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Onslow Power Station

Construction Environmental Management Plan

January 2024



HORIZON
POWER

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Context and Scope

Horizon Power is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the state's regional and remote energy utility. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy. Horizon Power is an experienced asset manager undertaking active management of vast electricity networks and generation assets across WA, utilising mature and robust operational, health and safety, and environmental systems.

The current Onslow solar site requires a capacity expansion to connect new, large enterprise customers. Therefore, Horizon Power is proposing expansion options for the existing solar site near the town of Onslow, WA (the Project). The site is proposed to have renewables and backup thermal generation to serve an increase in customer loads, as well as decarbonisation objectives. The Project will require clearing of native vegetation.

The Project is located within the Onslow solar site, which is on Lot 555 (Figure 1). The total area of the Onslow solar site is approximately 14.6 ha however approximately 3.4 ha is currently cleared for the existing solar infrastructure. Additionally, an area of 2.4 ha on the southern section of the site will be utilised by Main Roads WA as an access corridor from the power station directly to Onslow Road. The access corridor will include a haul road for Mineral Resources Ltd along Warrirda Rd. Negotiations are underway to construct an alternative access corridor from the site directly to Onslow Road. Therefore, the total available surplus land area for renewables would be approximately 8.8 ha (the Development Envelope (DE)). The final design and location of infrastructure required for the Project is yet to be determined.

1.2 Scope and purpose

This Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed to outline environmental management measures to be implemented by Horizon Power and its contractors during the construction of the Project. This includes, but is not limited to, measures to manage dust, erosion and spread of weeds during clearing of native vegetation.

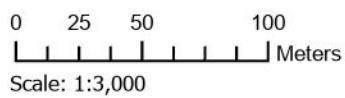
Legend

-  Development Envelope
-  Indicative Road Location
-  Infrastructure Footprint



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Figure | Project Location and Development Envelope



△ For reference only

Last updated on 17/10/2023 by H089661

2 Description of the Activity

2.1 Activity Overview

The expansion of the Onslow Solar Site will require clearing of the DE for site investigations, construction of renewables and augmentation of existing thermal energy generation, battery, laydown areas, cable installation and associated supporting infrastructure.

2.2 Clearing of Native Vegetation

The entire DE, which is 8.8 ha (Figure 1) is proposed to be cleared. The final design and location of infrastructure within the DE will be informed by engineering site investigations and an Aboriginal cultural heritage survey.

Mechanical clearing will be undertaken for the site investigations, construction of renewables and thermal energy generation, battery, laydown and construction areas, access tracks and associated supporting infrastructure. The clearing of vegetation will be permanent and maintained to allow for safe and effective operation and maintenance of the assets.

Clearing of native vegetation within the DE will only be undertaken as specified by the Clearing Permit, including the extent and method of clearing to be undertaken and any specific management measures outlined in the permit conditions.

3 Management Measures

The management measures listed in Table 1 will be implemented during construction of this Project. Clearing of native vegetation will occur as per the conditions in the NVCP issued by DWER.

Table 1 Management measures to be implemented during construction

Aspect	Management Measure
Extent of Clearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No clearing is permitted outside the DE (Figure 1). – Clearing will be minimised where possible through placement of site investigations, access tracks, battery, laydown and construction areas and infrastructure in existing cleared locations where possible. – The clearing locations are to be demarcated prior to clearing activities. – Clearing areas are to be checked by an Environmental Specialist or Site Supervisor prior to clearing to ensure no more than 8.8 ha of clearing is undertaken for the Project – A pre-clearing toolbox will be held so all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the clearing permit. – Driving on vegetation will be kept to the minimum required to perform the works.
Flora and vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Areas that are degraded, sparsely vegetated and/or previously cleared will be used preferentially for site investigations, access tracks, laydown areas and infrastructure. – Where possible, pre-existing access tracks will be used and vehicles and machinery will exit the DE along the same route used for access.
Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clearing of native vegetation will be undertaken in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move away from the clearing area. – Construction personnel will not touch, feed or otherwise directly interact with fauna. – Vehicle and machinery speeds within the DE will be restricted to reduce the likelihood of fauna strike.
Weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Contractor will ensure that no weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the DE. – All vehicles and machinery will arrive clean on site. – Movement of vehicles and machinery will be restricted to the DE or established tracks and roads.

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Aspect	Management Measure
Erosion and soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Standard construction measures regarding erosion and sediment control will be implemented during construction works. – Potential flood risk mitigation measures may include conducting a hydrology study, equipment design above the 1 in 100-year flood levels and including flood collars on poles if required. These mitigation measures are subject to further investigations. – Designated access tracks will be applied to prevent additional disturbance. – Works will be undertaken systematically to minimise re-run and compaction of access tracks.
Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Standard construction dust control and mitigation measures will be implemented during clearing. This may include the use of a water trucks, or similar. – Ground disturbance and clearing of vegetation will be restricted during high winds if dust cannot be adequately controlled. – Reduced vehicle speed limits will be applied in areas of unconsolidated soil. – Use of defined routes for machinery/ vehicles travelling on unsealed roads.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The contractor will comply with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 – Complaints regarding noise will be recorded and investigated by Horizon Power.
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rubbish will be disposed of in appropriate containers and all waste will be removed from the site.
Hydrocarbons and chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hydrocarbons and chemicals will be appropriately managed on site to prevent spills, including maintaining equipment in good working order in accordance with manufacturers specifications. – Refuelling will be undertaken on hardstand or using catch trays only. Uncontrolled refuelling is not permitted. – Chemicals will be appropriately stored.
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Should aboriginal cultural heritage materials be uncovered during construction works, works are to stop immediately within 20 m of the find. The Contractor is to contact the Horizon Project Manager and an incident will be raised. The area will be cordoned off and no access permitted to the area by people until the incident is investigated and resolved.