



## Referral of proposed action

### What is a referral?

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) provides for the protection of the environment, especially matters of national environmental significance (NES). Under the EPBC Act, a person must not take an action that has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on any of the matters of NES without approval from the Australian Government Environment Minister or the Minister's delegate. (Further references to 'the Minister' in this form include references to the Minister's delegate.) To obtain approval from the Environment Minister, a proposed action should be referred. The purpose of a referral is to obtain a decision on whether your proposed action will need formal assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

Your referral will be the principal basis for the Minister's decision as to whether approval is necessary and, if so, the type of assessment that will be undertaken. These decisions are made within 20 business days, provided sufficient information is provided in the referral.

### Who can make a referral?

Referrals may be made by or on behalf of a person proposing to take an action, the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency, a state or territory government, or agency, provided that the relevant government or agency has administrative responsibilities relating to the action.

### When do I need to make a referral?

A referral must be made for actions that are likely to have a significant impact on the following matters protected by Part 3 of the EPBC Act:

- World Heritage properties (sections 12 and 15A)
- National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C)
- Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B)
- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)
- Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A)
- Protection of the environment from nuclear actions (sections 21 and 22A)
- Commonwealth marine environment (sections 23 and 24A)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C)
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E)
- The environment, if the action involves Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A), including:
  - actions that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land (even if taken outside Commonwealth land);
  - actions taken on Commonwealth land that may have a significant impact on the environment generally;
- The environment, if the action is taken by the Commonwealth (section 28)
- Commonwealth Heritage places outside the Australian jurisdiction (sections 27B and 27C)

You may still make a referral if you believe your action is not going to have a significant impact, or if you are unsure. This will provide a greater level of certainty that Commonwealth assessment requirements have been met.

To help you decide whether or not your proposed action requires approval (and therefore, if you should make a referral), the following guidance is available from the Department's website:

- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance. Additional sectoral guidelines are also available.

- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 - Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land, and actions by Commonwealth agencies.
- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments—Impacts on water resources.
- the interactive map tool (enter a location to obtain a report on what matters of NES may occur in that location).

#### **Can I refer part of a larger action?**

In certain circumstances, **the Minister may not accept a referral for an action that is a component of a larger action and may request the person proposing to take the action to refer the larger action for consideration under the EPBC Act (Section 74A, EPBC Act)**. If you wish to make a referral for a staged or component referral, read 'Fact Sheet 6 Staged Developments/Split Referrals' and contact the Referrals Gateway (1800 803 772).

#### **Do I need a permit?**

Some activities may also require a permit under other sections of the EPBC Act or another law of the Commonwealth. Information is available on the Department's web site.

#### **Is your action in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?**

If your action is in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park it may require permission under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (GBRMP Act). If a permission is required, referral of the action under the EPBC Act is deemed to be an application under the GBRMP Act (see section 37AB, GBRMP Act). This referral will be forwarded to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) for the Authority to commence its permit processes as required under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983. If a permission is not required under the GBRMP Act, no approval under the EPBC Act is required (see section 43, EPBC Act). The Authority can provide advice on relevant permission requirements applying to activities in the Marine Park.

The Authority is responsible for assessing applications for permissions under the GBRMP Act, GBRMP Regulations and Zoning Plan. Where assessment and approval is also required under the EPBC Act, a single integrated assessment for the purposes of both Acts will apply in most cases. Further information on environmental approval requirements applying to actions in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is available from <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/> or by contacting GBRMPA's Environmental Assessment and Management Section on (07) 4750 0700.

The Authority may require a permit application assessment fee to be paid in relation to the assessment of applications for permissions required under the GBRMP Act, even if the permission is made as a referral under the EPBC Act. Further information on this is available from the Authority:

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

2-68 Flinders Street PO Box 1379

Townsville QLD 4810

AUSTRALIA

Phone: + 61 7 4750 0700

Fax: + 61 7 4772 6093

[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)

#### **What information do I need to provide?**

**Completing all parts of this form will ensure that you submit the required information and will also assist the Department to process your referral efficiently. If a section of the referral document is not applicable to your proposal enter N/A.**

You can complete your referral by entering your information into this Word file.

#### **Instructions**

Instructions are provided in blue text throughout the form.

#### **Attachments/supporting information**

The referral form should contain sufficient information to provide an adequate basis for a decision on the likely impacts of the proposed action. You should also provide supporting documentation, such as environmental reports or surveys, as attachments.

Coloured maps, figures or photographs to help explain the project and its location should also be submitted with your referral. Aerial photographs, in particular, can provide a useful perspective and context. Figures should be good quality as they may be scanned and viewed electronically as black and white documents. Maps should be of a scale that clearly shows the location of the proposed action and any environmental aspects of interest.

**Please ensure any attachments are below three megabytes (3mb) as they will be published on the Department's website for public comment. To minimise file size, enclose maps and figures as separate files if necessary. If unsure, contact the Referrals Gateway (email address below) for advice. Attachments larger than three megabytes (3mb) may delay processing of your referral.**

**Note: the Minister may decide not to publish information that the Minister is satisfied is commercial-in-confidence.**

### **How do I pay for my referral?**

From 1 October 2014 the Australian Government commenced cost recovery arrangements for environmental assessments and some strategic assessments under the EPBC Act. If an action is referred on or after 1 October 2014, then cost recovery will apply to both the referral and any assessment activities undertaken. Further information regarding cost recovery can be found on the [Department's website](#).

#### **Payment of the referral fee can be made using one of the following methods:**

- **EFT Payments can be made to:**

BSB: 092-009  
Bank Account No. 115859  
Amount: \$7352  
Account Name: Department of the Environment.  
Bank: Reserve Bank of Australia  
Bank Address: 20-22 London Circuit Canberra ACT 2601  
Description: The reference number provided (see note below)

- **Cheque** - Payable to "Department of the Environment". Include the reference number provided (see note below), and if posted, address:

The Referrals Gateway  
Environment Assessment Branch  
Department of the Environment  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

- **Credit Card**

Please contact the Collector of Public Money (CPM) directly (call (02) 6274 2930 or 6274 20260 and provide the reference number (see note below).

Note: in order to receive a reference number, submit your referral and the Referrals Gateway will email you the reference number.

### **How do I submit a referral?**

Referrals may be submitted by mail or email.

#### **Mail to:**

Referrals Gateway  
Environment Assessment Branch  
Department of Environment  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

- If submitting via mail, electronic copies of documentation (on CD/DVD or by email) are required.

**Email to: [epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au](mailto:epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au)**

- Clearly mark the email as a 'Referral under the EPBC Act'.
- Attach the referral as a Microsoft Word file and, if possible, a PDF file.
- **Follow up with a mailed hardcopy including copies of any attachments or supporting reports.**

## **What happens next?**

Following receipt of a valid referral (containing all required information) you will be advised of the next steps in the process, and the referral and attachments will be published on the Department's web site for public comment.

The Department will write to you within 20 business days to advise you of the outcome of your referral and whether or not formal assessment and approval under the EPBC Act is required. There are a number of possible decisions regarding your referral:

### **The proposed action is NOT LIKELY to have a significant impact and does NOT NEED approval**

No further consideration is required under the environmental assessment provisions of the EPBC Act and the action can proceed (subject to any other Commonwealth, state or local government requirements).

### **The proposed action is NOT LIKELY to have a significant impact IF undertaken in a particular manner**

The action can proceed if undertaken in a particular manner (subject to any other Commonwealth, state or local government requirements). The particular manner in which you must carry out the action will be identified as part of the final decision. You must report your compliance with the particular manner to the Department.

### **The proposed action is LIKELY to have a significant impact and does NEED approval**

If the action is likely to have a significant impact a decision will be made that it is a *controlled action*. The particular matters upon which the action may have a significant impact (such as World Heritage values or threatened species) are known as the *controlling provisions*.

The controlled action is subject to a public assessment process before a final decision can be made about whether to approve it. The assessment approach will usually be decided at the same time as the controlled action decision. (Further information about the levels of assessment and basis for deciding the approach are available on the Department's web site.)

### **The proposed action would have UNACCEPTABLE impacts and CANNOT proceed**

The Minister may decide, on the basis of the information in the referral, that a referred action would have clearly unacceptable impacts on a protected matter and cannot proceed.

## **Compliance audits**

If a decision is made to approve a project, the Department may audit it at any time to ensure that it is completed in accordance with the approval decision or the information provided in the referral. If the project changes, such that the likelihood of significant impacts could vary, you should write to the Department to advise of the changes. If your project is in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and a decision is made to approve it, the Authority may also audit it. (See "*Is your action in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*," p.2, for more details).

## **For more information**

- call the Department of the Environment Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772 or
- visit the web site <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999>

All the information you need to make a referral, including documents referenced in this form, can be accessed from the above web site.

# Referral of proposed action

**Project title:** Moorabool Wind Farm to Elaine Powerline

## 1 Summary of proposed action

WestWind Energy Pty Ltd (the proponent) is seeking to connect the proposed Moorabool Windfarm to the Terminal Station at Elaine via a 59 kilometre power line. This referral is for the proposed power line connections between the Bungeeltap and Ballark Sections of the Moorabool Windfarm and between the Ballark Section and Elaine Terminal Station.

The proposed action will involve:

- Erection of 209 poles and wired poles
- Creation of temporary access tracks to the pole sites
- Breaking ground and foundations including 66 guy line supports
- The clearing of a minimal amount of vegetation if and where required

### 1.1 Short description

The proposed action involves the establishment of power poles and power lines to connect the Moorabool Wind Farm with the Elaine Terminal Station. The powerline will be established between the Bungeeltap and Ballark Sections of the Moorabool Windfarm and between the Ballark Section and Elaine Terminal Station.

### 1.2 Latitude and longitude

The following points describe the power line alignment for the Bungeeltap to Ballark and Ballark to Elaine Terminal Station alignments. These alignments are described in detail within Attachment A

<b>Id Point</b>	<b>Alignment</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Latitude</b>
1	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.01287213800	-37.73101257250
2	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.02314668200	-37.74289982880
3	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.02363379200	-37.75072410140
4	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.02936264700	-37.75050541370
5	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.03080981400	-37.75076824940
6	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.03214628700	-37.75091218970
7	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.03362294400	-37.75102289630
8	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.04204199800	-37.75230042280
9	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.04936813900	-37.75196972140
10	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.05741964600	-37.75669144460
11	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.05738113200	-37.75999798350
12	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.05956034600	-37.76574867460
13	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.06983897100	-37.76571091410
14	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.07746563100	-37.76365870200
15	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.09157129200	-37.76518397170
16	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.09626970500	-37.76460167590
17	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.09884813500	-37.76495923580
18	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.10060598600	-37.76143775000
19	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.10291650000	-37.76035535730
20	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.10407797700	-37.75906091340
21	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.10726701900	-37.75800003480
22	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.10967367100	-37.75919839460
23	Bungeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment	144.11335476100	-37.75976644670

24	Ballark to Elaine Substation Powerline Alignment	144.18811368900	-37.70108286120
25	Ballark to Elaine Substation Powerline Alignment	144.18936994600	-37.69354205280
26	Ballark to Elaine Substation Powerline Alignment	144.19627185400	-37.68466562320
27	Ballark to Elaine Substation Powerline Alignment	144.19699198300	-37.68273492540

### 1.3 Locality and property description

The powerline will originate within the Bungeeltap section of the Moorabool Wind Farm travelling south to connect with the Ballark Section via the Ballark-Meridith Road reserve. The powerline exits the Ballark Section of the Moorabool Windfarm at the south west corner, crossing Dolly's Creek, before continuing roughly west to terminate at the Elaine Terminal Station. The alignment is shown in Attachment A.

The powerline will transect 35 rural parcels of land, a road and a creek as listed in sections 1.5 and 1.6 of this form. The alignment has been selected to avoid known areas of native vegetation. The proposed action will take place on mixed farming and grazing land uses, crossing disturbed and highly modified agricultural land and a smaller section of road reserve on the Ballan-Meredith Road. A span of the power line will cross Dolly's Creek, a branch of the Moorabool River.

The alignment occurs largely within the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Bioregion with a short section crossing the southern portion of the Central Victorian Uplands (CVU) Bioregion.

1.4	<b>Size of the development footprint or work area (hectares)</b>	<p>The total impact area is approximately 19Ha.</p> <p>Development footprint is limited to the power line easement in the Ballarak to Elaine Powerline Segment (18.72 Ha) and pole and guy line construction footprints in the Bugeeltap to Ballark Powerline Alignment. Detailed construction footprint can be found in Attachment B</p>
1.5	<b>Street address of the site</b>	The site is made up of multiple addresses as listed below in 1.6.

## 1.6 Lot description

The site consists of multiple titles (Attachment A). The total land described as:

Standard Parcel Identifier	Address
41A\PP3271	ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
4\TP862800	225 DOLLYS CREEK ROAD MORRISONS 3334
67A\PP2206	RACECOURSE LANE MORRISONS 3334
67C\PP2206	RACECOURSE LANE MORRISONS 3334
41C\PP3271	ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
84\PP2206	153 ANGEES ROAD ELAINE 3334
PC368001	154 MURPHYS ROAD ELAINE 3334
18B1\PP2206	225 ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
88\PP2206	ELAINE-EGERTON ROAD ELAINE 3334
2A\PP3271	225 ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
18B2\PP2206	225 ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
1A\PP3271	MIDLAND HIGHWAY ELAINE 3334
87\PP2206	ELAINE-EGERTON ROAD ELAINE 3334
55\PP3271	ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
2B\PP3271	225 ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
45\PP3271	MIDLAND HIGHWAY ELAINE 3334
59B\PP2206	FOREST ROAD MORRISONS 3334
15C\PP2047	72 FERGUSONS LANE BUNGAL 3334
60\PP2206	165 TABLELAND ROAD MORRISONS 3334
55A\PP3271	ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
18B\PP2206	225 ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
66A\PP2206	189 RACECOURSE LANE MORRISONS 3334
15B\PP2047	72 FERGUSONS LANE BUNGAL 3334
60A\PP2206	165 TABLELAND ROAD MORRISONS 3334
2\PS630660	WOOLSHED ROAD ELAINE 3334 &
41B\PP3271	ELAINE-BLUE BRIDGE ROAD ELAINE 3334
68A\PP2206	87 ANGEES ROAD ELAINE 3334
15D\PP2047	DOLLYS CREEK ROAD MORRISONS 3334
1\TP107112	354 ELAINE-EGERTON ROAD ELAINE 3334
68\PP2206	PARKINSONS LANE ELAINE 3334
84A\PP2206	191 ANGEES ROAD ELAINE 3334
64G\PP2206	DOLLYS CREEK ROAD MORRISONS 3334
64F\PP2206	DOLLYS CREEK ROAD MORRISONS 3334
2\TP862800	225 DOLLYS CREEK ROAD MORRISONS 333
2010\PP2047	DOLLYS CREEK ROAD MORRISONS 3334

## 1.7 Local Government Area and Council contact (if known)

The subject land is located within the Moorabool Local Government Area

## 1.8 Time frame

The indicative time frame for the proposed action:

The proposed action will be undertaken between 2017 and 2019 with construction anticipated to start in 2017.

1.9	<b>Alternatives to proposed action</b>	X	No
			Yes, you must also complete section 2.2
1.10	<b>Alternative time frames etc</b>	X	No
			Yes, you must also complete Section 2.3. For each alternative, location, time frame, or activity identified, you must also complete details in Sections 1.2-1.9, 2.4-2.7 and 3.3 (where relevant).
1.11	<b>State assessment</b>	X	No
			Yes, you must also complete Section 2.5
1.12	<b>Component of larger action</b>		No
		X	Yes, you must also complete Section 2.7
1.13	<b>Related actions/proposals</b>		No
		X	Yes, provide details:  2009/4907 WestWind Energy Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply (renewable)/near Ballan, Moorabool Shire/VIC/WestWind Pty Ltd Moorabool Wind Farm Development, near Ballan , VIC  2016/7652 WestWind Energy Pty Ltd/Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)/6km east of Mount Egerton/Victoria/Moorabool Wind Farm additional development footprint
1.14	<b>Australian Government funding</b>	X	No
			Yes, provide details:
1.15	<b>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park</b>	X	No
			Yes, you must also complete Section 3.1 (h), 3.2 (e)



## 2 Detailed description of proposed action

### 2.1 Description of proposed action

The proposed action seeks to establish 30 kilometres of power line mounted on poles with conductor spans of approximately 150 metres (the distance between poles). This infrastructure is required in order to connect the Moorabool Wind Farm to the energy distribution grid via the Elaine Terminal Station at Elaine, Victoria.

The key building and works components include,

- Establishment of power pole on mass concrete or piled rock foundations (at maximum 5 metres in diameter from pole locations)
- Erection of approximately 20 metre tall hardwood/concrete/steel poles
- Use of temporary hardstands to access the site and erect the poles using cranes and lifting equipment in some locations west of the Ballark Wind Farm section
- The establishment of on ground earthing/boxes/bits
- The removal of the minimal amount required of non-endangered vegetation between the Elaine terminal station and the Ballark Wind Farm Section to accommodate the foundations and hardstand activity areas.

The total disturbance footprint of the route comprises approximately 19Ha, which is resultant from earthworks to accommodate pole foundations and ancillary power line installation activities including the creating of temporary access tracks and hardstands as described. The footprint also includes the blowout easements (which cater for high wind conditions which cause the transmission line wires to swing out and away from the structure) for considering vegetation impact at height.

Following the installation of the poles, the conductors will be strung using stringing stations located at intervals along the line route (up to 300m apart but on average 150m apart). The extent of the power pole and line footprint has been determined and has been designed to avoid impact to potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) along the alignment. Temporary construction works associated with the installation of the infrastructure are tailored to avoid impact on critical sites in Attachment B.

Detailed ecological assessment has been undertaken along the route of the alignment. Previous assessment of the Moorabool Wind Farm Site was undertaken in 2009 under EPBC reference 2009/4907 which determined the action was not a controlled action subject to the avoidance of impacts to EPBC listed flora (Spiny Rice Flower and Matted Flax Lily). The intersection of the alignment with the Wind Farm Sections (Bungeeltap and Ballark) is deemed to have no additional impact on MNES as the alignment intersects predominantly heavily utilised agricultural land and has therefore not been subject to this referral. Construction management guidelines are proposed to manage any additional risk to MNES along the entirety of the alignment and will apply to all sections of the alignment.

### 2.2 Alternatives to taking the proposed action

There are no alternatives to the proposed action. This proposed action forms a smaller referral component of the Moorabool Wind Farm assessed under EPBC 2009/4907. The Moorabool Wind Farm was determined to be the most appropriate location assessed from various sites across Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia owing to,

- Suitable wind resource;
- Supportive landholders;
- Low population density;
- Appropriate distance from sensitive ecological, historical and visual locations;
- Proximity to electricity network connection;
- Suitable land in terms of:
  - Terrain and geology;
  - Land area;
  - Compatible land uses;
  - Local government zoning and overlay controls;
  - Existing ecological conditions;
  - Land tenure (it is freehold land); and
  - Access to the site.

The proposed action will facilitate the connection of the approved Moorabool Wind Farm to the energy distribution grid and the proposed alignment has been specifically chosen in order to avoid impacts to potential occurrence of matters of environmental significance.

### **2.3 Alternative locations, time frames or activities that form part of the referred action**

There are no alternative locations, timeframes or activities that form part of this referral.

### **2.4 Context, planning framework and state/local government requirements**

#### Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act) is the key piece of Victorian legislation for the conservation of threatened species and communities and for the management of potentially threatening processes.

#### Planning and Environment Act 1987 – Moorabool Planning Scheme

A planning permit will not be required for the use of the land and building and works associated with the installation of a power line. Powerlines under 220,000 kV are considered minor utility installations under the planning scheme and are exempt from building and works permit requirements.

Planning permits will be sought for any vegetation removal under the relevant overlays, as well as under Clause 52.17 of the Moorabool Planning Scheme to remove native vegetation. Any native vegetation must be removed in accordance with the *Permitted Clearing of Native Vegetation: Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines (DEPI 2013)*.

#### Permitted Clearing of Native Vegetation: Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines 2013

These guidelines are incorporated into the Victorian Planning Provisions and provide a guide to how impacts on biodiversity should be considered when assessing an application for a permit to remove, lop or destroy native vegetation.

### **2.5 Environmental impact assessments under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation**

The proposed action does not meet the criteria for a referral under the Victorian *Environment Effects Act 1978*. There are no other Commonwealth or state environmental impact assessments relating to the properties described in 1.6.

### **2.6 Public consultation (including with Indigenous stakeholders)**

Since 2009, a significant amount of public consultation has occurred and continues to this day. Public consultation has included discussions with:

- Landowners who are hosting wind farm infrastructure;
- Immediate project neighbours;
- Moorabool Shire Council and State Government departments and agencies;
- Wathaurong Aboriginal Corporation;
- Local community groups, business and environment groups.

The site of the proposed action has been subject to statutory public notice in 2010 when planning permit application 2009012877 was on public notice.

### **2.7 A staged development or component of a larger project**

The connection to the Elaine Terminal Station is considered part of the larger Moorabool Wind Farm development previously referred under EPBC referral 2009/4907, which was determined to not be a controlled action subject to the avoidance of significant impacts on two listed threatened species, the Matted Flax-lily and Spiny Rice-flower. A smaller additional referral EPBC 2016/7652 has been recently submitted to account for some survey areas otherwise not considered in the 2009/4907 referral. There is dependency between the current proposed action and the Moorabool Wind Farm. The wind farm is required to be connected to the national electricity grid in order to deliver wind power to the national energy market. For an overview of the referral landscape please see Attachment C

The establishment of an approval framework for the Moorabool Wind Farm was considered ahead of required grid connection for state planning approval purposes. State approval processes required careful consideration of the impacts of wind turbines and necessitated additional specific assessments. The required resourcing for these assessment processes including significant stakeholder engagement for the wind farm turbine components meant that for practical and financial reasons the two components, the Moorabool Powerline alignment and the Moorabool Wind Farm, have been separately managed for both Victorian State and Commonwealth approvals processes and as such, have been submitted as separate actions to the Commonwealth.

It is determined the current proposed action (Moorabool Powerline) is consistent with the objectives of the EPBC Act defined in Section 3 and can be considered as a separate referral for the following reasons:

- The proposed action as it relates to permanent construction impacts has been designed to avoid all impacts to any likely occurrence of MNES through collaborative ecological assessment and low impact engineering design
- The proposed action as it relates to temporary construction impacts are managed within specific Power Line Construction Vegetation Impact and Management Guidelines that seek to avoid and minimise impacts to any otherwise undiscovered MNES as they relate to temporary construction activities.
- The proposed action, as it relates to the objective of the EPBC Act under Section 3, does not impact MNES that would have otherwise been considered if the power line were not a separate (or split) referral. The referral of the proposed action is consistent with the objectives of the EPBC Act and considers all likely impacts to MNES as result of the proposed action.

## **3 Description of environment & likely impacts**

### **3.1 Matters of national environmental significance**

#### **3.1 (a) World Heritage Properties**

##### **Description**

There are no World Heritage Properties located within 10km of the proposal (DotE 2015a).

##### **Nature and extent of likely impact**

There are no direct or indirect impacts on any World Heritage values of any World Heritage property.

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#### **3.1 (b) National Heritage Places**

##### **Description**

There are no National Heritage Places located within 10km of the proposal (DotE 2015a).

##### **Nature and extent of likely impact**

There are no direct or indirect impacts on any National Heritage values of any National Heritage place.

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#### **3.1 (c) Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar wetlands)**

##### **Description**

There are no wetlands of international importance within 10km of the proposed action.

##### **Nature and extent of likely impact**

There are no direct or indirect impacts on any Wetlands of National Importance.

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### 3.1 (d) Listed threatened species and ecological communities

#### Description

The results of ecological desktop assessments concluded that a number of listed threatened species and ecological communities were modelled to occur within 5km of the powerline alignment. An assessment of their nature and extent of likely impact is included in detail in Attachment B.

A review of the Victorian State Government Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) threatened species records modelled presence of one threatened fauna species (Growling Grass Frog), one threatened flora species (Matted Flax Lily) and four listed threatened communities under the EPBC Act. The Growling Grass Frog and the Matted Flax Lily are listed as vulnerable and endangered respectively and were considered likely to occur in the area (DoE 2015).

The following table 1 below lists the Commonwealth Listed Threatened Ecological Communities that were modelled to occur in the area.

**Table 1 Listed Communities and Likelihood of Occurrence**

Listed Community	Status	Type of Presence	Likelihood of Occurrence
Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	Critically Endangered	Community known to occur within area	<b>Potential</b> - the area of alignment indicated as Plains Grassy Woodland is not actually within the Victorian Volcanic Plain and is not woodland.
Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South Eastern Australia	Endangered	Community may occur within area	<b>Unlikely</b> – The natural distribution of Grey Box is restricted to the north of the Great Dividing Range.
Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	Critically Endangered	Community likely occur within area	<b>Present</b> – within the survey eastern easement. Unlikely in the main survey easement – not within the VVP.
White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands	Critically Endangered	Community likely occur within area	<b>Unlikely</b> – Outside natural distribution of the community which generally occurs north of the Great Dividing Range.

#### Nature and extent of likely impact

The nature and extent of likely impact to listed threatened species and ecological communities is discussed below. Ecological field assessment has determined in all cases where Commonwealth Listed Threatened Ecological Communities were cited to occur, they did not meet the characteristics of the EPBC criteria to warrant EPBC protection (see Attachment B p.28 -29). Table 2 below shows EVC classed communities modelled to occur within the alignment and the likelihood of significant impact.

**Table 2 Listed Community and Likelihood of Significant Impact**

Listed Community	Likelihood of Significant Impact
Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	<b>Unlikely</b> – Vegetation present does not reflect the characteristics of this community. Refer to Section 5.1.1 and Appendix A for supporting assessment.
Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South Eastern Australia	<b>Unlikely</b> – Community does not occur in the vicinity of the alignments
Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	<b>Potential</b> – Unlikely – While the EPBC community occurs in close proximity to the proposed foot print, no Grassland areas that meet EPBC thresholds occur in the area. EPBC grassland are restricted to the east side of the Ballan – Meredith Road which is unaffected by the proposed action.
White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands	<b>Unlikely</b> - Community does not occur in the vicinity of the alignments

Table 3 below shows relevant likelihood of impact to listed Flora and Fauna modelled to occur within the alignment and the likelihood of significant impact.

**Table 3 Listed Flora and Fauna Species and Likelihood of Significant Impact**

Listed Species	Likelihood of Significant Impact
Matted Flax Lily	<b>Unlikely</b> – Community does not occur in the vicinity of the alignments. Suitable habitat for the species is to be wholly avoided
Growling Grass Frog	<b>Unlikely</b> – Community does not occur in the vicinity of the alignments. Suitable habitat for the species is to be wholly avoided

### **3.1 (e) Listed migratory species**

#### **Description**

There were no migratory species determined likely to occur within the proposed activity area.

#### **Nature and extent of likely impact**

There is no likely impact on listed migratory species

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### **3.1 (f) Commonwealth marine area**

(If the action is in the Commonwealth marine area, complete 3.2(c) instead. This section is for actions taken outside the Commonwealth marine area that may have impacts on that area.)

#### **Description**

There are no Commonwealth marine areas impacted within 10km of the proposal (DotE 2015b).

#### **Nature and extent of likely impact**

There are no direct or indirect impacts on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth marine area.

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### **3.1 (g) Commonwealth land**

#### **Description**

The proposed action is not on Commonwealth land.

#### **Nature and extent of likely impact**

There is no likely impact to commonwealth land

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### **3.1 (h) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

#### **Description**

The proposal will not impact on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

#### **Nature and extent of likely impact**

There is no direct or indirect impact on any part of the environment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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### 3.1 (i) A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development

#### Description

The proposed action is not a coal seam gas development or large coal mining development.

#### Nature and extent of likely impact

Not applicable.

### 3.2 Nuclear actions, actions taken by the Commonwealth (or Commonwealth agency), actions taken in a Commonwealth marine area, actions taken on Commonwealth land, or actions taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

3.2 (a)	Is the proposed action a nuclear action?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment

3.2 (b)	Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment

3.2 (c)	Is the proposed action to be taken in a Commonwealth marine area?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(f))

3.2 (d)	Is the proposed action to be taken on Commonwealth land?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(g))

3.2 (e)	Is the proposed action to be taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(h))

### 3.3 Other important features of the environment

#### 3.3 (a) Flora and fauna

The general alignment largely crosses disturbed and modified agricultural land general free of significant flora and fauna. Areas of forested landscape exist mainly in the foothills associated with the southern flanks of the Central Victorian Uplands Bioregion. Areas of native grassland also have been determined to occur, mostly on the road verges on the Meredith-Ballan Road. These road verges are annually treated with fire subject to local fire brigade resourcing.

No significant fauna was determined present within the survey area, however flora species were present in limited areas of the alignment survey area. These included patches of plains grassland supporting species of Kangaroo and Wallaby Grasses and native Spear Grass (Jacobs 2016; p.5) as well as numbers of herbs, forbs and bryophytes. Some areas of plains grassy woodlands and grassy dry forest was also surveyed in the alignment. These Ecological Vegetation Classes presented a number of flora species including, River Red Gum, Manna Gum and Narrow-leafed Peppermint.

The aforementioned communities of generally mixed grassland and woodland have been determined to not be effected by the design of the alignment. This is broadly due to

- modelled communities not qualifying as an EPBC community under criteria (Jacobs 2016; p.28-29) and/or
- the design measures undertaken to avoid impact on them.

Ecological survey undertaken was used to inform power line alignment design which has considered the location of sensitive ecological communities, flora and fauna where present. This has been possible due to the flexibility in power line and detailed ecological assessment which has informed the selection of pole locations and related infrastructure.

### **3.3 (b) Hydrology, including water flows**

The powerline alignment is located within the Moorabool River (Sheoaks) Special Water Supply Catchment. The catchment is also known as East Moorabool River Catchment. The catchment and storages supply Geelong with potable water. The West Branch of the Moorabool River runs roughly north to south and is the major water way feature in the area. The Moorabool River West Branch is crossed just west of the Ballark section of the Moorabool Wind Farm. Another smaller tributary (Tea Tree Creek) forms another waterway feature in the west of the proposed alignment. This creek is spanned west of Angees Road. Water flows are generally from north to south, with Moorabool River West Branch and Tea Tree Creek flowing into the Moorabool River.

### **3.3 (c) Soil and Vegetation characteristics**

The proposed action is located within the two bioregions which broadly describe the soil and vegetation characteristics of the area in question. The longer 12km alignment to the west of the MWF is mapped as largely occurring within the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP) Bioregion, with a short section crossing the southern portion of the Central Victorian Uplands (CVU) Bioregion. The main alignment straddles the boundary of the VVP and CVU, which is not necessarily in the correct position as it would relate to vegetation, geology, soils and topography inspected in the field.

**Central Victorian Uplands**, located in central Victoria, is dominated by Lower Paleozoic deposits giving rise to dissected uplands at higher elevations, amongst granitic and sedimentary (with Tertiary colluvial aprons) terrain with metamorphic and old volcanic rocks which have formed steeply sloped peaks and ridges. The less fertile hills support Grassy Dry Forest and Heathy Dry Forest ecosystems. Herb-rich Foothill Forest and Shrubby Foothill Forest ecosystems dominate on the more fertile outwash slopes. The granitic and sedimentary (with Tertiary colluvial aprons) terrain is dominated by Grassy Woodlands much of which has been cleared. Lower lying valleys and plains are dominated by Valley Grassy Forest and Plains Grassy Woodland ecosystems.

**Victorian Volcanic Plain**, located in west Victoria, is dominated by Cainozoic volcanic deposits. These deposits formed an extensive flat to undulating basaltic plain with stony rises, old lava flows, numerous volcanic cones and old eruption points and are dotted with shallow lakes both salt and freshwater. Numerous volcanic cones dot the landscape with scoria cones being the most common (e.g. Mt Elephant, Mt Napier and Mt Noorat) although some basalt cones are present (e.g. Mt Cottrell). Soils are generally shallow reddish-brown to black loams and clays. They are fertile and high in available phosphorous. Older flows in the Cressy and Hamilton areas have allowed a greater development of deep soils. Dark saline soils occur around the margins of some lakes. The soils are variable ranging from red friable earths and acidic texture contrast soils (Ferrosols and Kurosols) on the higher fertile plain to scoraceous material, and support Plains Grassy Woodland and Plains Grassland ecosystems. Calcareous sodic texture contrast soils grading to yellow acidic earths (Chromosols and Sodosols to Dermosols), on the intermediate plain, and grey cracking clays (Vertosols) on the low plains, support Stony Knoll Shrubland, Plains Grassy Woodland and Plains Grassy Wetland ecosystems. On the stony rises (volcanic outcropping) the stony earths (Dermosols and Tenosols) support Stony Rises Herb-rich Woodland, Basalt Shrubby Woodland and Herb-rich Foothill Forest ecosystems. Wetland formations include inland salt marshes, permanent and intermittent freshwater and saline/brackish lakes, permanent freshwater ponds and marshes and inland, subterranean karst wetlands.

### **3.3 (d) Outstanding natural features**

The site is not located in proximity to any known outstanding natural features including caves. The proposed action will have no impact on outstanding natural features.



### **3.3 (e) Remnant native vegetation**

Remnant native vegetation is known to exist within the survey area. These areas are limited to the central parts of the western alignment between the Elaine terminal station and the Ballark Section of the Moorabool Wind Farm and some road verges between the Ballark and Bungeeltap sections of the Moorabool Wind Farm. Remnant native vegetation is limited to patches of plain grasslands, mostly in some areas of road reserve, and grassy woodland and dry forest which house River Red and Manna Gum and Narrow-leafed Peppermint.

### **3.3 (f) Gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area)**

The Ballark and Bungeeltap sections of the Moorabool Wind Farm is generally undulating between the two sections. Average height is 440m ASL with a long hill from 435m to 445m. Gradient between the Elaine terminal station and the Ballark section of the Moorabool wind farm is generally rising from west to east from 390m in the west to approximately 425m in the east.

### **3.3 (g) Current state of the environment**

The area of the proposed action is highly modified from its natural condition. It is used for agricultural purposes and accordingly has been largely cleared of native vegetation. Sections of remnant vegetation that do exist along the alignment are limited to scattered trees and remnant native vegetation ground cover mostly limited to the road reserves.

### **3.3 (h) Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values**

There are no identified Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values.

### **3.3 (i) Indigenous heritage values**

A CHMP will be prepared to establish on-going methodologies for managing any indigenous artefacts through the construction and operation of the powerline. The CHMP will ensure that Indigenous heritage values are protected and appropriately managed in accordance with the approved CHMP.

The works are proposed to occur within existing disturbed areas in the road side.

### **3.3 (j) Other important or unique values of the environment**

The area of the proposed action does not have any recognised important or unique environmental values.

### **3.3 (k) Tenure of the action area (eg freehold, leasehold)**

The tenure of the action area is freehold.

### **3.3 (l) Existing land/marine uses of area**

The site is primarily used for agriculture, predominately grazing and cropping.

### **3.3 (m) Any proposed land/marine uses of area**

Other than the proposed use of land for a wind energy facility, the land will continue to be used for agriculture.

## 4 Environmental outcomes

Ecological assessment has been undertaken to assess any likely impacts to MNES from the proposed action. The assessment has determined that there will be no impact to matters of national environmental significance. This is due to the determinations of no impact to MNES under Section 3 3.1(d). Management measures in place as described in Attachment D and Section 5 below have been developed to additionally secure the proposed action against any likely impact to MNES.

## 5 Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

The avoidance of impacts to any likely occurrence of MNES has been achieved predominantly through the siting of powerline infrastructure to avoid MNES. This has been possible due to the flexibility in power line and detailed ecological assessment which has informed the selection of pole locations and related infrastructure.

Construction footprint impacts have also been reduced through the use of reinforced poles, rather than poles requiring further guy line supports. This design improvement has been undertaken in the Meredith-Ballan Road reserve, reducing further any likely impacts resultant from the permanent construction footprint.

Additionally to the above design measures, impacts related to permanent and temporary construction activities have also been addressed through collaborative ecological assessment and engineering design. This collaborative design approach has established the Moorabool Wind Farm Power Line Construction – Vegetation Impact and Management Guidelines (Attachment D) which address likely construction impacts and provide initial guidance on management measures.

A summary of the guidelines includes but is not limited to.

- Contractor inductions to ensure all site workers understand the importance of the Grassland Reserve and the ramifications associated with unapproved disturbance.
- Pre clearing works where required are undertaken manually. No tracked vehicles to drive along alignment. Removal of woody vegetation undertaken by hand. Control burn considered as a clearing tool in collaboration with local council and CFA.
- Consideration of maximum reach of swing arms to span sensitive vegetation for boring holes and delivery poles.
- Spoil management – no spoil from the auguring of new holes to remain in grassland area. Use of matting to manage spoil and minimise disturbance area.
- Weed management – ensure any bare ground remaining (minimal assuming spoil management) does not provide opportunity for weed establishment. Using grass slash or weed matting on any bare ground
- Design spans modified to ensure that blowout easement is smaller to avoid impact on native vegetation at height.
- Micrositing of individual pole locations to minimise impact on specific trees and communities.
- Use of manned stringing for flat sections of spanning and the potential for helicopter stringing for steep sections of span to minimise grounds disturbance.
- Options for use of post framing, placed over areas of environmental sensitivity to enable conductor laying off ground before being strung onto erected poles

The measures employed for the proposed action have been employed to minimise impact to environmentally sensitive areas in accordance with the proponent's broader environmental policy and to ensure the objectives of the EPBC act are met.

## 6 Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

### 6.1 Do you THINK your proposed action is a controlled action?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, complete section 5.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, complete section 5.3

### 6.2 Proposed action IS NOT a controlled action.

The area subject to the proposed action is highly modified from its natural state. Areas where potential impacts on MNES have been identified and have been assessed in detail by field assessment in December 2015 (Attachment B). The assessment has determined that:

- No EPBC listed species or ecological communities are present on the site. Those modelled to occur have been determined to not meet the criteria of protected species under the EPBC Act
- Where ecological communities were modelled to occur, collaborative ecological assessment and engineering design has ensured these areas are avoided. As such no impacts will therefore occur to MNES as they do not occur in the development footprint.
- The potential for any impact to MNES, however unlikely has been specifically addressed in guidelines and recommendations resultant from ecological assessment and detailed engineering design.

### 6.3 Proposed action IS a controlled action

#### Matters likely to be impacted

<input type="checkbox"/>	World Heritage values (sections 12 and 15A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of the environment from nuclear actions (sections 21 and 22A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commonwealth marine environment (sections 23 and 24A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C)
<input type="checkbox"/>	A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions (section 28)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commonwealth Heritage places overseas (sections 27B and 27C)

## 7 Environmental record of the responsible party

	Yes	No
<p><b>7.1 Does the party taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management?</b></p> <p><b>Provide details</b></p> <p>WestWind Energy Pty Ltd has been previously involved in EPBC referrals and is familiar with the assessment of potential impacts from its wind farm development.</p> <p>WestWind Energy Pty Ltd's is committed to developing and operating wind farms in an environmentally friendly manner. The core business of WestWind Energy Pty Ltd is to provide clean energy for customers whilst minimising any environmental impacts.</p> <p>Appropriate environmental due diligence have allowed WestWind Energy Pty Ltd to develop wind farms without environmental management issues. All previous WestWind Energy Pty Ltd referrals have been determined not be controlled actions under the EPBC act.</p> <p>As such WestWind Energy Pty Ltd considers itself a responsible environmental manager in the development of wind farms.</p>	X	
<p><b>7.2 Has either (a) the party proposing to take the action, or (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action, the person making the application - ever been subject to any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources?</b></p> <p><b>If yes, provide details</b></p>		X
<p><b>7.3 If the party taking the action is a corporation, will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework?</b></p>	X	

**If yes, provide details of environmental policy and planning framework**

WestWind Energy Pty Ltd's Sustainability Policy is reproduced below.

WestWind Energy Pty Ltd is a developer and operator of environmentally friendly electric power generation facilities. WestWind Energy Pty Ltd is committed to developing and operating these facilities in a manner which minimises environmental impact.

WestWind Energy Pty Ltd will manage its activities in an environmentally sustainable manner and continuously improve their impact on the shared environment.

To achieve this objective, WestWind Energy Pty Ltd will:

- Conduct all activities in accordance with the relevant legislation, government policies, agreements and planning approvals
- Design, implement and audit programmes and works to responsibly minimise environmental impacts from the operation of its facilities
- Establish and monitor environmental targets and indicators aimed at continually improving environmental performance
- Work within a framework of sustainable development by using resources in a manner which maximises their value to both WestWind Energy Pty Ltd and the general community
- Respond promptly and effectively to any known significant environmental impacts caused by operations under its control
- Educate and train personnel and contractors in their environmental obligations and responsibilities and educate and train employees to conduct their activities in an environmentally responsible manner
- Consult and inform other organisations and the general community of the environmental impacts of its activities
- Promote the efficient use of energy, raw materials and other resources within its operations
- Promote environmental awareness among employees, suppliers and contractors
- Manage land under its care with sensitivity, having due regard for local environmental sensitivities

**7.4 Has the party taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?****X****Provide name of proposal and EPBC reference number (if known)**

2016/7652 WestWind Energy Pty Ltd/Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)/6km east of Mount Egerton/Victoria/Moorabool Wind Farm additional development footprint

2009/4907 Westwind Energy Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply (renewable)/near Ballan, Moorabool Shire/VIC/WestWind Pty Ltd Moorabool Wind Farm Development, near Ballan , VIC

2007/3721 WestWind Energy/Energy generation and supply/Mt Mercer/VIC/Proposed Wind Farm

2005/2116 WestWind Energy/Energy generation and supply/Mt Mercer/VIC/Proposed Wind Farm

## 8 Information sources and attachments

(For the information provided above)

### 8.1 References

The following documents were used in the preparation of this report.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2013). Permitted clearing of native vegetation Biodiversity assessment guidelines. Accessed 10/12/2015 [http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/198758/Permitted-clearing-of-native-vegation-Biodiversity-assessment-guidelines.pdf](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/198758/Permitted-clearing-of-native-vegation-Biodiversity-assessment-guidelines.pdf)

Department of the Environment (2015a). *Australia's World Heritage List*. Australian Government, Canberra. Accessed 10/12/2015 <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world-heritage-list>

Department of the Environment (2015b). *Commonwealth marine reserves*. Australian Government, Canberra. Accessed 10/12/2015 <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/marine/marine-reserves>

### 8.2 Reliability and date of information

Ecological field assessment has been undertaken in December 2015 to determine any likely impacts on MNES resultant from the proposed action. The information referred to in the above reports is considered reliable, and has been confirmed in ground-truthed survey and review which has verified all previous reporting undertaken regarding the project site.

### 8.3 Attachments

		✓ attached	Title of attachment(s)
<b>You must attach</b>	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the project locality (section 1)	✓	Attachment A, Attachment B & Attachment C
	GIS file delineating the boundary of the referral area (section 1)		
	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the location of the project in respect to any matters of national environmental significance or important features of the environments (section 3)	✓	Attachment B
<b>If relevant, attach</b>	copies of any state or local government approvals and consent conditions (section 2.5)		
	copies of any completed assessments to meet state or local government approvals and outcomes of public consultations, if available (section 2.6)		
	copies of any flora and fauna investigations and surveys (section 3)	✓	Attachment B
	technical reports relevant to the assessment of impacts on protected matters that support the arguments and conclusions in the referral (section 3 and 4)	✓	Attachment B & Attachment D
	report(s) on any public consultations undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders (section 3)		

## 9 Contacts, signatures and declarations

### Project title:

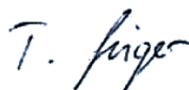
#### 9.1 Person proposing to take action

1. Name and Title: Tobias Geiger, Managing Director
2. Organisation (if applicable): WestWind Energy Pty. Ltd.
3. EPBC Referral Number (if known):
- 4: ACN / ABN (if applicable): ABN: 94 109 132 201
5. Postal address Office 5, Level 1, Nexus Centre, 12-14 Prince St., GISBORNE, VIC, 3437
6. Telephone: 03 5421 9999
7. Email: geiger@w-wind.com.au
8. Name of designated proponent (if not the same person at item 1 above and if applicable): Moorabool Wind Farm Pty. Ltd.
9. ACN/ABN of designated proponent (if not the same person named at item 1 above): ACN: 135 829 846
- I qualify for exemption from fees under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act because I am: Moorabool Wind farm Pty. Ltd and WestWind Energy Pty. Ltd. Are small businesses with a turnover of less than \$2m per year.
- If you are small business entity you must provide the Date/Income Year that you became a small business entity: West Wind Energy Pty. Ltd – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2004  
Moorabool Wind Farm Pty. Ltd. – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009

#### Declaration

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


Signature



Date 04.03.2016

## 9.2 Person preparing the referral information (if different from 8.1)

Individual or organisation who has prepared the information contained in this referral form.

Name	Phillip Burn (Alternate contact Adam Williams [email Adam.Williams@jacobs.com] and [phone 03 8668 3102] )
Title	Senior Consultant – Environment and Planning
Organisation	Jacobs Group Australia
ACN / ABN (if applicable)	37 001 024 095
Postal address	PO Box 312, Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 8009
Telephone	(03) 8668 3000
Email	phillip.burn@jacobs.com
Declaration	I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this form is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.
Signature	
Date	04.03.2016