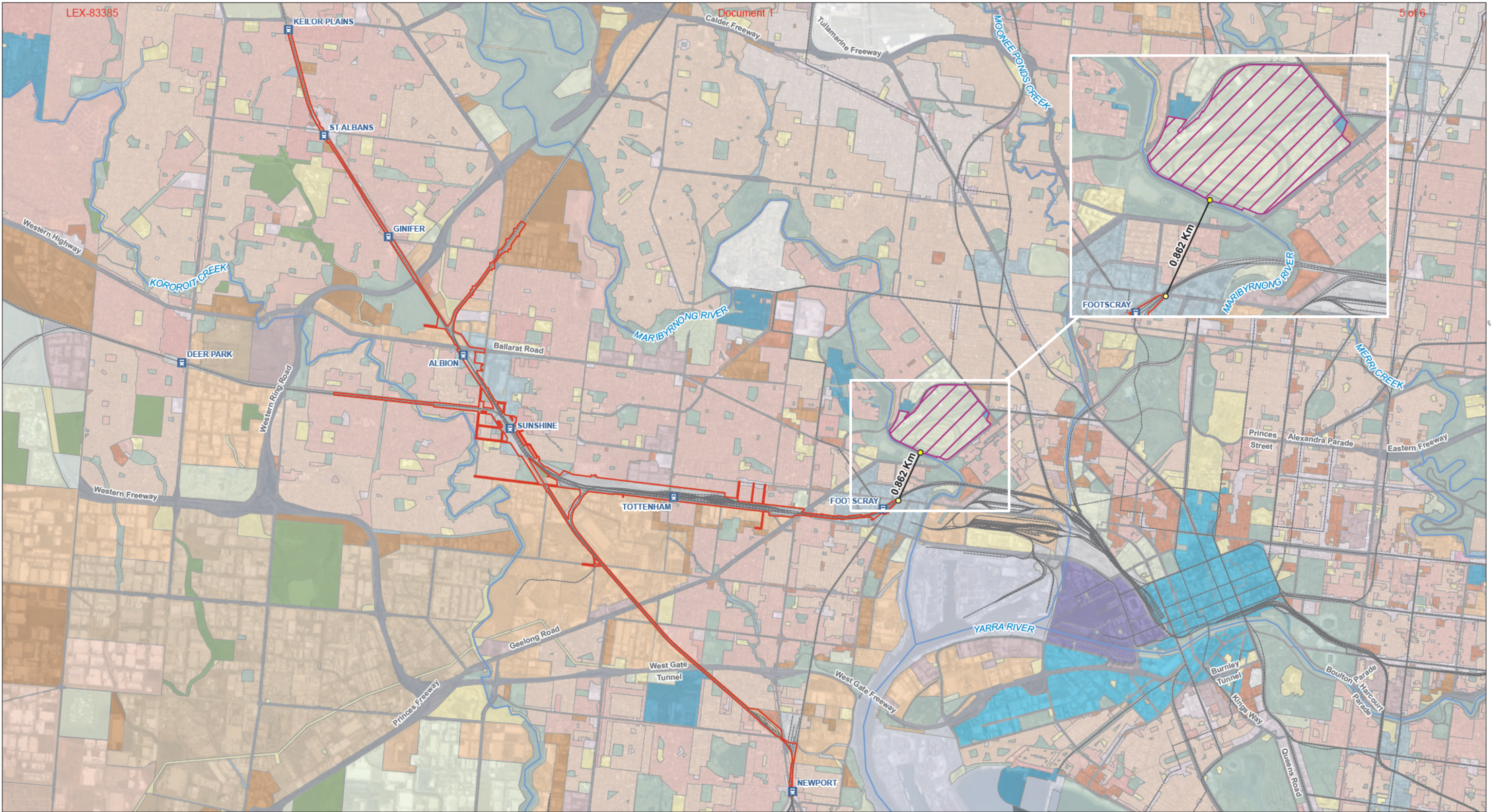


Online Form Question	Resubmission Requirements	Referrers Response Note the updates made to the referral form, or attachments, or why no change made
3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.	The response provides mention of two mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) that have been previously prepared however have not been provided as attachments to the referral application. Please provide the mentioned CHMPs documents as attachments to the referral application. If these documents include sensitive information, please ensure you select the appropriate sensitivity marker for each attachment and the Department suggests that where you have referenced these attachments in the text of the application, you state that it is to be withheld from publication for cultural sensitivity reasons. (e.g. Attachment 100 Cultural Heritage Management plans (CHMPs) will not be made publicly available due to cultural sensitivity reasons) and complete this statement for all relevant references.	The Bunurong CHMP 18648 is provided as Appendix G and Wurundjeri CHMP 18647 is provided as Appendix H. <i>Please note these CHMPs contain culturally sensitive information. Both RAPs have endorsed that the CHMP can be included as an attachment to the referral under the EPBC Act, however it is not permitted to be included during public exhibition</i> The following statement has been added to Sections 1.2.6 and Section 3.3.2: <i>Attachment G - Bunurong CHMP No 18648, pp all and Attachment H - Draft Wurundjeri CHMP No 18647, pp all will not be made publicly available due to cultural sensitivity reasons.</i>
4.1.2 National Heritage Impact details table	The proposed action project area is located adjacent to the Flemington Racecourse which is a National heritage listed area. Please consider amending your selection to include the National Heritage Area and answering the subsequent sections.	The Proposed Action Area is located approximately 900m south of the Flemington Racecourse and is greatly separated by the Maribyrnong River and intervening residential and urban development - please refer to the attached map. Given the physical separation and the

Online Form Question	Resubmission Requirements	Referrers Response Note the updates made to the referral form, or attachments, or why no change made
		existing urban barriers, there are no direct or indirect impacts proposed. No change made in referral.
4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.	This section requires a response. Departmental searches and your table 4.1.10 indicates there are Commonwealth Land adjacent to the proposed project. Please briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and /or indirect impact on this protected matter. Respond to subsequent questions accordingly.	The nearest Commonwealth Land to the Proposed Action Area is the Maribyrnong Defence Site, situated approximately 3.1 km west of the Proposed Action Area - please refer to the attached map. The Proposed Action Area is geographically separated and isolated from this land by the Maribyrnong River, intervening industrial precincts, residential suburbs and broader urban development. There are no direct or indirect impacts proposed. No change made in referral.

Online Form Question	Resubmission Requirements	Referrers Response Note the updates made to the referral form, or attachments, or why no change made
Attachment Sensitivities	The Department notes that you have not selected a sensitivity marker for 'Att F SSP Threatened species Management Plan rev.C Part 1'. Please ensure that you check that appropriate sensitivity markers have been selected for each attachment before resubmission. Please note, sensitive information can be defined as information that is not already publicly available, and/or does not have consent to be made publicly available, and either: • exposes Indigenous or cultural sensitivities; • reveals or contains third-party personal or private information (e.g., signatures, names and personal contact details); • discloses sensitive species information, including locational data (guided by the Department's Species Profiles and Threats (SPRAT) database or [include link to https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/environmental-information-data/policy-accessing-and-sharing-biodiversity-data] or; • contains confidential information, including information that is commercial in confidence (please note under s 74 (3B) of the EPBC Act, for information to be withheld from publication as commercial in confidence it must be approved by the Minister). If you identify sensitive information, please: a) provide an additional version of the attachment with sensitive information redacted suitable for public view, named as such (e.g., 'Att A-REDACTED'). The original	Attachment F SSP Threatened Species Management Plan Rev. C has been allocated a sensitivity marker 'No' in the referral portal. All supporting documentation has been allocated a sensitivity marker and confidence rating.

Online Form Question	Resubmission Requirements	Referrers Response Note the updates made to the referral form, or attachments, or why no change made
	attachment must also be uploaded to be considered as part of the final submission; however, it will not be published and will be retained solely for assessment purposes. b) a statement in the referrer's response column that outlines the sensitive nature of the redacted information. If a document is sensitive and no version will be published for public view (e.g., cultural heritage or trust deed), i. you must provide a statement in the referrer's response column justifying the sensitive nature of the attachment, and ii. add a sentence within the referral application to the effect of 'this document is not publicly available due to XYZ sensitivity reasons'.	



Legend

Planning Zones

- ACZ - Activity Centre Zone
- B1Z - Business 1 Zone (superseded by C1Z)
- B2Z - Business 2 Zone (superseded by C1Z)
- B3Z - Business 3 Zone (superseded by C2Z)
- B4Z - Business 4 Zone (superseded by C2Z)
- B5Z - Business 5 Zone (Superseded by C1Z)
- C1Z - Commercial 1 Zone
- C2Z - Commercial 2 Zone
- CA - Commonwealth land (Not in scheme)

Public Use Zones

- CCZ - Capital City Zone
- CDZ - Comprehensive Development Zone
- DZ - Dockland Zone
- FZ - Farming Zone
- GRZ - General Residential Zone
- HCTZ - Housing Choice & Transport Zone
- IN1Z - Industrial 1 Zone
- IN2Z - Industrial 2 Zone
- IN3Z - Industrial 3 Zone
- MUZ - Mixed Use Zone; MUZ4
- NRZ - Neighbourhood Residential Zone
- PCRZ - Public Conservation and Resource Zone
- PDZ - Priority Development Zone
- PPRZ - Public Park and Recreation Zone
- PUZ1 - Public Use Zone-Service and Utility
- PUZ2 - Public Use Zone-Education
- PUZ3 - Public Use Zone-Health & Community
- PUZ5 - Public Use Zone-Cemetery/Crematorium
- PUZ6 - Public Use Zone-Local Government
- PUZ7 - Public Use Zone-Other Public Use
- PZ - Port Zone
- R1Z - Residential 1 Zone (superseded by GRZ)
- RGZ - Residential Growth Zone
- SUZ - Special Use Zone
- TRZ1 - State Transport Infrastructure
- TRZ2 - Principal Road Network
- TRZ3 - Significant Municipal Road
- TRZ4 - Other Transport Use
- UFZ - Urban Floodway Zone
- UGZ - Urban Growth Zone

Data Sources:

Vicmap 2025
AJM 2025
ESRI

Sunshine Superhub Project

National Heritage Places in relation to SSP

Drawing Number: SSP-ZWD-MAP-XLP-VIC-0115-NHP_SSP

Revision: A.1

Drawn By: S. 22(1)(a)(i)

Approved By: S. 22(1)(a)(i)

Date: 21/10/2025

Map Size: A3

0 1 2 Kilometres

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

AJM Joint Venture

aurecon JACOBS MOTT MACDONALD

Melton

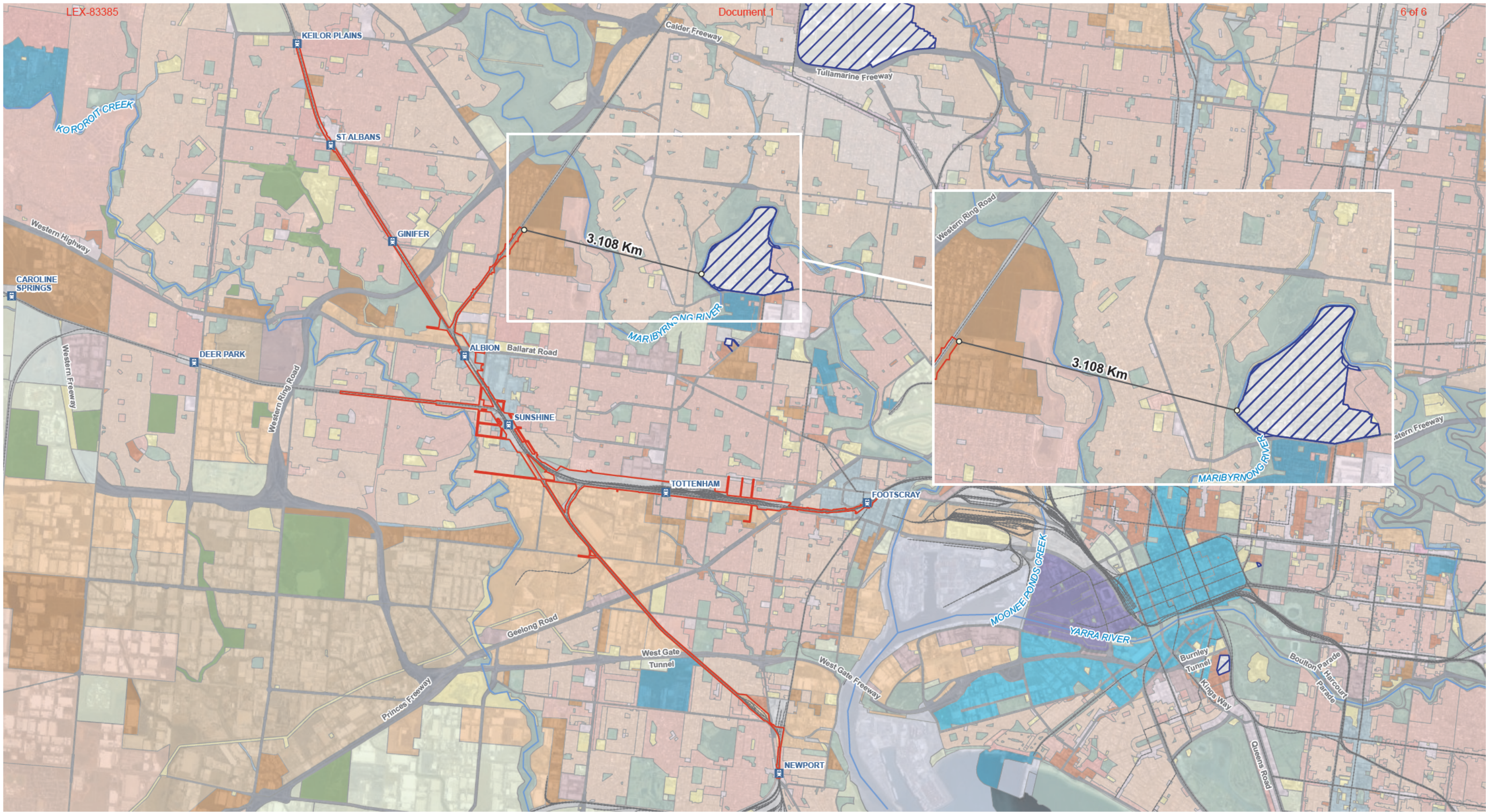
Melbourne

Preston

Werribee

Glen Waverley

0 9.5 KM



Rail Station

Railways

Watercourse

SSP Additional Scope Action Area

Commonwealth Land

Planning Zones

ACZ - Activity Centre Zone

B1Z - Business 1 Zone (superseded by C1Z)

B2Z - Business 2 Zone (superseded by C1Z)

B3Z - Business 3 Zone (superseded by C2Z)

B4Z - Business 4 Zone (superseded by C2Z)

B5Z - Business 5 Zone (Superseded by C1Z)

C1Z - Commercial 1 Zone

C2Z - Commercial 2 Zone

CA - Commonwealth land (Not in scheme)

CCZ - Capital City Zone

CDZ - Comprehensive Development Zone

DZ - Dockland Zone

FZ - Farming Zone

GRZ - General Residential Zone

HCTZ - Housing Choice & Transport Zone

IN1Z - Industrial 1 Zone

IN2Z - Industrial 2 Zone

IN3Z - Industrial 3 Zone

MUZ - Mixed Use Zone; MUZ4

NRZ - Neighbourhood Residential Zone

PCRZ - Public Conservation and Resource Zone

PDZ - Priority Development Zone

PPRZ - Public Park and Recreation Zone

PUZ1 - Public Use Zone-Service and Utility

PUZ2 - Public Use Zone-Education

PUZ3 - Public Use Zone-Health & Community

PUZ5 - Public Use Zone-Cemetery/Crematorium

PUZ6 - Public Use Zone-Local Government

PUZ7 - Public Use Zone-Other Public Use

PZ - Port Zone

R1Z - Residential 1 Zone (superseded by GRZ)

RCZ - Rural Conservation Zone

RGZ - Residential Growth Zone

SUZ - Special Use Zone

TR21 - State Transport Infrastructure

TR22 - Principal Road Network

TR23 - Significant Municipal Road

TR24 - Other Transport Use

UFZ - Urban Floodway Zone

UGZ - Urban Growth Zone

Melton

Werribee

Melbourne

St Albans

Footscray

Yarra River

Moonee Ponds Creek

West Gate Freeway

West Gate Tunnel

Princes Freeway

Geelong Road

Tottenham

Sunshine

Albion

Ballarat Road

Giffner

St Albans

Keilor Plains

Caroline Springs

Deer Park

Western Highway

Western Freeway

Calder Freeway

Tullamarine Freeway

Western Ring Road

Burnley Tunnel

Kings Way

Boulton Parade

Harcourt Parade

Queens Road

0

9.5 KM

Joint Venture

MOTT MACDONALD

Sunshine Superhub Project

Commonwealth Land in relation to SSP

Drawing Number:
SSP-ZWD-MAP-XLP-VIC-0114-Cwland_SSP

Revision:
A.1

Drawn By:
S. 22(1)(a)(b)

Approved By:
S. 22(1)(a)(b)

Date:
21/10/2025

Map Size:
A3

0

1

2

Kilometres

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Data Sources:
Vicmap 2025
AJM 2025
ESRI

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Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

EPBC 2025/10325

Referral decision brief

To: Rachel Short, Environment Assessments (Vic and Tas) and Post Approvals Branch, Environment Regulation Division

Action required: For Decision

Timing: 26 November 2025 – statutory timeframe

Sunshine Superhub Project (SSP) Additional Scope, Sunshine, Victoria

Recommended Decision	NCA	
Person proposing to take the Action	Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA)	
Controlling provisions triggered or matters protected by particular manner	World Heritage (sections 12 and 15A)	No
	National Heritage values of a national heritage place (sections 15B and 15C)	No
	Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B)	No
	Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)	No
	Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A)	No
	Nuclear Actions (sections 21 and 22A)	No
	Commonwealth marine area (sections 23 and 24A)	No
	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C)	No
	Unconventional gas or large coal mining development with impact on water resources (sections 24D and 24E)	No
	Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A)	No
	Commonwealth heritage places overseas (sections 27B and 27C)	No
	Commonwealth Actions (section 28)	No
Public Comments	<u>Yes</u>	Number: <u>2</u> See <u>Attachment C</u>
Ministerial Comments	<u>Yes</u>	Who: Victorian Minister for Planning See <u>Attachment D</u>

Recommendations

- 1) Consider the information in this brief, the referral (Attachment A) and other attachments.

Considered/Please discuss

- 2) Agree that the proposed Action is a component of a larger action.

Agreed/Not agreed

- 3) Agree to accept the referral under section 74A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Agreed/Not agreed

- 4) Agree that the proposed Action is not a controlled action under section 75(1) of the EPBC Act

Agreed/Not agreed

- 5) If you agree to recommendations 2 to 4 above, indicate that you accept the reasoning in the departmental briefing package as the basis for your decision.

Accepted/Please discuss

- 6) Sign the notice at Attachment E (which will be published if you make the recommended decision).

Signed/Not signed

- 7) Sign the letter at Attachment F.

Signed/Not signed

Signature of delegate:


Rachel Short

Branch Head

Environment Assessments (Vic and Tas) and Post Approvals Branch

Environment Regulation Division

Date: 25 November 2025

Comments: *Thank you – I have considered the information provided in this briefing package and its attachments, including the National Recovery Plans, Conservation advice, Policy Statements and Significant Impact Guidelines' provided via the links, and agree this is Not a Controlled Action.*

Key issues

- 1) The Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA) proposes to undertake rail upgrades around Sunshine Station, including a new platform, additional tracks, realignment of lines, new bridges and elevated structures, train station upgrades and associated works.
- 2) The proposed action will have limited direct impact on the habitat of the vulnerable Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*) and the potential for indirect impacts to the critically endangered Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain, critically endangered Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens*) the critically endangered Sunshine Diuris (*Diuris fragrantissima*), the endangered Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosis leptorhynchoides*), the vulnerable Large-fruit Fireweed (*Senecio macrocarpus*), and the vulnerable Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*).
- 3) The department considers that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

Background

Description of the referral

- 4) A referral was received on 28 October 2025. The action was referred by the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA) which has stated its belief that the proposal is not a controlled action for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Description of the proposed Action (including location)

- 5) The proposed action involves additional scope works for the Sunshine Superhub Project, a major rail infrastructure upgrade centred around Sunshine train station in Melbourne Victoria.
- 6) The Sunshine Superhub Project proposes major rail network upgrades around Sunshine Station to enable an airport rail link, support future electrification to Melton, untangle the network between Sunshine and West Footscray, and increase capacity for future services to Melbourne's growing western suburbs.
- 7) Two portions of the Sunshine Superhub Project have been previously referred, and are subject to existing EPBC Act referral decisions obtained for the New Regional Platform at Sunshine Station (NRPSS) Project:
 - NRPSS Pipeline and Railway Section: EPBC Referral No. 2022/09375 – Not a controlled action if undertaken in a Particular manner decision made on 24 March 2023.
 - NRPSS Sunshine Section: EPBC Referral No. 2022/09356 – Not a controlled action decision made on 13 January 2023.
- 8) The proposed action covers additional works not covered by these previous actions and includes:
 - A new regional rail platform at Sunshine Station.

- Additional tracks linking Melton and Melbourne Airport Rail to Platforms 3 and 4, with OHLE and signalling.
 - Track realignments and new sections on Sunbury, Bendigo, Regional Rail Link, ARTC and Independent Goods lines between West Footscray and Albion, including new bridges and elevated structures near Tottenham Yard and Brooklyn flyover.
 - Station upgrades at Albion, Sunshine, Tottenham and West Footscray, plus precinct works at Sunshine and Tottenham Yard.
 - Associated drainage, CSR, signalling, OHLE, utility relocations and construction laydown areas.
 - Establishment of construction laydown areas, site offices, worksites, storage, parking areas and access roads (where not considered preparatory or investigative works).
- 9) The Project action area is approximately 244.62 ha with a disturbance footprint of 235.57 ha and an avoidance footprint of 9.06 ha. It is mostly within the existing rail corridor with some private land acquisition and temporary access to adjacent parcels of land (Attachment A2)

Description of the environment

- 10) The proposed action area is located within the Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion in the western suburbs of Melbourne Victoria. Primarily within a heavily urbanised and disturbed rail corridor. The area is characterised by existing rail structure, buildings and vehicle access tracks.
- 11) Ecological values are largely confined to discrete patches within and adjacent to the rail corridor in existing conservation reserves. Three reserves exist within the Project area and include:
- St Albans Rail Reserve Grassland
 - Ginifer Rail Reserve Grassland
 - Sunshine Railway Linear Reserve.

The following reserves are adjacent to but outside the project area and have been included in the ecological assessments by the proponent to determine risk of indirect impacts:

- Matthew Hill Reserve
- Sunshine Triangle.

These reserves and grasslands support remnant vegetation and habitat for listed threatened species and communities. No works are proposed within any of these areas.

Section 74A – referral of a larger action

- 12) Section 74A(1) of the EPBC Act states that if the Minister (or delegate) is satisfied the action that is the subject of the referral is a component of a larger action the person proposes to take, the Minister (or delegate) may decide not to accept the referral. This is a discretionary decision and, as such, you are not obliged to exercise the power.

- 13) The [EPBC Act Policy Statement – Staged Developments – Split referrals: Section 74A of the EPBC Act](#) provides guidance on when the discretion should be exercised and states that “[a] referred action that is part of a larger action can be refused only if there is a reasonable basis for doing so. The key question for the Minister is: does the splitting of the project reduce the ability to achieve the objects of the Act?”
- 14) The Sunshine Superhub Project (SSP) Additional Scope, along with the New Regional Pipeline at Sunshine Station (NRPSS) Pipeline and Railway Section (EPBC 2022/09375) and NRPSS Sunshine Station Section (EPBC 2022/09356), are components of the larger Sunshine Superhub Project. Factors considered include that the referred action is being delivered by authorities under the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (ABN 69 981 208 782), such as Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority and Rail Projects Victoria. While organisational names differ, these are registered business names under the same legal entity. For the purposes of section 74A of the EPBC Act, this means the actions are undertaken by the same person. The referred action is also spatially and functionally connected to the NRPSS Sunshine Station Section and the NRPSS Pipeline and Railway Section
- 15) Therefore, the proponent considers and the department agrees that the referred action and the activities described as Sunshine Super Hub comprise a larger action proposed to be undertaken by the same person.
- 16) The department considers that the acceptance of the proposed action will not interfere with the objectives of the EPBC Act, although part of the larger Sunshine Superhub Project. The proponent has prepared an assessment of potential cumulative impacts across all three components of the larger project, and the department agrees cumulative impacts are unlikely. The previous two components (EPBC 2022/09356 and 2022/09375) did not propose any direct impacts to MNES, and following implementation of mitigation measures, indirect impacts were also unlikely. Therefore, if the larger action were assessed in its entirety, it is unlikely a different decision on whether the action is a controlled action would be made.
- 17) For these reasons, the department considers that while the referred action is clearly part of the larger action, consistent with the [EPBC Act Policy Statement – Staged Development – Split referrals: Section 74A of the EPBC Act](#), it is recommended that the referral be accepted. The department notes that subsection 74A(4) requires you to notify the person who referred the proposal in writing of your decision under subsection 74A(1) and publish in accordance with the regulations (if any), a copy of your decision. The department has included written notice of the decision to accept the referral in the letter to the proponent ([Attachment F](#)).
- 18) The SSP Additional Scope proposed action area also overlaps with the Melbourne Airport Rail Project (EPBC 2021/9040), undertaken by the Department of Transport. The MAR Project was referred on 16 September 2021 and determined on 11 October 2021 as not a controlled action. While the SSP Additional Scope facilitates the MAR Project, the two projects are not interdependent. The department understands the SSP Additional Scope may proceed without the MAR and thus can be considered an independent action. The department considers the proposed action, and the MAR Project are not, together, one larger action.

Recommended Decision

- 19) Under section 75 of the EPBC Act you must decide whether the action that is the subject of the proposal referred is a controlled action, and which provisions of Part 3 (if any) are controlling provisions for the action. In making your decision you must consider all adverse impacts the action has, will have, or is likely to have, on the matter protected by each provision of Part 3. You must not consider any beneficial impacts the action has, will have or is likely to have on the matter protected by each provision of Part 3. The department recommends that sufficient information is available to make this decision.
- 20) Section 67 of the EPBC Act provides that an action is a controlled action if the taking of the action, without the Minister's approval for the purposes of a provision of Part 3, would be prohibited by the provision (the controlling provision for the action).
- 21) The department recommends you decide the proposal is not a controlled action, because there are not likely to be significant impacts on a Part 3 protected matter. The reasons for this recommendation are detailed further below.

Protected matters that are not controlling provisions

Listed threatened species and communities (s18 and s18A)

- 22) The department's Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) indicates that a total of 85 species and 6 communities may occur within 2 km of the proposed Action (see the PMST report at Attachment B). Based on the location of the action, likely habitat present in the area of the proposed Action, the department considers that impacts potentially arise in relation to the following matters

Golden Sun Moth (Synemon plana) - vulnerable Protected matter ecology

- 23) The Golden Sun Moth is a medium-sized, day-flying moth, known from across Victoria, NSW, and the ACT. The species is dependent on grassland habitat, with a highly reduced and fragmented distribution. The majority of known sites are smaller than 5 ha. The approved *Conservation Advice for Synemon plana (Golden Sun Moth)* (2021) lists the main identified threats to the Golden Sun Moth as habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation, isolation of populations, agricultural practices and weed invasion.
- 24) According to the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance* (2013) an important population is defined as one that is necessary for the species long term survival including: a key source population for breeding or dispersal, a population necessary for maintaining genetic diversity and/or a population near the limit of the species range.

Environment within and surrounding the proposed Action area

- 25) Targeted surveys for the Golden Sun Moth were undertaken in 2019, 2020 and 2021 across suitable grassland habitat within the proposed action area and in the adjacent Matthews Hill Reserve. The surveys were conducted in accordance with the *Significant Impact Guidelines for the critically endangered golden sun moth (Synemon plana)* (2009). The surveys recorded Golden Sun Moth within the Matthews Hill Reserve but did not detect the species in the action area or other reserves.

- 26) The referral documentation identifies approximately 1.16 hectares (ha) of suitable habitat within the action area located immediately south of Matthews Hill Reserve and an additional 2.48 ha within the Matthews Hill Reserve. While no Golden Sun Moths were found within the proposed action area, the department considers the suitable habitat within the proposed action area is connected to habitat in Mathews Hill Reserve where the species was recorded so there is potential for this habitat to be occupied.
- 27) Mathews Hill Reserve and habitat within the proposed action area are separated by less than 200m, meaning they are connected for dispersal. Both areas are surrounded by urban development which limits connection to other regional habitats. The referral documentation states the southern edge of the action area is degraded due to previous disturbance, the presence of railroad ballast and high cover of invasive weeds. These reduce the area's suitability as habitat compared to the higher quality habitat within the Matthews Hill reserve.
- 28) The department agrees with the findings in the referral documentation that the Golden Sun Moth population at Matthews Hill Reserve and the adjacent action area does not meet the definition of an important population. This is because the area is surrounded by urban development which reduces the species ability to disperse meaning it is unlikely to be a source population for breeding or dispersal, that the population within the reserve, although locally significant, is unlikely to be necessary to maintain genetic diversity due to limited connectivity with other suitable habitats, and the project area is not located near the outer edge of the species known range.

Potential impacts

- 29) The proposed action involves the direct removal of 0.23 ha of Golden Sun Moth habitat located on the southern outermost margin of the proposed action area adjacent to Matthews Hill Reserve. The remaining 0.926 ha of habitat within the proposed action area will not be directly impacted. As the habitat to be removed is located on the edge of the larger habitat patch it will not fragment the patch or reduce connectivity to Matthews Hill Reserve.
- 30) The department notes the population is unlikely to be an important population. It considers the removal of 0.23ha of lower quality habitat from the southern edge of the 3.63 ha habitat patch is unlikely to result in a significant impact to Golden Sun Moth.

Avoidance and mitigation measures

- 31) The referral documentation includes mitigation measures to further reduce the risk of indirect impacts on Golden Sun Moth habitat such as fencing no-go zones, construction hygiene, dust mitigation and erosion and sedimentation control measures.
- 32) The department considers that while these mitigation measures are beneficial the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on Golden Sun Moth regardless of their implementation.

Conclusion

- 33) The Department considers that the proposed action is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*) given the location and small area of habitat to be removed from a population unlikely to be important for the species. While mitigation measures

are proposed to manage risk of indirect impact, the department considers these are not necessary to ensure impacts to the species will not be significant.

Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) – critically endangered
Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens*) – critically endangered
Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorrhynchoidea*) – endangered
Large-fruit Fireweed (*Senecio macrocarpus*) – vulnerable

Protected matter ecology

- 34) Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) is limited to the basalt plain of Victoria and is dominated by a ground layer of native tussock-forming perennial grasses interspersed with a variety of herbs. The [Conservation Advice for the Nationally Threatened Ecological Communities of the Victorian Volcanic Plain: Natural Temperate Grassland and the Grassy Eucalypt Woodland](#) (2011) states that the community is highly geographically restricted and has suffered a severe decline in extent and quality. Key threats to NTGVVP are clearing, land management changes, weed invasion, and application of herbicides and fertilisers.
- 35) The Spiny Rice-flower is a small spreading shrub endemic to western Victoria and occurs in grassland or open shrubland. There are approximately 12,000 plants across 20 populations, with populations substantially fragmented and depleted due to land clearance. Plants are slow growing and may live up to 100 years. The [National Recovery Plan for the Spiny Rice-flower *Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens*](#) (2024) states that key threats to the species include weed invasion, road works and grazing.
- 36) Button Wrinklewort was once widespread in grasslands and grassy woodlands south of the Great Dividing Range. It is now largely confined to fragmented patches of volcanic plains between Rokewood and Melbourne, with around 27 small populations in southeastern Australia. The [National Recovery Plan for Button Wrinklewort \(*Rutidosia leptorrhynchoidea*\)](#) (2012) identifies key threats including habitat loss, weed invasion and altered fire regimes.
- 37) The Large-headed Fireweed is a small perennial daisy endemic to south-eastern Australia. It occurs in Victoria and South Australia across 15 populations and is extinct in Tasmania. Less than 1,000 plants occur in Victoria. The [National Recovery Plan for the Large-fruit Groundsel *Senecio macrocarpus*](#) (2010) states that key threats to the species include habitat disturbance and destruction, weed invasion and competition.

Environment within and surrounding the proposed Action area

- 38) The referral documentation identifies eight patches totalling 3.313 ha of NTGVVP within the project area across the three sites. All eight patches are located outside the proposed disturbance footprint of the action. NTGVVP also occurs adjacent to the project area at Matthews Hill Reserve (2.476 ha) and Sunshine Triangle ecological site (1.593 ha). No works are proposed in these areas.
- 39) Targeted surveys as per the survey guidelines in the [Significant impact guidelines for the critically endangered spiny rice flower \(*Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens*\)](#) (2009), were undertaken in 2019-20 as part of the previous related referrals and again in May 2025. The referral states 558 Spiny Rice-flower plants are recorded or known within the project area with

the majority (536) at St Albans Rail Reserve Grassland, 4 at Ginifer Rail Reserve Grassland, 13 south of Matthews Hill Reserve and 5 at Sunshine Railway line Linear Reserve. No works are proposed within these reserves.

- 40) The referral documentation states 37 Button Wrinklewort plants are present in the project area at St Albans Rail Reserve Grassland based on a Nature Advisory Survey conducted in 2024. All individuals occur outside the proposed disturbance area.
- 41) The referral states there are nine Large-headed Fireweed plants recorded or known to occur within the project area including seven within the St Albans Rail Reserve Grassland and two in land adjacent to Matthew Hills Reserve. No works are proposed in these areas.

Potential impacts

- 42) The referral states that no NTGVVP will be removed from the project area as all NTGVVP occurs outside the disturbance footprint.
- 43) There is a suitable buffer between the NTGVVP patches and the proposed disturbance footprint to manage the risk of indirect impacts at patch edges such as the spread of weeds and erosion. The referral states that there will be no direct impacts to the species.
- 44) Spiny Rice Flower records are present within the proposed action area, but none are located within the proposed disturbance footprint meaning no individuals will be removed.
- 45) A three-metre buffer exists between Spiny Rice Flower individuals and the proposed disturbance footprint to manage the risk of indirect impacts at patch edges such as the spread of weeds and erosion. This buffer distance is supported by the Spiny Rice-flower Recovery Team. The referral states that there will be no direct impacts to the species.
- 46) No direct impacts to the Button Wrinklewort or the Large-headed Fireweed are expected, according to the referral documentation, because all plants occur within St Albans Rail Reserve outside the disturbance area. The department considers the risk of indirect impact is low and unlikely to have a significant impact on either of these species.

Avoidance and mitigation measures

- 47) The referral includes mitigation measures to further reduce the risk of indirect impacts to NTGVVP, Large-headed Fireweed, Spiny Rice-flower and Button Wrinklewort such as fencing no-go zones, construction hygiene, dust mitigation and erosion and sedimentation control measures. The department considers that while these measures are beneficial, the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on NTGVVP, Large-headed Fireweed, Spiny Rice-flower or Button Wrinklewort regardless of their implementation.

Conclusion

- 48) The referral has stated that the proposed action has been designed to avoid impacts to NTGVVP, Spiny Rice-Flower, Large-headed Fireweed and Button Wrinklewort. These protected matters are located outside of the disturbance footprint, as a such no direct impacts will occur. On this basis, the department considers that the proposed action is unlikely to result in a significant impact to NTGVVP, Large-headed Fireweed, Spiny Rice-flower or Button Wrinklewort.

**Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*) – Vulnerable
Protected matter ecology**

- 49) The Striped Legless Lizard is a grassland specialist, patchily distributed across south-eastern Australia. The lizard's primary habitat is encompassed by four nationally threatened ecological communities including NTGVVP, Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain, Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands, and White Box-Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.
- 50) The *Conservation Advice Delma impar striped legless lizard (2016)* states that all populations are likely to be important for the species' recovery, due to major loss and degradation of habitat, ongoing pressures in remaining habitat, and the highly fragmented nature of known habitat and populations.

Environment within and surrounding the proposed Action area

- 51) The referral states that targeted surveys for Striped Legless Lizard were undertaken in accordance with the department's survey guidelines. The surveys identified approximately 5.73 ha of Striped Legless Lizard habitat and recorded 22 individuals within the Ginifer Rail Reserve, which is located within the proposed project area but outside the disturbance footprint. An additional 4.19 ha of potential habitat occurs within the Sunshine Railway Line Linear Reserve, also outside the proposed disturbance footprint.
- 52) No Striped Legless Lizard habitat was recorded elsewhere in the proposed action area.

Potential impacts

- 53) The referral states that no Striped Legless Lizard habitat will be removed, as all habitat is located outside the disturbance footprint.
- 54) The department considers while indirect impacts from weed spread or encroachment of dust/sediment may occur, the risk of these impacts being significant is unlikely.

Avoidance and mitigation measures

- 55) The referral documentation states that all direct impacts to Striped Legless Lizard have been avoided through the project design and do not occur within the disturbance footprint. The referral states that additional mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce indirect impacts to Striped Legless Lizard including construction hygiene measures and erosion and sedimentation controls.
- 56) The department considers that while these mitigation measures are beneficial the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on Striped Legless Lizard regardless of their implementation.

Conclusion

- 57) The referral states no direct impacts to Striped Legless Lizard will occur as a result of the project. The department considers indirect impacts are unlikely to be considerable enough to cause a significant impact to the species. On this basis, the department considers that the proposed action is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the Striped Legless Lizard.

Other listed species

- 58) The department's PMST identifies the potential presence of additional threatened species or communities within 2km of the proposed Action area. Based on information available to the department, such as the Species Profile and Threats database, relevant recovery plans and information from the referral documentation, the department considers that significant impacts to these species or communities are unlikely.
- 59) The referral draws on targeted surveys undertaken for the previous EPBC Act referrals as part of the Sunshine Superhub (EPBC 2025.09375 Pipeline and Railway Section and the Sunshine Section EPBC 2022/09356). These surveys found no individuals of the following species within or adjacent to the proposed action area:
- Endangered Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*): Surveys in 2019-2021 did not detect the species and the 2025 habitat assessment confirmed unsuitable conditions for the species.
 - Endangered Small Golden Moths Orchid (*Diuris basaltica*): Surveys in 2019- 2020 conducted according to Commonwealth guidelines and optimal flowering period did not detect the species. The 2025 habitat assessment confirmed unsuitable habitat conditions for the species.
 - Vulnerable Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*): Surveys in 2018-2019 at Kororoit Creek and Stony Creek. The species was not detected. Habitat assessments in 2025 confirmed the conditions remain unchanged.
 - Critically endangered Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon (*Tympanocryptis pinguicolla*): No historical detections in the proposed action area. A habitat assessment in 2025 confirmed the proposed action area unlikely to support the dragon.

Provision	Discussion
World Heritage properties (s12 & s15A)	The PMST did not identify any declared World Heritage properties located within or adjacent to the proposed Action area. Further, given the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed Action and its potential impacts, and the distance to World Heritage properties, the proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of World Heritage properties. For these reasons the department considers that sections 12 and 15A are <u>not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.
National Heritage places (s15B & s15C)	The PMST did not identify any National Heritage places located within or adjacent to the proposed Action area. Further, given the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed Action and its potential impacts, and the distance to National Heritage places, the proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the National Heritage values of National Heritage places. For these reasons the department considers that sections 15B and 15C are <u>not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.

Provision	Discussion
Ramsar wetlands (s16 & s17B)	The Port Philip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site occurs within 10 kms of the proposed action area. The PMST did not identify any declared Ramsar listed wetlands of international importance within or adjacent to the proposed Action area. Further, given the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed Action and its potential impacts, and the distance to Ramsar listed wetlands of international importance, the proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the ecological character of Ramsar listed wetlands of international importance. For these reasons the department considers that sections 16 and 17B <u>are not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.
Migratory species (s20 & s20A)	The PMST identified the potential presence of 58 migratory species within or adjacent to the proposed Action area. Based on information available to the department, such as the Species Profile and Threats database and information from the referral documentation, the department considers that significant impact to these migratory species is unlikely. For these reasons the department considers that sections 20 and 20A <u>are not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.
Nuclear action (s21 & s22A)	The proposed Action does not meet the definition of a nuclear action as defined in the EPBC Act. For this reason, the department considers that sections 21 and 22A <u>are not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.
Commonwealth marine environment (s23 & s24A)	The proposed Action is not being taken in a Commonwealth marine area. Further, given the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed Action and its potential impacts, and the distance to a Commonwealth marine area, the proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment in a Commonwealth marine area. For these reasons the department considers that sections 23 and 24A <u>are not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (s24B & s24C)	The proposed Action is not being taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Further, given the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed Action and its potential impacts, and the distance to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. For these reasons the department considers that sections 24B and 24C <u>are not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.

Provision	Discussion
A water resource, in relation to unconventional gas development and large coal mining development (s24D & s24E)	The proposed Action does not involve an unconventional gas development or a large coal mining development. For this reason, the department considers that sections 24D and 24E <u>are not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.
Commonwealth land (s26 & s27A)	The proposed Action is not being taken on Commonwealth land. Further, given the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed Action and its potential impacts, and the distance to Commonwealth land, the proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact to the environment on Commonwealth land. For these reasons the department considers that sections 26 and 27A <u>are not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.
Commonwealth Heritage places overseas (s27B & s27C)	The proposed Action is not being taken overseas. For this reason, the department considers that sections 27B and 27C <u>are not controlling provisions</u> for the proposed Action.
Commonwealth action (s28)	The person proposing to take the Action is not a Commonwealth agency. For this reason, the department considers that section 28 is <u>not a controlling provision</u> for the proposed Action.

Submissions

Public submissions

60) As required by section 74(3) of the EPBC Act, the proposal was published on the department's website on 28 October 2025 and public comments were invited until 11 November 2025. Two public submissions were received on the referral (Attachment C). Under section 75(1A) of the EPBC Act, you must consider all comments received in response to that invitation, received within the public comment period. The department has considered and summarised all submissions received, and relevant matters are discussed in this brief. The submissions raised issues including the following:

- Brimbank City Council queried the survey documentation provided and consistency with Commonwealth guidelines, noted Denton Grassland in St Albans was not referenced in the assessment by the proponent and recommended expanding Matthews Hill Reserve along with funding for its ongoing management. Council also requested consolidation of the Construction Environmental Management Plans from this referral and previous related referrals into one overarching plan.

Survey results, impact assessment and mitigation measures are addressed in the referral, however the department will follow up with the consultant to remind them to include all

survey documentation for each referral in future. Denton Grassland lies outside the project footprint. Broader matters such as reserve expansion and funding fall under State and Local Government responsibilities. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will apply under Victorian planning requirements.

- Friends of Kororoit Creek agreed with the proponent that the action is not a controlled action however raised opportunities for monitoring by local Landcare and community groups in the reserves and at Kororoit Creek. They also proposed better compliance with local planning overlays, community grants for restoration and suggested a more proactive approach to management and monitoring of hydrology and habitat at Kororoit Creek.

The department has noted these suggestions but consider they are outside the scope of the EPBC Act and your decision.

Comments from Commonwealth Ministers

61) By letter dated 28 October 2025, the following ministers were invited to comment on the referral:

- Ms Belinda Bower, delegate of Hon. Richard Marles, Minister for Defence
- Ms Suzanne Hinchliffe, delegate of Hon. Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance
- The Hon, Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

62) No comments were received in response to that invitation.

Comments from State or Territory Ministers

63) By letter dated 28 October 2025, the following State or Territory ministers were invited to comment on the referral:

- The Hon. Sonya Kilkeny MP, the Victorian Minister for Planning

64) The Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) responded on 14 November 2025 and provided the following comments (Attachment D11).

- DEECA confirmed that Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) are present or likely within the Additional Scope Action Area and advised that Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) and a Threatened Species Management Plan (TSMP) will be critical to avoiding and minimising impacts. DEECA recommended applying the same condition as referral 2022/09375 to require implementation of all measures in the TSMP.

While noting this advice, the department has provided its view above that the implementation of mitigation measures while beneficial are not necessary to ensure indirect impacts are insignificant.

- Heritage Victoria confirmed one site listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory (Former Tottenham Station) and four places on the Victorian Heritage Register occur within the

proposed works area. Works within these places require permits under the Heritage Act 2017, and archaeological sites are protected under the Act.

The department notes these areas are not protected under the EPBC Act and are outside the scope of your decision.

- First Peoples State Relations confirmed the project area includes areas of cultural heritage sensitivity associated with Stony Creek and Kororoit Creek. Two approved Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) identified low-density artefact distributions and require avoidance of registered Aboriginal places. Contingency measures for unexpected finds are considered effective. FPSR noted uncertainty regarding consideration of intangible cultural heritage values, which should be addressed in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties.
- *The department notes these comments and will provide feedback to the proponent regarding consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties for potential impacts on intangible cultural heritage values but considers this is outside the scope of your decision.*
- Environment Protection Authority raised potential environmental risks during construction, including impacts to surface water (Kororoit Creek, Stony Creek), groundwater, contaminated land, waste, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise and vibration. EPA advised that these risks should be managed through best-practice controls documented in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and compliance with the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and associated regulations.

The department notes the Environment Protection Act 2017 is Victorian state legislation. The department has considered the risk of indirect impacts from site construction on MNES but considers impacts from indirect impacts are unlikely to be significant.

Significant impact guidelines

- 65) The department has reviewed the information in the referral against the [EPBC Act Policy Statement – Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance](#) and other relevant material. While this material is not binding or exhaustive, the factors identified are considered adequate for decision-making in the circumstances of this referral. [Adequate information is available](#) for decision-making for this proposal.

Precautionary principle

- 66) In making your decision under section 75, you are required to take account of the precautionary principle (section 391), to the extent that you can do so consistently with the other provisions of the EPBC Act. The precautionary principle is that a lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.
- 67) The department considers the proposed action does not present a threat of serious or irreversible environmental damage. As addressed in this brief to you, the department does not believe there is either a risk of serious direct or indirect impact.

Bioregional Plans

68) In accordance with section 176(5), you are required to have regard to a bioregional plan in making any decision under the Act to which the plan is relevant.

69) There is no bioregional plan that is relevant to your decision.

Management Plans for Commonwealth Reserves

70) In accordance with section 362(2), the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency must not perform its functions or exercise its powers in relation to a Commonwealth reserve inconsistently with a management plan that is in operation for the reserve.

71) There is no Commonwealth reserve management plan that is relevant to your decision.

Cleared by

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Name: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Position: Action Director
Branch: Environment Assessments (Vic and Tas) and Post Approvals Branch
Phone: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Date: 24 November 2025

Contact officer

Name: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Section: Victoria Assessments Section
Phone: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Attachments

A: Referral documentation ✓

A1: [2025-10325 Referral](#)

A2: [Project Area Map](#)

A3: [MNES Report Part 1](#)

A4: [MNES Report Part 2](#)

A5: [MNES Report Part 3 – VGED Habitat Assessment](#)

A6: [Sunshine Superhub Sustainability Policy](#)

A7: [VIDA Transport Infrastructure Decarbonisation Policy](#)

A8: [Project Disturbance and Avoidance Footprint Map](#)

A9: [Threatened Species Management Plan Part 1](#)

A10: [Threatened Species Management Plan Part 2](#)

B: [PMST Report created 30 October 2025](#) —

C: Public comments ✓

- C1: [Brimbank City Council](#)
- C2: [Friends of Kororoit Creek](#)
- D: Ministerial comments (Victoria) ✓
- D1: [Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action](#)
- D2: [Heritage Victoria](#)
- D3: [First Peoples State Relations](#)
- D4: [Environment Protection Authority](#)
- E: [Decision notice](#) FOR SIGNATURE
- F: Letters- FOR SIGNATURE
- F1- [Letter to the person proposing to take the Action or proponent](#) FOR SIGNATURE
- F2- [Letter to the Minister for Finance](#)- FOR SIGNATURE
- F3- [Letter to the Minister for Defence](#)- FOR SIGNATURE
- F4- [Letter to the Minister for Infrastructure](#)- FOR SIGNATURE

Name	Status	Type of Presence	Proposed impacts (with implementation measures)	Mitigation measures
Plains-wanderer	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Not recorded within 5 km of the SSP Additional Scope Action Area within the last 30 years.	NA
Curlew Sandpiper	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Low No suitable habitat within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area.	NA
Eastern Curlew	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Low SSP Additional Scope Action Area is inland and lacks suitable coastal or tidal mudflat habitats to support this species	NA
Swift Parrot	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Moderate This species is likely to utilise the SSP Additional Scope Action Area sporadically for foraging and dispersal purposes during its migration. Species utilises large, mature flowering eucalypt species between March – August, including planted eucalyptus such as Sugar Gums. Considering the dispersed nature of this species’ habitat across the state, high dispersal potential of this species, extensive foraging habitat outside the SSP Additional Scope Action Area and the transient nature of the migratory species’ presence in the area, it is unlikely that this species would be impacted by the proposed works. Negligible potential for impact.	NA
Orange-bellied Parrot	Critically Endangered	Migration route likely to occur within area	Low No suitable habitat for this species within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area.	NA
Plains Rice-flower (Spiny Rice-flower)	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	558 individuals occur in several locations within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area. An additional 4 Spiny Rice-flower plants have been recorded south of the Sunshine Triangle (outside the SSP Additional Scope Action Area). None. All Spiny Rice-flower in the SSP Additional Scope Action Area are to be retained in No-go Zones. The No-go Zone in the area south of Matthews Hill has been delineated to include a minimum 3m buffer around all Spiny Rice-flowers. This measure has been supported by the Spiny Rice-flower Recovery Team as an appropriate measure to allow for the retention of Spiny Rice-flower. There are no direct or indirect impacts to any Spiny Rice flower plants or suitable habitats for the species within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area.	No go zones including 3 m buffer
Australasian Bittern	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	No suitable habitat within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area.	NA

Matted Flax-lily	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Last reported 7/06/2022 Likelihood is Low This species was initially considered likely to occur within the Old Sunshine Tip Site, where there are a number of VBA records of the species. Targeted surveys did not detect the species at this location (AJM-JV 2021a). Three species of Dianella were recorded within the Old Sunshine Tip Site including Glaucous Flax lily (Dianella longifolia var. grandis), Black Anther Flax-lily (Dianella revoluta), and Blue Flax-lily (Dianella caerulea), indicating a potential previous mis-identification at that location. Additionally, targeted surveys for Matted Flax-lily were undertaken at Matthews Hill Reserve and in adjacent habitats (November – December 2019 and January 2021 (AJM-JV 2021a)). No Matted Flax-lily were recorded within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area. This species is considered to have a low likelihood of occurrence in the SSP Additional Scope Action Area.	NA
Sunshine Diuris	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Outside and adjacent to SSP Action area; specifically in Sunshine Triangle	Indirect impacts considered in previous Referrals. No mitigation or avoidance required for this referral
Golden sun moth	Vulnerable		The species was recorded within Matthews Hill Reserve during targeted surveys in 2019/2020 (AJM-JV 2021a). As such Matthews Hill Reserve and the area of contiguous grassy habitat to the south of Matthews Hill Reserve is considered to support habitat for the Golden Sun Moth	
Small Golden Moths Orchid	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	No Small Golden Moths (orchid) were recorded within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area.	NA
Southern Giant-Petrel	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Marine	NA
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Low No previous records within a 5km search area from the SSP Additional Scope Action Area. The SSP Additional Scope Action Area does not support intact stands of plains grassy woodland, large stands of remnant vegetation or foraging habitat considered to support or attract the species.	NA
Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	Critically Endangered	Community known to occur within area	Mapped and described. Report concludes no direct impact - located in no-go zones. Indirect?	??
Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	Critically Endangered	Community likely to occur within area	None. All areas of NTGVVP within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area are to be retained in No-go Zones. There are no direct or indirect impacts to any patches of NTGVVP within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area.	No go zones

VGED	Critically Endangered		Habitat assessments undertaken by AJM-JV in 2025 against the published conservation advice for the species (Appendix E) concluded that the SSP Additional Scope Action Area is unlikely to support Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon. This assessment was based on the finding that remnant native grassland within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area is largely fragmented and lacks the preferred habitat characteristics for the species, including adequate soil cracks, spider burrows, and inter-tussock space. Additionally, the presence and extent of non-native flora, combined with the long-term disturbance associated with the rail corridor, have further reduced the likelihood of the species occurring within the SSP Additional Scope Action Area.	NA