

Pettavel Basin Augmentation Project

Application Number: 02312

Commencement Date:
20/03/2024

Status: Locked

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Pettavel Basin Augmentation Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Water Management and Use

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

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1.1.4 Estimated start date *

11/08/2024

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

12/12/2025

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

Overview

The proposed works are situated on a 25 ha parcel of land on the corner of Draytons Road and Reservoir Road, Waurin Ponds, Victoria. The site has been used as a Barwon Water storage site for over 70 years. A second site on the eastern side of Drayton's Road was also inspected, and will be used during construction

for site office, laydown areas and storage of spoil and construction materials ('the laydown area') (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Sections 1-5 and Appendices, pp 1-108).

The study site currently has two potable water storage basins at the Pettavel Basin site with a combined volume of 100 ML. This site supplies a population of approximately 130,000 in Armstrong Creek, Bellarine and Surf Coast urban growth areas and is forecast to grow to approximately 170,000 by 2041. Due to the rapid development in these areas, the existing 100 ML Pettavel Basin (combined volume) will no longer be capable of meeting the target peak day contingency storage by 2023-2024. Barwon Water is planning to increase the water storage capacity at the Pettavel Basin site with the addition of a new 100 ML (Basin No.3) basin next to the existing Basin No. 2 at the site. The net capacity of 200 ML storage will provide 0.8 days contingency supply. The purpose of the Project is to increase the reliability and security of water supply for this region through the provision of an additional basin (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Sections 1-5 and Appendices, pp 1-108).

The Project will require the removal of native vegetation and fauna habitat within part of the study site. The purpose of this Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment is to identify potential Project constraints related to ecological values and relevant environmental planning approvals that may be triggered by the Project components. This report outlines the findings of the desktop and site assessment and provides information regarding potential impacts to ecological values and likely permits, further site visits and documentation required to comply with State and Commonwealth legislation (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Sections 1-5 and Appendices, pp 1-108).

Construction Activities

The following construction activities are included in the works.

- The proposed action is construction and operation of a 100ML third potable water storage (Basin No.3), including an adjacent dry, grassed storage for detention of any overflow event from Basin No.3. Construction of this basin requires removal of a borrow pit / wetland which has developed habitat for the Growling Grass Frog, and construction of a replacement Growling Grass Frog wetland within the same site. Refer to EPBC Act form Question 4.1.4.10 for other mitigations and avoidance measures assessed.
- Preconstruction activities within the project area to deliver the proposed action includes:
 - Vegetation clearance. A description of vegetation removals and avoidance measures are provided within the Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 4.2.7.1 and Figure 2B, pp 34-35 and 80).
 - Dewatering of the borrow pit wetland. This activity directly impacts the environment and mitigations to address this impact are part of the proposed action.
- Construction activities to deliver the proposed action includes but not limited to the following. These activities do not impact the environment beyond the outline provided for pre-construction activities.
 - Installation temporary access tracks.
 - Excavation to the basin and wetland foundation/residual level.
 - Stockpiling and stockpile management within the designated laydown area.
 - Foundation treatment and preparation.
 - Embankment construction, including basin and wetland pipework.
 - Geomembrane cover and liner installation for the potable water basin.
 - Wetland landscaping and planting to facilitate Growling Grass Frog habitat.
 - Revised site drainage to facilitate new basin and wetland requirements, including cover pumps for the basin.
 - Reinstatement of all topsoil and areas outside basin and wetland footprint to original or better condition.
- Maintenance activities to deliver the proposed action include:
 - Wetland maintenance and monitoring requirements for the Growling Grass Frog wetland.
 - Barwon Water site operations to facilitate the Pettavel site potable water basins.

- No additional developments are happening as part of the proposed action, including any infrastructure changes outside the project area.
- The activities that are subject to this referral will occur on land owned by Barwon Water.
- The project area and disturbance footprint is outlined in Section 2.

Secondary Laydown Area

A secondary laydown area is being considered to the north of the Pettavel Basin. The site has been previously cropped and is currently utilised for stock grazing. Based on the highly modified nature of this site, the area is considered highly unlikely to support any MNES. Accordingly, this provides a suitable additional and/or alternative laydown site for the project.

Further details of the construction activities are provided in the Growling Grass Frog Management Plan (SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGFMP, Section 1.2, pp 1-2). Detailed drawings of the Growling Grass Frog wetland and overflow basin are provided in the CMP early works design package (CMP_PettavelBasin_Drawings, pp 1-11).

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

1. *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act): A breeding population of Growling Grass Frog was detected within the borrow pit wetland during targeted surveys which will be removed as part of the Project (SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS, Sections 1-4, pp 1-19). A significant impact assessment was completed and a significant impact to Growling Grass Frog is considered to be Possible (SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS, Appendix 1, pp 17-18). As part of the Project, a supplementary wetland will be constructed prior to excavation of the borrow pit wetland in accordance with a Growling Grass Frog Management Plan (SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGMP, Sections 1-3 and Appendices, pp 1-25). The new wetland will support the species habitat requirements for breeding, refuge and foraging habitat in accordance with industry standards for the species. Growling Grass Frog will be captured prior to and during excavation of the borrow pit wetland and relocated to the new wetland.
2. *Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act): An Environment Effects self-assessment was completed and a referral to the Minister is not deemed necessary as the Project is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 4.2.1, pp 28-29).
3. *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2018* (FFG Act): Several flora species that are protected under the FFG Act were identified within the study site. An FFG Act permit will be obtained for impacts to protected flora (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 4.2.2, pp 29-30). Two fauna species listed under the FFG Act were detected: Growling Grass Frog and Little Eagle. A permit is not required under the FFG Act for impacts to terrestrial fauna.
4. *Fisheries Act 1995*: A general permit (under Section 49 of the *Fisheries Act 1995*) is required to take or possess fish for research, education, fish management, aquaculture, compliance or scientific purposes. Translocation approval is also required from the VFA when proposed movement of fish is greater than 500 m. A translocation permit and associated general permit (both issued by the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) will be required to capture and relocation of non-listed fish species (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 4.2.3, pp 30).
5. *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act): Seven noxious weeds, four of which are also a declared Weed of National Significance, and two established pest animals were recorded within the

Project area. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed for this Project which will address measures to prevent the spread of declared noxious weeds and pest animals during the construction phase (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 4.2.4, pp 30-31).

6. *Wildlife Act 1975*: Management Authorisation under the *Wildlife Act 1975* is required for the capture and relocation of Growling Grass Frog (and any other fauna species) during vegetation removal and construction. Any works requiring the removal of wildlife must be undertaken by suitably qualified and licenced personnel (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 4.2.5, pp 31).
7. *Water Act 1989*: Corangamite CMA is the responsible authority for the control, management, and authorisation of works and activities in or over Designated Waterways in the Project Area. Approval from Corangamite Catchment and Management Authority will not be required for construction activities as they do not adjoin watercourses within the Project area (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 4.2.6, pp 31).
8. *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Clause 52.17)*: The Planning and Environment Act 1987 (P&E Act) governs the planning framework for the use and development of land in Victoria. The P&E Act provides procedures for the preparation and amendment of the Victoria Planning Provisions and the planning schemes. The removal of native vegetation is regulated via specific Clauses in the local planning schemes, which are administered by the relevant Local Government Area (LGA). Planning approval from City of Greater Geelong council is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation under Clause 52.17. Should an approval to remove native vegetation be granted an offset that meets the requirements for its removal must be secured before the native vegetation can be removed (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 4.2.7, pp 31-35).

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence (CHDD) assessment has been prepared for the project by Unearthed Heritage Australia Pty Ltd (UHA_PettavelBasin_CHDD, pp 1-30), this referenced attachment is not available for public view due to cultural sensitivity reasons. The findings of this due diligence assessment did not trigger a mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as the project site is in a highly disturbed location and outside of any mapped areas of cultural sensitivity.

Barwon Water voluntarily consulted with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) to inform WTOAC of the project and the findings of the information gathered via the CHDD. WTOAC were supportive of the project, however recommended that a Cultural Heritage Permit (CHP) be pursued. Barwon Water applied for a CHP for the project and resultantly WTOAC have granted a CHP for the project (WTOAC_PettavelBasin_CHP, pp 1-6), this referenced attachment is not available for public view due to cultural sensitivity reasons.

Addition public consultation has included letter submissions to surrounding property owners, as follows:

- **June 2023:** Courtesy letter to advise of the upcoming upgrade works to the Pettavel water storage basins and Geotechnical investigations being conducted on site in late June 2023. There were no further outcomes from this engagement.
- **May 2024:** Courtesy letter to provide awareness of the forthcoming Pettavel Basin water storage upgrade project, including indicative timeframes for stages of works. There were no further outcomes from this engagement.

A Planning permit application has been lodged with City of Greater Geelong in relation to the removal of native vegetation as part of the project works. As part of this process a public advertising element will be occur. This phase it yet to take place so there are no outcomes to comment on at this point in time. No additional public consultation has been undertaken by the proponent or assisting parties.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	86348316514
Organisation name	BARWON REGION WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	3220 VIC

Referring party details

Name	Andrew Taylor
Job title	Team Leader - Ecology, VIC
Phone	0439467062
Email	Andrew.Taylor@smec.com
Address	East 5, Federal Mills – 33 Mackey Street, North Geelong, VIC 3215

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	86348316514
Organisation name	BARWON REGION WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	3220 VIC

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Giles Flower
Job title	Senior Approvals and Environment Advisor
Phone	1300656007
Email	giles.flower@barwonwater.vic.gov.au

Address

55-67 Ryrie Street (PO Box 659) Geelong VIC 3220

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. ***Barwon Water**

Barwon Water has a satisfactory record of responsible environment management. There have been no past or present proceedings under any Act or legislation for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against these organisations.

Barwon Water have previously referred a range of projects, such as:

- Colac Water Supply Pipeline Upgrade (2022/09343)
- EPBC 2012/6266 - Wurdee Buloc Inlet Channel Refurbishment Works
- Melbourne to Geelong Pipeline (2010/5380)

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Barwon Water's Integrated Management System is the framework of policies, processes and procedures that define, control and improve environmental management, together with customer satisfaction, and the health and safety of customers and staff. The IMS complies with ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems — Requirements with guidance for use.

Barwon Water is committed to continual environmental improvement through the prevention of pollution, compliance with all relevant environmental legal and other requirements and meeting community expectations. Please refer to Barwon Water's Environmental Policy attached for more information (BarwonWater_EnvironmentalPolicy_June2023).

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	86348316514
Organisation name	BARWON REGION WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	3220 VIC

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Giles Flower
Job title	Senior Approvals and Environment Advisor
Phone	1300656007
Email	giles.flower@barwonwater.vic.gov.au
Address	55-67 Ryrie Street (PO Box 659) Geelong VIC 3220

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	86348316514
Organisation name	BARWON REGION WATER CORPORATION

Organisation address	3220 VIC
Representative's name	Andrew Taylor
Representative's job title	Team Leader - Ecology, VIC
Phone	0439467062
Email	Andrew.Taylor@smec.com
Address	East 5, Federal Mills – 33 Mackey Street, North Geelong, VIC 3215

✔ Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	86348316514
Organisation name	BARWON REGION WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	3220 VIC
Representative's name	Giles Flower
Representative's job title	Senior Approvals and Environment Advisor
Phone	1300656007
Email	giles.flower@barwonwater.vic.gov.au
Address	55-67 Ryrie Street (PO Box 659) Geelong VIC 3220

✔ Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

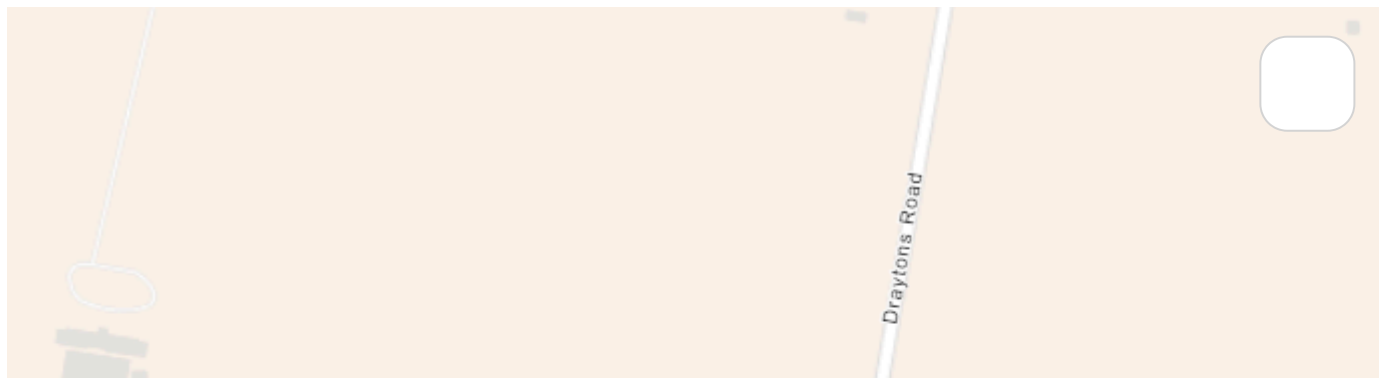
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

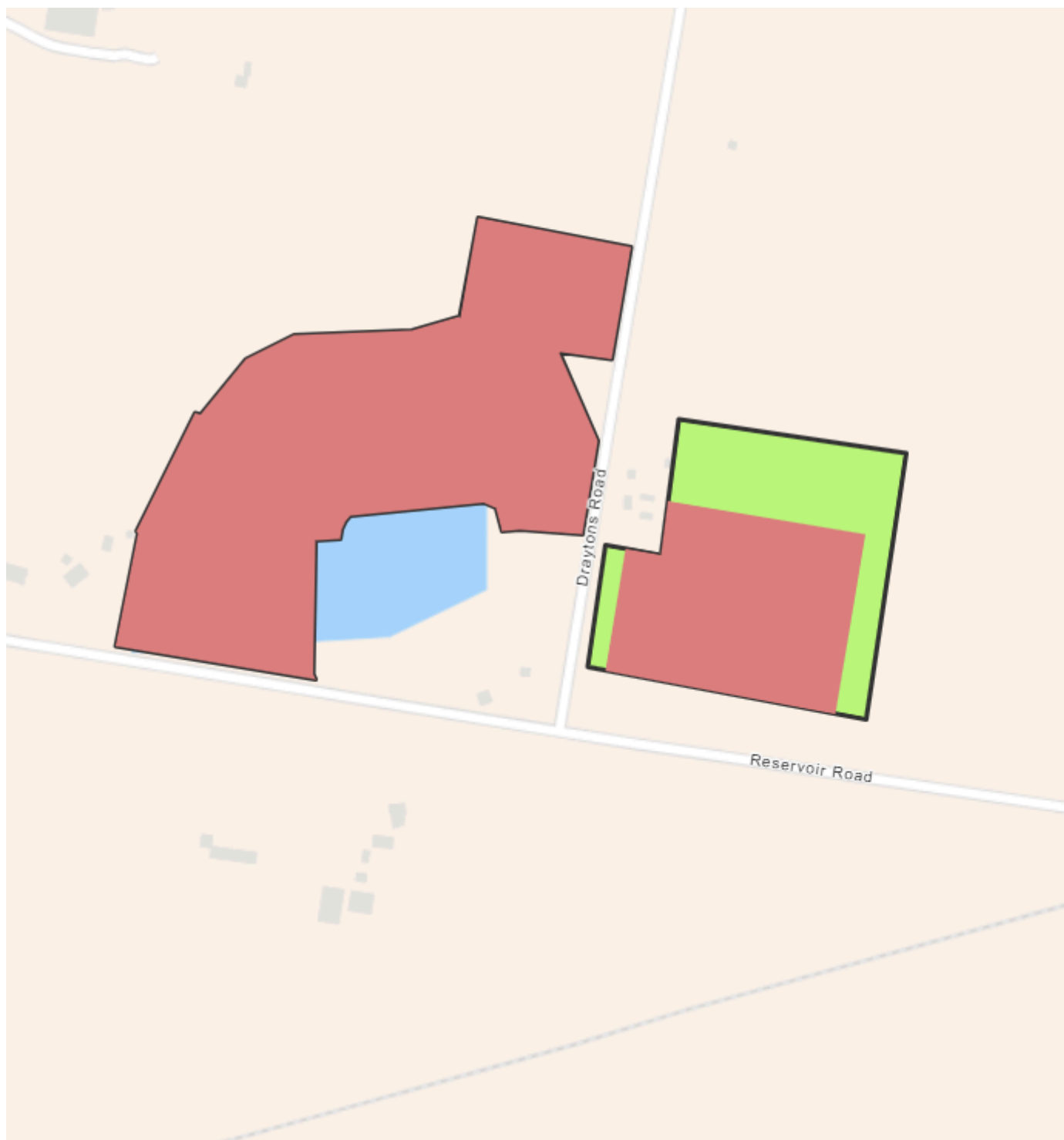
1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint





Maptaskr © 2024 -38.223647, 144.246488

Powered By Esri - Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, F...

Project Area: 19.56 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 16.66 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

210-240 Reservoir Road, Waurn Ponds, Victoria 3217

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Victoria

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

Privately owned

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area’s environment.

The Project area is approximately 5 km west of Waurn Ponds within the City of Greater Geelong, Victoria. It is situated on a 25-hectare parcel of land that has historically been used as a water facility. The water storage basins sit on the northern side of the road, adjacent to the juncture of Draytons Road and Reservoir Road.

The subject land is zoned ‘Public Use Zone 1 – Service and Utility’ and surrounding areas are currently zoned Farming or Special Use Zone 7 – Earth and Energy Resources. The Project area has been used by Barwon Water as a water storage site for over 70 years and requires an upgrade to the water storage capacity to meet future demands of the growing populations of Armstrong Creek, Leopold, the Surf Coast, and the Bellarine Peninsula. A detailed description of vegetation on site is provided in the Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 3, pp 13-26).

The site includes access points from Reservoir Rd and Draytons Road, which are used for operational purposes by Barwon Water to facilitate potable water storage and distribution. An existing site access point from Reservoir Road will be used for construction access to complete the Growling Grass Frog wetland. A site access point from Draytons Road will be used for construction access to complete Basin No.3. Construction activities for Basin No.3 will be restricted from Reservoir Road to ensure minimal disturbance of the established Growling Grass Frog wetland. No road infrastructure upgrades or modifications are included for Reservoir Rd and Draytons Road as part of the proposed action.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

The Project area is used as a water storage facility that supplies to the local townships of Armstrong Creek, Leopold, the Surf Coast, and the Bellarine Peninsula. The proposed upgrade of a new 100 ML basin will increase the water storage capacity of the existing Pettavel water storage site and support the demand of increasing urban development within the Greater City of Geelong, Victoria.

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

The Project area is located within the Pettavel Basin. Initially, the site was an earthen reservoir. The earthen reservoir was drained sometime prior to 1980 to transition the site to a water storage facility, and two water storage basins were constructed (Basin No.1 and Basin No.2). The walls of the two basins were constructed using soil that was excavated from an area in the north of the site. This excavation left a hole known as a 'borrow pit'. With little disturbance in 20 years, the borrow pit has developed into a wetland system fringed with native vegetation. The borrow pit wetland supports a diversity of native flora and fauna species, including a breeding population of the EPBC Act-listed Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis*. Habitat surrounding the wetland is primarily mown pasture or introduced grasses with limited habitat value for native flora or fauna.

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

The land has a gentle slope from north to south with no obvious high or low points apart from the undulating terrain where the edge of basins have been constructed. Elevation ranges from around 120 m above sea level in the northern portion of the project area to 110 m in the southern portion.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

1. Ecological surveys (undertaken between May 13 2023 and 19 January 2024) identified 97 flora species (45 native and 52 introduced) and 34 fauna species (33 native and five introduced) (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Sections 3.3 and Appendices, pp 1-108; SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS, Sections 1-5 and Appendices, pp 1-19).
2. Two threatened fauna species were detected using habitat within the study site: Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) (listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act) was identified within the borrow pit wetland. Little Eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*) (listed as Vulnerable under the FFG Act) was identified using the pine tree wind row that borders the northern and western boundaries of the site (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 3.4, pp 23-25).
3. Further information on ecological values is included in the attached Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment Report (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 1-5 and Appendices, pp 1-108).

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

The majority of the Project area comprises mown pasture or introduced grasses with limited habitat value for native flora or fauna. A borrow pit wetland is present in the north of the site. Since excavation of the borrow pit, native vegetation has naturally regenerated with a mosaic of wetland vegetation now present within the waterbody (Tall Marsh and Plains Sedgy Wetland) and non-Eucalypt Grassy Woodland in surrounding areas. A pine tree wind row borders the northern and western boundaries of the site, interspersed with small patches of poor-quality Plains Grassland along the northern boundary (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 3.3 and Figure 2A, pp 14-19 and pp 80).

- **Non-Eucalypt Grassy Woodland (EVC 175_61) – Endangered:** Dominated by native shrubs and variable understorey between patches of vegetation. The understorey comprised of Common Raspwort (*Gonocarpus tetragynus*), Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium spp.*), Spreading Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*), and native grasses consisting of primarily Wallaby-grasses (*Rytidosperma spp.*) and Spear-grasses (*Austrostipa spp.*) (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 3.3 and Figure 2A, pp 14-19 and pp 80).
- **Heavier-soils Plains Grassland (EVC132_61) – Endangered:** Patches of Plains Grassland within the Project area were characterised by a species poor cover of native scattered herbs and graminoids. Species composition varied greatly depending on localised changes in topography. Graminoids including Rough Spear-grass (*Austrostipa scabra*), Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), and Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) comprised free draining areas. Poorly draining areas and localised depressions supported Mat Grass (*Hemarthria uncinata*), Common Blown-grass (*Lachnagrostis filiformis*) and Brown-back Wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma duttonium*) (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 3.3 and Figure 2A, pp 14-19 and pp 80).
- **Plains Sedgy Wetland/Tall Marsh – Endangered:** A mosaic of Tall Marsh and Plains Sedgy Wetland within the borrow pit forming dense monoculture patches consisting of patches of Tall Marsh, Narrow-leaf Cumbungi, Tall Spike-rush, and River Club-sedge. A significant portion of the wetland comprises open water and at the time of assessment, lacked any aquatic vegetation (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 3.3 and Figure 2A, pp 14-19 and pp 80).

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

There are no Commonwealth Heritage places that apply to the Project area.

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

The Project area is located on the land of the Wadawurrung People and no Indigenous heritage values have been identified within the project area (UHA_PettavelBasin_CHDD, pp 1-30), this referenced attachment is not available for public view due to cultural sensitivity reasons.

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority are the responsible authority for the control, management, and authorisation of works and activities in or over Designated Waterways within the Project area. Approval from Corangamite Catchment Management Authority will not be required for construction activities as they do not adjoin watercourses within the Project area.

Site hydrology is isolated within the site boundary, i.e. no upstream catchments. All site overland flow and drainage pipework collects at the southern boundary and discharges to a designated Council point of discharge. Hydrology downstream of the site is to the southern direction, which is beyond the extent of the Ramsar Wetlands overlay. It needs to travel 5 km before reaching Duneed Creek and Thomson Creek waterways, which are beyond the extent of the Ramsar Wetlands overlay.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	No	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

There are no World Heritage Sites or related MNES that have potential to be impacted by the Project.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

There are no National Heritage Sites or related MNES that have potential to be impacted by the Project.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
No	No	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula

4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

1. There are no Ramsar Wetlands in proximity of the Project that are to be impacted. Please refer to Section 3.4.1 for an overview of hydrology at the site.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Amphibromus fluitans
No	No	Antechinus minimus maritimus
No	No	Anthochaera phrygia
No	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus
No	No	Calidris acuminata
No	No	Calidris ferruginea
No	No	Callocephalon fimbriatum

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Climacteris picumnus victoriae
No	No	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population)
No	No	Delma impar
No	No	Dianella amoena
No	No	Dodonaea procumbens
No	No	Falco hypoleucos
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii
No	No	Glycine latrobeana
No	No	Grantiella picta
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus
No	No	Isodon obesulus obesulus
No	No	Lachnagrostis adamsonii
No	No	Lathamus discolor
No	No	Lepidium aschersonii
No	No	Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor
No	No	Lissolepis coventryi
Yes	Yes	Litoria raniformis
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata
No	No	Nannoperca obscura
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis
No	No	Pedionomus torquatus
No	No	Petaurus australis australis
No	No	Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens
No	No	Prasophyllum spicatum
No	No	Prasophyllum suaveolens
No	No	Prasophyllum validum

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Prototroctes maraena
No	No	Pseudomys novaehollandiae
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus
No	No	Pterostylis chlorogramma
No	No	Pterostylis cucullata
No	No	Rostratula australis
No	No	Rutidosis leptorhynchoides
No	No	Senecio macrocarpus
No	No	Senecio psilocarpus
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata
No	No	Synemon plana
No	No	Thelymitra epipactoides
No	No	Thelymitra matthewsii
No	No	Thelymitra orientalis
No	No	Tringa nebularia
No	No	Xerochrysum palustre

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
No	No	Natural Damp Grassland of the Victorian Coastal Plains
No	No	Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*)

A breeding population of Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) was detected within the borrow pit wetland, which will be removed as part of the Project. A significant impact assessment was completed (SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS, Appendix 1, pp 17-18) and a significant impact to Growling Grass Frog is considered to be Possible, with the following significant impact criteria triggered:

- Alteration of aquatic vegetation diversity or structure that leads to a decrease in habitat quality.
- Alteration to wetland hydrology, diversity and structure (for example any changes to timing, duration or frequency of flood events) that leads to a decrease in habitat quality.

Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*):

Suitable habitat for Latham's Snipe was identified in the borrow pit wetland during the preliminary assessment (SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS, Sections 3-5, pp 7-10). Targeted surveys were completed and the species was not detected. As such, this species is unlikely to be impacted (SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS, Sections 3-5, pp 7-10).

Other species

The following species may occasionally use resources within the study site but are unlikely to be impacted by the Project: Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*), Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) and White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 3.4.1 (*Fauna*), pp 22-23).

4.1.4.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

*

Yes

4.1.4.5 Describe why you consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

A breeding population of Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) was detected within the borrow pit wetland, which will be removed as part of the Project. A significant impact assessment was completed (SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS, Appendix 1, pp 17-18), and a significant impact to Growling Grass Frog is considered to be Possible, with the following significant impact criteria triggered:

- Alteration of aquatic vegetation diversity or structure that leads to a decrease in habitat quality.
- Alteration to wetland hydrology, diversity and structure (for example any changes to timing, duration or frequency of flood events) that leads to a decrease in habitat quality.

Significant impacts to other threatened flora and fauna species are considered unlikely.

4.1.4.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.4.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action.

*

Based on biodiversity features accommodated in the Project design, the proposed action is *Not controlled action 'particular manner'*. A new wetland will be constructed prior to excavation of the borrow pit wetland in accordance with a Growling Grass Frog Management Plan (SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGFMP, Sections 1-3 and Appendices, pp 1-25). The new wetland will support Growling Grass Frog habitat requirements for breeding, refuge and foraging habitat in accordance with industry standards for the species.

Growling Grass Frog will be captured prior to and during excavation of the borrow pit wetland and relocated to the new wetland. The management plan includes measures to:

- Create a new wetland that specifically accommodates the habitat requirements of Growling Grass Frog.
- Relocate Growling Grass Frogs from the borrow pit wetland to the new wetland.
- Biosecurity measures to control the potential spread of Chytrid fungus.

As such, there will not be a net loss of Growling Grass Frog habitat, and the frog population present in the borrow pit wetland will be relocated to the new habitat once established by a suitably qualified contractor.

4.1.4.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

The Project was unable to avoid impacts to the borrow pit wetland. A 100 ML storage is required at the Barwon Water Pettavel site to service future potable water demand in the region. Alternative options to the proposed layout have been explored, and the following outlines key rationale for the chosen option.

- The chosen layout:
 - Protects potable water quality. The layout allows a regular basin geometry, with the inlet and outlet at opposite ends. This allows for a consistent 'contact time' in regards to management of pathogen disinfection.
 - Allows Basin No.3 to share an embankment with Basin No.2 and align the inlet and outlet pipework for each basin. This allows for a more cost-effective design.
 - Is more conducive to the geomembrane liner and cover basin design. The regular geometry of the layout offers more effective and safer design, installation, operation and maintenance of the asset.
 - Has the most efficient cut and fill earthworks balance compared with all other alternatives, and more certainty in regards to useable onsite material for the embankment.
 - Allows the new wetland to be constructed adjacent to and work in conjunction with the site hydrology.
- The only remaining area within the Pettavel site is located toward the western boundary and south-west corner. Alternative options in this area:
 - Still encroach on the existing borrow pit / wetland and would still require EPBC Act Referral and associated mitigation of the works.
 - Require irregular geometry to service the 100 ML volume and create risk of stagnated water and inefficient mixing to maintain water quality.
- No locations outside the Pettavel site land parcel are apparent. In addition, any offsite location would require Translocation of the Growling Grass Frog further than 100m which is not currently supported in Victoria under the Threatened Fauna Translocation Evaluation Panel (TEP).

Swapping the wetland and overflow detention storage could place the wetland further from Pettavel site operation and maintenance works. This has not been progressed due to the following reasons:

- The Growling Grass Frog wetland needs to be to the east of the overflow detention storage (and adjacent to the western basin edges) because it the intent is for it to function in conjunction with the site drainage network. This arrangement could not service site stormwater requirements if the two asset layouts were swapped.
- The existing drainage pipework is intended to surcharge to the Growling Grass Frog wetland, which receives wet weather/ stormwater flows and retains a seasonal 'normal water level' within the wetland submergent zone. The overflow detention storage is to be normally dry and has a very small probability of operating at a given time. This will provide Growling Grass Frog secondary terrestrial habitat for foraging and refuge.

As such, a new wetland will be constructed prior to excavation of the borrow pit wetland in accordance with a Growling Grass Frog Management Plan (SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGFMP, Sections 1-3 and Appendices, pp 1-25). The new wetland will support Growling Grass Frog habitat requirements for breeding, refuge and foraging habitat in accordance with industry standards for the species. Growling Grass Frog will be captured prior to and during excavation of the borrow pit wetland and relocated to the new wetland. The management plan includes measures to:

- Create a new wetland that specifically accommodates the habitat requirements of Growling Grass Frog.
- Relocate Growling Grass Frogs from the borrow pit wetland to the new wetland.
- Biosecurity measures to control the spread of Chytrid fungus.

4.1.4.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

No offsets are proposed outside the proposed Growling Grass Frog Management Plan (SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGFMP, Sections 1-3 and Appendices, pp 1-25).

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Apus pacificus
No	No	Calidris acuminata
No	No	Calidris ferruginea
No	No	Calidris melanotos
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus
No	No	Motacilla flava
No	No	Myiagra cyanoleuca
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis
No	No	Rhipidura rufifrons
No	No	Tringa nebularia

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.5.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

Suitable habitat was identified within the study site for Latham's Snipe. However targeted surveys were completed (SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS, Sections 1-5 and Appendices, pp 1-19), and the species was not detected. As such, this species is unlikely to be impacted. White-throated Needletail may fly over the study site; however, due to the highly aerial nature of the species, it is unlikely to use terrestrial habitat within the study area. Therefore, it is unlikely to be impacted by the Project (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 3.4.1, pp 23).

Direct and indirect impacts to all remaining migratory species listed in this section will not be impacted by the project as no suitable habitat was identified within the Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 3, pp 13-26).

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

Not applicable to the Project.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The Project area is not within or in proximity to Commonwealth Marine Areas and as such poses no risk to this MNES.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The Project area is a considerable distance from the Great Barrier Reef. No impact is considered likely to occur to this MNES.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The Project is not associated with coal mine development or coal seam gas extraction.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth land area
No	No	Defence - AVALON AIRFIELD

4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No impacts to Commonwealth Land associated with tine Avalon Airfield will be associated with the Project.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The Project area occurs within Australia and will not have any impact on Commonwealth Heritage Places overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency**4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? ***

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)

- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

A detailed response for why project and location alternatives are not feasible is provided in the Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment (SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA, Section 4.2.7.1, pp 34-35).

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
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#1.	Document	CMP_PettavelBasin_Drawings.pdf	07/05/2024	No	High
		Detailed design drawings for the Growling Grass Frog wetland and overflow basin			
#2.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA.pdf	20/03/2024	No	High
		Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment			
#3.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGFMP.pdf	19/03/2024	No	High
		Growling Grass Frog Management Plan			

1.2.6 Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents that are relevant to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA.pdf Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment	19/03/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGFMP.pdf Growling Grass Frog Management Plan	20/03/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS.pdf Threatened Species Targeted Surveys	20/03/2024	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidentiality
#1.	Document	WHA_PettavelBasin_CHDD.pdf Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment	16/10/2023	Yes	High
#2.	Document	WTOAC_PettavelBasin_CHP.pdf WTOAC Cultural Heritage Permit	12/12/2023	Yes	High

1.3.2.18 (Person proposing to take the action) If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation’s environmental policy and planning framework

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	BarwonWater_EnvironmentalPolicy_June2023.pdf Barwon Water Environmental Policy	20/06/2023	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	WHA_PettavelBasin_CHDD.pdf Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment	15/10/2023	Yes	High

4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS.pdf Threatened Species Targeted Surveys	19/03/2024	No	High

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_TSS.pdf Threatened Species Targeted Surveys	19/03/2024	No	High

4.1.4.9 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGFMP.pdf Growling Grass Frog Management Plan	19/03/2024	No	High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGFMP.pdf Growling Grass Frog Management Plan	19/03/2024	No	High

4.1.4.11 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_GGFMP.pdf Growling Grass Frog Management Plan	19/03/2024	No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	SMEC_PettavelBasin_DFFA.pdf Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment	19/03/2024	No	High

5.2 Declarations

 Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	86348316514
Organisation name	BARWON REGION WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	3220 VIC
Representative's name	Andrew Taylor

Representative's job title	Team Leader - Ecology, VIC
Phone	0439467062
Email	Andrew.Taylor@smec.com
Address	East 5, Federal Mills – 33 Mackey Street, North Geelong, VIC 3215

☒ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ By checking this box, I, **Andrew Taylor of BARWON REGION WATER CORPORATION**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	86348316514
Organisation name	BARWON REGION WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	3220 VIC
Representative's name	Giles Flower
Representative's job title	Senior Approvals and Environment Advisor
Phone	1300656007
Email	giles.flower@barwonwater.vic.gov.au
Address	55-67 Ryrie Street (PO Box 659) Geelong VIC 3220

☒ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

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

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

☒ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ I, **Giles Flower of BARWON REGION WATER CORPORATION**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *