is predominantly open heathland in the higher areas and button grass and agricultural land in lower lying areas. Some areas of open *Eucalyptus obliqua* woodland are located in the western and southern parts of the site. One area of less than five hectares is noted as being of significance where a stand of old growth vegetation (dry *E. obliqua* forest) contains possible habitat for the Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and Tasmanian

Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*).

The project site is at a distance from possible conflicting land uses with adjacent lands being forestry and agriculture. The nearest residence is approximately 6 kilometres to the east. The site has a favourable configuration with respect to the orientation to prevailing winds, and the elevated quartzite ridge. The site provides high potential to capture wind energy for the development of a medium sized wind farm. Renewable energy production offers a higher value land use than the current unimproved low-value land in the area.

1.6 What is the size of the proposed action area development footprint (or work area) including disturbance footprint and avoidance footprint (if relevant)?

Entire site is approximately 500 ha. Disturbance footprint would only be a proportion of this area.

1.7 Is the proposed action a street address or lot?

Lot

1.7.2 Describe the lot number and title. Part of 156356/1, 124651/19 and 142621/1, entire area of 124651/14, 124651/13, 124651/11, 126961/12

1.8 Primary Jurisdiction.

Tasmania

1.9 Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project?

No

1.10 Is the proposed action subject to local government planning approval?

Yes

1.10.1 Is there a local government area and council contact for the proposal?

Yes

1.10.1.0 Council contact officer details

1.10.1.1 Name of relevant council contact officer.

Benji Krom

1.10.1.2 E-mail

bkrom@circularhead.tas.gov.au

1.10.1.3 Telephone Number

6452 4849

1.11 Provide an estimated start and estimated end date for the proposed action.

Start date 01/2020

End date 06/2021

1.12 Provide details of the context, planning framework and State and/or Local government requirements.

The proposed action requires assessment under the Tasmanian *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA) and the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA), including planning matters relating to the *Circular Head Interim Planning Scheme 2013* (governed by Circular Head Council).

The required scope of environmental and socio-economic investigations will be developed following early consultation with stakeholders, and will be outlined in Guidelines for a Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan for the project, as issued by the Tasmanian EPA.

Subject to a decision on controlling provisions, any Commonwealth involvement in the project assessment process will be conducted under the terms of the Tasmanian Bilateral Agreement.

1.13 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders.

UPC Renewables Australia has a dedicated stakeholder engagement team, which will actively engage with the local community. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been prepared for this project, which will design and deliver a communication and engagement program based on industry leading practice (including the Clean Energy Council’s community engagement guidelines).

The plan identifies the range and types of stakeholders, and how and when it is intended to

engage with them throughout the Project. The plan was developed in accordance with the guiding principles for the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). The engagement methods likely to be used on this project include: Inform, Consult, Involve and Collaborate.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be used by the project team to manage communication and engagement activities. The key objectives of engagement activities are to:

- Ensure that relevant stakeholders are informed about the Project and are given the opportunity to provide feedback.

- Provide stakeholders with an opportunity to ask questions and to identify areas of concern with respect to the Project.

- Demonstrate that all concerns and issues raised by the stakeholders are considered.

- Implement an approach to stakeholder communications that is transparent and timely.

- Effectively and proactively identify and manage issues.

- Keep accurate records of interactions with stakeholders.

The plan will capture stakeholder engagement activities in the four project phases:

1. Planning

2. Approvals

3. Construction

4. Operation

All stakeholder engagement activities will be captured and managed in a dedicated Consultation Manager database.

The proposed stakeholder engagement activities for the Project are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Proposed stakeholder engagement activities

Activity

Details

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan in order to identify project stakeholders and consultation methodology. The plan will include:

The consultation approach, tools and program of activities.Identification of relevant project stakeholders and level of engagement required based on project involvement.Project key messages.Consultation risks and mitigation measures.Consultation activity delivery timeframes.

Stakeholder database (Consultation Manager)

Set up and operate a Consultation Manager account for the duration of the project.

Consultation Manager is an online consultation database platform, which provides an effective system for tracking project stakeholders and their ‘issues’ on an ongoing basis.

Consultation Manager records and maintains the names, addresses and contacts details for all stakeholders, organisations and people that express interest in the project, thereby simplifying data entry, communication and reporting processes.

Project contact points

Establish a community information line and contact email (6432 8000 and participate@ghd.com).

These communication channels are managed during business hours, Monday to Friday. Both of these contact mechanisms will be promoted on communication materials distributed to the community.

Consultation Manager will be utilised to record all correspondence.

Website

A project website will be set up and utilised to convey information about the project, providing the community and key stakeholders with information on the project background, project location, project timeline and environmental and social impacts and benefits.

The website will include an impeded perception survey, additional feedback mechanisms and a series of project FAQs.

Community letter

A letter will be drafted to all adjoining residents and landowners living within a defined boundary of the Project. The letter will seek feedback on initial project design and provide them with information on the upcoming community information days.

Advertisement (media)

Advertisements to be placed in the local paper to promote upcoming information sessions and request feedback on the proposed layout. Advertisements will be placed in a variety of papers.

Community Information sessions

Various community information sessions will be held throughout the duration of the Project.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan in order to identify project stakeholders and consultation methodology. The plan will include:

The consultation approach, tools and program of activities.Identification of relevant project stakeholders and level of engagement required based on project involvement.Project key messages.Consultation risks and mitigation measures.Consultation activity delivery timeframes.

Stakeholders (individuals and organisations) from the following categories will be engaged during the development of the Project.

Federal GovernmentState GovernmentLocal GovernmentTraditional Land OwnersNeighbouring residentsCommunity/Interest GroupsMediaEmergency services

Circular Head Council staff have already been briefed on the Project and have visited the Jim's Plain site A further briefing to Council elected members has also recently taken place.

A community information session for the Project took place in late September 2017. Further stakeholder engagement will occur as the project progresses, including with Aboriginal stakeholders (via the Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation).

1.14 Describe any environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation including relevant impacts of the project.

The potential impacts of the proposed development requires assessment under EMPCA and LUPAA, including planning matters relating to the *Circular Head Interim Planning Scheme of 2013* governed by Circular Head Council.

The required scope of environmental and socio-economic investigations will be developed following early consultation with stakeholders, and will be outlined in 'Guidelines for a Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan' for the project, as issued by the Tasmanian EPA.

The proposed action is being referred to the Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Heritage in respect to controlling provisions under EPBCA.

Subject to a decision on controlling provisions, any Commonwealth involvement in the project assessment process will be conducted under the terms of the Tasmanian Bilateral Agreement.

1.15 Is this action part of a staged development (or a component of a larger project)?

No

1.16 Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No

Section 2 - Matters of National Environmental Significance

Describe the affected area and the likely impacts of the proposal, emphasising the relevant matters protected by the EPBC Act. Refer to relevant maps as appropriate. The interactive map tool can help determine whether matters of national environmental significance or other matters protected by the EPBC Act are likely to occur in your area of interest. Consideration of likely impacts should include both direct and indirect impacts.

Your assessment of likely impacts should consider whether a bioregional plan is relevant to your proposal. The following resources can assist you in your assessment of likely impacts:

• Profiles of relevant species/communities (where available), that will assist in the identification of whether there is likely to be a significant impact on them if the proposal proceeds;

• Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance;

• Significant Impact Guideline 1.2 – Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies.

2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the values of any World Heritage properties?

No

2.2 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the values of any National Heritage places?

No

2.3 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the ecological character of a Ramsar wetland?

No

2.4 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed species or any threatened ecological community, or their habitat?

Yes

2.4.1 Impact table

Species	Impact
Caladenia caudata Tailed spider-orchid	This species is known to inhabit coastal dry

Species	Impact
(Vulnerable)	sclerophyll forest, open forest, heathy open forest, coastal scrub and heath communities, with an altitudinal range from 0-50 m above sea level. It occurs in well-drained situations with an easterly to northerly aspect, on sands, sandy loams and shallow clay loam. No plants have previously been recorded within 5 km of the Project area and no suitable habitat was identified on site by North Barker and Associates in 2003. Whilst the expanded study area has not yet been surveyed on foot, TASVEG mapping indicates the likelihood of the species occurring in that area is also low. It is therefore considered unlikely that the species occurs within the study area and the project is not expected to have a significant impact on this listed species.
Caldenia dienema Windswept spider-orchid (Endangered)	Caladenia dienema is endemic to north western and western Tasmania, occurring in a near coastal lowland strip from Pieman Heads to near Rocky Cape. It occurs in windswept low heathland among dwarfed shrubs and sedges on moist to well-drained sandy and clay loam. No plants have previously been recorded within 5 km of the Project area and no suitable habitat was identified on site by North Barker and Associates in 2003. Whilst the expanded study area has not yet been surveyed on foot, TASVEG mapping indicates the likelihood of the species occurring in that area is also low. Furthermore, the site is outside the known range/area of occupancy of this species. It is therefore considered unlikely that the species occurs within the study area and the project is not expected to have a significant impact on this listed species.
Diuris lanceolata Snake orchid (Endangered)	Occurs in coastal scrub and windswept coastal grassland and heathland among dwarfed shrubs and sedges on moist to well-drained sandy and clay loam, sometimes on rocky outcrops. Distribution is localised in the Arthur River region and between Stanley and Smithton. Known from within 5 km of the site, there are two historical populations nearby – Woolnorth and Harcus River Road. However, the Tasmanian DPIPWE Threatened Species

Species	Impact
	Listing Statement notes these two populations are now likely extinct. No suitable habitat was identified on site by North Barker and Associates 2003. It is therefore considered unlikely that the species occurs within the study area and the project is not expected to have a significant impact on this listed species.
Glycine latrobeana clover glycine (Vulnerable)	Found in dry sclerophyll forest, native grassland and woodland, usually on flat sites with loose, sandy soil. No plants have previously been recorded within 5 km of the Project area and no suitable habitat was identified on site by North Barker and Associates in 2003. Whilst the expanded study area has not yet been surveyed on foot, TASVEG mapping indicates the likelihood of the species occurring in that area is also low. Furthermore, the site is outside the known range/area of occupancy of this species It is therefore considered unlikely that the species occurs within the study area and the project is not expected to have a significant impact on this listed species.
Prasophyllum secutum Northern leek-orchid (Endangered)	The species occurs in dense coastal scrub in the swales of stabilised sand dunes, at an elevation of zero to approximately 30 m asl, in the north of Tasmania. Is has a strong dependence on fire to trigger emergence and good flowering. No plants have previously been recorded within 5 km of the Project area and no suitable habitat was identified on site by North Barker and Associates in 2003. Whilst the expanded study area has not yet been surveyed on foot, TASVEG mapping indicates the likelihood of the species occurring in that area is also low. It is therefore considered unlikely that the species occurs within the study area and the project is not expected to have a significant impact on this listed species.
Dasyurus maculatus subsp. maculatus Spotted-tailed quoll (Vulnerable)	Spotted-tailed quolls commonly inhabit cool temperate rainforest, wet sclerophyll forest, and coastal scrub. This species is considered likely to be present, it has been previously recorded within 500 m of the site and there are at least 38 sightings of this species recently recorded within 5 km of the study site. Potential denning habitat within the study area is limited to the

Species	Impact
	forest areas at the site margins, the majority of the site is not suitable for denning. Potential foraging habitat exists within the remaining Project area. Subject to further assessment on the abundance and usage of the site by the spotted-tailed quoll, the proposed development is expected to affect some areas of foraging habitat for this species. The construction phase will result in increased road traffic, however this will be restricted to daylight hours and is not expected to result in increased roadkill of this nocturnal species. With reference to the Significant Impact Guidelines it is relevant to establish whether the site is likely to support an 'important population' and/or 'critical habitat' for the species. The EPBCA website identifies the following as Important Populations for the species: Freycinet National Park, Central-north Tasmania (including Great Western Tiers to Narawntapu), Cradle Mountain National Park, Far north-western Tasmania (including the Smithton and Marrawah regions), Eastern Tiers/northern Midlands (including Nugent and Ross), Southern forests/South Coast (including Hastings region), Gordon River System and South West Cape. The study area may be considered to fall within the broader identified Important Population of 'north western Tasmania (including Smithton and Marrawah regions)'. It is difficult to establish whether the site itself would be considered critical habitat or habitat for an important population of this species without further targeted survey to understand the distribution and density of this species within the proposed impact area. As such the precautionary principle is applied and is it considered possible that the development could have a significant impact on the spotted-tailed quoll, however this cannot be confirmed until further investigations have been completed.
Perameles gunnii Eastern-barred bandicoot (Vulnerable)	This species usually occurs in open habitats, including woodlands, open forests with a grassy understorey, and native and exotic grasslands, with some form of thick ground cover/understorey for shelter and nesting.

Species	Impact
	According to the EPBCA website, distribution records indicate the primary habitat for this species to be a mosaic of agricultural (mainly pastoral land) and remnant bushland. The website also notes the species is most abundant in the south eastern quarter of the state with lower numbers in the north eastern and north western coastal regions. The study site contains some potential habitat for this species however it does not contain its primary habitat of remnant bushland and is outside of the known area of highest abundance. There has been one observation of the species within 500 meters of this site however this record dates back to 1979. On this basis it is considered unlikely that the site would contain an Important Population of the species or support habitat critical to the species survival (as outlined in the Significant Impact Guidelines) and therefore the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on the Eastern barred bandicoot.
Dasyurus viverrinus Eastern quoll (Endangered)	The Eastern Quoll is wide spread and locally common in Tasmania, it occurs in open forest, heath, scrubland and cultivated land. However, it seems to prefer dry grassland and forest mosaics which are bounded by agricultural land, particularly where pasture grubs are common. It is typically absent from large tracts of wet eucalypt forest The Eastern Quoll has been sighted on at least two occasions within 500 meters of the study site. The Project site provides potential foraging habitat for this species however, prior to further field assessment it is not yet known whether the site supports potential denning habitat. The Project is anticipated to involve the clearance of some area of foraging habitat. The construction phase will result in increased road traffic, however this will be restricted to daylight hours and is not expected to result in increased roadkill of this nocturnal species. With reference to the Significant Impact Guidelines for Endangered species, the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on the Eastern quoll through the loss of a small area of foraging habitat,

Species	Impact
	considering its widespread distribution in Tasmania.
Sarcophilus harrisii Tasmanian devil (Endangered)	Tasmanian devils may occur in a variety of forest types, including coastal heath, open dry sclerophyll forest, and mixed sclerophyll rainforest. This species has been sighted on at least six occasions within 500 metres and 116 occasions within 5 km of the Project site. The vegetation types recorded on site provide suitable foraging habitat, however, prior to further field assessment it is not yet known whether the site supports potential denning habitat. It is not known if individuals in the local area exhibit the Devil Facial Tumour disease. Based on current distribution maps the site appears to be within the vicinity of the western front of the mapped extent of the disease. Further surveys will aim to confirm the presence of devils onsite and occurrence of the disease. The proposed infrastructure locations will avoid impacts to areas of the site where possible denning habitat may occur, however the development is still anticipated to involve clearance of foraging habitat. The Project will result in increased road traffic above the current situation during construction, however traffic will be limited to daylight hours to reduce this risk of impact on this nocturnal species. With reference to the Significant Impact Guidelines for Endangered species, the proposed development may have a significant impact on the Tasmanian devil through the loss of foraging habitat. However this cannot be confirmed until further investigations have been completed.
Aquila audax subsp. fleayi Wedge-tailed eagle (Endangered)	Wedge-tailed eagles are common in areas with a mosaic of forest, farmland and waterways, and require intact mature forest situated where sheltered from prevailing strong winds for nesting. Aspect plays a minor role in the positioning of nests in north-western Tasmania, where nests are generally sheltered by their position in the canopy due to the low relief of the region. Although the species is capable of foraging in forest, the density of the sub-canopy and ground vegetation will influence the

Species	Impact
	availability of prey. Eagle density is therefore understood to be lower in the western and south western areas of the State (less than half that in the east), where forests tend to be lower and scrubbier. This species has been confirmed as present within the Project site, having been observed overflying the site during the field assessment. However, there is no known nests and potential nesting habitat does not occur on site. Five nests of this species has been recorded within 5 km of the site. The Project site is dominated by dense heathland which represents sub-optimal foraging habitat with a small area of cleared agricultural land which is considered higher quality foraging habitat for the species. It is considered likely that this species may forage within the Project site. Further bird surveys will be conducted to characterise this species use of the site. This will include aerial surveys to confirm the presence of nests within the Project area and the area immediately adjacent to the site. The main impact of the proposed development relates directly to the operation of the wind farm and the potential risk of bird strike with overhead transmission lines and wind turbines. With reference to the Significant Impact Guidelines for Endangered species, the proposed development may have a significant impact on the Wedge-tailed Eagle through potential risk of collision with turbines.
Tyto novaehollandiae Masked owl (Vulnerable)	This species is usually found within dry sclerophyll forest, although can occur in wet sclerophyll forest, particularly where suitable nesting habitat occurs. Preferred habitat is described as close to the forest edge, where there is a complex mosaic of understory components, and old-growth trees containing large hollows essential for breeding. The Project site has small stands of dry sclerophyll forest dominated by old growth Eucalyptus obliqua with hollows large enough to support owls. The proposed infrastructure locations will avoid impacts to areas of the site where possible nesting habitat may occur, however the development is still anticipated to involve

Species	Impact
	clearance of foraging habitat. Potential operational impacts of the Project to this species include bird strike with overhead transmission lines and wind turbines. Further targeted surveys will be required to determine whether this species occurs within the Project site and whether this is in a foraging and/or breeding capacity. In the absence of such information it is difficult to make a determination on whether the proposed development is likely to have a significant impact on this species. Therefore potential for significant impact to the masked owl is considered to be low but cannot be confirmed until further investigations have been completed.
Lathamus discolor Swift parrot (Endangered)	Swift parrots feed on the nectar of Eucalyptus globulus and E. ovata individuals, with the breeding range of the species closely mirroring the distribution of the former eucalypt. This species nests in tree hollows, usually in dry forests near the coast, before migrating to mainland Australia for the austral winter. Potential breeding habitat remaining in north west Tasmania is understood to be scarce and highly fragmented. There are no records of this species within 5 km of the site. Nesting for this species is largely determined by the distribution and intensity of E. globulus (blue gum) flowering across the breeding range, and the proximity of suitable nest hollows to a foraging resource is considered more important than forest type or tree species for the swift parrot. Considering the Project area occurs well outside the priority habitat areas listed in this swift parrot recovery plan and there is an absence preferred habitat within the site (E. ovata and E. globulus) it is considered unlikely that the site provides important breeding and/or foraging habitat for this species. On the basis of these considerations and with reference to the Significant Impact Guidelines the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on the swift parrot.
Ceyx azureus subsp. diemenensis azure kingfisher (Endangered)	This species inhabits tree-lined waterways, lakes, ponds and other wetlands with dense streamside vegetation, and is never found far

Species	Impact
	from water. It forages from branches into water deep enough for dive feeding, and creates holes (burrow nests) with entrances usually near the top of stream banks for breeding (from October to January). There has been 2 sightings of this species within 5 km of the study area, however, the Project site does not provide habitat for this species with no defined water ways occurring onsite or within close proximity to the site. On this basis, with reference to the Significant Impact Guidelines the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on the Azure Kingfisher.
Neophema chrysogaster Orange bellied parrot (Critically endangered)	This species migrates between distinct breeding and non-breeding ranges. Breeding occurs in south west Tasmania in summer, and the birds overwinter on the coast of south east mainland Australia. The migration route follows the west coast of Tasmania, and at least some birds stop on King Island during the northward migration in autumn. Breeding occurs in a mosaic of Eucalypt forest, rainforest and fire dependent moorland and sedgeland plains, in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Migrating birds are found in vegetated sand dunes, heathland, grasslands, saltmarsh and nearby pasture, usually within 5 km of the coast of west and north-west Tasmania (including offshore Islands). The Project area is located approximately 10 km from the coast (at the nearest point) and so occurs just outside the migration pathway. However, it is dominated by heathland and provides potential migrating habitat for species. There have been two sightings of this species within 5 km of the Project area and none within 1 km. The potential exists for this species to overfly the site during migration. Potential operational impacts includes collision with wind turbines and overhead transmission lines. With reference to the Significant Impact Guidelines for Endangered species, the proposed development may have a significant impact on the Orange bellied parrot, considering the potential for collision with wind turbines.
Galaxiella pusilla Eastern dwarf galaxias	The Eastern Dwarf Galaxias typically occurs in

Species	Impact
(Vulnerable)	slow flowing and still, shallow, permanent and temporary, freshwater habitats such as swamps, drains and the backwaters of streams and creeks, often (but not always) containing dense aquatic macrophytes and emergent plants. In larger pools, the species is usually found amongst marginal vegetation. Some wetlands where it occurs may partially or completely dry up during summer, and such wetlands rely on seasonal flooding plus linkages to other sites where the species occurs, for habitat and population replenishment. There has been 7 observations of this species in low lying ephemeral wetland habitat situated within 500 meters north of the Project area. The Project area does not contain potential habitat for this species. It is therefore considered unlikely that the species occurs within the study area. On this basis and with reference to the significant impact guidelines for Vulnerable species the project is not expected to have a significant impact on this listed species.
Litoria raniformis Growling grass frog (Vulnerable)	In Tasmania, the Growling Grass Frog occurred broadly across the north and east of the island and on Bass Strait Island. This species occurs in permanent or temporary water bodies. Submerged vegetation is important habitat for breeding success as it provides egg-laying sites, calling stages for males, and food and shelter for tadpoles. Grassland provides habitat for foraging, dispersal and shelter, and may also provide overwintering sites for Growling Grass Frogs. There is no wetland habitats within the Project area, although dense graminoid heath occupies the moister flats and drainage lines. Project infrastructure will be sited to directly avoid these areas. There are no known records of this species within 5 km of the study area. Based on known distribution and a lack of habitat it is considered unlikely that this species will occur within the study area. On this basis and with reference to the Significant Impact Guidelines the proposed development is not expected to have a significant impact on this listed species.

Species	Impact
Oreisplanus munionga subsp. larana Marrawah skipper (Vulnerable)	The Marrawah skipper is endemic to Tasmania, occurring only in far north-western to western Tasmania. This species habitat ranges from dense Carex appressa, sedgeland (e.g. along drains and forest margins) and swamp forest to plantations and pasture. There have been 6 observations of the species within 5 km of the study area, along Harcus River Road. Further targeted surveys will be required to determine whether this species occurs within the Project area and whether this is in a foraging and/or breeding capacity. In the absence of such information, it is difficult to make a determination on whether the proposed development is likely to have a significant impact on this species. On this basis, the potential for significant impact to this species cannot be confirmed until further investigations have been completed.

2.4.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

Yes

2.5 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed migratory species, or their habitat?

Yes

2.5.1 Impact table

Species	Impact
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed swift	This species is almost entirely aerial in Australia, feeding on the wing anywhere from 1-300 metres above the ground, and is only occasionally observed to land. It mostly occurs over inland plains, but sometimes occurs above foothills or in coastal areas. It mostly occurs over dry or open habitats, including riparian woodland and tea tree swamps, low scrub heathland or saltmarsh. The majority of the Tasmanian records are from coastal areas and offshore islands. Given the aerial nature of this

Species	Impact
	species (which does not breed within Australia), the site is not expected to provide important habitat or support ecologically significant proportion of the population (as defined by the EPBC Significant Impact Guidelines). During operation the potential exists for collision with overhead power lines and wind turbines, however this is not expected to be at a level which would trigger the significant impact guidelines for migratory species. On this basis, the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on this species.
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's snipe	This migratory species is a non-breeding visitor to south eastern Australia. It occurs in permanent and ephemeral wetlands, usually in open freshwater wetlands with low, dense vegetation such as swamps, flooded grasslands or heathlands, around bogs and other waterbodies; however, it can also occur in saline or brackish water, and in modified or artificial habitats. The Project area provides some suitable foraging habitat, but no suitable breeding habitat for this species. There has been two observations of this species overflying the site. The proposed development will site infrastructure away from low lying wet areas of the site, thus minimising impact to potential foraging habitat. During operation the potential exists for collision with overhead power lines and wind turbines, however this is not expected to be at a level which would trigger the significant impact guidelines for migratory species. Given the limited habitat values provided by the site and the fact that margins of known low lying wet areas are to be avoided by the development footprint, the potential for impact is low and the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on this species.
Myiagra cyanoleuca Satin flycatcher	This species inhabits heavily vegetated gullies, generally in eucalypt dominated forests and taller woodlands near wetlands or watercourses, although can occur in coastal or drier woodlands and open forests. This species prefers to nest in the forks of outer tree branches, such as in paperbarks, eucalypts, or banksias, and breeds between November and

Species	Impact
	March in Tasmania, prior to departing between February and March to winter on the mainland. According to the EPBC website, within Tasmania the species is widespread in the east of the State, predominantly to the east of Ulverstone. Whilst the species is known to occur further west its highest occurrence tends to be in the eastern parts of the state, outside of the Project area. The majority of the site does not provide suitable habitat for this species as it is dominated by low heathland and moorland. There are several small stands of eucalypt dominated forests however, these will not be directly impacted by the developments infrastructure. It is considered unlikely that these areas would be defined as 'important habitat' or to support an ecologically significant proportion of the species (as defined by the EPBCA Significant Impact Guidelines. Potential operational impacts include bird strike with overhead power lines and wind turbines, however this is not expected to be at a level which would trigger the significant impact guidelines for migratory species. On this basis, with consideration to the Significant Impact Guidelines for Migratory species the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on this species.
Ardea alba Great egret	This species is found in areas with (preferably) shallow, flowing water, and can also occur in damp grasslands. The Project area does not provide core foraging nor suitable breeding habitat for this species (which is not known to breed within Tasmania).It is considered unlikely that this species would occur or overfly the Project area. On this basis, with consideration to the Significant Impact Guidelines for Migratory species the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on this species.
Limosa lapponica Bar-tailed Godwit	The Bar-tailed Godwit has been recorded in the coastal areas of all Australian states. The species is occasionally recorded at King Island and the Furneaux Group, with scattered records on the north and east coasts of Tasmania. There are a few records from the west coast of Tasmania. This species is found mainly in

Species	Impact
	coastal habitats such as large intertidal sandflats, banks, mudflats, estuaries, inlets, harbours, coastal lagoons and bays. It is found often around beds of seagrass and, sometimes, in nearby saltmarsh. The Project area does not provide foraging nor breeding habitat for this species (which is not known to breed within Tasmania). It is considered unlikely to occur within the Project area although may occasionally overfly the area. Potential impacts to this species are thought to be limited to bird strike with overhead power lines and wind turbines. However this is thought to be limited due to the low number of birds expected to overly the Project area. On this basis, with consideration to the Significant Impact Guidelines for Migratory species the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on this species
Hirundapus caudacutus White throated needletail	The White-throated Needletail is widespread in eastern and south-eastern Australia and is wide spread in Tasmania. In Australia, the White-throated Needletail is almost exclusively aerial, from heights of less than 1 m up to more than 1000 m above the ground. Because they are aerial, it has been stated that conventional habitat descriptions are inapplicable and they occur over most types of habitat. There have been no records of the species within 5 km of the site. Considering the nature of this species they may overfly the site. Potential impacts to this species are thought to be limited to bird strike with overhead power lines and wind turbines. According to the EPBCA website this species occasionally collide with stationary items, such as overhead wires but this does not pose a threat to the population as a whole. There are no apparent major threats to the species overall, either in Australia or elsewhere. On this basis, with consideration to the Significant Impact Guidelines for Migratory species the Project is not expected to have a significant impact on this species.

2.5.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

No

2.6 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a marine environment (outside Commonwealth marine areas)?

No

2.7 Is the proposed action to be taken on or near Commonwealth land?

No

2.8 Is the proposed action taking place in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

No

2.9 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on a water resource related to coal/gas/mining?

No

2.10 Is the proposed action a nuclear action?

No

2.11 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth agency?

No

2.12 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas?

No

2.13 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on a water resource related to coal/gas/mining?

No

Section 3 - Description of the project area

Provide a description of the project area and the affected area, including information about the following features (where relevant to the project area and/or affected area, and to the extent not otherwise addressed in Section 2).

3.1 Describe the flora and fauna relevant to the project area.

The vegetation of the Project site is predominantly open heathland in the higher lying areas and moorland in lower lying areas. Some small areas of open *Eucalyptus obliqua* woodland are located in the western and southern parts of the site and some small areas of agricultural land are located in the north. There are no listed communities within the project area.

Heathland consists of buttongrass, and various *Melaleuca, Leptospermum, Leptocarpus, Juncus* and *Sprengelia* species. Closed shrub areas consist mainly of Manuka, Smithton peppermint, *Melaleuca* and *Calorophus* species. Open forest areas consist of Smithton Peppermint, swamp gum and white gum. The brown duplex soils support a vegetation dominated by stringybark with an understorey of Manuka, honeysuckle, *Casuarina* and *Leptospermum* species.

The agricultural land is compromised of partially improved pasture, and will be surveyed in the spring/summer 2017 flora and fauna habitat assessment.

Surveys of the smaller original Project site revealed 86 native plant species and no exotic plant species. Nine plant species endemic to Tasmania and one species, which within Australia is only found in Tasmania, were recorded during the survey. Also one species listed by the Tasmania *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* was recorded, *Stackhousia viminea*, which is listed as ‘rare’ (North, Barker and Associates, 2003). This information will be updated to reflect the now larger Project site.

An assessment of potential fauna habitat in the area by North Barker and Associates (2003) identified the following areas:

scattered Smithton Peppermint (*E. nitida*) savannah woodland that provides diverse habitat due to its structural complexity

small stands of dry sclerophyll forest dominated by old growth Stringybark (*E. obliqua*) which supports a variety of woodland birds

rocky outcrops which provide habitat in the form of cracks for reptiles and small mammals.

Avifauna species in the area of the proposed wind farm were surveyed by Brett Lane and Associates over two seasons (autumn and winter 2003) These surveys involved 12 impact sites within the area of the proposed wind turbines and four reference sites nearby in the same landscape setting. Each season, each site was surveyed for four 15 minute periods over four days, four times of day. In this way, the combined data takes into account of within day variation in bird activity. The height of birds was determined as above (>105m), at (35 – 105m) or below (<35m) rotor swept area (RSA) height of the previously proposed wind turbine. A total of 12 hours per season was spent at all sites. To date, 121 hours of on-site bird utilisation records have been obtained. Future surveys will be updated to reflect the current RSA of the new proposed wind turbines, which is likely to differ from the previous survey in 2003.

The bird utilisation data so far show that bird usage of the site is very low compared to other sites assessed in south-eastern Australia. The most numerous birds found on the site (all heights combined) are:

Forest Raven, Crescent Honeyeater, Tasmanian Thornbill, Superb Fairy-wren, Southern Emu-wren, Striated Field-wren and Yellow-throated Honeyeater.

These species accounted for over 60% of the individual birds encountered in the surveys. However, over 91% of all birds observed were found below RSA height(of the previously propsed wind turbines). A total of 59 individual birds of 6 species were counted in 24 hours of observations at the 12 impact sites. These included:

Forest Raven (68% of total), Blue-winged Parrot (8%), Brown Falcon (8%), Wedge-tailed Eagle (7%), Skylark (5%) and Nankeen Kestrel (4%)

Other than the Forest Raven, which was the most abundant bird on the site, none of the most common bird species was observed at RSA height. This is not unexpected, as they are species characteristic of low heathland and button-grass habitats that do not fly high.

Threatened species and migratory species are discussed in more detail in Section 2.

The overall footprint of the development is relatively small with respect to the total area of the site. The proposal is therefore likely to have relatively minor impact to most fauna habitat and vegetation types.

3.2 Describe the hydrology relevant to the project area (including water flows).

Drainage is represented by incised gullies on all sides of the elevated ridge area, which drain into surrounding low-lying plains through undefined drainage lines. The Harcus River passes to the north of the project area and other drainage is towards the west to the Welcome River. There is also some drainage to the east off ‘Murrel’s paddocks’, and also to the east down the existing site road.

3.3 Describe the soil and vegetation characteristics relevant to the project area.

The geology of the ridgeline comprises a quartzite sequence and siltstone/mudstone sequence of the Proterozoic Rocky Cape Group. The ridges and associated geology trend in a generally north westerly direction. The location of these rocks with respect to younger rocks of the Togari Group on either side (as specified in Mineral Resources Tasmania Woolnorth Sheet) indicate their location within a fold structure.

The Togari Group includes dolomitic limestone and limestone which appears to be associated with the Smithton Basin Plain Karst topography, noted for its geoconservation heritage value at certain locations. There are no occurrences of these limestone rock types within the proposed wind farm area, where they have been eroded away, exposing the much older underlying quartzite sequence.

A second feature of potential geoconservation heritage is the Western Tasmanian Blanket Bogs, which cover an area from north-west Tasmania southwards into south-west Tasmania. The site of the proposed wind farm is located within this extent of peat bog.

Soil types are associated with the underlying geology and organic peaty material characteristic of the heathland vegetation. These comprise predominantly of gravely sandy peat with siliceous rock fragments, which become more prevalent at depths.

Vegetation types across the site are described further under 3.1

3.4 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values relevant to the project area.

Not applicable

3.5 Describe the status of native vegetation relevant to the project area.

The Project site is predominantly characterised by native vegetation which is broadly represented by open heathland and moorland, all of which are considered adequately reserved within Tasmania with a regional conservation status of non priority (CARSAG 2001). There is a small area of the site which is agricultural land. There is no listed threatened ecological communities within the Project site.

3.6 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The site is a undulating plateau ranging in altitude between 50 and 90 m in height.

3.7 Describe the current condition of the environment relevant to the project area.

The majority of the project area is in good environmental condition. Generally, the land is undeveloped other than formed tracks throughout the area, with the exception of a small area of agricultural land. There is no evidence of weed infestations or erosion within the study area.

There is a small area of agricultural land that forms part of the study area, this has not been previously surveyed but is not considered prime agricultural land.

3.8 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values relevant to the project area.

Not applicable.

3.9 Describe any Indigenous heritage values relevant to the project area.

The significance to the Aboriginal community is to be determined through consultation with

relevant groups and authorities (refer Section 1.13). Aboriginal heritage surveys will be conducted during the project development process.

3.10 Describe the tenure of the action area (e.g. freehold, leasehold) relevant to the project area.

The land area of the Jim's Plain Wind Farm is held under freehold title by the Hammond family, Murrell Holdings Pty Ltd and Cape Grim Water Company Pty Ltd.

3.11 Describe any existing or any proposed uses relevant to the project area.

Generally, the land is undeveloped other than the Council gravel road, that traverses the site and a number of informal tracks throughout the area. There are also two small quarries adjacent to the site, used infrequently for road base material.

The area is unsuitable for timber plantation development which is prevalent and dominates the surrounding landscape to the north, east and south. An adjacent area has been developed for a rainwater collection which is bottled and sold (rain farm), on a nearby property to the southwest of the proposed wind farm site.

Section 4 - Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

Provide a description of measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce, manage or offset any relevant impacts of the action. Include, if appropriate, any relevant reports or technical advice relating to the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed measures.

Examples of relevant measures to avoid or reduce impacts may include the timing of works, avoidance of important habitat, specific design measures, or adoption of specific work practices.

4.1 Describe the measures you will undertake to avoid or reduce impact from your proposed action.

Where possible, turbines and other proposed site infrastructure will be located to minimise impacts to ecological values within the constraints of wind requirements, engineering and geological considerations. Due to the early phase of project development, including potential site layout for the wind farm, specific mitigation measures are not yet confirmed, rather will be developed through the impact assessment process. This will result in a package of measures developed to avoid, minimise and compensate for impacts resulting from the Project, based on the significance of the impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (and other sensitive environmental values) identified by the assessment.

Further investigations will be undertaken, guided by agency requirements, to refine the information on ecological value distribution within the proposed development area. This will include seasonal surveys for potential threatened flora, more detailed surveys of the infrastructure footprints to confirm vegetation types and fauna habitat values, and updated bird utilisation surveys across the site (including an eagle nest survey).

The mitigation strategy will comprise the three following elements:

Avoidance

To minimise impacts an avoidance approach will be implemented from an early stage:

Site infrastructure and turbine locations will be based on field studies to identify suitable areas that generally avoid:

areas of high value native vegetation

areas of high value fauna habitat

sensitive areas such as riparian and habitat corridors

Mitigation

Where impacts cannot be avoided mitigation and environmental management actions will be employed to further minimise impacts, these may include but not be limited to:

Wind turbines will be sited to minimise vegetation clearance as far as possible, with a minimal construction footprint, and when in native vegetation will be placed in areas of lower condition and habitat quality wherever possible.

Restricting wind turbine numbers and locations to minimise habitat disturbance and bird strike

Complete/undertake updated surveys of Wedge-tailed Eagle and other bird utilisation surveys, fauna habitat assessments (with particular focus on identifying whether the site provides denning habitat for species such as the Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll). All of these reports/studies will include impact mitigation and management recommendations.

Implementing weed and disease management strategies to ensure weeds and diseases are not introduced to or spread throughout the site during construction and operation. Specifically related to Phytophthora which is not currently known at the site.

Following construction and commissioning the wind farm site will be restored by removal of contractor’s facilities and any wastes or surplus materials, removal and restoration of any temporary construction tracks and ongoing maintenance of any stabilisation until adequate ground cover is established. Management of weeds onsite will be addressed by the development and implementation of a weed management strategy.

Management Plans

The DPEMP will contain specific recommendations for the development of management plans, including key commitments, performance criteria and control measures to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental and social impacts, including impacts on MNES, throughout the Project. These will take the form of a Construction Environmental Management Plan/s for the construction of the turbines and associated infrastructure, such as access roads and transmission line, and a single Operational Environmental Management Plan for the management of the site as a whole. The EMPs will address legislative and other applicable requirements and establish a framework to ensure the plans are effectively implemented, monitored and reviewed to reflect lessons learned and changing requirements during the course

of the Project.

4.2 For matters protected by the EPBC Act that may be affected by the proposed action, describe the proposed environmental outcomes to be achieved.

As outlined in Section 2, the proposed development has the potential to impact on habitat for a range of listed species.

As the Project is still at a preliminary stage, whilst a certain level of information on ecological values has already been collected, there are a number of areas where additional information would be required on the ecological values of the site as well as the final development impact, in order to accurately assess whether the Project is likely to have a significant impact on relevant MNES.

In the absence of such information, the precautionary principle has been applied and it is assumed that the Project may have a significant impact for those species identified in Section 2. The general proposed environmental outcomes for those species groups potentially impacted by the development are outlined below:

Birds - Turbine locations will be chosen to reduce potential bird strike risk to the minimum level possible, based on latest bird utilisation data. No disturbance to wedge-tailed eagle nests (if found within 5 km of the site) by implementing buffer zones of at least 1 km from eagle nests to the nearest turbine.

Terrestrial fauna - No loss of denning habitat for devils/quolls, maintaining any identified habitat corridors through careful placement of turbines and access roads.

Section 5 – Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

A checkbox tick identifies each of the matters of National Environmental Significance you identified in section 2 of this application as likely to be a significant impact.

Review the matters you have identified below. If a matter ticked below has been incorrectly identified you will need to return to Section 2 to edit.

5.1.1 World Heritage Properties

No

5.1.2 National Heritage Places

No

5.1.3 Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar Wetlands)

No

5.1.4 Listed threatened species or any threatened ecological community

Listed threatened species and communities - Yes

5.1.5 Listed migratory species

No

5.1.6 Commonwealth marine environment

No

5.1.7 Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land

No

5.1.8 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

No

5.1.9 A water resource, in relation to coal/gas/mining

No

5.1.10 Protection of the environment from nuclear actions

No

5.1.11 Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions

No

5.1.12 Commonwealth Heritage places overseas

No

5.2 If no significant matters are identified, provide the key reasons why you think the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act and therefore not a controlled action.

N/A

Section 6 – Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action

Provide details of any proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law against the person proposing to take the action that pertain to the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

6.1 Does the person taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management? Please explain in further detail.

UPC Renewables is a multinational company with an exceptional environmental record, and has developed a range of wind farm projects across 10 countries globally. This is their first development within Australia. There have been no environmental incidents or actions against them in other jurisdictions.

6.2 Provide 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 either (a) the person proposing to take the action or, (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action – the person making the application.

Not applicable

6.3 If it is a corporation undertaking the action will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and framework?

Yes

6.3.1 If the person taking the action is a corporation, please provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework.

See attached environmental policy

6.4 Has the person taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?

No

Section 7 – Information sources

You are required to provide the references used in preparing the referral including the reliability of the source.

7.1 List references used in preparing the referral (please provide the reference source reliability and any uncertainties of source).

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
CARSAG (2001) Forest conservation priorities for use outside of CARSAG and the RFA Private Land Reserve Program. Unpublished report	Good	Document is relatively old.
North Barker and Associated (2003) Botanical Survey and Fauna Habitat Assessment. Unpublished report	Good - likely that site has not changed significantly since survey was conducted.	Survey is nearly 15 years old.
EPBC Act Protected Matters Report Jim’s Plain accessed 29/08/2017	Good	Modelling is predictive and needs to be supported by field survey
Natural Values Atlas Report Jim’s Plain accessed 14/08/2017	Good	Lack of survey in recent years.
Brett Lane & Associates Pty Ltd (2003), Preliminary Bird Report No. 2003.13(1.0)	Good	Lack of survey in recent years

Section 8 – Proposed alternatives

You are required to complete this section if you have any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) that were considered but not proposed.

8.0 Provide a description of the feasible alternative?

No alternatives have been considered.

8.1 Select the relevant alternatives related to your proposed action.

8.27 Do you have another alternative?

No

Section 9 – Contacts, signatures and declarations

Where applicable, you must provide the contact details of each of the following entities: Person Proposing the Action; Proposed Designated Proponent and; Person Preparing the Referral. You will also be required to provide signed declarations from each of the identified entities.

9.0 Is the person proposing to take the action an Organisation or an Individual?

Organisation

9.2 Organisation

9.2.1 Job Title

Chief Operations Officer

9.2.2 First Name

David

9.2.3 Last Name

Pollington

9.2.4 E-mail

david.pollington@upcrenewables.com

9.2.5 Postal Address

Suite 2, Level 2

13-17 Castray Esplanade
Hobart TAS 7000
Australia

9.2.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

35618734277 - UPC ROBBINS ISLAND PTY LTD

9.2.7 Organisation Telephone

0408174329

9.2.8 Organisation E-mail

david.pollington@upcrenewables.com

9.2.9 I qualify for exemption from fees under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act because I am:

Not applicable

Small Business Declaration

I have read the Department of the Environment and Energy's guidance in the online form concerning the definition of a small a business entity and confirm that I qualify for a small business exemption.

Signature:..... Date: .....

9.2.9.2 I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations

No

9.2.9.3 Under sub regulation 5.21A(5), you must include information about the applicant (if not you) the grounds on which the waiver is sought and the reasons why it should be made

Person proposing the action - Declaration

I, DAVID POLLINGTON, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf of or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature:..... Date: 2/10/17

I, DAVID POLLINGTON, the person proposing the action, consent to the designation of UPC Robbins Island Pty Ltd as the proponent of the purposes of the action describe in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature:..... Date: 2/10/17

9.3 Is the Proposed Designated Proponent an Organisation or Individual?

Organisation

9.5 Organisation

9.5.1 Job Title

Chief Operations Officer

9.5.2 First Name

David

9.5.3 Last Name

Pollington

9.5.4 E-mail

david.pollington@upcrenewables.com

9.5.5 Postal Address

Suite 2, Level 2

13-17 Castray Esplanade
Hobart TAS 7000
Australia

9.5.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

35618734277 - UPC ROBBINS ISLAND PTY LTD

9.5.7 Organisation Telephone

0408 174 329

9.5.8 Organisation E-mail

david.pollington@upcrenewables.com

Proposed designated proponent - Declaration

I, DAVID PALLINGTON, the proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature: ..... Date: 2/10/17

9.6 Is the Referring Party an Organisation or Individual?

Organisation

9.8 Organisation

9.8.1 Job Title

Senior Environmental Scientist

9.8.2 First Name

Willow

9.8.3 Last Name

McMinn

9.8.4 E-mail

willow.mcminn@ghd.com

9.8.5 Postal Address

2 Salamanca Place
Hobart TAS 7000
Australia

9.8.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

39008488373 - GHD PTY LTD

9.8.7 Organisation Telephone

+61 3 6210 0688

9.8.8 Organisation E-mail

tasmanianadmin@ghd.com

Referring Party - Declaration

I, Willow McMinn, I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Signature: W. McMinn Date: 02/10/2017

Appendix A - Attachments

The following attachments have been supplied with this EPBC Act Referral:

1. 201704_environmental_policy.docx
2. brett_lane_preliminary_bird_april_report_2003.pdf
3. letter_re_mnes_assessment_-_ghd_-_sept_2017.pdf
4. north_barker_botanical_survey_report_-_final.pdf
5. nvr_1_29-aug-2017.pdf
6. pmst_aug_2017.pdf