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Halls Creek Future Energy System - Native Vegetation Clearing Permit

Supporting Document

May 2026

Contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Project Context	4
1.2	Scope and Purpose.....	4
2	Description of the Activity	4
2.1	Project Location	4
2.2	Activity Overview and Timelines.....	7
2.2.1	Pre-construction.....	7
2.2.2	Construction.....	7
2.3	Land Access	8
2.4	Proposal benefits and justification	9
3	Description of Proposed Clearing.....	10
3.1	Proposed Clearing Area	10
3.2	Proposed Clearing Method	10
4	Biological Survey.....	10
5	Existing Environment.....	14
6	Avoidance, Mitigation and Management Measures.....	16
6.1	Avoidance.....	16
6.2	Mitigation and Management.....	17
7	Stakeholder Engagement	17
7.1	Key stakeholders.....	17
7.2	Stakeholder engagement process	18
7.3	Stakeholder consultation outcomes.....	20
8	Assessment Against the 10 Clearing Principles	24
9	Other matters	33
9.1	Land Planning.....	33
9.2	Other approvals	33
10	References	35
	Attachment A: Environment Management Plan	37
Figure 1	Project location	6
Figure 2	Biological Survey Area.....	13
Figure 3	Environmental constraints.....	32

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Context

Regional Power Corporation, trading as (T/A) Horizon Power, is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the state's regional and remote energy provider. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy.

The WA State Government has committed to reducing government carbon emissions by 80% (below 2020 levels by 2030), and Horizon Power is supporting the Government to achieve this target. Many towns in the Kimberley are powered by high emission fossil fuels such as diesel and gas. In Halls Creek, Horizon Power currently purchases power from an independent power producer. The power purchase agreement (PPA) is due to expire, providing Horizon Power with an opportunity to integrate grid-scale renewable electricity into the town supply.

Horizon Power is proposing to construct a Future Energy System (FES) in Halls Creek in the Kimberley region of WA (the Proposed Action). The Proposed Action will ensure security of energy supply to Halls Creek after the expiry of the PPA. As part of this future energy supply, Horizon Power is targeting higher renewables and a reduction in emissions as part of the decarbonisation strategy for the town.

The Halls Creek FES project will nominally consist of solar photovoltaic (PV) system (up to 4 megawatts alternating current (MWAC)), battery energy storage systems (BESS) (up to 2 megawatts MW / 2 megawatt-hour (MWh)), a network connection route (up to 3 kilometres (km)) and new thermal power station (up to 4 MW). The new thermal power station will be installed under Horizon Power's existing clearing permit CPS 11226-1.

The solar PV and BESS will be installed at a site approximately 3 km south-west of Halls Creek, on Lot 901 on Deposited Plan 432508, Reserve 55039. The network connection route corridor will follow Old Great Northern Hwy to connect the solar PV and BESS to the existing power station. The network connection will be an underground electrical distribution and will be up to 3 km long. The new thermal power station would be installed adjacent to the site of the existing power station location on a portion of Lot 9005 on Deposited Plan 69970.

Construction and operation of the Project will require permanent clearing of up to 10.76 ha within the 59.3 ha DE. It should be noted that the 10.76 ha clearing extent represents the maximum area of disturbance required to construct and install the Proposed Action, where opportunities are available, clearing will be minimised.

The DE has been developed as the area within which the least environmental constraints were identified in the biological survey.

1.2 Scope and Purpose

This document has been prepared to support a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) application for the Project. Specifically, this document provides further detail regarding the proposed activities and related clearing (including application of the mitigation hierarchy), and ecological surveys undertaken within and near to the clearing footprint.

An assessment of the 10 Clearing Principles as outlined in '*A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*' (DER, 2014) has also been undertaken and is presented Section 8.

An Environment Management Plan (EMP) has also been prepared in support of the project and is provided in Attachment A.

2 Description of the Activity

2.1 Project Location

The Project is located off the Great Northern Highway, just outside of the Halls Creek town site within the Shire of Halls Creek. Land details of the DE are provided in Table 2-1 and the DE is shown on Figure 1.

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Table 2-1 Development Envelope Location

Size of development Envelope (ha)	Development Envelope location	Shire	Neighbouring land uses
59.3 ha	Crown Land Lot 901 on Deposited Plan 432508, LR3179/329. Reserve 55039.	Shire of Halls Creek	Local road, settlement, air strip, rural.
	P Road		

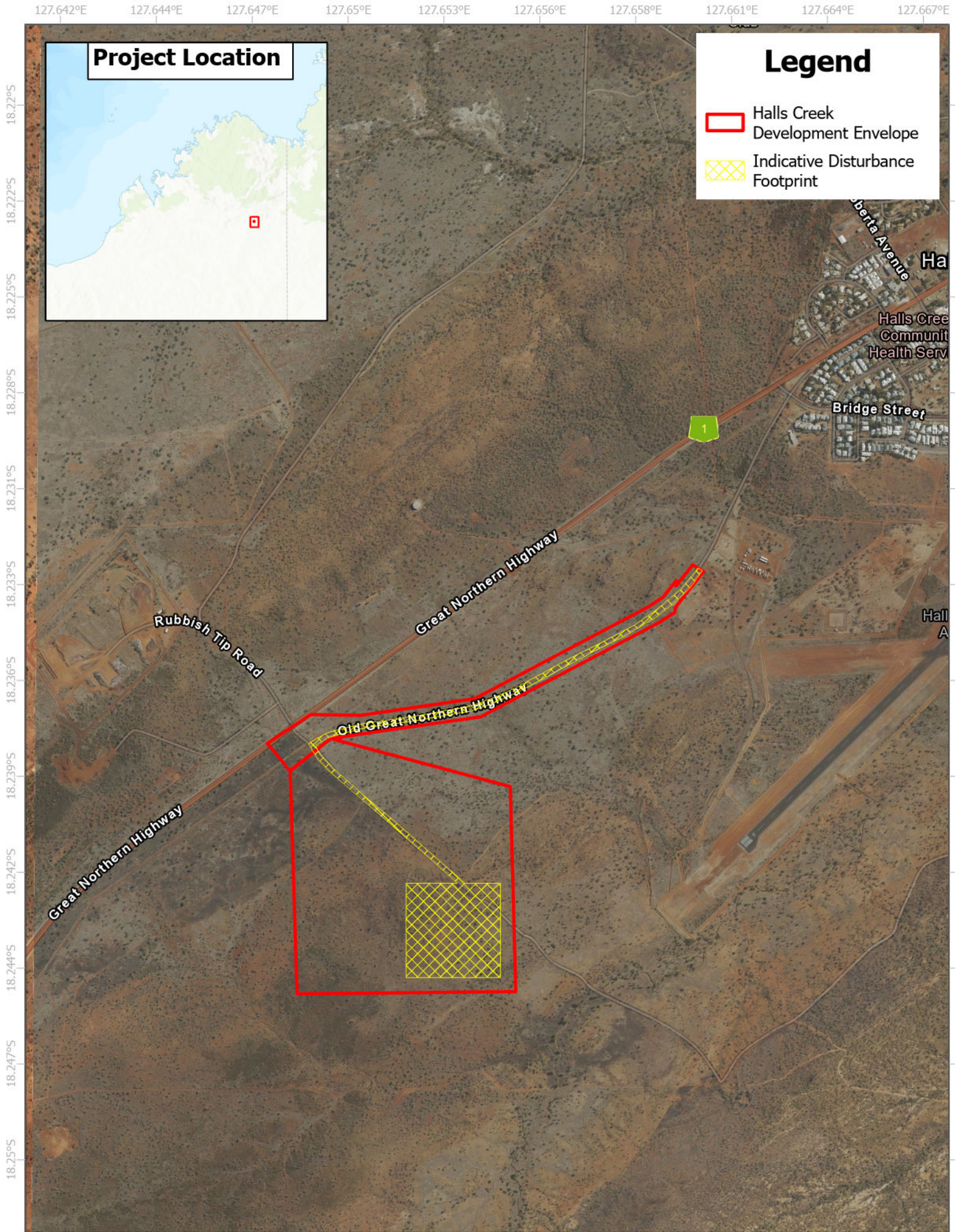


Figure 1 | Project Location



0 100 200 300 400 500
Meters

Scale: 1:15,000

2.2 Activity Overview and Timelines

A five-year clearing permit is requested to accommodate supplier procurement of batteries and renewable technology with clearing undertaken within 3 months of construction.

2.2.1 Pre-construction

Pre-construction activities will occur up to 12 months prior to construction and involve the following activities:

- Solar and BESS facility, network connection route, and thermal power station site surveying and marking – surveying personnel utilising Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment to mark Proposed Action boundaries and exclusion zones.
- Solar and BESS facility soil and geotechnical investigations – geotechnical engineering and crew utilising excavators and vehicle mounted drill rig will conduct borehole drilling, soil sampling, soil testing and compaction tests. Up to 10 boreholes to a depth of 25 metres (m) and up to 5 tests pits (up to 5 m width by 5 m width) and up to 3 m depth may be conducted to support the geotechnical investigations. No more than 10 m x 10 m of clearing is permitted per test location. Geotechnical investigations require driving on vegetation to access test locations.
- Network Connection Route geotechnical investigations – geotechnical engineering and crew utilising excavators and vehicle mounted drill rig to conduct borehole drilling, soil sampling, soil testing and compaction tests. Up to 10 boreholes to a depth of up to 25 m and up to 5 tests pits (up to 5 m width by 5 m width) and up to 3 m depth may be conducted to support the geotechnical investigations. Access is expected to be from the existing road. No more than 10 m x 10 m of clearing is permitted per test location. Geotechnical investigations require driving on vegetation to access test locations.

2.2.2 Construction

The construction phase is expected to commence in 2028 for a duration of up to 24 months. Clearing of native vegetation is expected to take approximately 4 to 6 weeks and will be undertaken at the commencement of construction. Construction activities will be determined by weather, as the wet season in the Kimberley typically occurs between November and April.

Construction personnel will consist of a Proposed Action workforce of up to 50 staff. Construction works will consist of:

- Clearing of up to 10.76 ha of vegetation, topsoil removal and stockpiling, grading and excavations.
- Weed control measures to manage the spread of invasive weeds.
- Supply of concrete will be either through the establishment of a temporary on-site concrete batch plant or concrete truck deliveries. Licences will be obtained by the contractor as required in accordance with Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- Supply of water for construction purposes will be either trucked water or construction of a bore in accordance with the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.
- Supply of civil materials for ground levelling and fill will be trucked in from local sources.
- During construction, temporary laydown areas, ablutions, kitchen, offices, crib room, first aid, water supply, generators and other supporting facilities will be established onsite.
- Installation of the solar PV and BESS consisting of ground mounted solar panels, inverters, transformers, cabling, battery containers, substation and other ancillary infrastructure:
- Solar PV panels and frame will be nominally up to 4 m tall from ground level. The battery containers, substation and office building will nominally be up to 5 m tall.
- Footings of the solar system will involve either installed piles or concrete blocks. The piles solution may involve up to 5,000 steel piles (250 mm diameter) installed to a nominal depth of up to 5 m.
- Excavation works for internal electrical cabling may involve excavation of up to 20 km of trenching and up to 1.5 m deep, resulting in excavation of up to 1,000 m³ of soil.

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- Installation of a network connection from the solar and BESS facility, following Old Great Northern Hwy to the existing power station. The network connection will be an underground distribution line:
 - Trenching excavations and reinstatement of up to 3 km and up to 3 m wide and up to 2 m deep, total excavation of up to 5,000 m³ of soil.

Typical heavy machinery and vehicles are proposed to be utilised onsite during the construction phase will include (not limited to):

- Bulldozer
- Excavator
- Grader
- Telehandler
- Trenching machines
- Horizontal directional driller
- Cable reel trailers
- Hydraulic pullers
- Water cart
- Loader
- Cranes
- Semi-trailer truck
- Light vehicles.

Operations

The operational phase is expected to commence in 2030, with operational personnel shifts conducted during daylight hours at the solar and BESS facility while the solar is producing energy. Operations personnel will consist of a local workforce of up to three personnel per shift. There will be no accommodation onsite, personnel will commute to site daily.

Activities associated with the operational phase will include:

- Regulatory inspections and approvals
- Routine maintenance activities for the solar and BESS facility including visual inspections, solar panel cleaning (if required), solar panel replacement, minor and major services, electrical inspections and testing.
- Regular maintenance of the network line. This involves visual inspections, thermal imaging and electrical testing.
- Routine maintenance activities including weed control.
- Ongoing maintenance such as vegetation control, stormwater/drainage management, wildlife monitoring and reporting.

Machinery and vehicles used onsite during operational phase will typically include light vehicles, semi-trailer truck, cranes and telehandler.

Infrastructure is expected to be permanent and become part of the Halls Creek electricity network. The agreement with the independent power producer will likely be 20 years, with options for extension.

2.3 Land Access

As an 'energy operator', Horizon Power has certain rights under Sections 46 and 49 of the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979* (EOPA) which allow Horizon Power to access and use land for the purpose of constructing,

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maintaining and operating electricity infrastructure. Horizon Power will utilise these powers for the network connection.

The solar PV and BESS will be installed at a site approximately 3 km south-west of Halls Creek, on a portion of Lot 901 on Deposited Plan 432508, Reserve 55039. The network connection route corridor will follow Old Great Northern Hwy to connect the solar PV and BESS to the existing power station. The network connection will be underground electrical distribution and will be up to 3 km long. The solar farm parcel is under a Management Order to Horizon Power.

2.4 Proposal benefits and justification

As a renewable energy project, the Proposed Action has the potential to reduce up to 4,200 tonnes of CO₂e per annum compared to the emissions of the existing Halls Creek power station. If the FES were to operate for 20 years, this would equate to a reduction of up to 84,000 tonnes of CO₂e. The Proposed Action will ensure security of energy supply to Halls Creek after the expiry of the existing PPA and contribute to the local economy through construction and operation phase job opportunities.

3 Description of Proposed Clearing

3.1 Proposed Clearing Area

The final design and footprint required for the Project will be determined once geotechnical survey works are completed and will also depend on the engineering, environmental and heritage constraints of the site. The Project will clear no more than 10.76 ha of native vegetation within the 59.3 ha DE. Clearing is required for the following:

- Geotechnical surveys,
- Solar arrays, battery storage, laydown and construction areas, and ancillary infrastructure,
- Network connection infrastructure and access tracks.

3.2 Proposed Clearing Method

Geotechnical survey works will consist of mainly incidental clearing (driving over and parking on native vegetation) for vehicle / machinery access to test sites. Geotechnical tests will require the mechanical removal of native vegetation. Topsoil and vegetation will be respread over each test location once complete.

Clearing for the solar arrays, network connection and associated infrastructure will be undertaken via mechanical removal.

4 Biological Survey

Horizon Power commissioned GHD to conduct a detailed (single season) flora and vegetation survey and a Targeted and Basic fauna survey in 2024 (GHD, 2024) to gain an understanding of the flora, vegetation and fauna values within and surrounding the DE. The biological survey was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines (EPA, 2016 and EPA, 2020) and is summarised in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Summary of Biological Surveys Relevant to the DE

Survey	Summary of Findings
Kimberley IRP: Biological Survey (GHD, 2024) IBSA-2024-0323	Survey Dates: 22 to 26 April 2024 Survey Area: 195.14 ha, encompasses the solar facility and network connection route portion of the DE (Figure 2). Flora / Vegetation Findings: – No <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) or <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act) listed flora were recorded within the survey area. – One Priority flora species listed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) was recorded during the survey: • <i>Goodenia crenata</i> (P3) – Four vegetation types were recorded within the survey area (excluding cleared areas): • VT09: Open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus alba</i> var. <i>australasica</i> and <i>Corymbia ferruginea</i> subsp. <i>stypophylla</i> over closed shrubland of <i>Acacia trachycarpa</i>, <i>Acacia colei</i> and <i>Grevillea pyramidalis</i> subsp. <i>pyramidalis</i> on red/brown sandy loam on rocky gentle slopes/low rise to minor drainage line. • VT10: Open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus alba</i> var. <i>australasica</i> and <i>Corymbia ferruginea</i> subsp. <i>stypophylla</i> over open shrubland of <i>Acacia colei</i>, <i>Grevillea pyramidalis</i> subsp. <i>pyramidalis</i> and <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i> on brown sandy loam on rocky low hills and slopes. • VT11: Open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus alba</i> var. <i>australasica</i>, <i>Corymbia ferruginea</i> subsp. <i>stypophylla</i> and <i>Lysiphyllum cunninghamii</i> over open shrubland of <i>Acacia colei</i>, <i>Ehretia saligna</i> and <i>Gossypium australe</i> on brown loam clay on clay flats and rocky plains with a minor drainage line. – The vegetation condition within the survey area ranged from Excellent to Degraded. The majority of the vegetation within the survey area was in Excellent condition. – No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) listed under the EPBC or BC Act were recorded within the survey area during the field survey. – One Priority Ecological Community (PEC) listed by Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) was recorded within the survey area: Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 (P3 PEC) was recorded across 118.157 (60.79%) of the survey area. – VT09 and part of VT11 are considered riparian vegetation (GHD, 2024). The riparian areas were identified as minor drainage lines, containing mature <i>Eucalyptus</i> and <i>Corymbia</i> and <i>Lysiphyllum cunninghamii</i> trees, and moderate drainage lines containing mature <i>Eucalyptus</i> and <i>Corymbia</i> and <i>Melaleuca bracteata</i> trees over isolated shrubs of <i>Flueggea virosa</i> subsp. <i>Melanthesoides</i> and <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> subsp. <i>leucocephala</i>. Fauna / Fauna Habitat Findings: – One EPBC Act listed fauna species was recorded during the survey. • Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>) – Endangered under EPBC Act, Priority 4 under DBCA - Known – Two Priority listed fauna species were recorded during the survey. • Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (<i>Ozimops cobourgiensis</i>) – Priority 1 under DBCA - Known • Yellow-lipped Cave Bat (<i>Vespadelus douglasorum</i>) – Priority 2 under DBCA - Known – The following additional conservation listed species are considered likely to occur within the survey area: • Ghost Bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>) – Vulnerable under EPBC and BC Act – Likely • Northern Short-tailed Mouse (<i>Leggadina lakedownsensis</i>) – Priority 4 under DBCA – Likely

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Survey	Summary of Findings
	- Northern Blue-tongue Skink (<i>Tiliqua scincoides intermedia</i>) – Critically Endangered under EPBC Act and Priority 4 under DBCA – Likely - Freshwater Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i>) – Other Specially Protected under BC Act – Likely - Gravel Dragon (<i>Cryptagama aurita</i>) – Priority 1 DBCA – Likely - Mitchell’s Water Monitor (<i>Varanus mitchelli</i>) – Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act – Likely - Merten’s Water Monitor (<i>Varanus mertensi</i>) – Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act – Likely - Grey Falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>) – Vulnerable under EPBC and BC Act – Likely - Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) – Other Specially Protected under BC Act – Likely - Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustico</i>) – Migratory under EPBC and BC Act – Likely - Yellow Wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>) – Migratory under EPBC and BC Act – Likely - Oriental Pratincole (<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>) – Migratory under EPBC and BC Act – Likely – Four fauna habitats were recorded within the survey area (excluding cleared and degraded areas): - Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain: open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus alba</i> var. <i>australasica</i>, <i>Corymbia ferruginea</i> subsp. <i>stypophylla</i> and <i>Lysiphyllum cunninghamii</i> over open shrubland of <i>Acacia colei</i>, <i>Ehretia</i> clay flats and rocky plains with a minor drainage line. - Rocky hills and slopes: Open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus alba</i> var. <i>australasica</i> and <i>Corymbia ferruginea</i> subsp. <i>stypophylla</i> over open shrubland of <i>Acacia colei</i>, <i>Grevillea pyramidalis</i> subsp. <i>pyramidalis</i> and <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i> on brown sandy loam on rocky low hills and slopes. - Minor drainage line: Open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus</i> <i>victrix</i> over isolated trees of <i>Melaleuca bracteata</i> over isolated shrubs of <i>Flueggea virosa</i> subsp. <i>melanthesoides</i> and <i>*Leucaena leucocephala</i> subsp. <i>leucocephala</i> on brown gritty sandy loam on a moderate drainage line. - Acacia shrubland thicket: Open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus alba</i> var. <i>australasica</i> and <i>Corymbia ferruginea</i> subsp. <i>stypophylla</i> over closed shrubland of <i>Acacia trachycarpa</i>, <i>Acacia colei</i> and <i>Grevillea pyramidalis</i> subsp. <i>pyramidalis</i> on red/brown sandy loam on rocky gentle slopes/low rise to minor drainage line.

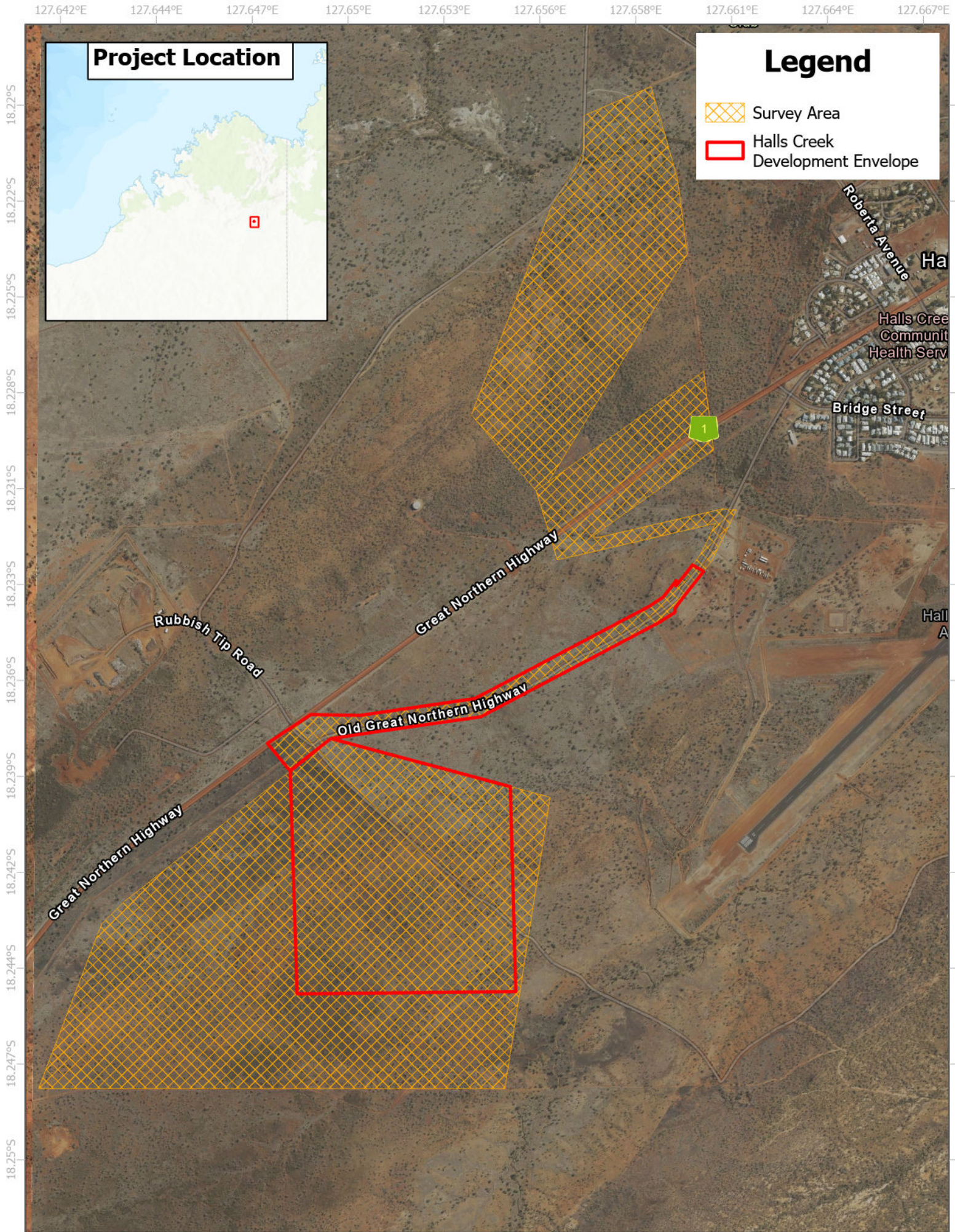


Figure 2 | Biological Survey Area



0 100 200 300 400 500
Meters

Scale: 1:15,000

5 Existing Environment

The existing environment is summarised in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 Existing environment

Environmental value	Assessment					
Vegetation associations, types and condition	The project is located within Pre-European Vegetation Associations VA 834, VA837, VA871. More than 99% of this vegetation association remains at a local and regional level.					
	Vegetation association	Scale	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% Remaining	% of current extent in all DBCA managed land (proportion of current extent)
	VA 834	State: WA	32,597.74	32,588.83	99.97	16.70
		IBRA Bioregion: Central Kimberley	24,391.01	24,382.67	99.97	0
		IBRA Subregion: Hart	24,391.01	24,382.67	99.97	0
		LGA: Shire of Halls Creek	27,748.71	27,740.37	99.97	19.62
	VA 837	State: WA	172,815.95	172,553.02	99.85	0
		IBRA Bioregion: Central Kimberley	151,537.39	151,274.46	99.83	0
		IBRA Subregion: Hart	148,106.42	147,843.49	99.82	0
		LGA: Shire of Halls Creek	151,971.74	151,708.81	99.83	0
	VA 871	State: WA	230,547.71	230,264.07	99.88	0
		IBRA Bioregion: Central Kimberley	230,415.48	230,131.84	99.88	0
		IBRA Subregion: Hart	230,415.48	230,131.84	99.88	0
		LGA: Shire of Halls Creek	230,547.71	230,264.07	99.88	0
	Three native vegetation types were defined and mapped in the DE, not including cleared areas or paddocks (GHD, 2024). The GHD (2024) survey report identified vegetation condition ranging from excellent to degraded as follows:					
	Vegetation type		Extent (ha) within DE		Extent (%) within DE	
	VT09		2.96		5.00	
	VT10		19.12		32.2	
	VT11		35.82		60.4	
	Cleared		1.40		2.4	
	TOTAL		59.3		100%	

Environmental value	Assessment			
Fauna habitat	The GHD (2024) survey identified three broad habitat types within the DE. Fauna habitat and condition is detailed below:			
	Fauna habitat	Habitat value	Extent (ha) within DE	Extent (%) within DE
	Acacia shrubland thicket	High	2.96	5.0
	Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain	High	35.82	60.4
	Rocky hills and slopes	High	19.12	32.2
	Cleared		1.4	2.4
	Total		59.3	100%
Significant fauna	The GHD (2024) survey recorded three conservation significant fauna species within the DE or in close vicinity to the DE (Gouldian Finch, Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat and Yellow-lipped Cave Bat) with an additional twelve species considered likely to occur. The following species were identified as known or likely to occur within the GHD (2024) survey area: – Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebeia gouldiae</i>) – Endangered under EPBC Act, Priority 4 under DBCA - Known – Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (<i>Ozimops cobourgianus</i>) – Priority 1 under DBCA - Known – Yellow-lipped Cave Bat (<i>Vespadelus douglasorum</i>) – Priority 2 under DBCA - Known – Ghost Bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>) – Vulnerable under EPBC and BC Act – Likely – Northern Short-tailed Mouse (<i>Leggadina lakedownensis</i>) – Priority 4 under DBCA – Likely – Northern Blue-tongue Skink (<i>Tiliqua scincoides intermedia</i>) – Critically Endangered under EPBC Act and Priority 4 under DBCA – Likely – Freshwater Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i>) – Other Specially Protected under BC Act – Likely – Gravel Dragon (<i>Cryptagama aurita</i>) – Priority 1 DBCA – Likely – Mitchell’s Water Monitor (<i>Varanus mitchelli</i>) – Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act – Likely – Merten’s Water Monitor (<i>Varanus mertensi</i>) – Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act – Likely – Grey Falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>) – Vulnerable under EPBC and BC Act – Likely – Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) – Other Specially Protected under BC Act – Likely – Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustico</i>) – Migratory under EPBC and BC Act – Likely – Yellow Wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>) – Migratory under EPBC and BC Act – Likely – Oriental Pratincole (<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>) – Migratory under EPBC and BC Act – Likely Merten’s Water Monitor, Mitchell’s Water Monitor and Freshwater Crocodile were all recorded as likely to occur within the survey area due to the suitable minor drainage line habitat. Post survey, the development envelope has been designed to avoid the minor drainage line habitat, where these three species may occur. As these three species are considered unlikely to occur within the habitat types present within the DE, they are not discussed further within this document.			
Significant ecological linkage	The fauna habitats within the DE are part of a contiguous, largely intact area of remnant vegetation present in Halls Creek. Land within the Halls Creek township has been subject to clearing, but this clearing is minimal and much of the remnant vegetation is intact in the local area. Overall, the habitats within the DE are largely contiguous through the local area.			
Ecological communities	No State or Commonwealth listed TECs were recorded within the DE (GHD, 2024). One Priority 1 Priority Ecological Community (PEC) was identified in the DE by GHD (2024), the ‘Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834’. This PEC overlaps the DE across a part of the solar facility portion of the DE and the southern section of the network connection route. This PEC is discussed further in Section 8. A total of 36.6 ha of the DE intersects this PEC.			
Significant flora	The EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST), NatureMap and DBCA Threatened and Priority flora databases identified the presence/potential presence of significant flora taxa within a 20 km buffer of the Survey Area (GHD, 2024). No EPBC listed flora were recorded during the field survey (GHD, 2024). The GHD (2024) survey recorded one Priority species within the DE. <i>Goodenia crenata</i> (Priority 3) was identified in the DE, with 2 records in the rocky hills and slopes habitat type and one record outside the survey area within the			

Environmental value	Assessment
	open Eucalypt woodland clay plain. Additionally, there are 6 historical records within 20 km of the DE (WAHerb). Significant flora within the DE is discussed further in Section 8.
Wetlands and/or waterways	No Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act) Rivers overlap the DE (GoWA, 2026). The DE overlaps the draft RIWI Act Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, RIWI Act Proclaimed Surface Water Area (Fitzroy River and Tributaries), RIWI Act Proclaimed Irrigation District (Camballin Irrigation District) and RIWI Act Proclaimed Surface Water Area (Ord River and Tributaries) (GoWA, 2026). The DE overlaps the draft RIWI Act Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area. The Halls Creek water reserve protection plan: Halls Creek Town Water Supply (Water and Rivers Commission, 2012) reports the depth to the water table as about 50 m. Water required for construction activities (e.g. dust suppression, civil works and concrete batching) is expected to be sourced via trucking in water from local or regional sources. Operational water demand will be minimal and primary for equipment cleaning and routine maintenance and will be sourced from truck in water and/or rainwater tanks.
Water resources	The DE does not overlap any Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) (GoWA, 2026), Halls Creek Water reserve (Priority 3) is the closest PDWSA and is located approximately 340 m east of the DE. Standard mitigation measures are outlined in the EMP and no additional impacts are expected to the water reserve.
Conservation Reserves	No conservation reserves or estates were identified within the DE, and no national heritage places were located within the surrounding 20 km buffer zone.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	The nearest Environmentally Sensitive Area is located approximately 70 km north-east of the DE (Purnululu National Park).
Land and soil quality	The DE is located within the O'Donnell land system, described as (Payne & Schokencht, 2011): <i>Undulating plains and scattered low hills on granite and gneiss, loamy skeletal soils, supporting snappy gum and bloodwood very open woodlands with arid short grasses and ribbon grass; also, minor Mitchell grass grasslands.</i> According to the Atlas of Australian Acid Sulfate Soils (Fitzpatrick et al., 2011), the DE overlays class C extremely low probability of occurrence (1-5% change of occurrence in mapping unit). The DE does not intersect any known contaminated sites (GoWA, 2026).
Environmental heritage	There are no world heritage or national heritage places located within 10km of the DE.
Air quality	The proposed works are unlikely to contribute significantly to dust. Dust will be managed during construction in accordance with the EMP. No significant receptors are directly adjacent to the Project and no significant air emissions are expected that would impact the airshed.
Amenity values	The Project has the potential to impact on visual amenity of the local area. However, the proposed infrastructure is consistent with existing infrastructure in the region. There are also potential impacts through dust, noise and vibration. However, these will be temporary in nature and limited to the construction phase of the Project. Standard mitigation measures will be implemented and are outlined in the EMP.

6 Avoidance, Mitigation and Management Measures

6.1 Avoidance

Initial avoidance and minimisation measures were undertaken during early planning works and selection.

A desktop phase was undertaken during project scoping, to determine sites that might be suitable for the proposed works. A number of sites were considered and discarded due to proximity to waterways and/or Public Drinking Water Source Areas.

The biological survey covered a larger extent than the DE within Halls Creek, with additional sites also surveyed during options assessment phase. The biological survey was undertaken to inform environmental constraints in Halls Creek, and to aid in site selection for the Proposed Action. The DE for this Proposed Action was selected as it presented the fewest environmental constraints. Importantly, selection of the location of the DE allowed the avoidance of impact to the minor drainage lines habitat which are suitable for Gouldian Finch.

Impact reduction actions undertaken for this project include:

- Avoidance of drainage line habitat and recorded habitat being utilised by Gouldian Finch at the alternative site surveyed.
- Reduce impact to foraging habitat for Gouldian Finch from 20 ha to 10.76 ha.
- Selection of a site close to the existing power station site to reduce clearing required for connection infrastructure.
- Underground the connection infrastructure to avoid direct collisions and associated injury/mortality of Threatened fauna, particularly birds.

6.2 Mitigation and Management

An EMP has been developed for the Project which lists the specific mitigation and management measures to be applied during construction of the Project (see Appendix A). Key management measures for the geotechnical works and Project infrastructure include the following:

- No clearing is permitted outside the DE.
- Clearing impacts will be further reduced through the detailed design process, including the positioning of solar and BESS facility infrastructure and network connection infrastructure to minimise impacts to vegetation and flora (including Priority flora where possible), and fauna habitat.
- The clearing locations are to be demarcated with flagging tape, GPS or similar 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 10.76 ha of clearing is undertaken for the Project.
- A pre-clearing environmental toolbox will be held so all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the permit.
- 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.
- Presence of a licenced fauna specialist prior to the commencement of clearing activities to supervise avoidance, dispersal and relocation of fauna.
- Movement of vehicles and machinery will be in convoy along access tracks/ routes and will not go into adjacent vegetation.
- Vehicles and machinery will arrive clean and weed control will be undertaken at the site post-construction as required.
- Dust, noise, vibration and light management measures will be implemented during construction
- Any water abstraction required for construction of the Project will be undertaken to minimise drawdown, and water allowed to infiltrate as close to the source as possible.
- Weather will be monitored to avoid construction works during heavy rainfall to prevent runoff, erosion and mobilisation of sediment.

7 Stakeholder Engagement

7.1 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders identified for the Proposed Action are provided in Table 2.

Table 2 Key project stakeholders

Category	Stakeholders
Agencies acting on behalf of the Commonwealth Government	– Regional Development Australia Kimberley, DCCEEW
State Government – Ministers	– Hon Divina D’Anna – Member for Kimberley – Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson – Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation – Hon Stephen Dawson – Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley
State Government - Entities	– Department Planning, Lands and Heritage, Kimberley Development Commission, Water Corporation, DWER, Department of Communities, Main Roads WA, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions
Traditional Owners	– Ngarrawanji Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) – Kimberley Land Council – Koongie-Elvire Applicant – Jaru Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC – Malarngowem Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC – Yarlil Group (unregistered claim)
Local Government	– Shire of Halls Creek
Corporate	– Major Account Holders, East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Clean Energy Council, First Nations Clean Energy Network, Kimberley Land Council, Kimberley Aboriginal Lands Trust, EDL Energy, Telstra, Water Corporation
Halls Creek Community	– Customer and community members
Aviation Authorities	– Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Airservices Australia
Community-led organisations	– Olabud Doogethu Aboriginal Corporation – Halls Creek Wildlife Conservancy – Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation – Yura Yungi Medical Services Aboriginal Corporation – Kimberley Language Resource Centre – Binarri-binyja yarrowoo (BBY) Aboriginal Corporation

7.2 Stakeholder engagement process

The stakeholder engagement process is guided by an Engagement and Communications Plan that is informed by a strategic engagement framework. This framework combines principles from the Engagement Institute (formerly IAP2) and national industry organisations, like The Energy Charter & Clean Energy Council.

By integrating these principles, Horizon Power aims to foster inclusive, transparent, and rights-respecting engagement processes that empower communities and uphold fundamental rights.

Horizon Power is committed to working with communities and engaging with them on projects that impact them. We are committed to sharing the journey with our communities to gain their valuable knowledge, enabling us to translate their worthy ideas into our decisions and actions.

Each engagement activity is tailored to the local context, encouraging two-way dialogue. Information has been delivered in-person where possible. Throughout engagement and communications, queries and concerns have been captured and responses provided and documented via a stakeholder consultation register.

A dedicated project webpage, established at project inception in 2023, with FAQs continues to provide easy access to information and serves as a portal for community members to sign up for updates, ask questions, and stay informed about the project’s progress. The project page was updated mid-2025 and the Halls Creek

Future Energy System project is now presented as a standalone webpage. Since re-launch, as of February 2026, the page has received 89 page views.

Community members and stakeholders can contact the team by emailing kununurra@horizonpower.com.au or decarbonisation@horizonpower.com.au, or by reaching out to the Horizon Power Customer and Community team in the Kununurra depot. These email addresses are used to register for project updates, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Engagement is further supported through the Horizon Power Customer Council — an advisory group representing regional interests — and through the annual customer and community survey, which gathers feedback and sentiment on Horizon Power’s activities.

In February 2026, Horizon Power presented at the East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce and Industry ‘Halls Creek Business Connect’ in Halls Creek to provide project updates. The event was attended by representatives from Horizon Power’s Customer & Community division. The event saw a strong turnout, with 25 attendees representing a diverse cross-section of Halls Creek business owners and key local stakeholders, including the Shire of Halls Creek.

During late 2025, a communication campaign invited Aboriginal people in Halls Creek with knowledge of cultural heritage sites or stories in or near the proposed solar farm site (neighbouring the existing Halls Creek power station) to get in touch and share information with Horizon Power’s Traditional Owner Relationships and Reconciliation team.

Earlier in 2025 Horizon Power participated in the Shire of Halls Creek, Community Strategic Planning process kick-off meeting where the Project was presented for the community to consider during the review process.

The Horizon Power CEO presented the Halls Creek Future Energy System project to about 350 key Kimberley stakeholders at the annual 2024 and 2025 Kimberley Economic Forum events in Kununurra and Broome respectively.

The project was presented to the Regional Development Australia Kimberley Committee, in Derby on 7 September 2023. Horizon Power commenced engagement with the Shire of Halls Creek in September 2023 and maintained regular and ongoing engagement.

Two electronic direct mail campaigns have been issued to Halls Creek and Kimberley Horizon Power customers containing a link to the project webpage inviting customers to provide feedback. The current database for the Halls Creek community members requesting information about Halls Creek Future Energy System planning totals 35 people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholder engagement has been occurring in two streams. Broad town-by-town community engagement planned through the Community Engagement and Communications Plan and regionally through dedicated Customer and Community staff to engage with residents.

The Traditional Owner Relationships & Reconciliation (TORR) team support the engagement of Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal Knowledge holders with respect to Horizon Power activities within the region. The TORR team reviewed and adapted communication materials for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community engagement including the Traditional Owner engagement approaches aligned with HP’s specific policies and guidelines relating to Traditional Owner Engagement. These documents include Traditional Owner Land Negotiation Framework (and Benefits Policy), Reconciliation Action plan, Aboriginal Commitment Strategy (formerly Aboriginal Engagement Strategy) and related documents.

The TORR team continue to coordinate the engagement with Traditional Owners through Land Councils and Prescribed Body Corporates (PBC’s). This engagement has occurred separate to community engagement due to governance models and their respective annual calendar of meeting dates. Horizon Power first engaged in September 2023, and engagement remains ongoing.

In summary, what we’ve heard from the Halls Creek Community so far is:

Strong community support for solar, but delivery must match local realities

- There is widespread interest in solar and renewables across Halls Creek and surrounding communities; however, affordability, maintenance, installer access and social factors significantly limit the effectiveness of rooftop only solutions without funding or alternative models.

Solar farms are broadly seen as the most practical large-scale solution

- Many stakeholders favour a solar farm (near town or on stations) as a more reliable, scalable and lower risk option than widespread rooftop solar, particularly given housing constraints, business turnover and limited ratepayer base.

Energy resilience is critical for remote and Aboriginal communities

- Recent flood related diesel fuel disruptions have reinforced the need to reduce reliance on diesel in remote communities, strengthening support for solar based solutions to improve reliability, resilience and energy security.

Growth and decarbonisation need to progress together

- The Tanami Road upgrade is expected to drive significant growth and change in Halls Creek, creating momentum for decarbonisation. While the current power system is viewed as functioning adequately, stakeholders support planning for renewable options that align with long term growth rather than complex or premature solutions.

Horizon Power will continue to implement the Engagement and Communications Plan as the project progresses through future milestones, ensuring engagement remains appropriate to the project phase, community expectations and decision-making readiness.

Future engagement will continue to leverage established channels and trusted forums, including key strategic regional events, to share project updates and maintain visibility of progress. Horizon Power will retain all existing engagement pathways, including in person engagement where appropriate, digital channels and direct contact points, enabling community members and stakeholders to engage at times and in ways that suit them.

As the project reaches its next major milestone, Horizon Power will return to the community to formally present the future energy plan, outline proposed infrastructure and delivery pathways, and seek feedback to inform final design and implementation considerations. This engagement will be tailored to the local context and will support two-way dialogue, ensuring community perspectives are understood and appropriately considered.

Prior to the commencement of final build and construction activities, a dedicated communications plan will be developed to support this phase. This plan will focus on providing timely, clear and consistent information about construction activities, timeframes, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and will be designed to manage expectations and minimise disruption to the community.

At project completion, Horizon Power intends to host a community launch event to acknowledge community involvement, mark the transition to the new energy system, and share outcomes achieved through the project. This event will provide an opportunity to close the engagement loop by reflecting on the project journey and reinforcing Horizon Power's ongoing commitment to working with the community.

7.3 Stakeholder consultation outcomes

The outcomes of the stakeholder consultation undertaken to date for the Proposed Action is provided in Table 3.

Table 3 Stakeholder consultation register

Stakeholder	Date	Type of consultation	Stakeholder comments/issue/topic raised	Outcomes/ Response
Resident & Horizon Power customer and community	16 August 2023	Community drop-in session	General support for the solar farm and discussions around potential locations.	Acknowledged and recorded.
	6 August 2025	Shire Community Strategic Planning process kick-off meeting	Highlighted low number of rate payers in the Shire and upcoming Tanami Road upgrades. Raised concerns around accessing a local solar installer. Query concerning rooftop solar in surrounding Aboriginal Communities in the Shire of Halls Creek.	Sunshine Saver product re-launch for customers unable to access rooftop solar.
Mira Consultants	16 August 2023	Community drop-in session	Raised opinion that rooftop solar is best option to help customers and small businesses. Social issues that impact this.	Acknowledged and recorded.
Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation	16 August 2023	Community drop-in session	Visits satellite remote communities regularly to undertake power interactions with members. Keen to assist with community engagement in future.	Acknowledged and recorded.
Yuri Yungi Medical Services	16 August 2023	Community drop-in session	Advised residential homeowners can't afford solar Issues with solar installation result in less benefit Consider a Kimberley grid benefitting from the Hydro plan and the hydrogen production. Move away from micro grids and seek benefit from a solar farm with an interconnected system. Businesses in Halls Creek are short lived with no interest to invest in rooftop solar There are too many social issues to put rooftop solar on social/state housing. (rocks thrown on houses no maintenance) Only 33 rate payers in Halls Creek.	Acknowledged and recorded
Shire of Halls Creek	17 August 2023	Shire meeting	Significant interest in solar energy and broader renewable solutions. Queries around anticipated solar farm yield.	Acknowledged and recorded

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			Interested in installing rooftop solar across Shire residential properties (estimated ~28 dwellings), but funding is uncertain and there is no current capacity to support additional renewable projects beyond small-scale measures. One proposed site (Site 3) is not suitable for renewables as it is earmarked for a housing estate. Town growth is anticipated from the Tanami Road upgrade. Supporters of Net Zero by 2050 pathway focused on aspirations, near-term actions and growth rather than major infrastructure projects, with rooftop solar seen as the primary practical decarbonisation lever. The Recreation Centre has rooftop solar installed but continues to face electricity bills of around \$70,000 per year. Balgo and remote communities should have solar as the floods caused issues with fuel supply to diesel generators and is not a viable or reliable energy source for the community.	
Regional Development Australia Kimberley	7 Sept 2023	Presentation	Discussed concerns surrounding energy resilience in face of recent flood events. Positive comments about projects and supporting engagement activities.	Acknowledged and recorded.
Kimberley Development Commission	20 Sept 2023	Community information session	Discussion of project and short-listed sites. Stakeholder asked to be kept updated. Request that Horizon Power ensure clear messaging to manage perceptions and combat incorrect messages regarding renewables to gain community support.	Acknowledged and recorded.
Traditional owner Groups - Jaru Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC - Ngarrawanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC - Koongie-Elvire Applicant - Yarlil Group - Malarngowem Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	December 2025	Email	Seek Aboriginal Knowledge holders for Future Energy System project	Seek Aboriginal Knowledges for Future Energy System project
Ngarrawanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	January 2026	Phone	EOI Aboriginal Knowledge holders for Future Energy System project	Email response to arrange heritage surveys

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	February 2026	Several Emails and Phone calls	Follow up on heritage surveys for Halls Creek FES project.	Received response from Heritage service provider
	Week commencing 2 nd March 2026	Email and Phone call	Follow up on heritage survey dates for Halls Creek FES.	Ongoing discussions/communications
Koongie-Elvire Applicant Meeting	January 2026	Phone	EOI Aboriginal Knowledge holders for Future Energy System project.	Response to discuss project further
	29 January 2026	Teams Meeting	Discuss FES Project.	No response
Yura Yungi Medical Services Aboriginal Corporation	November 2025	Email	Seek Aboriginal Knowledge holders for Future Energy System project.	No response – communication passed on to community noticeboard/team
Kimberley Language Resource Centre Binarri-binyja yarrawoo (BBY) Aboriginal Corporation	November 2025	Email	Seek Aboriginal Knowledge holders for Future Energy System project.	No response – communication passed on to community noticeboard/team
2025 Kimberley Economic Forum (Broome) 200 delegates	28-30 May 2025	Regional economic development event – project presentation and brochure handout	Request for project timeline update.	Estimated completion 2029-2030
2024 Kimberley Economic Forum (Kununurra) 150 delegates	28-30 August 2024	Regional economic development event – project presentation and brochure handout	Query regarding other towns and communities in the Kimberley being considered for decarbonisation	Yes, additional towns in the Kimberley are being considered for decarbonisation.

8 Assessment Against the 10 Clearing Principles

An assessment against the 10 Clearing Principles outlined by DWER (2014) has been undertaken to support the NVCP application for the Project, as presented in Table 8-1. The assessment found that the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is considered unlikely to be at variance to any of the ten clearing principles.

Table 8-1 Assessment Against the 10 Clearing Principles

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	Up to 10.76 ha of native vegetation is proposed to be cleared for the Project within the DE. Vegetation The DE is located in the Central Kimberley bioregion and the Hart sub-region. The DE is predominantly made up of VT11, which is described as (GHD, 2024): “Open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus alba</i> var. <i>australasica</i>, <i>Corymbia ferruginea</i> subsp. <i>stypophylla</i> and <i>Lysiphyllum cunninghamii</i> over open shrubland of <i>Acacia colei</i>, <i>Ehretia saligna</i> and <i>Gossypium australe</i> on brown loam clay on clay flats and rocky plains with a minor drainage line.” No TECs listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were identified within the DE. One PEC listed by DBCA was recorded: Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 (P3) (GHD, 2024). The DE intersects 36.5 ha of this PEC, with up to 10.76 ha to be cleared for the Project. This vegetation type is representative of the vegetation associations in the region, with over 99% of pre-European extents remaining. Flora 135 flora taxa from 39 families and 93 genera (including subspecies and variants) were recorded within the Survey Area (GHD, 2024). No EPBC Act or BC Act listed flora were recorded. One DBCA listed P3 flora taxa <i>Goodenia crenata</i> was recorded within the Survey Area. A total of 3 individuals were recorded from three locations (as shown on Figure 3). This species is therefore known to occur in the DE. This species has been collected over a wide area of the Central Kimberley, Ord Victoria Plain, and Tanami bioregions including from the Halls Creek local government area (WA Herbarium, 2025). Advice from DBCA noted that this species is widely distributed in the East Kimberley, therefore the species is not at an immediate risk from limited local development. No other significant flora species were identified as likely to occur post-survey. Nine of the 135 flora taxa were introduced flora taxa. No Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) or Declared Pests were recorded within the Survey Area. Fauna and fauna habitat Three fauna habitats were identified within the DE (GHD, 2024). — Eucalyptus woodland clay plain — Acacia shrubland thicket — Rocky hills and plains All three of these habitat types are considered to be high value habitat for fauna known or likely to be present within the DE (GHD, 2024). Up to 10.76 ha of native vegetation is proposed to be cleared for the Project. This vegetation is considered to be well represented locally and regionally, with biological diversity commensurate with the surrounding region. There is approximately 134,377 ha of native vegetation within a 20 km radius of the DE. Given the small scale of proposed clearing, the works are unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.

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(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous Western Australia.	Three fauna habitat types were identified in the DE (GHD, 2024): – Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain – Acacia shrubland thicket – Rocky hills and slopes A total of 69 species (45 birds, 17 mammals, 6 reptiles and 1 amphibian) were identified within the survey area. This includes three State listed Priority fauna: – Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>) – listed as P4 by DBCA and Endangered under the EPBC Act – Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (<i>Ozimops cobourgiensis</i>) - listed at P1 by DBCA – Yellow-lipped Cave Bat (<i>Vespadelus douglasorum</i>) – listed as P2 by DBCA A further nine state listed conservation significant species were considered likely to occur within the DE: – Ghost Bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>) – Vulnerable – Northern Short-tailed Mouse (<i>Leggadina lakedownensis</i>) – P4 DBCA – Northern Blue-tongue Skink (<i>Tiliqua scincoides intermedia</i>) – Critically Endangered – Gravel Dragon (<i>Cryptagama aurita</i>) – Priority One DBCA – Grey Falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>) – Vulnerable – Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) – Other Specially Protected – Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) – Migratory – Yellow Wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>) – Migratory – Oriental Pratincole (<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>) – Migratory The conservation significant species including habitat preferences are described below. Gouldian Finch The Gouldian Finch inhabits open woodlands that are dominated by Eucalyptus trees and support a ground cover of Sorghum and other grasses (Boekel, 1980). This species prefers grass (especially Sorghum) that is nearby to water. In the breeding season they inhabit unburnt hollow-bearing Eucalyptus trees (Higgins et al., 2006). The Gouldian Finch would likely utilise all three habitats present within the DE due to their foraging values. Critical habitat for the Gouldian Finch is characterised by rocky hills with hollow bearing smooth barked gums (<i>Eucalyptus brevifolia</i> or <i>E. tintinnans</i>) within 2-4 kms of small water bodies that persist throughout the dry season (O'Malley, 2006). The only water body recorded in proximity to the DE is a seasonal, minor drainage line (GHD, 2024) and there were no <i>E. brevifolia</i> or <i>E. tintinnans</i> recorded during the GHD (2024) field survey. The three habitats within the DE constitute supporting habitat for the species. This species was recorded within the Minor drainage habitat in the Survey Area (700 m from DE) and is highly likely to forage within the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain, Acacia shrubland thicket and rocky hills and slopes habitats. There are three historical records of the Gouldian Finch within 20 km of the DE. The drainage line habitat has been removed from the DE to mitigate potential impacts to this species. The Project will clear up to 10.76 ha of supporting habitat for this species. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, there is approximately	Unlikely to be at variance.
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134,377 ha of suitable habitat for the Gouldian Finch within 20 km of the DE, clearing associated with the Proposal represents 0.008% of suitable habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.

Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat

The Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat is usually associated with mangroves and coastal woodlands, where they roost in tree hollows (GHD, 2024). Based on the GHD (2024) report, it is assumed that the Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat would likely utilise the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitat. The GHD (2024) survey did not identify any suitable breeding trees within the Survey Area. Habitat critical to the survival of the Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, clearing associated with the Project represents approximately 0.008% of available habitat within a 20 km radius of the Development Envelope.

Yellow-lipped Cave Bat

The Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is confined to the West Kimberley and mostly occurs in high rainfall areas (>800 mm). The species forages in woodlands, particularly riparian vegetation in proximity to rocky habitat where it will roost in caves and crevices (GHD, 2024). This species was recorded within the Minor drainage line and Rocky hills and slopes habitats (GHD, 2024) within the Survey Area, one of these records is within the DE. The Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is likely to forage within the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitat, there are no caves present that would be suitable for breeding/roosting in the Survey Area (GHD, 2024). Habitat critical to the survival of the Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, habitat for the Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE.

Grey Falcon

The Grey Falcon is an Australian endemic, usually confined to the arid inland. It inhabits Triodia grassland, Acacia shrubland, and lightly timbered arid woodland especially stony, inland plains, gibber deserts, sand ridges, pastoral lands, and timbered watercourses, but seldom in driest deserts (Morcombe, 2004). This species is known to occupy a wide range of habitats. It is likely this species will use the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket for foraging (GHD, 2024). GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Grey Falcon is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. There is one historical record of the Grey Falcon within 20 km of the DE. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, clearing associated with the Project represents 0.008% of available habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.

Peregrine Falcon

The Peregrine Falcon is found on and near cliffs, gorges, timbered watercourses, riverine environments, wetlands, plains, open woodlands, and pylons and spires of buildings, though less frequently in desert regions (Morcombe, 2004; Pizzey & Knight, 2012). Peregrine Falcons are not common but can be found almost anywhere throughout WA. The Peregrine Falcon is likely to use the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitats for foraging (GHD, 2024). GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Peregrine Falcon is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, clearing associated with the Project represents 0.008% of available habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.

Barn Swallow

The Barn Swallow inhabits open country in coastal lowlands near water, towns and cities. They often occur on overhead wires, over freshwater wetlands, paperbark Melaleuca woodland, mesophyll shrub thickets and tussock grassland (Pizzey, 1980; Blakers et al., 1984; Schodde & Mason, 1999). The Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitats provide suitable foraging habitat for the species. GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Barn Swallow is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, habitat for the Barn Swallow is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE. Clearing of up to 10.76 ha of supporting Barn Swallow habitat represents 0.008% of available habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.

Yellow Wagtail

The Yellow Wagtail occurs in open country near swamps, salt marshes, sewerage ponds, grasses surrounding airfields, bare ground, and occasionally on drier inland plain. This species roosts in mangroves and other dense vegetation (GHD, 2024). The Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket provides suitable foraging habitat. GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Yellow Wagtail is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, clearing of up to 10.76 ha of supporting Yellow Wagtail habitat represents 0.008% of available habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.

Oriental Pratincole

This species usually inhabits open plains, floodplains or short grasslands. GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. It is likely this species will use the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitats for foraging (GHD, 2024). GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Oriental Pratincole is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, clearing of up to 10.76 ha of Oriental Pratincole habitat, represents 0.008% of available habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.

Ghost Bat

The Ghost Bat occurs in a wide range of habitats ranging from the arid Pilbara to tropical savanna woodlands and rainforests (TSSC, 2016). They require an undisturbed cave, deep fissure or disused mine shaft to roost in. The species' range is discontinuous with geographically disjunct colonies in the Pilbara, Kimberley, north Northern Territory, Gulf of Carpentaria, coastal and near coastal eastern Queensland from Cape York to near Rockhampton, and Western Queensland (TSSC, 2016). The Ghost Bats in the Kimberley are distinct from all other Australian populations with genetic structure evident in the Kimberley populations (Worthington Wilmer, 1996). A targeted assessment was undertaken for the Ghost Bat during the GHD (2024) survey; however, the Ghost Bat was not recorded within the survey area. There is no suitable roost habitat for the Ghost Bat within the Survey Area, however there is extensive potential roost habitat in the surrounding region as well as foraging habitat within the Survey Area (Rocky hills and slopes and Minor drainage line habitats). Therefore, the species is likely to forage within the Survey Area, at least on an occasional basis (GHD, 2024). The species is considered likely to occur within all three habitat types within the DE. Clearing of up to 10.76 ha of supporting habitat for the Ghost Bat represents 0.008 % of suitable available habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.

Northern Short-tailed Mouse

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
	The Northern Short-tailed Mouse is known to occur on sandy soils and cracking clays in WA. They have also been recorded on tussock grasslands in northern Australia and stony clay hummock grasslands in the Pilbara (GHD, 2024). It is likely this species will use the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitats for foraging. Therefore, the species is likely to occur in the DE. Habitat critical to the survival of the Northern Short-tailed Mouse is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, habitat for the Northern Short-tailed Mouse is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE and clearing of up to 10.76 ha of suitable habitat, represents approximately 0.008 % of available habitat within 20 km of the DE. Gravel Dragon The Gravel Dragon is found within the north-east interior of WA within a notable habitat preference for stony soils and spinifex vegetation (Wilson & Swan, 2017). The Rocky hills and slopes habitat within the Survey Area is suitable habitat for the species. Therefore, the species is likely to occur in the DE. There will be up to 10.76 ha of suitable supporting habitat for this species cleared for the Project. Overall, the fauna values of the DE are highly represented on a local and regional scale (GHD, 2024), clearing associated with this project represents approximately 0.008% of suitable habitat within a 20 km buffer of the DE, therefor, clearing of up to 10.76 ha of suitable habitat is not considered significant for this species. Northern Blue-tongue Skink The Northern Blue-tongue Skink occurs across northern Australia (DCCEEW, 2023). They move widely across the savannah landscape but spend most of their time in small, fragmented patches of habitat that offer cooler moister conditions. Individuals spend long periods within small and distinctive habitat patches, interspersed with longer directional relocations from one patch to the next. The patches provide relatively shaded, cool, and damp conditions, with higher grass and more leaf-litter cover. The location of these patches in the landscape is probably determined by drainage patterns, soil moisture-holding ability, and stochastic recruitment of shade trees (Shine 2017; Price-Rees et al., 2013). There are no records of the Northern Blue-tongue skink on the DBCA database within 20 km of the DE. The GHD (2024) survey did not record this species within the Survey Area, however, due to the presence of suitable habitat the species is considered likely to occur. The Northern Blue-tongue Skink is likely to utilise the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain, Acacia shrubland thicket and rocky hills and slopes habitat types. Based on the definition in the conservation advice for the species, all three habitat types within the DE are considered supporting habitat for the species. Based on aerial imagery and the Native Vegetation Extent (spatial dataset DPIRD-005, DPIRD, 2023) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, DPIRD, 2019) datasets, clearing of up to 10.76 ha of potential supporting Northern Blue-tongue Skink habitat represents 0.008% of available habitat within 20 km of the DE. Overall, the fauna values of the DE are highly represented on a local and regional scale (GHD, 2024) and clearing of up to 10.76 ha of fauna habitat is not considered significant. The Project is therefore unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	

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Principle	Assessment	Outcome
(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.	GHD (2024) undertook a detailed assessment for flora and vegetation in April 2024. The survey timing (April) was considered appropriate for the Northern botanical province (typically January to March) due to adequate rainfall in the region. One Priority flora species (<i>Goodenia crenata</i> (P3)) listed by DBCA was recorded from three locations during the survey, one of these records falls within the DE. No flora species listed under the EPBC Act were recorded during the survey. GHD (2024) undertook a likelihood of occurrence assessment post-field survey and concluded that no Threatened flora were considered likely to occur within the Survey Area. Native vegetation necessary for the continued existence of rare flora is not considered to occur within the Survey Area. The proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is therefore not considered to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.	The GHD (2024) survey did not record any threatened ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act, BC Act or by DBCA, nor were any considered likely to occur. 36.5 ha of the DE intersects a Priority 1 PEC, up to 10.76 ha of this ecological community may be cleared for the Project, subject to the detailed design. There is approximately 27,654 ha of this PEC mapped within a 20 km buffer of the DE. Clearing of up to 10.76 ha represents 0.043% of the extent of this PEC within 20 km buffer of the DE. This is likely to be further minimised during the detailed design phase. Therefore, the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.	The three vegetation associations within the DE have more than 99% pre-European extent remaining. The DE is not considered to be within an area that has been extensively cleared given they have more than 99% of pre-European extent. This vegetation forms part of a large continuous tract of habitat and has a high degree of habitat connectivity with surrounding vegetation, which has similar or better condition vegetation. The vegetation type identified during the survey is not confined to the Survey Area and is considered well represented in the local and regional area. Therefore, it is considered that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared for the Project is not significant as a remnant of native vegetation within an area that has been extensively cleared.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in or in association with a watercourse or wetland.	There are no wetland features present within the DE (GHD, 2024). VT09 and part of VT11 are considered to be riparian vegetation. The portions of the DE that are considered to be riparian habitat are associated with the minor drainage lines recorded in the GHD (2024) survey. These areas have been avoided in the final design of the DE and are not expected to be impacted for the Project. Two drainage lines were recorded with flowing water at the time of the survey (GHD, 2024), however, they do not intersect the DE (with the closest approximately 900 m north of the DE), therefore the Proposal is considered unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	The DE intersects the O'Donnel land system which is described as (Payne & Schoknecht, 2011: stony undulating country with scattered hills, loamy skeletal soils, open woodlands with short grasses and restricted areas of cracking clay plains. Grasslands are prone to degradation, interfluvies and drainage floors have moderate susceptibility to erosion. The DE contains soils which may be susceptible to erosion. However, standard management practices will be implemented to prevent erosion. Additionally, the DE is located in an area which has previous disturbance, next to and within the existing power station lease area. The Project will incorporate standard construction management measures to reduce the risk of soil erosion as a result of ground disturbance and clearing (Appendix A). Any dust produced during construction will also be managed through the implementation of a EMP. Given the small area to be cleared, it is not likely that the clearing will cause appreciable land degradation. Based on the above, the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.	There are no conservation areas overlapping the DE or within 50 km of the DE. No impacts to conservation areas are anticipated in association with the Project. No off-site impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed clearing of native vegetation within the DE. It is noted that management measures regarding weeds and disease will be implemented to ensure that weeds are not spread as a result of clearing activities (Appendix A). The proposed clearing is not expected to impact any adjacent conservation areas.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	The DE is within the Ord River (upper) catchment (DWER, 2026) and Elvire River sub-catchment. No permanent water bodies or drainage lines are located within the DE. Based on publicly available data, the depth to groundwater in the area surrounding the DE is estimated to be between 75-100 m below ground level (CoA, 2026). The Priority 3 portion of the Halls Creek Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) is located approximately 350 m from the DE and the Priority 1 portion of this PDWSA is located 1 km east of the DE. The DE overlaps the Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (RIWI Act). Potential impacts to surface water quality from erosion / sedimentation / hydrocarbons will be managed in accordance with the EMP. Clearing within the DE is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, therefore the Project is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the intensity of flooding.	No impacts to flood risk are expected as a result of the proposed clearing. Therefore, the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.

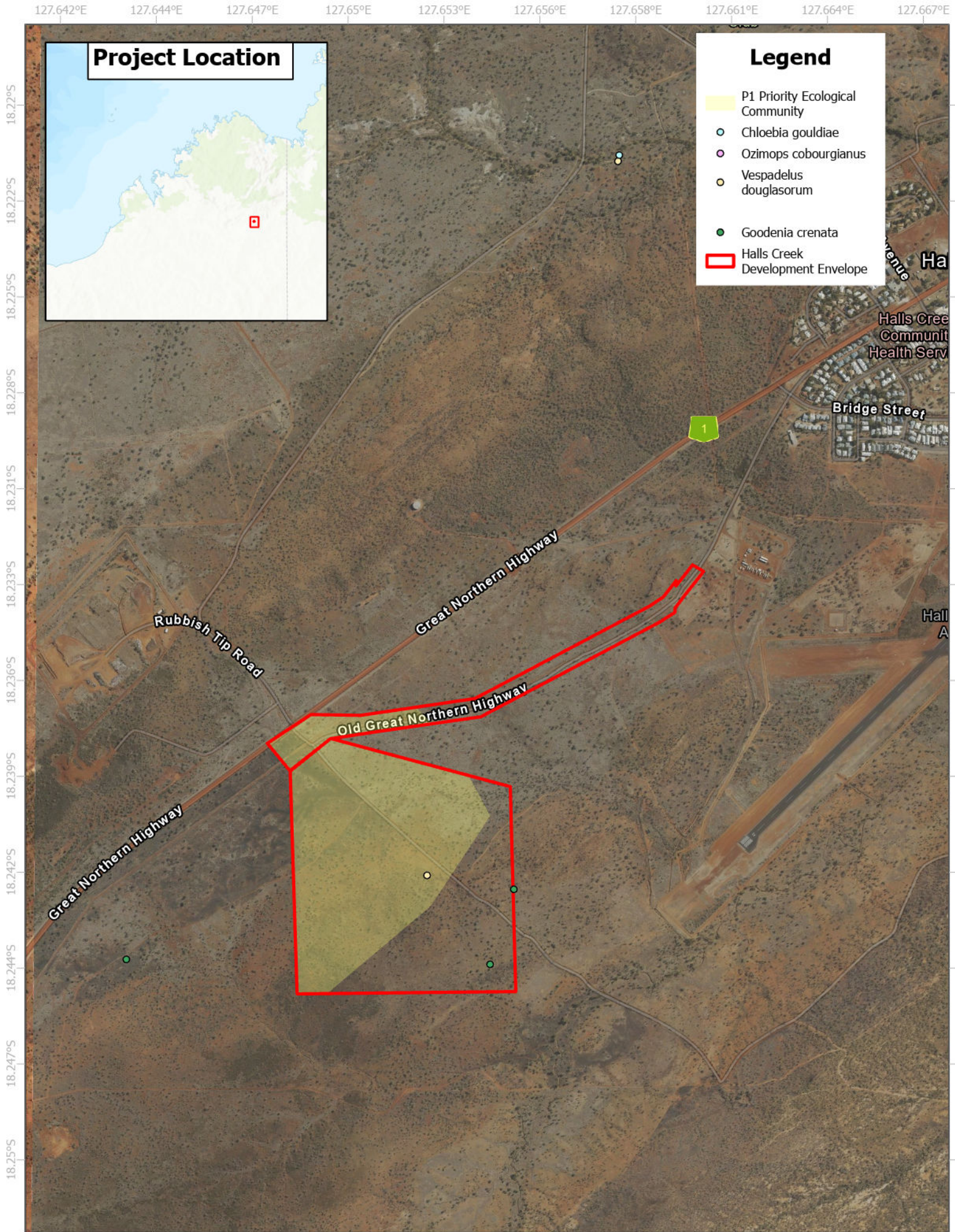


Figure 3 Environmental Sensitivities surrounding the Development Envelope



0 100 200 300 400 500
Meters

Scale: 1:15,000

9 Other matters

9.1 Land Planning

The project will be considered Public Works and is expected to be exempt from development approval under Section 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2005; however, due regard is required with respect to:

- The purpose and intent of any planning scheme that has effect in the locality where, and at the time when, the right is exercised;
- The orderly and proper planning, and the preservation of the amenity, of that locality at that time; and
- Any advice provided by the responsible authority in the course of the consultation required.

9.2 Other approvals

Other approvals	Assessment
Referral to Environmental Protection Authority	Due to the small scale of the project, it is considered that all environmental impacts can be managed under Part V of the EP Act, and referral to the EPA is not considered necessary.
Referral to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	The project will be referred to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the EPBC Act due to potential impacts for listed Threatened and Migratory species. The referral is currently being prepared. The referral is expected to result in Not a Controlled Action, based on the small amount of clearing proposed.
Works Approval or Licence under EP Act	The project may require approval from DWER through a works approval/licence application under Part V of the EP Act if a concrete batching plant is required for construction. This will be obtained by the contractor prior to delivery as required.
Groundwater or surface water licence under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914	Horizon Power is permitted to access water under Section 42 and 49 of the <i>Electricity Operator (Powers) Act 1979</i> . Any licences required for construction water will be acquired by the construction contractor.
Notice of Intent to Clear system under the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945	Not Applicable.
State and municipal heritage	A search of the Heritage Council WA inherit database confirms no State or municipal Heritage sites occur within the DE (DPLH, 2026).
Native title	The Proposed Action is not located within a Native Title Determination Area (Landgate, 2026).
Aboriginal Sites of Significance under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972	A search of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS) shows that the publicly known boundaries of one Registered site intersect the DE: – Halls Creek (ID 14324): Creation/Dreaming Narrative; Painting According to ACHIS, the DE does not intersect the known boundaries of any Lodged or Historic sites. The registered Aboriginal heritage site overlaps a small, largely cleared portion of the Development Envelope (DE) associated with the existing power station. In 2025, Horizon Power received written advice from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) confirming that no further approvals are required under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> (AHA) in this area, as the proposed works do not intersect the site boundaries. The remainder of the DE is not subject to any registered heritage sites and has been partially disturbed by historical land use activities. As the area has not previously been surveyed, the presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage values cannot be entirely ruled out. There is no native title determination or registered claim over this area. Consultation with the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) did not identify any relevant knowledge holders, and KLC was unable to assist further. On advice from the DPLH, Horizon Power undertook a public notice process in late 2025 inviting Aboriginal people with relevant cultural knowledge of the DE to come forward. Two separate parties initially responded to Horizon Power; however, only one has progressed to participation in a heritage survey. Ngarrawanji are scheduled to undertake an Aboriginal heritage survey in late May 2026. Horizon Power is committed to avoid impacting on Aboriginal cultural heritage whenever and

Other approvals	Assessment
	wherever possible, in line with its Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Policy. The outcomes of the Ngarrawanji survey will inform decisions relating to site suitability, construction activities and asset placement and ensure avoidance of any heritage values. The potential risk to Aboriginal cultural heritage within the DE is considered low, having regard to the limited interest expressed by parties with relevant cultural knowledge, the planned heritage survey to be undertaken by the sole interested party, and the results of the desktop assessment and review of historical land use.

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Attachment A: Environment Management Plan

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Halls Creek Future Energy System Environmental Management Plan

June 2026

PROTECTED

EPBC Number	Not applicable (yet to be submitted)
Project Name	Halls Creek Future Energy System
Proponent / Approval holder	Regional Power Corporation, trading as (T/A) Horizon Power
ACN or ABN	ABN 57 955 011 697
The Project	Horizon Power is proposing to construct a future energy system in Halls Creek in the east Kimberley region of WA (the Proposed Action).
Location of the Action	The solar and BESS facility will be located approximately 3 km south-west of Halls Creek, with the network connection route following Old Great Northern Hwy to the existing power station in Halls Creek. The new thermal power station would be installed adjacent to the existing power station.

Declaration of Accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that section 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) makes it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents to specified persons who are known to be performing a duty or carrying out a function under the EPBC Act or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (Cth). The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed:



Full name:

Daniel Kippin

Organisation:

Horizon Power

Date:

8/6/2026

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Document version control

Report Compilation & Review	Name and position	Document revision	Date
Author:	Hannah Raphael Environmental Consultant	Rev 0	08/03/2026
Reviewer:	Lisa Boulden Principal Environmental Consultant	Rev 0	08/03/2026
Approved for issue:	Daniel Kippin	Rev 1	8/6/2026

Version	Date	Description (reason for changes)
Rev A	09/03/2026	Draft for client review
Rev 0	08/05/2026	Addressing client comments
Rev 1	04/06/2026	Addressing client comments and finalising for submission

Table of contents

1	Introduction	7
1.1	Background	7
1.2	Key elements of the project.....	7
1.2.1	Project location	7
1.3	Purpose of this document.....	9
1.4	Main potential impacts.....	9
1.5	Summary of mitigation strategies	10
2	Conditions of approval	12
3	Proposed Action description	13
3.1	Pre-construction	13
3.2	Construction.....	13
3.3	Operations	15
4	Objectives	16
5	Risk Assessment.....	17
6	Environmental Management Measures.....	20
6.1	Environmental Management Activities, Controls and Performance Targets.....	20
6.1.1	Environmental Management Actions	20
6.2	Monitoring	29
7	Reporting	37
7.1	Reporting Requirements.....	37
7.2	Environmental Incidents / Non-compliances	37
8	Environmental management roles and responsibilities.....	39
9	Environmental Training	40
10	Audit and Review	41
10.1	Environmental auditing	41
10.2	Environmental Management Plan Review	41
11	References	42

Table index

Table 1-1	Summary of EPBC EMP guidelines and relevant section within EMP	9
Table 1-2	Summary of key mitigation measures	10
Table 5-1	Likelihood	17
Table 5-2	Qualitative Measure of Consequence	17
Table 5-3	Risk Rating.....	17
Table 5-4	Environmental Risk Assessment	18
Table 6-1	Environmental Management Measures to Mitigate Impacts to MNES	21

Table 7-1 Reporting Requirements.....37

Table 8-1 Project Board Roles and Responsibilities.....39

Table 10-1. Environmental audit schedule 41

Figure index

Figure 1-1 Project Location and Development Envelope 8



Glossary

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
ABN	Australian Business Number
ASS	Acid Sulfate Soils
ASSMP	Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment and Water
DE	Development Envelope
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPBC	<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation 1999</i>
FES	Future Energy System
GPS	Global Positioning System
JHA	Job Hazard Assessment
m	metres
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
MW	megawatt
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PV	Photovoltaic
WoNS	Weeds of National Significance

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Horizon Power is proposing to construct a Future Energy System (FES) in Halls Creek in the Kimberley region of WA (the Proposed Action). The Proposed Action will ensure security of energy supply to Halls Creek after the expiry of the existing power purchase agreement (PPA). As part of the future energy supply to the town, Horizon Power is targeting higher renewables and a reduction in carbon emissions.

1.2 Key elements of the project

The Proposed Action will nominally consist of solar photovoltaic (PV) system (up to 4 megawatts alternating current (MWAC)), battery energy storage systems (BESS) (up to 2 megawatts MW / 2 megawatt-hour (MWh)), a network connection route (up to 3 kilometres (km)) and new thermal power station (up to 4 MW).

A Development Envelope (DE) has been utilised for the Proposed Action approvals, as the exact location of Proposed Action elements are unknown and will be subject to detailed design in the future. The DE has a total extent of 64.42 hectares (ha) and represents the boundary surrounding the Proposed Action within which all development will be contained.

Construction and operation of the Proposed Action will require permanent clearing of up to 11.37 ha. It should be noted that this 11.37 ha clearing extent represents the maximum area of disturbance required to construct and install the Proposed Action, where opportunities are available, clearing will be minimised.

1.2.1 Project location

The solar PV and BESS will be installed at a site approximately 3 km south-west of Halls Creek, on a portion of Lot 504 on Deposited Plan 400197, Reserve 23136. The network connection route corridor will follow Old Great Northern Hwy to connect the solar PV and BESS to the existing power station. The network connection will be an underground electrical distribution and will be up to 3 km long. The new thermal power station would be installed adjacent to the site of the existing power station location on a portion of Lot 9005 on Deposited Plan 69970.

The location of the Proposed Action is shown in Figure 1-1.

Figure 1-1 Proposed Action location and Development Envelope



LEGEND

Development envelope

Roads

0

0.2

0.3

Kilometers

N

A3 1:7,000

GDA2020 MGA Zone 52

Halls Creek

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1.3 Purpose of this document

The purpose of this Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is to support the referral under the EPBC Act and describe how the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action will be monitored, reported on and managed.

This document has been prepared in accordance with 'Environmental Management Plan Guidelines' (DCCEEW, 2024). The requirements of the guideline and where they have been addressed in this EMP are shown in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1 Summary of EPBC EMP guidelines and relevant section within EMP

Requirement	Section Reference
Cover page and declaration of accuracy	Start of this document
Document version control	Start of this document
Table of contents	Start of this document
Executive summary or introduction	Section 1
Conditions of approval reference table	Section 2
Project description	Section 3
Objectives	Section 4
Environmental management roles and responsibilities	Section 8
Reporting	Section 7
Environmental training	Section 9
Emergency contacts and procedures	Table 6-1
Potential environmental impacts and risks	Section 1.4
Environmental management measures	Section 6
Audit and review	Section 10
Glossary	Start of this document

1.4 Main potential impacts

The Proposed Action may have potential impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). The following MNES may be impacted by the Proposed Action:

- Listed Threatened species and ecological communities
- Listed Migratory species.

Direct impacts to Threatened and Migratory fauna species during construction of the Proposed Action will be limited to clearing of up to 11.37 ha across the three fauna habitats, including:

- Up to 5.76 ha of Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain, which provides supporting habitat for the Gouldian Finch, Ghost Bat, Grey Falcon, Northern Blue-tongue Skink, Barn Swallow, Oriental Pratincole and Yellow Wagtail.
- Up to 5.61 ha of Rocky hills and slopes, which provides supporting habitat for the Gouldian Finch and Ghost Bat.

Additionally, construction and operation of the Proposed Action may result in the following indirect impacts to Threatened and Migratory species, through:

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- Fauna injury/death from vehicle strike, clearing activities or direct collision with infrastructure.
- Fauna activity disturbance from temporary increase in noise/vibration/light, attraction of feral animals, increased risk of fire, and increased generation of dust during construction.

1.5 Summary of mitigation strategies

The main mitigation strategies for the Proposed Action are outlined in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2 Summary of key mitigation measures

Mitigation strategy	Performance target
Construction – fauna habitat management	
– The extent of the approved clearing will be clearly communicated in documentation.	– No unauthorised clearing of EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna habitats.
– Infrastructure and temporary clearing will be preferentially positioned within or adjacent to existing cleared areas.	– Minimise clearing of EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna habitats. – Existing cleared areas utilised for laydowns and other temporary construction areas where possible.
Construction – general management	
– Implementation of standard ASS management measures.	– No mobilisation of ASS during construction.
– Implementation of standard fire management measures (fire-resistant barriers, fire extinguishers, hot works permit).	– No accidental fires as a result of construction activities.
– Implementation of standard weed management measures.	– Avoid the introduction and/or spread of weeds.
– Measures to prevent mortality or injury of EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna during construction. – Site personnel inductions regarding Threatened and Migratory fauna and direct and indirect impacts (e.g. risk of vehicle strike, interaction with construction activities, adherence to speed limits, waste management and control of feral animals). – Clearing will be undertaken progressively in one direction to allow fauna dispersal.	– Minimise EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna mortality and injury during construction.
– Implementation of standard construction measures for noise, light and vibration during construction.	– Minimise disturbance to EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna from noise, light and vibration during construction. – Noise emissions will be kept to a minimum during daylight hours. No increase in noise will occur during night time hours. – Lighting towers will not be in the same location for longer than 6 months.
– Implementation of standard dust measures (e.g. water trucks) during construction.	– No excessive dust nuisance events recorded.
– Implementation of standard construction measures for erosion and surface water during construction.	– No excessive sedimentation or erosion events recorded. – Minimise indirect impacts to surrounding/adjacent areas from altered surface water drainage and flows.

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Mitigation strategy	Performance target
– Implementation of standard spill response measures.	– No uncontrolled pollution incidents recorded.
Operation – general measures	
– Ad-hoc weed checks during operational maintenance activities.	– No new weed occurrences as a result of the Proposed Action.
– Implementation of standard dust control measures (e.g. use of defined haul routes).	– No excessive dust nuisance events recorded.
– Operational light review.	– Minimise light emissions to surrounding natural environment that may impact fauna.

2 Conditions of approval

As the Proposed Action is currently progressing through assessment under the EPBC Act, condition requirements are not applicable. If necessary, conditions of approval will be added to this section of the EMP.

3 Proposed Action description

Along with the solar and BESS facility, thermal power station and network connection, the additional construction and operational requirements for the Proposed Action are detailed in Section 3.1, Section 3.2 and Section 3.3.

3.1 Pre-construction

Pre-construction activities will occur up to 12 months prior to construction and involve the following activities:

- Solar and BESS facility, network connection route, and thermal power station site surveying and marking – surveying personnel utilising Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment to mark Proposed Action boundaries and exclusion zones.
- Solar and BESS facility soil and geotechnical investigations – geotechnical engineering and crew utilising excavators and vehicle mounted drill rig will conduct borehole drilling, soil sampling, soil testing and compaction tests. Up to 10 boreholes to a depth of 25 metres (m) and up to 5 tests pits (up to 5 metres (m) width by 5 m width) and up to 3 m depth may be conducted to support the geotechnical investigations. No more than 10 m x 10 m of clearing is permitted per test location. Geotechnical investigations may require driving on vegetation to access test locations.
- Network Connection Route geotechnical investigations – geotechnical engineering and crew utilising excavators and vehicle mounted drill rig to conduct borehole drilling, soil sampling, soil testing and compaction tests. Up to 10 boreholes to a depth of up to 25 m and up to 5 tests pits (up to 5 m width by 5 m width) and up to 3 m depth may be conducted to support the geotechnical investigations. Access is expected to be from the existing road. No more than 10 m x 10 m of clearing is permitted per test location. Geotechnical investigations may require driving on vegetation to access test locations.
- Thermal power station geotechnical investigations – geotechnical engineering and crew utilising excavators and vehicle mounted drill rig to conduct borehole drilling, soil sampling, soil testing and compaction tests. Up to 10 borehole drilling, soil sampling, soil testing and compaction tests. Up to 10 boreholes to a depth of 25 m and up to 5 tests pits (2 m width by 3 m width) up to 3 m depth may be conducted to support the geotechnical investigations. Geotechnical investigations may require driving on vegetation to access test locations.

3.2 Construction

The construction phase is expected to commence in 2028 for a duration of up to 24 months. Clearing of native vegetation is expected to take approximately 4 to 6 weeks and will be undertaken at the commencement of construction. Construction activities will be determined by weather due to access restrictions during the wet season in the Kimberley, which typically occurs between November and April.

Construction personnel will consist of a Proposed Action workforce of up to 50 staff. Construction works will consist of:

- Clearing of up to 11.37 ha of vegetation, topsoil removal and stockpiling, grading and excavations.
- Weed control measures to manage the spread of invasive weeds.
- Supply of concrete will be either through the establishment of a temporary on-site concrete batch plant or concrete truck deliveries. Licences will be obtained by the contractor as required in accordance with Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
- Supply of water for construction purposes will be either trucked water or construction of a bore, with licenses obtained in accordance with the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*.

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- Supply of civil materials for ground levelling and fill will be trucked in from local sources.
- During construction, temporary laydown areas, ablutions, kitchen, offices, crib room, first aid, water supply, generators and other supporting facilities will be established onsite.
- Installation of the solar PV and BESS consisting of ground mounted solar panels, inverters, transformers, cabling, battery containers, substation and other ancillary infrastructure:
 - Solar PV panels and frame will be nominally up to 4 m tall from ground level. The battery containers, substation and office building will nominally be up to 5 m tall.
 - Footings of the solar system will involve either installed piles or concrete blocks. The piles solution may involve up to 5,000 steel piles (250 mm diameter) installed to a nominal depth of up to 5 m.
 - Excavation works for footings for the substation, battery system, office building and other ancillary infrastructure may involve excavation of up to 1,000 m³ of soil (footing depth typically up to 2 m deep).
 - Excavation works for internal electrical cabling may involve excavation of up to 20 km of trenching and up to 1.5 m deep, resulting in excavation of up to 1,000 m³ of soil.
- Installation of a network connection from the solar and BESS facility, following Old Great Northern Hwy to the existing power station. The network connection will be an underground distribution:
 - Underground – Trenching excavations and reinstatement of up to 3 km and up to 3 m wide and up to 2 m deep, total excavation of up to 5,000 m³ of soil.
- Installation of the new thermal power station:
 - Excavation works for footings for the thermal power station may involve excavation of up to 500 m³ of soil (footing depth typically up to 2.5 m deep).
 - Excavation works for internal electrical cabling and gas piping may involve excavation of up to 0.5 km of trenching and up to 2.5 m deep, resulting in excavation of up to 500 m³ of soil.
 - Installation of the power station including up to 4 engine generators, transformers, substation, cooling system, gas supply system, electrical and control cabling, gas pipelines and other auxiliary infrastructure. Engine generators, transformers and power station will be up to 5 m tall from ground level, while engine stacks may be up to 30 m tall.
 - Delivery and installation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) storage tanks and vaporisers.
 - Installation of piping, valves and associated instruments.
 - Electrical works including power supply, lighting and control system.
 - 2 ha of clearing for the construction of the unloading bay for receiving LNG deliveries via road tankers.
 - Installation of control and safety systems including but not limited to fire suppression, gas detection and emergency shutdown systems.
 - Installation of ancillary infrastructure such as fencing, lighting and utility connections.
- Construction of access tracks.

Typical heavy machinery and vehicles are proposed to be utilised onsite during the construction phase will include (not limited to):

- Bulldozer
- Excavator
- Grader
- Telehandler

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- Trenching machines
- Horizontal directional driller
- Cable reel trailers
- Hydraulic pullers
- Water cart
- Loader
- Cranes
- Semi-trailer truck
- Light vehicles.

3.3 Operations

The operational phase is expected to commence in 2030, with operational personnel shifts conducted during daylight hours at the solar and BESS facility while the solar is producing energy. Operations personnel will consist of a local workforce of up to three personnel per shift. There will be no accommodation onsite, personnel will commute to site daily.

Activities associated with the operational phase will include:

- Operation and maintenance/monitoring of the solar and BESS facility, network connection, substation and thermal power station.
- Pressure testing and leak detection, system integration and functional testing.
- Regulatory inspections and approvals.
- Routine maintenance activities for the solar and BESS facility and thermal power station including visual inspections, solar panel cleaning (if required), solar panel replacement, minor and major services, electrical inspections and testing.
- Regular maintenance of the network line. Activities will include visual inspections, thermal imaging and electrical testing.
 - Routine maintenance activities including weed control.
- Ongoing maintenance such as vegetation control, stormwater/drainage management, wildlife monitoring and reporting.

Machinery and vehicles used onsite during operational phase will typically include light vehicles, semi-trailer truck, cranes and telehandler.

4 Objectives

This EMP utilises objective-based components. The selection of objective-based components rather than outcome-based components is due to the Proposed Actions' construction activities posing environmental risks that are generally intermittent, episodic or acute impact events that are less applicable to long term outcome measurement and reporting.

The management-based components provided within this EMP seek to align with established industry practices to avoid and minimise potential environmental impacts. This EMP has the following objectives for the MNES identified in the referral of the Proposed Action:

1. Minimise EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna habitat loss
2. Minimise mortality or injury to EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna during construction
3. Minimise disturbance to EPBC Act listed Threatened or Migratory fauna from noise, light and vibration during construction
4. Avoid the attraction of feral animals during construction
5. Minimise disturbance to EPBC Act listed Threatened or Migratory fauna from increased generation of dust during construction
6. Prevent indirect impacts on fauna habitats due to accidental fires.

Additional general management objectives for the Proposed Action include:

1. No mobilisation of Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) during construction
2. All suspected contamination is characterised and appropriately managed
3. All accidental spills or leaks of hazardous materials or waste is appropriately managed
4. No noticeable increase in sediment discharge or soil erosion
5. Minimise the spread and/or introduction of weeds.

5 Risk Assessment

A risk assessment is required as part of the DCCEEW's 'Environmental Management Plan Guidelines' (DCCEEW, 2024). Each environmental risk for MNES related to the Proposed Action has been given a rating in terms of likelihood and consequence using the criteria outlined in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2 below. These ratings are then combined using Table 5-3 to generate a risk rating of low, medium, high or severe.

Table 5-1 Likelihood

Likelihood	Criteria
Highly Likely	Is expected to occur in most circumstances
Likely	Will probably occur during the life of the project
Possible	Might occur during the life of the project
Unlikely	Could occur but considered unlikely or doubtful
Rare	May occur in exceptional circumstances

Table 5-2 Qualitative Measure of Consequence

Consequence	Criteria
Minor	Minor incident of environmental damage that can be reversed
Moderate	Isolated but substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts
High	Substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts
Major	Major loss of environmental amenity and real danger of continuing
Critical	Severe widespread loss of environmental amenity and irrecoverable environmental damage

Table 5-3. Risk Rating

Likelihood	Consequence				
	Minor	Moderate	High	Major	Critical
Highly Likely	Medium	High	High	Severe	Severe
Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Severe
Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Severe
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High

The risk rating for each environmental risk has been assessed and is outlined in Table 5-4.

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Table 5-4 Environmental Risk Assessment

Development Phase	Potential Impact	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk	Planned Mitigation	Likelihood	Consequence	Residual Risk
Pre-construction / construction phase	Loss of fauna habitat through clearing, including habitat for significant fauna species in excess of the approved extent.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	As detailed in 6.1.1.	Unlikely	Moderate	Low
	Fauna mortality or injury from vehicle strike, clearing activities or direct collision with infrastructure.	Possible	Moderate	Medium		Rare	Moderate	Low
	Fauna activity disturbance from temporary increase in noise/vibration/light.	Possible	Minor	Low		Rare	Minor	Low
	Fauna activity disturbance from attraction of feral animals as a result of the Proposed Action.	Possible	Moderate	Medium		Rare	Moderate	Low
	Fauna habitat loss from accidental fires as a result of the Proposed Action.	Possible	Moderate	Medium		Rare	Moderate	Low
	Fauna activity disturbance from increased generation of dust during construction.	Unlikely	Minor	Low		Rare	Minor	Low
	Mobilisation of ASS during construction as a result of the Proposed Action.	Unlikely	Minor	Low		Rare	Minor	Low
	Contamination is not appropriately characterised and managed.	Possible	Moderate	Medium		Unlikely	Moderate	Low
	Accidental spills or leaks of hazardous materials or waste is not appropriately managed.	Possible	High	Medium		Unlikely	Moderate	Low
	Noticeable increase in sediment discharge or soil erosion as a result of the Proposed Action.	Possible	Moderate	Medium		Rare	Minor	Low

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Development Phase	Potential Impact	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk	Planned Mitigation	Likelihood	Consequence	Residual Risk
	Spread and/or introduction of weeds as a result of the Proposed Action.	Possible	Moderate	Medium		Rare	Minor	Low
Operation	Introduction and spread of weed species as a result of the Proposed Action.	Possible	Moderate	Medium		Unlikely	Moderate	Low
	Fauna activity disturbance from increased generation of dust during operation.	Possible	Moderate	Medium		Unlikely	Moderate	Low
	Fauna activity disturbance from increased light emissions to surrounding environment during operation.	Possible	Moderate	Medium		Unlikely	Moderate	Low

6 Environmental Management Measures

Mitigation and management of the potential direct and indirect impacts on MNES associated with the Proposed Action will be implemented in accordance with standard construction industry environmental practices, as well as relevant Horizon Power standards and procedures.

An overview of the mitigation and management measures proposed is provided in the following sections. This includes identification of each impact/risk, a description of each measure proposed, the location and timing for each measure, monitoring and reporting requirements, and performance and completion criteria. Measures have been developed to be consistent with the layout as contained within the DCCEEW Environmental Management Plan Guidelines (DCCEEW, 2024).

6.1 Environmental Management Activities, Controls and Performance Targets

6.1.1 Environmental Management Actions

In order to comply with relevant environmental legislation and manage the impacts to the local environment, Horizon Power has defined objective, outcomes and management-based provisions to ensure that impacts to the noted MNES are avoided and minimised as far as practicable during implementation of the Proposed Action (Table 6-1).

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Table 6-1 Environmental Management Measures to Mitigate Impacts to MNES

Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Management Measure	Performance Target / Completion Criteria	Timing	Monitoring / Reporting Activity	Corrective Action Trigger(s)	Corrective Action	Corrective Action Responsibility
Construction – EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna							
Minimise EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna habitat loss.	- Clearing and ground disturbing activities (including soil and geotechnical investigations) limited to the defined clearing limits and boundaries described within the approval document. - Driving for geotechnical investigations will be in convoy and no more than 10 m x 10 m of clearing is permitted per test location. - The extent of the approved clearing will be clearly communicated in documentation and inductions.	- Drawings, inductions and shape/CAD files showing approved clearing areas provided to Construction Contractor Representative. - Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or equivalent to include the risks and mitigation actions to be understood and adhered to as they pertain to the contractor and scope of work on the JHA. - Track logs from soil and geotechnical investigations of where vehicles have driven within the predefined clearing limits. - Inspection of clearing extents during clearing activities to confirm no over clearing (including soil and geotechnical investigations).	- Prior to commencement of clearing. - During clearing	- Contractor to check that drawings, inductions and shape/CAD files show correct approved clearing areas. - Record of provision of drawings and shape/CAD files showing approved clearing areas. - All relevant contractors to sign onto JHA or equivalent. - Pre-clearing photos to be documented and daily inspection of clearing extents during clearing activities and weekly inspections during the remainder of construction to confirm no over clearing. - Visual inspection and record of cleared areas to be undertaken post-clearing to confirm no over clearing and relevant shapefiles provided to Horizon Power. - Track logs from soil and geotechnical investigations to show no vehicle movement outside of predefined clearing limits. - Clearing area shapefiles from soil and geotechnical investigations to show no clearing outside of predefined clearing limits. - Report unauthorised clearing as soon as practicable after identified.	- Drawings and inductions do not show correct approved clearing areas. - Shape/CAD files not provided. - JHA does not include risk of clearing outside approved area and outside of DE.	- All clearing activities will cease immediately. Clearing will not recommence until clearing boundaries have been checked and confirmed to be accurately maintained. - In the event of an incident, recommencement will only occur once approval is granted by the Horizon Power Manager Sustainability. - In the event of an environmental incident, a thorough record will be maintained, and an investigation into its causes will be initiated. In cases of unauthorized clearance of vegetation containing habitats for MNES, an assessment for potential rehabilitation will be conducted. - Notification will be provided to DCCEE along with the investigation report, should any specified triggers be met or exceeded.	- Construction Contractor Environmental Officer - Horizon Power Project manager - Horizon Power Manager Sustainability.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Management Measure	Performance Target / Completion Criteria	Timing	Monitoring / Reporting Activity	Corrective Action Trigger(s)	Corrective Action	Corrective Action Responsibility
	Personnel access routes and parking will be restricted and clearly demarcated on site.	- Approved clearing areas including designated access routes and parking areas to be clearly demarcated on site and communicated appropriately. - Routine inspection of project defined clearing limits and boundaries demarcation during clearing activities - Daily inspection of clearing extents during clearing activities and weekly inspections during the remainder of construction to confirm no over clearing.	- Prior to commencement of clearing. - During construction.	- Vegetation clearing records. - Report unauthorized clearing as soon as practicable after identified. - Construction site plan showing all approved access areas. - Daily site inspections during clearing and weekly inspections during the remainder of construction.	- Construction site plan does not show correct approved access areas. - Site inspections show access. - Routes and parking areas not clearly demarcated.	Review and amend construction site plan and physically demarcate the areas on site.	Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	Review environmental constraints that are outlined in approval documents during detailed design and avoid sensitivities where possible.	Pre-construction reviews of the construction plan shows that infrastructure is placed in cleared areas where practicable.	During construction.	Construction site plan showing all approved access areas.	Preconstruction review does not show that infrastructure is placed in cleared areas where practicable.	Review and amend construction site plan.	Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	Areas required for temporary construction purposes and areas required for operational maintenance and repair activities, will be located within existing cleared areas, or areas required for permanent infrastructure, where possible.	- Drawings, inductions and shape/CAD files showing approved clearing areas provided to Construction Contractor Representative. - Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or equivalent to include the risks and mitigation actions to be understood and adhered to as they pertain to the contractor and scope of work on the JHA.	Prior to and during construction and operation.	- Daily inspection of project defined clearing limits and boundaries demarcation during clearing activities and weekly inspections during the remainder of construction. - Vegetation clearing records. - Report unauthorized clearing as soon as practicable after identified.	- Drawings and inductions do not show correct approved clearing areas. - Shape/CAD files not provided. - JHA does not include risk of clearing outside approved area.	Review and amend construction site plan and physically demarcate the areas on site.	- Construction Contractor Environmental Officer. - Horizon Power Project Manager.
	Minimise clearing to the extent required during construction, and the ongoing maintenance and operation of the assets.	- Routine inspection of project defined clearing limits and boundaries demarcation during clearing activities. - Daily inspection of clearing extents during clearing activities and weekly inspections during the remainder of construction to confirm no over clearing.	- During construction. - During operation.	- Vegetation clearing records. - Report unauthorized clearing as soon as practicable after identification.	- Drawings and inductions do not show correct approved clearing areas. - Shape/CAD files not provided. - JHA does not include risk of clearing outside approved area.	Review and amend construction site plan and physically demarcate the areas on site.	- Construction Contractor Environmental Officer. - Horizon Power Project Manager.
Minimise mortality or injury to EPBC Act listed Threatened or Migratory fauna during construction. Avoid the attraction of feral animals during construction.	Personnel induction regarding threatened and migratory fauna direct and indirect impacts (e.g., risk of vehicle strike, interaction with construction activities such as trenching, waste management, introduction of feral animals, requirement to report sightings of feral animals, no feeding of native and/or feral animals and no pets, traps or firearms allowed on site).	Record of all site personnel that have undertaken the induction.	Prior to construction.	Induction records.	- Quarterly inspection finds personnel working on site not correctly inducted. - Personnel not complying with requirement.	- Personnel not correctly inducted will cease work and recommence after the induction. - Refresher training will be conducted within 1 week of determining that requirement is not being met.	Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Management Measure	Performance Target / Completion Criteria	Timing	Monitoring / Reporting Activity	Corrective Action Trigger(s)	Corrective Action	Corrective Action Responsibility
	Local road speed limits will be followed, with speed limits under 40 km/hr within the internal access tracks in order to avoid fauna strikes during clearing and construction.	No incidents of speeding within the construction site boundary (defined as the area of works within the DE).	During construction.	- Visual monitoring by all construction personnel. - Incident reporting.	Any incident of speeding within the construction boundary.	Refresher training will be conducted within 1 week.	Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	General construction waste material and food waste to be appropriately managed and disposed of off-site at an appropriate facility.	- Routine inspections of waste storage and handling areas. - Waste stored in fauna-proof containers and disposed of appropriately.	During construction.	- Weekly inspection. - Waste disposal records.	Weekly inspection finds waste not being disposed of appropriately.	Review and update waste management and increase frequency of inspections or collections as required.	Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	Clearing will be undertaken progressively in one direction, to allow fauna dispersal.	Clearing is undertaken progressively in the same direction, reducing probability of fauna injury or mortality.	During construction.	- Clearing records. - Record known injuries to, or deaths of conservation significant fauna species in a Conservation Significant Fauna Interaction Register as soon as possible as the injury or death is identified.	Clearing is not undertaken progressively in one direction.	Refresher training conducted within 1 week of determining that requirement is not being met.	Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	Prior to the commencement of clearing, a licenced fauna specialist will be present for a pre-clearance survey to oversee the works. If any listed fauna is identified during the pre-clearance survey, clearing will stop until the listed fauna has moved out of the clearing area or has been relocated by the licenced fauna specialist.	Commencement of mechanical clearing of vegetation occurs with a licenced fauna specialist in attendance.	Prior to clearing.	- Internal project clearing permit, signed by Supervisor. - Licenced fauna specialist to report on areas they inspected, the species found and the location of where any fauna were released to.	Commencement of clearing occurs without a licenced fauna specialist.	- Clearing will cease immediately until a licenced fauna specialist is present. - Incident will be recorded, and the cause investigated.	Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	Management of excavations including: - Excavations shall remain open for the minimal required time to facilitate the ongoing construction. - Excavations will be done in sections. - Fauna escape batters, ramps or egress ladders will be implemented in excavated areas where required to be left open overnight. - Posts shall be raised as soon as practical after the holes are excavated, and holes will not be left open overnight where possible. Where excavations required to be left open overnight, fauna egress points will be made. - Any excavations required will generally not be left open and an inspection will be undertaken at the commencement of each workday, to identify and address any potential instances of trapped animals.	- No incidents to MNES species due to excavations remaining open. - Daily inspections of non-battered excavations during construction to identify trapped fauna and to enable capture and relocation.	During construction.	- Daily monitoring for trapped fauna during construction in non-battered excavations. - Record known injuries to, or deaths of conservation significant fauna species in a Conservation Significant Fauna Interaction. Register as soon as possible as the injury or death is identified. - Licenced fauna handler to report on areas they inspected, the species found and the location of where any fauna were released to.	- Fauna egress within excavations sites has not been installed. - Dead or injured fauna as a result of interaction with trenches on site.	- Refresher training will be conducted within 1 week of determining that requirement is not being met. - Inspection will be undertaken daily to ensure fauna egress is installed correctly.	Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Management Measure	Performance Target / Completion Criteria	Timing	Monitoring / Reporting Activity	Corrective Action Trigger(s)	Corrective Action	Corrective Action Responsibility
	– In the event of EPBC Act listed threatened fauna injury, advice shall be sought from local qualified wildlife organisations/persons. – Sick or injured wildlife will be allocated to an appropriate specialist organisation for care. – Fauna fatality and injury will be recorded as an environmental incident.	– In case of fauna injury, advice undertaken and, if necessary, relocation of rescue animals to an appropriate specialised organisation. – Daily inspections of non-battered excavations during construction to identify trapped fauna and to enable capture and relocation and/or treatment.	– During construction.	– Animal injury or fatalities reported as an incident in the incident records system. – Record known injuries to, or deaths of conservation significant fauna species in a Conservation Significant Fauna Interaction Register as soon as possible as the injury or death is identified. – Licenced fauna handler to report on areas they inspected, the species found and the location of where any fauna were released to.	– Fauna injured without proper rescue undertaken.	– The appropriate specialised organisation will be contacted to assist with rescue/movement of fauna if possible. – Refresher training will be conducted. – The incident will be reported, and the cause investigated.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	Night-time vehicle movements during construction will be limited where possible to minimise the potential for vehicle strikes. Working hours will generally take place between during daylight hours.	In case of fauna injury, advice undertaken and, if necessary, relocation of rescue animals to an appropriate specialised organisation.	– During construction.	– Animal injury or fatalities reported as an incident in the incident records system. – Record known injuries to, or deaths of conservation significant fauna species in a Conservation Significant Fauna Interaction Register as soon as the injury or death is identified.	– Fauna injured without proper rescue undertaken.	– The appropriate specialised organisation will be contacted to assist with rescue/movement of fauna if possible. – Refresher training will be conducted. – The incident will be reported, and the cause investigated.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
Minimise disturbance to EPBC Act listed Threatened or Migratory fauna from noise, light and vibration during construction.	– Construction activities not undertaken during the wet season (December to March).	Disturbance to the Northern Blue-tongue Skink during the species' breeding season will be avoided.	– During construction	– Construction records (i.e., Vegetation clearing records)	– Construction activities undertaken during wet season.	– Review and amend construction site plan.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	– Standard construction noise and vibration management measures will be implemented. – Construction works will generally occur during the daylight hours.	Noise emissions will be kept at a minimum during daylight hours. No increase in noise will occur during night-time hours.	– During construction.	– Noise complaints will be recorded. – Compliance with implementation of noise and vibration minimisation strategies will be developed and implemented during construction of the Proposed Action.	– Complaints of excessive noise.	– Complaints regarding noise will be recorded and investigated by Horizon Power or the Contractor, and the procedures will be revised.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	Light emissions from on-site construction lighting towers will occur transiently, not remaining in the same location unnecessarily.	No light emission from on-site construction lighting towers will in the same location for longer than six months.	– During construction.	– Incident reports.	– Light emissions from towers remaining in the same location without construction activities occurring in the area within a month.	– The incident will be reported, and the cause investigated.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Management Measure	Performance Target / Completion Criteria	Timing	Monitoring / Reporting Activity	Corrective Action Trigger(s)	Corrective Action	Corrective Action Responsibility
Minimise disturbance to EPBC Act listed Threatened or Migratory fauna from increased generation of dust during construction.	– All site personnel to be inducted on minimisation of dust emissions. – Use of water carts as needed to wet down dust generating surfaces such as roads, earthworks areas. – Ground disturbance and/or clearing of vegetation will be restricted during high winds if dust cannot be adequately controlled. – Review of weather forecasts will be undertaken prior to native vegetation clearing to identify periods of extreme weather conditions likely to result in increased dust emissions so that additional mitigation measures can be implemented; or ground disturbance and/or clearing of native vegetation will be halted. – Use of defined haul routes for machinery/vehicles travelling on unsealed surfaces or roads, and reduced vehicle speed in areas of unconsolidated soil. – Machinery and vehicles are regularly serviced and operated/maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. – Vehicles on site will be switched off and not left idling when not in use. – Any complaints relating to dust emissions will be recorded and investigated as per Horizon Power's incident management procedure.	No excessive dust nuisance events recorded.	– During construction.	– Site induction records. – Incident reports. – Complaints record.	– Public complaints of excessive dust pollution. – Excessive dust reported by personnel or contractors.	– The incident will be reported, and the cause investigated. – Any complaints relating to dust emissions will be recorded and investigated as per Horizon Power's incident management procedure. – Refresher training will be conducted.	– Construction Contractor – Environmental Officer.
Prevent indirect impacts on fauna habitats due to accidental fires as a result of the project.	– All site personnel to be inducted on environmental responsibilities including fire prevention. – All non-essential work is to be stopped or postponed in the event that a Total Fire Ban with Catastrophic fire danger ratings or Emergency Warning is issued for the area. – Works to be conducted in accordance with all local fire control laws and regulations. – Fire extinguishers will be strategically positioned in locations with a higher risk of fire. – Hot work permits will be mandatory before commencing any hot work. – Vehicles and equipment access limited to designated roads/access tracks and cleared areas where possible. – Smoking will be confined to designated smoking area only. – Identify potential ignition sources and/or activities with the potential to lead to fire.	No accidental fires as a result of construction activities.	– During construction and operation.	– Record of all site personnel that have undertaken the induction. – Weekly site inspection report. – Compliance with hot work permits.	– Site inspections show that management measures not implemented. – Inductions are not made prior to construction activities, or personnel do not demonstrate the correct knowledge. – Any incidents of fires occurring within or outside the DE, resulting from construction works.	– No hot work until management measures implemented. – Refresher training will be undertaken. – The incident will be reported, and the cause investigated. – Extinguish the fire, if safe to do so. – If the fire is uncontrolled, notify emergency services and the Local Government Authority.	– Construction Contractor – Environmental Officer.
Construction – General management measures							

Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Management Measure	Performance Target / Completion Criteria	Timing	Monitoring / Reporting Activity	Corrective Action Trigger(s)	Corrective Action	Corrective Action Responsibility
No mobilization of ASS during construction.	- ASS investigation to identify potential ASS and inform management will be undertaken as part of the geotechnical investigation programme. This testing will be undertaken in accordance with 'Identification and investigation of acid soils and acidic landscapes' (DER, 2015a). - If the investigation identifies potential ASS within the excavation areas, an ASS management plan will be developed and implemented. This plan will be prepared in accordance with 'Treatment and management of soil and water in acid sulfate soil landscapes' (DER, 2015b). - The ASS management plan will be developed by a suitably qualified specialist and will include a description of the management strategies proposed including details on avoidance measures, treatment strategies such as lime dosing, stockpiling and storage procedures, dewatering methods and containment strategies.	- ASS investigation completed - If required, ASSMP implemented	- Prior to commencement of construction activities. - During construction.	- Induction records. - Inspection report. - ASS investigation survey report. - ASSMP (if required).	- Construction activities undertaken without ASSMP or ASS survey report which confirms low risk of ASS mobilisation. - Site induction doesn't include risk of ASS.	- Construction activities will cease within high-risk areas and recommence once investigations or ASS management activities have been carried out. - ASSMP (if required) before construction. - ASS risk added to site induction.	Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
Unexpected finds contamination is characterised and appropriately managed.	- All site personnel to be inducted on environmental responsibilities. - In the event of excavation encountering unexpected contaminated materials, the excavation works are to be stopped, and advice sought from a qualified environmental professional. - If required, the unexpected contamination will be sampled and analysed to determine the appropriate remediation and disposal.	No new areas of contamination identified.	During construction.	- Induction records. - Visual monitoring during excavation.	Monitoring during excavation identifies areas of unexpected contamination.	Works will cease in that area until samples of the material have been tested and confirmed to be inert. If found to be contaminated, the material will be removed following relevant contaminated waste guidance and protocols and treated or appropriately disposed of to a licenced facility.	Construction Contractor Project Manager.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Management Measure	Performance Target / Completion Criteria	Timing	Monitoring / Reporting Activity	Corrective Action Trigger(s)	Corrective Action	Corrective Action Responsibility
All accidental spills or leaks of hazardous materials or waste is appropriately managed.	– All site personnel to be inducted on environmental responsibilities including refuelling requirements and incident response measures in the event of a spill. – Spill management procedures to be developed prior to construction. – Hazardous materials used during construction will be stored in compliance with relevant Australian Standards and Regulations. – On-site refuelling of machinery and plant to occur on designated areas, or using catch trays, and at least 50 m away from all surface water features and drainage areas. – Tracked equipment that must be refuelled in situ will be refuelled at least 50 m away from surface water features and spill kits present during refuelling. – Scheduled / major maintenance of vehicles / plant to be undertaken offsite. – Provision of spill response kits at refuelling locations and any locations where hydrocarbons or chemicals are stored. – SDSs and hazardous materials inventory to be retained on site. – During construction, temporary ablation facilities to be self-contained. Sewage to be collected by a licensed contractor and disposed at an appropriately licensed waste facility. – General construction waste material to be appropriately managed and disposed of off-site at an appropriate facility.	– No new uncontrolled pollution incidents recorded.	– During construction.	– Site induction records. – Record of storage and spill management procedures. – Weekly site inspections of hazardous materials and waste storage and handling areas to identify spills / leaks and discharges, and check that storage, handling and signage is appropriate.	– Site inspections identify uncontrolled pollution incidents.	– Spill response protocols will be implemented including containing the pollution incident as quickly as possible. – The incident will be reported, and the cause investigated. – Refresher training will be conducted as appropriate.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
No noticeable increase in sediment discharge or soil erosion.	– Establishment of designated access roads to prevent unauthorised disturbance. – Erosion and sediment control measures will be applied to prevent erosion of exposed areas and sediment discharge to adjacent areas, where practicable. – Laydown areas will be rehabilitated or otherwise stabilised as early as practicable to minimise the potential for erosion. – Extreme weather will be monitored by the construction contractor and if a cyclone warning is issued, a site inspection and clean-up will be undertaken prior to the cyclone. This will include filling in any holes, as well as stabilisation or dispersal of piles of dirt and removal of rubbish.	– No excessive sedimentation events recorded. – No injury, harm or damage to the site as a result of extreme weather events.	– During construction.	– Routine inspections of erosion and sediment discharge. – Monitoring of weather. – Site inspection reports.	– Inspection of clearing areas shows disturbance outside of the approved areas. – Extreme weather warning issued.	– Review and amend construction site plan to ensure appropriate sediment controls are in place. – A site inspection and clean-up will be undertaken prior to the cyclone.	– Construction Contractor Project Manager.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Management Measure	Performance Target / Completion Criteria	Timing	Monitoring / Reporting Activity	Corrective Action Trigger(s)	Corrective Action	Corrective Action Responsibility
Minimise the spread and/or introduction of weeds.	– A weed register will be developed and maintained for declared weeds, WoNS or serious environmental weed species. – The register will contain relevant information such as species, distribution, abundance and history of control method.	– No new introductions or spread of weeds species – Maintain weeds register with relevant information.	– During construction.	– Record of weed register. – Implement yearly weed monitoring and management program for the first year following completion of ground disturbance activities.	– Site inspection shows requirements not met. – New significant weed infestation (WoNS/Declared Plant) (i.e. above existing background levels) identified.	– Where new weed infestation is evident, appropriate controls shall be deployed. – Education on clean on entry requirements.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	– Develop and implement vehicle and equipment clean on entry/exit procedures; Any machinery used to remove weed-infested topsoil will be cleaned down before entering or leaving the work site to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds into new areas.	– All vehicles and equipment verified and cleaned on arrival site.	– All construction activities.	– Routine spot checks of vehicles and equipment compliance with cleaning.	– Non-compliance with clean on entry.	– Ensure non-compliance issues identified in site inspections are resolved.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	– Vehicles and machinery to remain on designated compliance roads/access tracks areas where possible.	– Approved clearing areas including designated access routes and parking areas to be clearly demarcated on site and communicated appropriately.	– During construction.	– Routine spot checks of vehicles and equipment compliance with cleaning.	– Non-compliance with clean on entry.	– Ensure non-compliance issues identified in site inspections are resolved.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
	– All site personnel to be inducted on environmental responsibilities including hygiene management.	– Correct knowledge about weed species and hygiene protocol importance.	– Prior to their commencement onsite.	– Induction records.	– Site inspection shows requirements not met. – New significant weed infestation (WoNS/Declared Plant) (i.e. above existing background levels) identified.	– Where new weed infestation is evident, appropriate controls shall be deployed. – Education on clean on entry requirements.	– Construction Contractor Environmental Officer.
– Operation – general management measures							
Minimise disturbance to EPBC listed Threatened and Migratory fauna during operation.	– Ad-hoc weed checks during operational maintenance activities in accordance with standard Horizon Power network weed control.	– No occurrences of weeds as a result of the Proposed Action.	– Post construction	– Ad hoc weed checked during operational maintenance activities	– New significant weed infestation	– Where new weed infestation is evident, relevant treatments will be applied.	– Horizon Power Operations Manager.
	– Use of defined haul routes for machinery/vehicles travelling on unsealed surfaces or roads, and reduced vehicle speed in areas of unconsolidated soil. – Machinery and vehicles are regularly serviced and operated/maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. – Vehicles on site will be switched off and not left idling when not in use. – Any complaints relating to dust emissions will be recorded and investigated as per Horizon Power's incident management procedure.	– No excessive dust nuisance events recorded.	– Post construction	– Complaints record	– Public complaints of excessive dust pollution.	– The incident will be reported, and the cause investigated.	– Construction Contractor.
	– Operational light review.	– Minimise light emissions to surrounding natural environment that may impact fauna.	– Post construction	– On completion of construction undertake a review of night-time light emissions from facilities and implement adaptive measures where required.	– Review reports unnecessary/excessive light emissions.	– The incident will be reported, and adaptive measures will be implemented where required.	– Horizon Power Operations Manager

6.2 Monitoring

Frequent observations of the construction site will be conducted to ensure the objectives of this EMP are implemented and that the required management actions are in place.

Key monitoring measures have been established to assess the potential effects of the Proposed Action on MNES and their habitats, both during and after construction. This monitoring encompasses the evaluation of both immediate and secondary consequences resulting from the Proposed Action. Qualified individuals with expertise in the specified methodology will conduct the monitoring activities. The outlined monitoring plan for the Proposed Action can be found in Table 6-2.

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Table 6-2 Proposed monitoring program

Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Performance Target/Completion Criteria	Monitoring/Reporting Activity	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Area	Frequency
Construction – Fauna Habitat Management					
Minimise EPBC Act listed Threatened and Migratory fauna habitat loss.	– Drawings, inductions and shape/CAD files showing approved clearing areas provided to Construction Contractor Representative. – Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or equivalent to include the risks and mitigation actions to be understood and adhered to as they pertain to the contractor and scope of work on the JHA. – Track logs from soil and geotechnical investigations of where vehicles have driven within the predefined clearing limits. – Inspection of clearing extents during clearing activities to confirm no over clearing (including soil and geotechnical investigations).	– Contractor to check that drawings, inductions and shape/CAD files show correct approved clearing areas. – Record of provision of drawings and shape/CAD files showing approved clearing areas. – All relevant contractors to sign onto JHA or equivalent. – Pre-clearing photos to be documented and daily inspection of clearing extents during clearing activities and weekly inspections during the remainder of construction to confirm no over clearing. – Visual inspection and record of cleared areas to be undertaken post-clearing to confirm no over clearing and relevant shapefiles provided to Horizon Power. – Track logs from soil and geotechnical investigations to show no vehicle movement	– Inspection of drawings and shape/CAD files. – Inspection of photos. – Visual inspection records. – Inspection of vehicle track logs.	– The DE.	– Prior to and during clearing.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Performance Target/Completion Criteria	Monitoring/Reporting Activity	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Area	Frequency
		- outside of predefined clearing limits. – Clearing area shapefiles from soil and geotechnical investigations to show no clearing outside of predefined clearing limits. – Report unauthorised clearing as soon as practicable after identified.			
	– Approved clearing areas including designated access routes and parking areas to be clearly demarcated on site and communicated appropriately. – Routine inspection of project defined clearing limits and boundaries demarcation during clearing activities. – Daily inspection of clearing extents during clearing activities to confirm no over clearing and weekly inspections during the remainder of construction.	– Vegetation clearing records. – Report unauthorized clearing as soon as practicable after identified. – Construction site plan showing all approved access areas. – Daily site inspections during clearing and weekly inspections during the remainder of construction.	– Clearing areas visual assessment. – Incident records. – Vegetation clearing records.	– Clearing areas.	– Prior to and during clearing and construction.
	– Pre-construction reviews of the construction plan shows that infrastructure	– Construction site plan showing all approved access areas.	– Pre-construction reviews of Construction Site plan.	– Clearing areas.	– Prior to and during construction.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Performance Target/Completion Criteria	Monitoring/Reporting Activity	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Area	Frequency
	is placed in cleared areas where practicable.				
Minimise mortality or injury to EPBC Act listed Threatened or Migratory fauna during vegetation clearing for construction.	– Record of all site personnel that have undertaken the induction.	– Inductions records.	– Written records.	– N/A.	– Prior to personnel commencing work on site. – Quarterly during the construction phase.
	– No incidents of speeding within the construction site boundary (defined as the area of works within the DE).	– Visual monitoring by all construction personnel. – Incident reporting.	– Visual Inspection. – Written records.	– Construction site boundary.	– Incidental.
	– Routine inspections of waste storage and handling areas. – Waste stored in fauna-proof containers and disposed of appropriately.	– Weekly inspection. – Waste disposal records.	– Visual inspection. – Review of disposal records.	– N/A.	– Weekly.
	– Clearing is undertaken progressively in the same direction, reducing probability of fauna injury or mortality.	– Clearing records. – Record known injuries to, or deaths of conservation significant fauna species in a Conservation Significant Fauna Interaction Register as soon as possible as the injury or death is identified.	– Visual inspection. – Written records.	– Construction site boundary.	– Weekly.
	– No commencement of mechanical clearing of vegetation occurs without a licenced fauna specialist in attendance.	– Internal project clearing permit, signed by Supervisor. – Licenced fauna specialist to report on areas they inspected, the species found and the location of	– Visual inspection. – Review of written records.	– Clearing areas.	– Prior to clearing.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Performance Target/Completion Criteria	Monitoring/Reporting Activity	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Area	Frequency
		where any fauna were released to.			
	– No incidents to MNES species due to excavations remaining open. – Daily inspections of non-battered excavations during construction to identify trapped fauna and to enable capture and relocation.	– Daily monitoring for trapped fauna during construction in non-battered excavations. – Record known injuries to, or deaths of conservation significant fauna species in a Conservation Significant Fauna Interaction Register as soon as possible as the injury or death is identified.	– Visual inspection. – Written records.	– Construction site boundary (non-battered excavation).	– Daily during excavations.
	– In case of fauna injury, advice undertaken and, if necessary, relocation of rescue animals to an appropriate specialised organisation. – Daily inspections of non-battered excavations during construction to identify trapped fauna and to enable capture and relocation and/or treatment.	– Animal injury or fatalities reported as an incident in the incident records system. – Record known injuries to, or deaths of conservation significant fauna species in a Conservation Significant Fauna Interaction Register as soon as possible as the injury or death is identified.	– Visual inspection. – Written records.	– N/A.	– Opportunistic. – Daily during excavations.
Minimise disturbance to EPBC Act listed Threatened or Migratory fauna from noise,	– Noise emissions will be kept at a minimum during daylight hours. No increase in noise will	– Noise complaints will be recorded. – Compliance with implementation of noise	– Review of written records.	– Construction site boundary.	– Weekly.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Performance Target/Completion Criteria	Monitoring/Reporting Activity	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Area	Frequency
light and vibration during construction.	occur during night-time hours.	and vibration minimisation strategies will be developed and implemented during construction of the Proposed Action.			
	– No light emission from on-site construction lighting towers will remain in the same location for a long period.	– Incident reports.	– Review of written records. – Visual inspection.	– Construction site boundary.	– Weekly.
Minimise disturbance to EPBC Act listed Threatened or Migratory fauna from increased generation of dust during construction.	– No excessive dust nuisance events recorded. –	– Incident reports.	– Review of written records. – Visual inspection.	– Construction site boundary.	– Weekly.
Prevent indirect impacts on fauna habitats due to accidental fires.	– No accidental fires as a result of construction activities.	– Record of all site personnel that have undertaken the induction. – Weekly site inspection report. – Compliance with hot work permits.	– Written records.	– N/A.	– Weekly.
Construction – General management measures					
No mobilization of ASS during construction.	– No mobilization of ASS during construction.	– Inspection report. – ASS investigation survey. Site induction records.	– Written records. – Pre-construction review.	– N/A.	– Prior to commencement of construction activities. During construction.
All unexpected contamination is characterised and appropriately managed.	– No new areas of contamination identified.	– Induction records. – Visual monitoring during excavation.	– Review of written records. – Visual inspection.	– Construction site boundary.	– Weekly.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Performance Target/Completion Criteria	Monitoring/Reporting Activity	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Area	Frequency
All accidental spills or leaks of hazardous materials or waste is appropriately managed.	– No new uncontrolled pollution incidents recorded.	– Site induction records. – Record of storage and spill management procedures. – Weekly site inspections of hazardous materials and waste storage and handling areas to identify spills / leaks and discharges, and check that storage, handling and signage is appropriate. – Record of diesel storage.	– Review of written records. – Visual inspection.	– Construction site boundary.	– Opportunistically.
No noticeable increase in sediment discharge or soil erosion.	– No excessive sedimentation events recorded. – No significant erosion to the site as a result of extreme weather events.	– Routine inspections of erosion and sediment discharge. – Monitoring of weather. – Site inspection reports.	– Review of written records. – Visual inspection.	– Construction site boundary.	– Weekly.
Minimise the spread and/or introduction of weeds.	– No new introductions or spread of weeds species – Maintain weeds register with relevant information.	– Record of weed register. – Implement a yearly weed monitoring and management program for the first year following completion of ground disturbance activities. –	– Written records. – Visual inspection. – Weed monitoring reports. –	– Clearing areas.	– Quarterly.
	– All vehicles and equipment verified and cleaned on arrival site.	– Routine spot checks of vehicles and equipment compliance with cleaning.	– Photographic record, GPS of non-conformance. – Records of waste disposal Records verifying plant and machinery arriving on site is clean.	– N/A.	– Weekly.

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Management Objective / Desired Outcome	Performance Target/Completion Criteria	Monitoring/Reporting Activity	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Area	Frequency
	Approved clearing areas including designated access routes and parking areas to be clearly demarcated on site and communicated appropriately.	Routine spot checks of vehicles and equipment compliance with cleaning.	- Photographic record, GPS of non-conformance. - Records of waste disposal Records verifying plant and machinery arriving on site is clean.	Clearing areas.	Weekly.
	Correct knowledge about weed species and hygiene protocol importance.	Induction records.	Written records of inductions.	N/A.	Weekly.
Operation – general management measures					
Minimise disturbance to EPBC listed Threatened and Migratory fauna during operation	Avoid the introduction and spread of weeds species and maintain weeds register with relevant information.	Ad hoc weed checks during operational maintenance activities.	- Visual inspection. - Review of written records.	Operational area.	Opportunistically.
	No excessive dust nuisance events recorded.	Complaints record	- Visual inspection. - Review of written records.	Operational area.	Opportunistically.
	Minimise light emissions to surrounding natural environment that may impact fauna.	On completion of construction undertake a review of night-time light emissions from facilities and implement adaptive measures where required.	- Visual inspection. - Review of written records.	Operational area.	Opportunistically.

7 Reporting

Horizon Power has well established management measures that will be implemented during construction of the Proposed Action. In addition, Horizon Power maintains an Environmental Management System (EMS). Works conducted as a part of this project will be compliant with both Horizon Power's Environmental Policy and EMS.

7.1 Reporting Requirements

Horizon Power will conduct internal reporting on the implementation of this EMP for the Proposed Action. This will include contractor reporting on compliance with construction commitments outlined within this document. If any incidences or non-compliance are identified it will be investigated and, if necessary, reported to DCCEEW.

Horizon Power undertake internal compliance audits of all projects. Where compliance audits undertaken by Horizon Power identify that the environmental management actions and/or the environmental objectives are not being achieved (i.e. non-compliance or an environmental incident), Horizon Power investigate and action in accordance with this document. Consistent with standard document control procedures, Horizon Power will maintain copies of all reports. The reporting requirements for this EMP are identified in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1 Reporting Requirements

Aspect	Report from	Report to	Reporting Frequency
Non-compliance with EMP or Environmental Incident	Environmental Officer	Horizon Power Manager Sustainability and DCCEEW (if required)	If any non-compliance/incident occurs

The format and content of reporting of a non-compliance event or an environmental incident will be subject to the nature of the non-compliance/incident.

7.2 Environmental Incidents / Non-compliances

Internal monitoring of the environmental aspects outlined in this EMP will occur throughout the construction phase of the Proposed Action. Any non-conformances or incidents within this EMP will be investigated, rectified or mitigated as soon as possible to ensure minimal ongoing environmental harm. Relevant procedures will be amended/updated as necessary and inductions and other workforce communication will be undertaken in a timely manner to minimise the risk of re-occurrences.

Environmental incidents and non-compliances will be identified and recorded as soon as possible by the relevant responsible persons within the contractor organisation or Horizon Power. Incidents will be mitigated or rectified where possible within 24 hours of being identified. Incidents and non-conformances will be reported to the Horizon Power representative within 24 hours of identification or as soon as reasonably practicable.

Any non-conformance to this EMP is to be investigated to determine:

- why the non-conformance occurred
- what was the environmental harm or alteration of the environment that resulted from the non-conformance
- what changes to project activities and/or management plans is required
- measures to prevent, control or abate the environmental harm that may have occurred.

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A log of incidents and non-conformances is to be maintained.

In the event of an environmental incident, the priority is to ensure the safety of all site personnel and the neighbouring community. All practical steps shall then be taken to minimise further environmental damage through the implementation of the appropriate contingency and corrective actions, as outlined in the environmental management measures in Section 6.

8 Environmental management roles and responsibilities

Horizon Power has a standard project management methodology that will be applied to this Proposed Action and is applied to projects of this nature. A project board is established as a governing committee, which comprises executive and senior managers from Horizon Power.

The role of the project board is to support the project sponsor with the management of the Proposed Action by providing a decision-making and governance framework that is logical, robust and repeatable. The project team roles and responsibilities are provided in Table 8-1.

Table 8-1 Project Board Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Project Sponsor (Executive member)	Oversee the overall delivery of the Proposed Action to ensure good governance is achieved and project objectives are met.
Project Director (Senior Manager)	- Establish the project team to deliver the Proposed Action. - Ensure plans, systems and processes are established, implemented and maintained by the project team to ensure good governance is achieved on the Proposed Action. - Ensure the project objectives are visible to the project team and delivery of the objectives are met by the Proposed Action. - Monitor performance of the Proposed Action.
Horizon Power Manager Sustainability	- Oversee specific onsite compliance obligations for the Proposed Action. - Ensure appropriate investigation, reporting and remediation if an environmental incident occurs and provide approval for works to recommence on site when appropriate to do so.
Project Manager	- Establish project plans to manage the Proposed Action. - Manage project team activities to deliver the project. - Implement systems and processes to ensure good governance is achieved on the project. - Manage scope, cost, time, quality, resourcing and compliance obligations for the Proposed Action. - Report performance of the Proposed Action.
Site Representative	- Oversee activities onsite to deliver the Proposed Action. - Ensure work cease where required if an environmental incident occurs and escalation of incident. - Monitor systems and processes being implemented onsite to ensure good governance is achieved on the project. - Manage specific onsite compliance obligations for the Proposed Action. - Report onsite performance of the Proposed Action.
Contractor Environmental Officer	- Oversee activities onsite to deliver the Proposed Action. - Monitor systems and processes being implemented onsite to ensure good governance is achieved on the project. - Manage specific onsite compliance obligations for the Proposed Action. - Report onsite performance of the Proposed Action.

This EMP outlines the environmental management activities for the implementation of the Proposed Action. Horizon Power and their appointed contractor will undertake these activities, and Horizon Power acknowledges they are legal requirements to be met.

The responsibilities for the implementation of the management actions outlined in this document are detailed in Table 8-1. The actions may be undertaken by employees and/or contractors of Horizon Power when communicated and documented to relevant personnel through environmental training.

9 Environmental Training

All construction personnel and sub-contractors will undergo a project induction, which includes information on the importance of the environmental approvals conditions and the requirements to enable environmental outcomes to be achieved. They will be advised of their responsibilities with regard to the EPBC Act and other relevant legislation, in addition to ministerial and contractual requirements (if applicable).

Toolbox meetings will be used to reinforce messages on environmental protection, to relay new information and to encourage and celebrate positive outcomes.

Records of all training and inductions conducted will be maintained and include:

- the person receiving the training
- the date the training was received
- the name of the person conducting the training
- a summary of the training.

10 Audit and Review

10.1 Environmental auditing

Internal monitoring will be conducted throughout the construction phase of the Proposed Action to assess the environmental aspects outlined in this EMP. Any instances of non-conformance or incidents associated with measures set out in this EMP will be investigated and addressed to minimise potential environmental impacts. Appropriate procedures will be implemented as needed, and refresher training will be conducted to reduce the likelihood of future occurrences.

Horizon Power will conduct annual audits lead by the Horizon Power Project Manager and Manager Sustainability (or a designated representative) during the construction phase of the Proposed Action to verify the implementation of management and monitoring measures and to ensure that the required management measures are successfully implemented and delivering the intended outcomes. The proposed auditing schedule for this EMP is identified in Table 10-1.

Table 10-1. Environmental audit schedule

Timing	Action	Schedule
Pre-construction	Review of construction procedures to ensure EMP management/monitoring actions are incorporated within works procedures.	Prior to construction (single event)
Construction	Inspections by site environmental personnel to identify compliance with EMP.	Periodic (Weekly)
	Internal audit for assessment of compliance with EMP.	Annually (once per calendar year)
Post construction	Internal audit for assessment of compliance with EMP.	Annually (once per calendar year for up to three years)
Decommissioning	To be determined as part of any future decommissioning plan, which will be in accordance with Horizon Power's standard operating procedures and will be approved by Horizon Power's Manager Sustainability (or a designated representative).	To be determined as part of any future decommissioning plan.

10.2 Environmental Management Plan Review

This EMP is intended to be dynamic and may be updated to reflect changes in management practices and the natural environment with time. This will also allow flexibility to adopt new technologies/management measures. Amendments to management actions and targets will be completed on an as needs basis.

The EMP will be reviewed by the Project Manager and Manager Sustainability annually during construction to:

- Consider the effectiveness / appropriateness of management and monitoring actions
- Consider opportunities for improvement in environmental performance (for example, changes to construction methodology or timing)
- Identify any general need to update this EMP (for example, to capture new information on relevant environmental factor or MNES knowledge or management, or updates to the EPBC Act or other relevant legislation and policies).

Horizon Power acknowledges that a revision to this EMP may trigger a need for additional approval by DCCEE prior to implementing any changes to the specified management or monitoring actions.

11 References

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (2024). *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines*, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra, March. CC BY 4.0.