

# Statement of Environmental Objectives - Renewable Energy Feasibility Permit - Met Masts

2025



Government of South Australia

As guests on Aboriginal land, the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) acknowledges everything this department does impacts on Aboriginal country, the sea, the sky, its people, and the spiritual and cultural connections which have existed since the first sunrise. Our responsibility is to share our collective knowledge, recognise a difficult history, respect the relationships made over time, and create a stronger future. We are ready to walk, learn and work together.

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#### Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Register



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## 1. Abbreviations

| Abbreviation / Glossary | Definition                            |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| CASA                    | Civil Aviation Safety Authority       |
| DEM                     | Department for Energy and Mining      |
| DEW                     | Department for Environment and Water  |
| EIR                     | Environmental Impact Report           |
| EPA                     | Environment Protection Authority      |
| REFP                    | Renewable Energy Feasibility Permit   |
| SEO                     | Statement of Environmental Objectives |

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Background

This document has been prepared to meet the requirements for preparation of a Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) set out in section 62 of the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* (HRE Act), and Regulation 34 of the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Regulations 2024* (HRE Regulations).

Exploring for a renewable energy resource is an authorised operation under the HRE Act. On non-designated land (i.e. lands excluding pastoral leases, State waters, and other Crown Land determined by regulation), feasibility activities must be authorised under a Renewable Energy Feasibility Permit (REFP). A REFP can only be granted (and authorised operations can only be undertaken under a REFP) if there is an approved Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) in force.

This SEO has been prepared by the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) to assist the approval process for activities undertaken under a REFP.

### 2.2 Purpose

The intent of the SEO is to outline the environmental objectives with which the feasibility activities (refer Section 1.3) must conform. The SEO also sets out the assessment and leading performance criteria to be applied to determine whether the objectives have been achieved. The immediately reportable and reportable incidents that will apply to the activities are also defined in the SEO.

The objectives of the SEO have been developed on the basis of the information provided in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (DEM, 2025) and are in keeping with the objectives of the HRE Act.

‘Environment’ is broadly defined in the HRE Act and includes:

- land, air, water (including surface, underground water and sea water), organisms, ecosystems, flora, fauna and other features or elements of the natural environment
- buildings, structures and other forms of infrastructure, and cultural artefacts
- existing or permissible land use
- public health, safety or amenity
- heritage, aesthetic, Aboriginal, social and cultural values of an area
- social or economic effects associated with feasibility activities

### 2.3 Scope

The SEO has been developed to apply to activities undertaken under a REFP in the study area shown in Figure 1, by licensees and their contractors. The activities covered by this SEO are described in the EIR (DEM, 2025) and include the installation of meteorological masts. Areas excluded from this SEO are also described in the associated EIR.

This SEO only applies to activities that are considered feasibility activities under the HRE Act. Therefore, activities excluded from the scope of the EIR and SEO includes, but are not limited to:

- upgrading existing access tracks or construction of new ones
- geotechnical investigations
- campsites
- aerial surveys
- portable remote sensing devices (e.g., SoDAR or LiDAR)

- vehicle based surveys (e.g., topographical or cadastral surveys, ecological surveys, heritage surveys<sup>1</sup>, unexploded ordnance surveys, contaminated land assessments, geophysical surveys, traffic surveys)
- other site surveys (e.g., installation of noise or air quality monitors, inspections associated with hydrological or visual impact assessments which may involve taking photographs from selected sites and installing photo point markers)

These activities are not feasibility activities under the HRE Act and therefore do not require authorisation under the HRE Act to be conducted on non-designated land. These activities may instead be undertaken in agreement with the landowner and must comply with the requirements of other applicable legislation.

### 2.3.1 Exclusions and Constraints

As outlined in the EIR, the following are excluded from the coverage of this SEO:

- Areas defined as reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- A wilderness protection area or a wilderness protection zone both within the meaning of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*
- The Arkaroola Protection Area within the meaning of the *Arkaroola Protection Act 2012*.
- Maralinga Tjarutja lands as defined by the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*
- Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands as defined by the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981*.
- Activities deemed to be Level 4 for proposed vegetation clearance, in accordance with the [Native Vegetation Council Risk Assessment Fact Sheet](#). Projects deemed to be Level 3 for proposed clearance are generally excluded but can be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Activities deemed to have [significant impact to Matters of National Environmental Significance \(MNES\)](#).
- Areas within the [Planning and Design Code](#) (P&D Code) Coastal Areas Overlay, Coastal Flooding Overlay, the River Murray Flood Plain Protection Overlay, Heritage Adjacency Overlay, and the Significant Landscape Protection Overlay.
- Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement and Significant Environmental Benefit Offset areas.
- Character Preservation Districts of the Barossa Valley and Clare Valley.

Subsequently, proponents proposing meteorological masts within any of the areas excluded by this EIR would be required to develop a project specific EIR and SEO for assessment under the HRE Act.

<blob:https://teams.microsoft.com/0438ff3b-a654-49d8-9055-33a5f55d1f1e>

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<sup>1</sup> Typically, a physical inspection, involving traversing the proposed development location (by foot or vehicle). Hand excavation or test pitting is not generally expected to be undertaken during the feasibility phase and would only be employed where imperative. Appropriate authorisation under the Aboriginal Heritage Act is needed for any excavations or test pitting where required (e.g. if undertaken within Aboriginal sites).

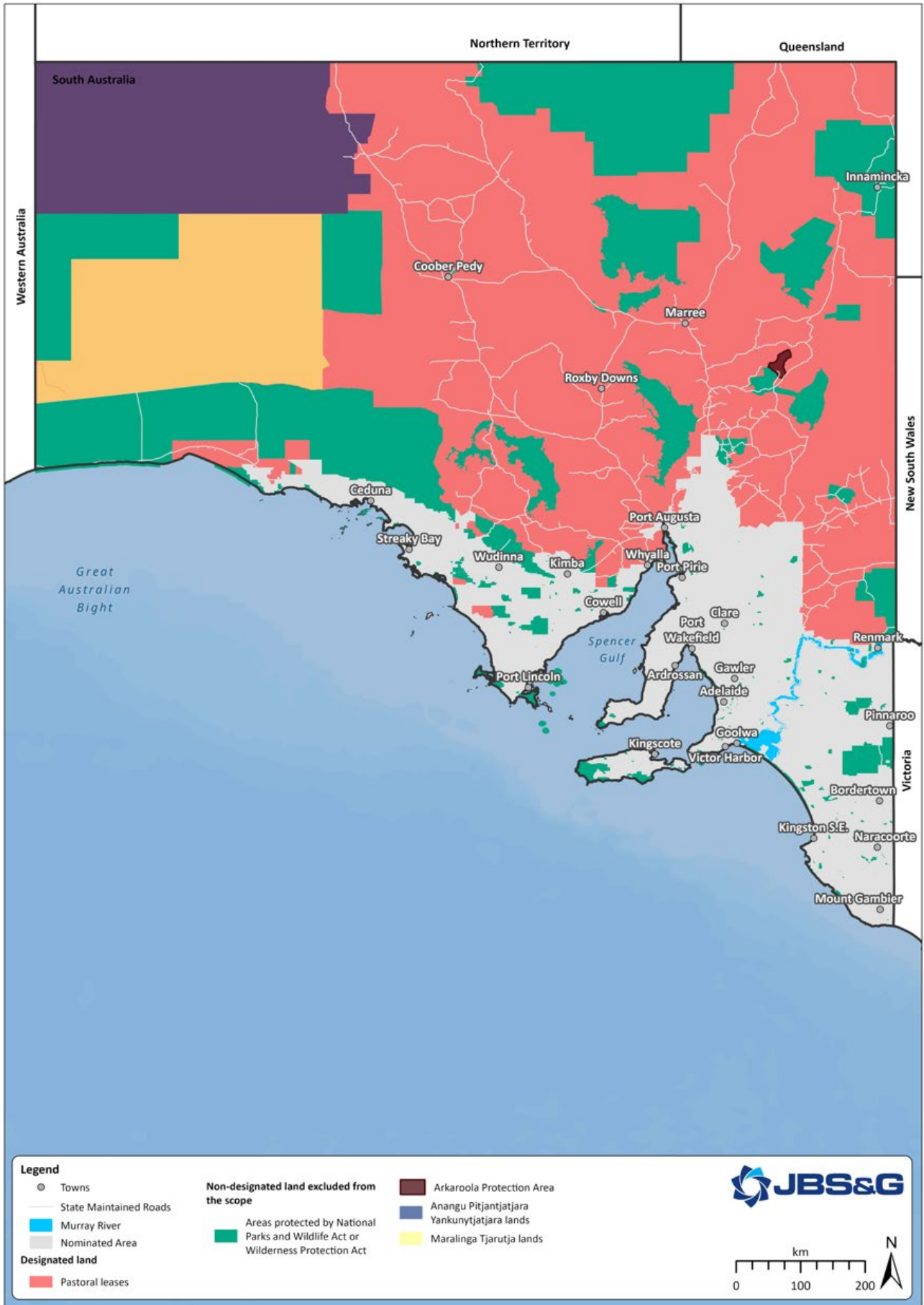


Figure 1 Nominated Area and scope exclusions for the EIR..

### 3. Environmental Objectives and Assessment Criteria

HRE Regulation 34 (1) requires an SEO to provide:

- the objectives that relate to dealing with the impacts on various elements of the environment associated with undertaking the feasibility activities;
- the criteria to be applied to determine whether or not the stated environmental objective has been achieved in a particular case.

#### 3.1 Objectives

Potential environmental impacts associated with activities covered by this SEO have been identified in the EIR (DEM 2025).

The environmental objectives for REFP feasibility activities are:

1. No significant adverse changes in soil stability, structure, quality or composition resulting from feasibility activities
2. No significant disturbance to surface drainage patterns and no adverse impacts to surface water and groundwater quality or quantity resulting from activities
3. No clearance of native vegetation or disturbance to native fauna unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained
4. Minimise disturbance to receptors, land use and infrastructure
5. Minimise visual impact of feasibility activities
6. No damage, disturbance or interference to Aboriginal heritage and non-Aboriginal heritage sites, objects, remains and places unless authorised under the relevant legislation.
7. No introduction or spread of weeds, pest animals, pathogens or diseases as a consequence of feasibility activities
8. No injuries, deaths or health impacts to the public or third parties from feasibility activities that could have been reasonably prevented by the operator
9. Optimise waste management (in order of most to least preferable) - avoidance; reduction; reuse; recycling; treatment; and disposal
10. Rehabilitate land adversely affected by feasibility activities

#### 3.2 Assessment Criteria

The environmental objectives identified above are subject to an assessment to measure the level of achievement. HRE Regulation 34(2) sets out the criteria for assessment required to be incorporated in the SEO:

- a description of what is to be measured and the manner and form of the measurement to be used
- the locations at which the relevant measurements are to be taken, or the manner in which such locations are to be determined
- the frequency of any measurement or monitoring
- any background or control data that is to be used, or the manner in which such data is to be acquired
- what is proposed to be taken to constitute the achievement of a relevant environmental outcome (with consideration being given to any inherent errors of measurement)
- if required by the Minister - provisions with respect to assessing the ongoing fitness for purpose of facilities, plant, equipment, machinery or other infrastructure and management systems
- if relevant -

- the gathering of information and the conduct and timing of studies
- the conduct and timing of management system audits.

The assessment criteria for each objective are set out in Table 1.

### 3.3 Leading Performance Criteria

Leading performance criteria have been provided for each impact event that relies significantly on a control strategy to reduce the potential environment impact identified in the EIR. These criteria are intended to give early warning that a control measure may fail or is failing, and that the environmental objective or relevant assessment criteria is at risk of not being achieved, allowing time to respond accordingly.

Relevant leading performance criteria for each objective are set out in Table 1.

### 3.4 Operational Management Plan

Several of the identified assessment criteria refers to audits/inspections or management plans to be detailed in the Operational Management Plan (OMP). The OMP must be submitted and approved by the Minister prior to commencement of operations in accordance with section 66 of the Act. It is at this stage that the details of operations and activities are more refined which makes it suitable to capture these plans at the OMP-stage.

To demonstrate compliance with this SEO and the achievement of relevant assessment criteria, it is expected that the OMP will contain specific management plans that considers the controls identified in the EIR. This may include but is not limited to the following;

- Construction Environmental Management Plan; this will include a range of control- and monitoring measures that aims to manage and minimise environmental impacts during the construction phase of the project. Key aspects to be included could be:
  - Air quality
  - Soil
  - Noise
  - Stormwater
  - Surface- and/or groundwater
  - Waste management
- Cultural heritage management plan
- Flora (native vegetation)/fauna management plan
- Weed/pest/pathogen management plan
- Traffic management plan
- Emergency response plan
- Decommissioning and rehabilitation plan

Which plans are necessary is determined based on the individual project and the unique circumstances of the environment where the activities are proposed to be undertaken.

### 3.5 Consultation Requirements

It is a requirement of this SEO that consultation must be undertaken prior to the grant of a permit under the HRE Act.

The licensee must consult with landowners, the council, any affected Government agencies and any potentially affected receptors on the potential impacts of the met mast installation and how the impacts will be adequately managed.

The consultation must be focused on potential impacts and management measures identified in this EIR (and accompanying SEO) and how the licensee proposes to manage those impacts through their Operational Management Plan.

Prior to permit grant, a consultation report must be submitted to DEM that details the result of the consultation, setting out the persons consulted, any issues of concerns raised and the steps (if any) proposed to be taken to address those concerns.

License holders are expected to engage and consult on any relevant management plans as necessary throughout the duration of the license period.

**Table 1: Environmental objectives, assessment criteria and leading performance criteria**

| <b>Objective 1: No significant adverse changes in soil stability, structure, quality or composition, resulting from feasibility activities</b>  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Assessment Criteria</b>  | <b>Leading Performance Criteria</b>  | <b>Controls identified in EIR</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landowner and landscape board (where appropriate) consulted regarding land-disturbing activities to minimise potential for surface disturbance and facilitate rehabilitation (where required).</li> <li>▪ OMP includes relevant management plan/procedure that effectively manages and minimizes soil inversion, compaction and erosion to reduce potential for impacts to land quality.</li> <li>▪ OMP includes frequency of audits/inspections carried out to ensure and demonstrate no evidence of significant soil disturbance (e.g. erosion, wheel ruts, heavily compacted areas, soil inversion), or where these occur, they are remediated in a timely manner.</li> <li>▪ No reasonable complaints received regarding soil compaction, inversion, erosion or reduced land quality are left unresolved.</li> <li>▪ Rehabilitation of disturbed areas occurs progressively and is completed at the conclusion of construction.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Desktop and field assessment undertaken to ensure proposed meteorological mast location avoids both sensitive land systems that are prone to erosion and/or of importance to the landowner.</li> <li>▪ Sediment and erosion control measures installed, maintained and monitored where necessary.</li> <li>▪ Integrity of sediment and erosion controls inspected following significant rainfall events and any necessary maintenance implemented.</li> <li>▪ Micro-siting preferentially selects naturally clear or previously cleared areas and clearance of native vegetation is avoided, particularly longer-lived shrubs and trees.</li> </ul> | <b>#SOI01 (soil inversion, compaction, erosion)</b>                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management and monitoring measures for known or potential existing contaminated soil or acid sulphate soils will be documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required.</li> <li>▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate existing soil contamination/acid sulfate soils have been appropriately managed (if encountered).</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Desktop assessment undertaken for potential acid sulfate soils or existing contamination and activity location avoids risk areas.</li> <li>▪ Field screening undertaken for presence of acid sulfate soil existing contamination if excavating in a risk area.</li> <li>▪ Micro-siting avoids areas of potential acid sulfate soils or existing contamination as far as practicable.</li> </ul>   | <b>#SOI02 (disturbance of contaminated soil or acid sulfate soil)</b>            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records demonstrate that any escape of chemical, fuel or oil to land or waters are immediately contained, removed and/or remediated in accordance with an incident management plan or similar.</li> <li>▪ Any contaminated materials generated in response to clean up of a minor spill or leak will be disposed off-site at an EPA approved facility.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inspections demonstrate no evidence of spills of chemicals and/or fuels as a result of activities undertaken.</li> <li>▪ Construction and decommissioning personnel trained in correct procedures for use of materials, including refueling and clean-up.</li> <li>▪ Appropriate spill response equipment is available on site during on-site operations.</li> </ul>  | <b>#SOI03 (spills of fuel and chemicals – soil, surface water, ground water)</b> |
| <b>Objective 2: No significant disturbance to surface drainage patterns and no adverse impacts to surface water and groundwater quality or quantity resulting from feasibility activities</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Assessment Criteria</b>  | <b>Leading Performance Criteria</b>  | <b>Controls identified in EIR</b>  |

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|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records of audits/inspections and/or incident management system carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate no unauthorised discharge or escape of any liquid (including wastewater, processed substance, chemical or fuel) or solid wastes to surface and/or groundwater.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel and chemicals on site are stored and handled in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines, including AS 1940, EPA guideline O80/16 Bunding and Spill Management and the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG).</li> <li>Records of inspections / audits demonstrate compliance.</li> <li>Personnel required to use materials, including for refueling and clean- up, are trained in correct procedures.</li> <li>Appropriate spill response equipment is available on site during on-site operations.</li> </ul> | <p><b>#SOI03 (spills of fuel and chemicals – soil, surface water, ground water)</b></p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management and monitoring measures for erosion, sedimentation and surface water impacts documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required.</li> <li>Where sedimentation into surface water as a result of regulated activities has been identified, an appropriate management and/or monitoring plan is implemented to demonstrate no deterioration of surface water quality within or near the activity location when compared with adjacent areas.</li> <li>Water Affecting Activity Permit is obtained from the relevant landscape board where required.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desktop assessments undertaken to identify if a Water affecting Activity Permit is required under the relevant landscape board's Water Affecting Activities Control Policy.</li> <li>Sediment and erosion control measures installed where necessary.</li> <li>Integrity of sediment and erosion controls inspected following significant rainfall events and any necessary maintenance implemented.</li> <li>Micro-siting avoids areas with permanent or ephemeral surface water.</li> </ul>                                 | <p><b>#SWR01 (sedimentation in surface water)</b></p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management and monitoring measures for impedances to surface water flow documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required.</li> <li>Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate no unauthorised impedance of surface water flow that results in adverse impacts to native flora or fauna and groundwater dependent ecosystems.</li> <li>No new water affecting activities as defined under the Landscape South Australia Act undertaken unless an applicable permit has been obtained.</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desktop and field assessments (where required) undertaken to ensure meteorological mast installation sites are located and constructed to maintain pre-existing water flows</li> <li>Desktop assessments undertaken to identify areas for avoidance for water resources with high sensitivity and associated habitat, including GDEs.</li> <li>Micro-siting avoids areas of inundation, which may result in bogging, or creation of heavy wheel track rutting (e.g. more than 200 mm deep).</li> </ul>                        | <p><b>#SWR02 (drainage patterns, surface water) and,<br/>#BIO02 (drainage patterns, native vegetation)</b></p>                   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>   |  |
| <p><b>Objective 3: No clearance of native vegetation or disturbance to native fauna unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained</b></p>   |  |  |
| <p><b>Assessment Criteria</b></p>  | <p><b>Leading Performance Criteria</b></p>   | <p><b>Controls identified in EIR</b></p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological assessment by appropriately trained and experienced personnel undertaken to determine baseline biodiversity of the site and to identify and avoid any areas of sensitivity or "no-go" areas.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriately trained and experienced personnel will undertake ecological assessment prior to work and identify any areas of sensitivity or "no-go" areas.</li> <li>DEW biodiversity values mapping used in desktop component of</li> </ul>   | <p><b>#BIO01 (clearance of native vegetation)<br/>#BIO04 (disturbance, native fauna)<br/>#BIO05 (threatened or migratory</b></p> |

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|   |  |  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Where vegetation clearance is required, records demonstrate that necessary approvals under the Native Vegetation Act have been obtained and ‘significant environmental benefit’ obligation has been satisfied.</li> <li>▪ Where vegetation and habitats may be sensitive to disturbance, consultation with relevant government departments and agencies carried out and location specific environmental management plan developed and implemented.</li> <li>▪ Records (e.g. ecological assessments) demonstrate no listed threatened and/or migratory species will be significantly impacted (unless appropriate approval has been obtained).</li> <li>▪ All biodiversity data collected by an appropriately qualified professional and reported to the <a href="#">Biological Databases of South Australia (BDBSA)</a> and DEM pursuant to HRE Regulation 32(2)(c).</li> <li>▪ Management and monitoring measures for any vegetation and or biodiversity impacts are documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required.</li> <li>▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate there has been no unauthorised clearing of native vegetation.</li> </ul> | <p>ecological assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suitably qualified personnel will assess the disturbance area for locations of vegetation associations or plant species of conservation significance that will not be disturbed, removed or traversed by vehicles.</li> <li>▪ Site selection and infrastructure micro-siting avoid threatened flora species in line with the native vegetation mitigation hierarchy.</li> </ul> | <p><i>fauna)</i></p>                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records (e.g. ecological assessments) demonstrate that disturbance to fauna has been considered and measures implemented to minimise it where appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate that control measures have been implemented.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Significant areas for native fauna identified by a suitably trained and experienced personnel are avoided either spatially temporally, or measures put in place to minimize disturbance.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>#BIO04 (disturbance, native fauna)</b></p>     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clearance data and/or visual inspection demonstrates no clearance outside of approved areas.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Areas of habitat important to threatened or migratory fauna species are identified during the planning process and impacts are avoided, either spatially or temporally.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>#BIO05 (threatened or migratory fauna)</b></p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate there are no native fauna casualties that could have reasonably been prevented through the management measures/controls described in the EIR.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Significant areas for native fauna (including but not limited to nesting areas for water birds) are identified during the planning process and are avoided, either spatially or temporally.</li> <li>▪ Excavations are kept open for the minimum amount of time and are regularly checked for trapped fauna.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>#BIO06 (mortality, native fauna)</b></p>       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No uncontrolled fires as a result of authorised activities.</li> <li>▪ OMP includes an emergency response plan (or similar) that clearly outlines the response to a fire related incident, both caused by authorized activities and/or threatening authorized</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fire prevention and firefighting equipment is present, certified and maintained in accordance with applicable standards during on-site works where required, e.g. during fire danger season, high fire risk areas.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>#SAF02 (fire)</b></p>                          |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>activities from offsite.</li> <li>▪ Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 requirements are complied with.</li> </ul>  |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Objective 4: Minimise disturbance to receptors, land use and infrastructure</b>  |   |  |
| Assessment Criteria   | Leading Performance Criteria  | Controls identified in EIR                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management and monitoring measures for dust impacts to sensitive receptors are documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required.</li> <li>▪ Records demonstrate that no reasonable complaints received about air quality are left unresolved.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Where required, equipment to perform water-spraying is available onsite during construction and decommissioning and implemented if dust generation becomes a problem (e.g. near sensitive sites).</li> </ul>   | #AIR01 (air quality, dust)                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generation of noise during construction and operation is consistent with the EPA 425/23 Construction Noise Information Sheet (EPA, 2023) and the Environment Protection (Commercial and Industrial Noise) Policy 2023.</li> <li>▪ Records demonstrate that no reasonable complaints received about noise levels are left unresolved</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Location of sensitive receptors (e.g. residences) considered when planning activities, and avoidance or mitigation measures implemented where required.</li> </ul>   | #NOI01 (noise and vibration)                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prior to permit grant, the applicant must consult with landowners, the council, any affected Government agencies and any potentially affected receptors on the potential impacts of the met mast installation and how they will be adequately managed.</li> <li>▪ The applicant must provide a consultation report that details the result of the consultation, setting out the persons consulted, any issues of concerns raised and the steps if any proposed to be taken to address those concerns.</li> <li>▪ Landowner / stakeholder complaints are documented, and reasonable steps taken to resolve them can be demonstrated.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outcomes of consultation on the potential impacts to a receptor are reported to DEM.</li> <li>▪ Landowners and relevant affected receptors are consulted prior to survey activities.</li> <li>▪ Relevant control and management measures consistent with those identified in the EIR are implemented.</li> <li>▪ No adverse impact (outside agreed disturbance areas) on land use as a result of activities.</li> <li>▪ Adverse impacts of accidental or unforeseen damage to infrastructure or disturbance to land use resolved to the reasonable satisfaction of the landowner.</li> </ul> | #SOC02 (landowner infrastructure and activities) |
| <b>Objective 5: Minimise visual impact of feasibility activities</b>  |   |  |
| Assessment Criteria   | Leading Performance Criteria  | Controls identified in EIR                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records (visual impact assessments) demonstrate that meteorological mast locations have been sited to minimise visual impacts.</li> <li>▪ Meteorological masts located in areas that minimise visibility from residential, tourist development, or otherwise visually sensitive areas.</li> <li>▪ Records demonstrate no reasonable complaints received about</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment is undertaken to place meteorological masts in places that minimise visibility from residential, tourist development, or otherwise visually sensitive areas.</li> <li>▪ Visual assessment undertaken where mast siting is proposed within 500 m from a non-associated dwelling, tourist accommodation, township, and/or from a zone listed within Section 4.7.3 of the EIR.</li> </ul>  | #VIS01 (visual amenity)                          |

| visual amenity are left unresolved.  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Objective 6: No damage, disturbance or interference to Aboriginal heritage and non-Aboriginal heritage sites, objects, remains and places unless authorised under the relevant legislation</b>  |  |   |
| Assessment Criteria  | Leading Performance Criteria   | Controls identified in EIR              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate no damage, disturbance or interference with any Aboriginal sites, objects and remains (all as defined under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i>) unless authorisation has been obtained under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i>.</li> <li>▪ Any Aboriginal sites, objects and remains (together Aboriginal heritage) discovered during operations have been appropriately reported and responded to, consistent with any applicable Native Title Agreement, the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i> and the <i>Coroners Act 2003</i>.</li> <li>▪ Records demonstrate that works have stopped in the vicinity of a discovery of Aboriginal heritage.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cultural heritage risk assessment undertaken in consultation with Traditional Owners and/or by an anthropologist/archaeologist. and a cultural heritage survey or ‘work area clearance’ undertaken prior to land disturbing activities and other activities as required in accordance with relevant Native Title Agreement (if applicable).</li> <li>▪ Records demonstrate that, where required, activities are confined to areas subject to cultural heritage survey or work area clearance and undertaken in accordance with conditions of the survey or work area clearance.</li> <li>▪ In the event the conditions of a cultural heritage survey or work area clearance(s) are not complied with, the incident is appropriately reported<sup>2</sup>, investigated and remediated in consultation with the relevant Traditional Owners, Native Title holders and in accordance with any applicable Native Title Agreement.</li> <li>▪ Where required, development of and adherence to a cultural heritage management plan.</li> </ul> | <b>#HER01 (Aboriginal heritage)</b>     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate no impact to non-Aboriginal heritage places and related objects protected under the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> unless approval has been obtained under the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i>.</li> <li>▪ Records will demonstrate that if a non-indigenous site or archaeological artefact believed to be of heritage significance is encountered during excavation works, disturbance in the vicinity shall cease immediately and the South Australian Heritage Council will be notified in accordance with the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i>.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records demonstrate that heritage site registers (and Heritage South Australia, DEW, where appropriate) have been consulted regarding the location of non-Aboriginal heritage sites and any identified sites, including local heritage places, have been avoided.</li> <li>▪ Records demonstrate that Taa Wika has been searched to identify and avoid the location of registered Aboriginal heritage sites.</li> <li>▪ Procedures, systems and plans are in place if archaeological artefacts are encountered.</li> </ul>  | <b>#HER02 (non-Aboriginal heritage)</b> |

<sup>2</sup> In the context of an Aboriginal heritage discovery, reporting to AAR is required as soon as reasonably practicable pursuant to section 20 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 and immediately to SA Police pursuant to the Coroners Act 2003 if the discovery includes potential human remains.

| <b>Objective 7: No introduction or spread of weeds, pest animals, pathogens or diseases as a consequence of feasibility activities</b>   |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Assessment Criteria</b>   | <b>Leading Performance Criteria</b>   | <b>Controls identified in EIR</b>                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ OMP includes relevant management plan/procedure that effectively manages and minimizes the potential for the introduction and or spread of weeds, pest animals or pathogens.</li> <li>▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate that the presence of weeds, pest animals or pathogens is consistent with or better than pre-disturbance conditions and adjacent land.</li> <li>▪ Declared plants and animals identified within/adjacent to operational areas are reported and managed in accordance with relevant legislation, Regional Landscape Plans and declared pest animal and weed policies.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records demonstrate that all equipment and vehicles are inspected, and cleaned where required, before arrival at the site.</li> <li>▪ Areas of significant weeds are identified and flagged for avoidance unless for their control.</li> </ul>   | <b>#BIO03 (weeds, pest, pathogens, native vegetation)</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Baseline weed and pest animal assessment undertaken by appropriately trained and experienced personnel prior to commencing operations.</li> <li>▪ Pathogen desktop assessment undertaken to determine the potential of presence or spread of pathogens and the commensurate level of control required.</li> <li>▪ Management and monitoring measures for any weeds, pest animals or pathogens are documented in an appropriate management and monitoring plan, in consultation with the relevant landscape board, where required.</li> <li>▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with management and monitoring plan demonstrate that the presence of weeds, pest animals or pathogens is consistent with or better than pre-disturbance conditions and adjacent land.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records demonstrate that all equipment and vehicles are inspected, and cleaned where required, before arrival at the site.</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>   | <b>#SOC03 (weeds, pests, pathogens, landholders)</b>      |
| <b>Objective 8: No injuries, deaths or health impacts to the public or third parties from feasibility activities that could have been reasonably prevented by the operator</b>   |   |   |
| <b>Assessment Criteria</b>   | <b>Leading Performance Criteria</b>   | <b>Controls identified in EIR</b>                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any notifiable incidents (as per section 35 of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012</i>) involving the public investigated by a suitably qualified independent third party.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guidance in the Advisory Circular 139.E-05v1.1 – Obstacles (including wind farms) outside the vicinity of a CASA certified aerodrome, is adhered to.</li> <li>▪ Notification to CASA and other relevant agencies undertaken where required.</li> <li>▪ Measures to ensure visibility of meteorological masts to aircraft,</li> </ul> | <b>#SAF01 (aviation hazard)</b>                           |

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|  | implemented, maintained and monitored.  |                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No uncontrolled fires as a result of feasibility activities</li> <li>OMP includes an emergency response plan (or similar) that clearly outlines the response to a fire related incident, both caused by authorized activities and/or threatening authorized activities from offsite.</li> <li>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 requirements are complied with.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire prevention and firefighting equipment is present, certified and maintained in accordance with applicable standards during on-site works where required, e.g. during fire danger season, high fire risk areas..</li> </ul> | #SAF02 (fires)                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic-related incidents investigated by a suitably qualified independent third party show that the accident could not have been reasonably prevented by the Operator.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic and journey management procedures followed</li> <li>All employees and contractors to comply with the <i>Road Traffic Act 1961</i></li> <li>Traffic management plan developed where required</li> </ul>                 | #SAF03 (traffic)              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certification of the met mast design by a qualified structural engineer prior to construction</li> <li>Met mast constructed and verified for compliance with the certified design.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety audits to be undertaken and any identified additional actions that could be reasonably implemented to reduce the risks to the public will be implemented.</li> </ul>  | #SAF04 (public safety hazard) |

**Objective 9: Optimise waste management (in order of most to least preferable) - avoidance; reduction; reuse; recycling; treatment; and disposal**

| Assessment Criteria   | Leading Performance Criteria  | Controls identified in EIR |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management measures for waste generated during the construction and decommissioning stages documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan and decommissioning and rehabilitation plan.</li> <li>Waste management is undertaken in accordance with the EPA's Waste Hierarchy model, the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010 and the Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste is securely contained prior to removal from site.</li> <li>Waste removed off-site as soon as practicable and disposed of at appropriately licensed waste handling facility.</li> </ul> | #SOC01 (waste management)  |

**Objective 10: Rehabilitate land adversely affected by feasibility activities**

| Assessment Criteria  | Leading Performance Criteria  | Controls identified in EIR                   |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMP includes a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan (or similar) that outlines how any infrastructure or equipment will be decommissioned and the land rehabilitated.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to be provided 6 months prior to decommissioning activities commencing. Plan to be approved by DEM.</li> <li>Rehabilitation is included in the projects time plan and budget.</li> </ul> | #SOI01 (soil inversion, compaction, erosion) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records demonstrate no reasonable stakeholder complaints regarding restoration of drainage patterns are left unresolved.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspections demonstrate no evidence of alteration of drainage patterns as a result of activities following rehabilitation.</li> <li>Restoration of land disturbance to be approved by the landowner</li> </ul>                         | #SWR02 (drainage patterns, surface water)    |

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|  | or in accordance with landowner’s wishes.  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records of audits / inspections carried out in accordance with the decommissioning and rehabilitation plan demonstrate that land has been appropriately rehabilitated, including removal of surface structures and waste, and re-contouring of the ground surface and revegetating (where required) consistent with pre-existing land use (unless alternative agreement is reached with the regulator and landowner).</li> <li>▪ Decommissioning and rehabilitation activities are undertaken in accordance with a plan that has been approved by DEM.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Final decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to be provided 6 months prior to decommissioning activities commencing within the OMP.</li> </ul> | <p><b>#VIS01 (visual amenity)</b><br/> <b>#SOC02 (landholder infrastructure and activities)</b></p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records demonstrate no reasonable stakeholder complaints regarding rehabilitation of land are left unresolved.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inspections demonstrate no evidence of soil contamination or waste remaining as a result of activities.</li> </ul>                              | <p><b>#SOI01 (waste management)</b></p>   |

## 4.1 Incident Definitions

Section 62 of the HRE Act requires an SEO to set out immediately reportable incidents and reportable incidents (both within the meaning of Section 47 of the Act).

### Immediately reportable incidents

Section 47(3) of the HRE Act defines an immediately reportable incident as:

- an incident arising from activities conducted under a licence specified in the relevant statement of environmental objectives to be an immediately reportable incident
- any other matter brought within the ambit of this definition by the HRE Regulations.

### Reportable incident

Section 47(3) of the HRE Act defines a reportable incident as:

- an incident (not being an immediately reportable incident) arising from activities conducted under a licence specified in the relevant statement of environmental objectives to be a reportable incident
- any other matter brought within the ambit of this definition by the Regulations.

The HRE Regulations do not currently bring any other matters within the ambit of the immediately reportable or reportable incident definitions

Table 3-1 sets out the potential immediately reportable and reportable incidents relevant to REFP feasibility activities.

**Table 2 Incident definitions for REFP feasibility activities**

| Immediately reportable incident   | Reportable incident   |
|---|---|
| 1. A person is seriously injured <sup>1</sup> or killed.  | 1. An escape of a chemical, fuel or other potential contaminant that affects an area that has not been specifically designed to contain such an escape (other than an immediately reportable incident).       |
| 2. An imminent risk to public health or safety arises.  | 2. Malfunction or failure of critical plant or equipment that had (or still has) potential to cause an immediately reportable incident.   |
| 3. Disturbance to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage without appropriate permits and approvals <sup>2</sup> .   | 3. Unresolved reasonable complaints from stakeholders regarding operations.   |
| 4. An escape of a chemical, fuel or other potential contaminant to a water body, or to land in a place where it is reasonably likely to enter a water body by seepage or infiltration, or onto land that negatively affects the health of native flora and fauna species <sup>3</sup> . | 4. An event where an excursion outside a culturally cleared area has occurred or the conditions of a cultural heritage clearance have not been complied with (other than an immediately reportable incident). |
| 5. Detection of a declared weed, animal / plant pathogen or plant pest species that has been introduced or spread as a direct result of activities <sup>5</sup> .   |   |
| 6. Any removal of native flora and/or fauna without appropriate permits and approvals <sup>4</sup> .  |   |
| 7. Any event resulting in the activation of emergency response and/or evacuation procedures of an area or the need for emergency service personnel.   |   |

<sup>1</sup> As per the definition in Section 36 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* and *Heritage Places Act 1993*

<sup>3</sup> For reporting purposes, the assessment of 'reasonably likely to enter a water body by seepage or infiltration' may require further intrusive assessment. Should delineation of the extent of the release not be achieved within one week of becoming aware of the incident, DEM will be notified of the incident and the proposed site investigation methodology, including timeframes.

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (flora) and *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (fauna) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to the *Plant Health Act 2009*, *Livestock Act 1997* and *Landscape SA Act*.

## 4.2 Reporting requirements

### 4.2.1 Reporting under the HRE Act

**Immediately reportable incidents** must initially be reported to the Minister within 24 hours after the licensee becomes aware of the occurrence of the incident, as described in section 47 of the HRE Act and regulation 30 of the HRE Regulations. A comprehensive report must be provided within 3 months or as otherwise specified by the Minister.

**Reportable Incidents** must be reported to the Minister on a quarterly basis within 1 month after the end of each quarter, as per HRE regulation 30.

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Reporting of immediately reportable incidents can be reported to the incident hotline on: (08) 8463 6666 and must be reported in writing to DEM via email to [DEM.EnergyRegulation@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEM.EnergyRegulation@sa.gov.au).

#### **4.2.2 Reporting to the EPA**

Where applicable, incidents causing or threatening serious or material environmental harm under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (EP Act) must be reported to the South Australian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in accordance with section 83 or incidents of site contamination of underground water notified pursuant to section 83A of the EP Act.

#### **4.2.3 Reporting to SafeWork SA**

Notifiable incidents (i.e. death, serious injury or illness, or dangerous incidents) must be reported to SafeWork SA in accordance with Part 3 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*.

#### **4.2.4 Reporting to AAR**

Any unexpected discovery of an Aboriginal heritage sites, object or remains are managed and reported in line with the Attorney-General's Department, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation's (AAR's) Aboriginal heritage discovery protocols (2025).

The following reporting requirements are established under section 20 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 and as set out in AAR's Aboriginal heritage discovery protocols (2025):

- Potential Aboriginal ancestral remains discoveries must be immediately reported to the SA Police, and must be reported to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (through AAR) as soon as possible
- Potential Aboriginal sites, objects or remains discoveries must be reported to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (through AAR) as soon as possible.

#### **4.2.5 Reporting to PIRSA**

Suspected plant diseases, exotic pests, or noxious weeds must be reported to PIRSA in accordance with the *Plant Health Act 2009*.

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## 5. References

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- DEM. (2024). Environmental Impact Assessment Criteria Guidelines. *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Regulatory Guidelines HRERG002*. Department for Energy and Mining, South Australia, Adelaide.
- DEM. (2025). *Environmental Impact Report, Renewable Energy Feasibility Permit Activities in South Australia*, Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Register, Regulation and Compliance Division. Department for Energy and Mining, South Australia, Adelaide.

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