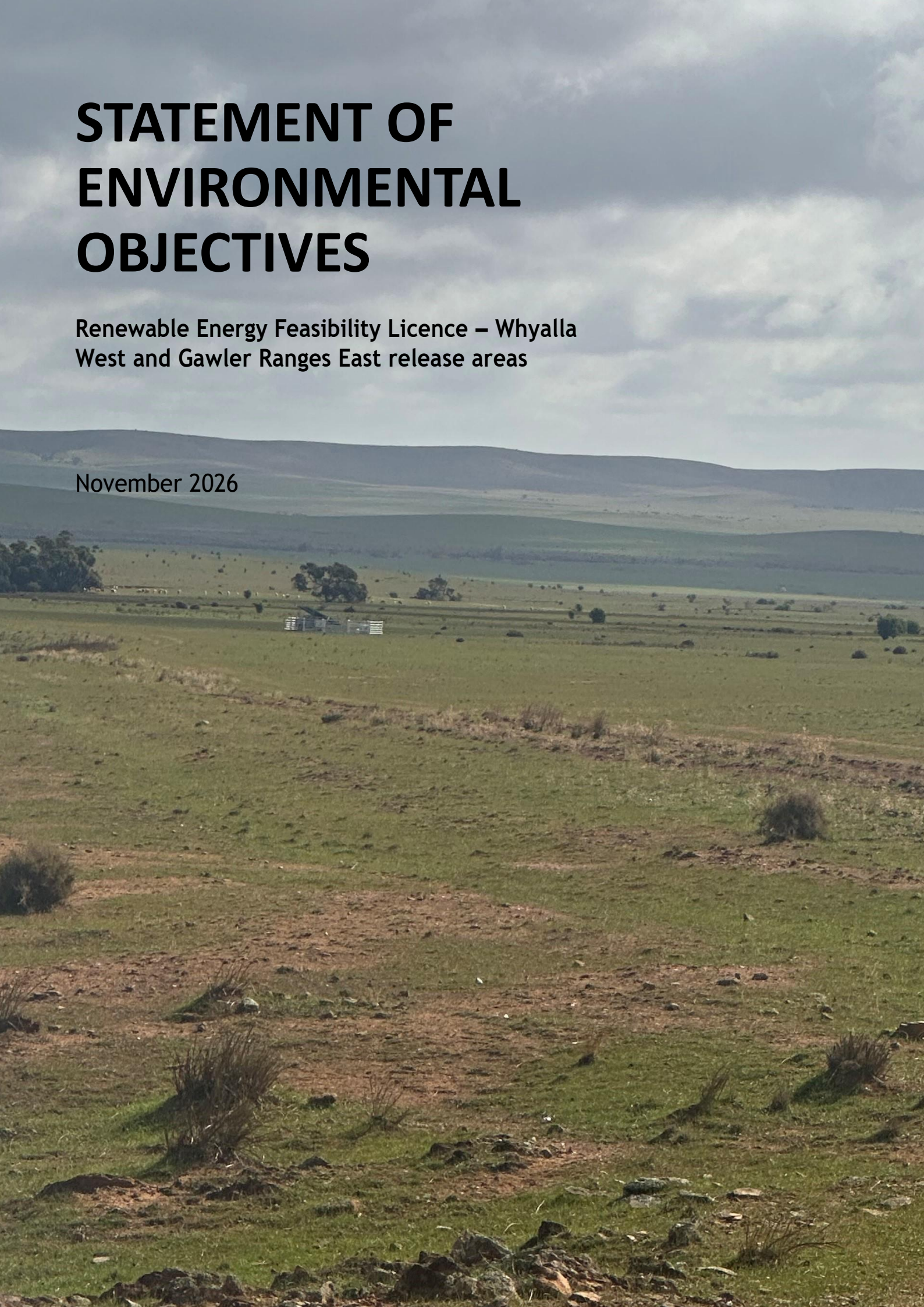
STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

Renewable Energy Feasibility Licence – Whyalla West and Gawler Ranges East release areas

November 2026



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.

Document Status

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Regulation and Compliance Division

Department for Energy and Mining

Level 7, 30 Gouger Street

Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: +61 8 8463 3000

Email: DEM.EnergyRegulation@sa.gov.au

Website: https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/hydrogen-and-renewable-energy

Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Register

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Cover photo. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) station located in the mid-North of South Australia.

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1. Abbreviations

Abbreviation / Glossary	Definition
AGD	Attorney General's Department
AS	Australian Standard
BDBSA	Biological Database of South Australia
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
GAS	Goal attainment Scaling
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
HRE	Hydrogen and Renewable Energy
NEPM	National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure (1999) amended in 2013
OCA	Outback Communities Authority
OMP	Operational Management Plan
REFL	Renewable Energy Feasibility Licence
SAAL	South Australian Arid Lands
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 a regulated activity under the HRE Act. On designated land (e.g. pastoral land or Crown land), it must be authorised under a Renewable Energy Feasibility Licence (REFL). A REFL can only be granted (and authorised operations can only be undertaken under a REFL) if there is an approved SEO in force.

This SEO has been prepared by the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) to assist the approval process for activities undertaken within REFLs within release areas in the study area.

2.2 Purpose

The intent of the SEO is to outline the environmental objectives with which the regulated activities (refer Section 2.3) 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, 2026) 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 regulated activities.

2.3 Scope

The SEO focuses on the Study Area in the southern part of the Gawler IBRA bioregion shown in Figure 1, within which the Whyalla West and Gawler Ranges East release areas are located.

The activities covered by this SEO are described in the EIR (DEM, 2025) and include:

- access track construction
- aerial surveys
- meteorological masts
- portable remote sensing devices
- vehicle-based field surveys
- geotechnical investigations
- groundwater investigations
- campsites.

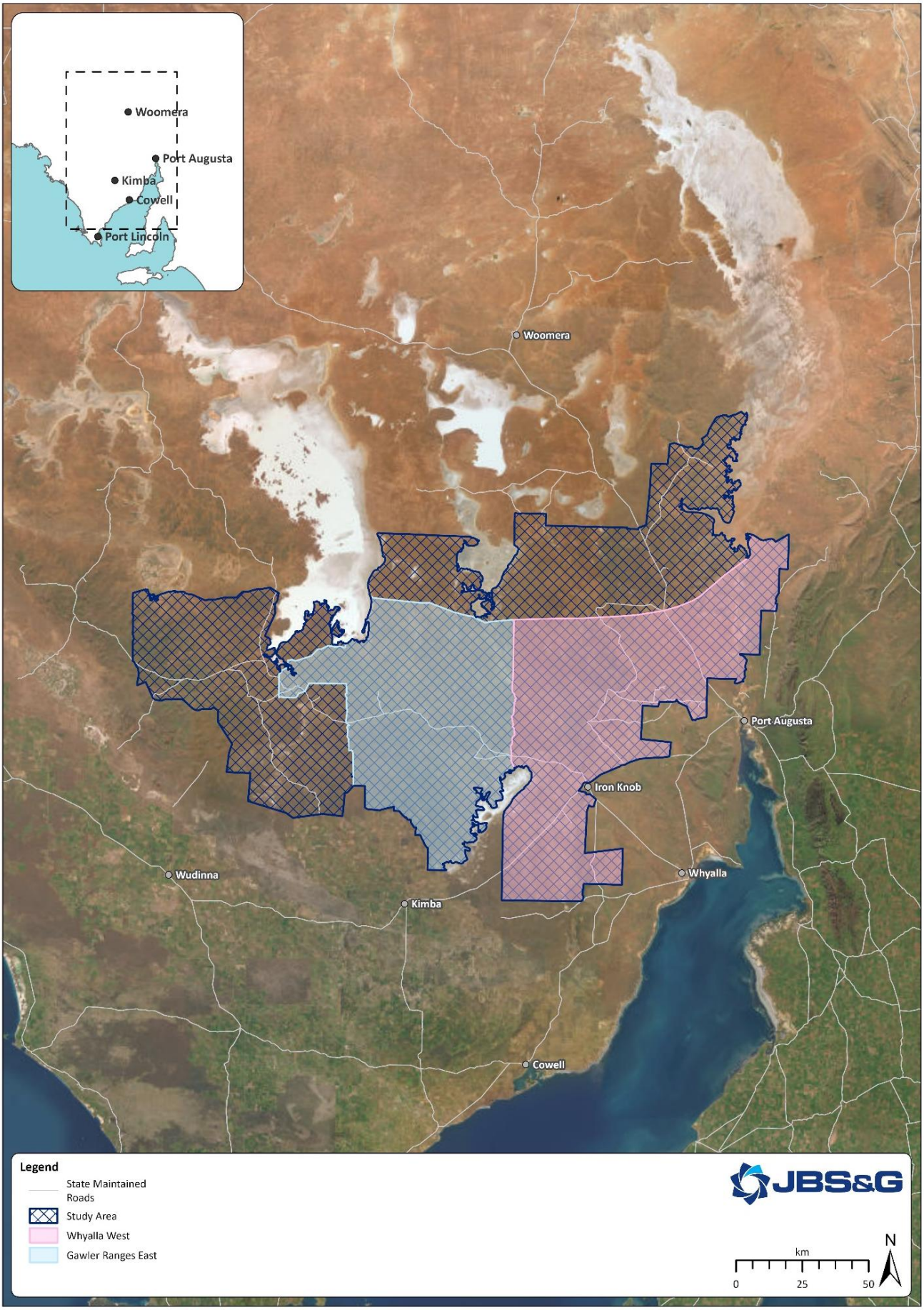


Figure 1 Location of Study Area and release areas

Figure 2: 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 regulated activities
- the criteria to be applied to determine whether or not the stated environmental objective has been achieved in a particular case.

2.4 Objectives

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

The environmental objectives for REFL regulated activities are:

1. No significant changes in soil stability, structure, quality or composition resulting from regulated activities.
2. No significant disturbance to surface drainage patterns and no adverse impacts to surface water and groundwater quality or quantity
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 regulated activities
6. No damage, disturbance or interference to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage unless authorised under relevant legislation
7. No introduction or spread of weeds, pest animals and pathogens as a consequence of regulated activities
8. No injuries, deaths or health impacts to the public, third parties, or on-site personnel from regulated 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 regulated activities

2.5 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.

2.6 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.

2.7 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.

2.8 Consultation Requirements

It is a requirement of this SEO that consultation must be undertaken prior to the approval of an OMP under the HRE Act.

The licensee must consult with landowners, the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) or relevant council, any affected Government agencies and any potentially affected receptors on the relevant impacts of the regulated activities and how the impacts will be adequately managed through their OMP.

The consultation period is determined by the proponent, however, it must be demonstrated to DEM that sufficient time has been allowed such that meaningful consultation has been undertaken and that stakeholders have been offered a reasonable opportunity to understand the proposed activities and to provide comment. At a minimum, it is suggested that four weeks consultation should be considered.

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

Prior OMP approval, 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

Objective 1: No significant changes in soil stability, structure or composition resulting from regulated activities		
Assessment Criteria	**Leading Performance Criteria**	**Controls identified in EIR**
▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate that any escape of chemical, fuel or oil to land is immediately contained and/or removed. ▪ 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.	▪ Fuel and chemicals are stored and handled in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines, including AS 1940, EPA guideline 080/16 Bunding and Spill Management and the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG). ▪ Inspections demonstrate no evidence of soil contamination as a result of activities undertaken. ▪ Personnel trained in correct procedures for use of materials, including refueling and clean- up ▪ Appropriate spill response equipment is available on site.	***#SOI01 (spills of fuel or chemicals - soils)***
▪ Landowners consulted regarding land-disturbing activities to minimise potential for surface disturbance and facilitate rehabilitation (where required). ▪ OMP includes relevant management plan/procedure that effectively manages and minimises soil inversion, compaction and erosion to reduce potential for impacts to land quality. ▪ 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. ▪ No reasonable complaints received regarding soil compaction, inversion, erosion or reduced land quality are left unresolved.	▪ 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(s). ▪ Sediment and erosion control measures installed, maintained and monitored where necessary. ▪ Integrity of sediment and erosion controls inspected following significant rainfall events and any necessary maintenance implemented. ▪ Appropriate track construction methods (e.g, tracks rolled instead of graded) used in gibber areas and construction of tracks through sensitive features such as wetlands or salt lakes has been avoided.	***#SOI02 (soil inversion and compaction)***
▪ Management and monitoring measures for existing contaminated soil or acid sulphate soils will be documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required. ▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate existing soil contamination / acid sulfate soils have been appropriately managed (if encountered).	▪ Desktop assessment undertaken for potential acid sulfate soils or existing contamination and activity location avoids risk areas. ▪ Micro-siting avoids areas of potential acid sulphate soils or existing contamination as far as practicable. ▪ Field screening undertaken for presence of acid sulfate soil or existing contamination if excavating in a risk area.	***#SOI04 (disturbance of contaminated soil or acid sulfate soil)***
Objective 2: No significant disturbance to surface drainage patterns and no adverse impacts to surface water and groundwater quality or quantity		
Assessment Criteria	**Leading Performance Criteria**	**Controls identified in EIR**

▪ 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. ▪ 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.	▪ Fuel and chemicals are stored and handled in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines, including AS 1940, EPA guideline 080/16 Bunding and Spill Management and the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG). ▪ Personnel trained in correct procedures for use of materials, including refueling and clean-up. ▪ Appropriate spill response equipment is available on site.	***#SWR01 and #GWR01 (spills of fuels or chemicals – surface and groundwater)***
▪ Management and monitoring measures for erosion, sedimentation and surface water impacts documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required. ▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate no deterioration of surface water quality within or near the activity location when compared with adjacent areas. ▪ Water Affecting Activity Permit is obtained from the relevant landscape board where required.	▪ Desktop and field assessments undertaken to identify if a Water affecting activity permit is required under the relevant landscape board's Water Affecting Activities Control Policy. ▪ Micro-siting avoids areas with permanent or ephemeral surface water. ▪ Sediment and erosion control measures installed where necessary. ▪ Integrity of sediment and erosion controls inspected following significant rainfall events, and any necessary maintenance implemented.	***#SWR02 (sedimentation of surface water)*** ***#BIO02 (alteration of drainage patterns)*** ***#SWR03 (Civil construction works)***
▪ Management and monitoring measures for impedances to surface water flow documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required. ▪ 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. ▪ No new water affecting activities as defined under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 undertaken unless an applicable permit has been obtained.	▪ Desktop and field assessments undertaken to ensure sites of meteorological mast installation and other authorised activities are located and constructed to maintain pre-existing water flows. ▪ Desktop assessments undertaken to identify areas for avoidance for water resources with high sensitivity and associated habitat, including GDEs. ▪ 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).	***#SWR03 and #BIO02 (Civil construction works)***
▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate necessary approvals (e.g. well construction permits under the Landscape South Australia Act) have been obtained and complied with. ▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate no uncontrolled flows to surface from aquifers intersected in excavations, test pits and/or monitoring bores.	▪ New groundwater monitoring bores are installed by an appropriately licensed driller, with all necessary approvals (e.g. well construction permit under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*) obtained from the relevant authority. ▪ Groundwater monitoring bores decommissioned and rehabilitated in accordance with regulatory requirements and guidelines. ▪ Boreholes are constructed and later backfilled in accordance with relevant industry standards and guidelines (e.g. DEM Earth Resources information sheet M21 Mineral Exploration Drillholes	***#GWR02 (Borehole or groundwater well installation)***

	— General specifications for construction and backfilling).	
Objective 3: No clearance of native vegetation or disturbance to native fauna unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained		
Assessment Criteria	**Leading Performance Criteria**	**Controls identified in EIR**
▪ Any activities deemed to be Level 4 for proposed vegetation clearance, in accordance with the Native Vegetation Council Risk Assessment Fact Sheet are generally excluded, however, can be considered on a case-by-case basis whereby demonstration is provided in the OMP that the proponent has attempted to avoid and minimise vegetation clearance . ▪ Ecological assessment by appropriately trained and accredited personnel undertaken to determine baseline biodiversity of the site and to identify and avoid any areas of sensitivity or "no-go" areas, using appropriate methodology and scoresheets for Rangelands or Scattered Tree assessments. ▪ Ecological surveys are timed appropriately to detect threatened flora and fauna where they may occur. ▪ Ecological assessment by appropriately trained and accredited personnel demonstrates that cumulative impacts to native flora and fauna have been assessed and considered. ▪ Ecological assessment includes a description of weed management, landscape connectivity and vegetation condition. ▪ Where vegetation clearance is required, related records must demonstrate that an appropriate ecological assessment has been actioned, that necessary approvals under the Native Vegetation Act have been obtained, and 'significant environmental benefit' obligation has been satisfied. These records must include, but are not limited to, a Data Report. ▪ Where vegetation and habitats may be sensitive to disturbance, consultation with relevant government departments carried out and location specific environmental management plan developed and implemented. ▪ Records (e.g. ecological assessments) demonstrate no listed threatened and/or migratory species will be significantly impacted (unless appropriate approval has been obtained). ▪ All biodiversity data collected by an appropriately qualified professional and reported to the Biological Databases of South Australia (BDBSA) and DEM pursuant to HRE Regulation 32(2)(c). ▪ Management and monitoring measures for any vegetation	▪ Site selection and infrastructure micro-siting avoid threatened flora species listed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. ▪ Activities confined to existing cleared areas and existing access tracks where possible.	***#BIO01 (Clearance or disturbance of native vegetation)*** ***#BIO05 (disturbance to fauna)*** ***#BIO06 (fauna mortality)*** ***#BIO07 (threatened or migratory species)***

and/or biodiversity impacts are documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required. ▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate there has been no unauthorised clearing of native vegetation. ▪ Any excavation or fill material surplus to the requirements of the development must be disposed of such that it will not adversely impact on native vegetation, contribute to erosion or sedimentation, or facilitate the spread of pest plant and pathogenic material.		
▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate that 0, +1 or +2 GAS criteria for borrow pit construction, management and rehabilitation (DSD, 2014) are attained or where 0, +1 or +2 GAS criteria are not attained, plans for remediation are documented and implemented in a timely manner.	▪ Relevant control and management measures implemented consistent with standards for borrow pit management as per DSD (2014).	***#BIO03 (water retention in borrow pits)***
▪ DEW biodiversity values mapping used in desktop component of ecological assessment and for the design of on-ground surveys. Records (e.g. ecological assessments) demonstrate that disturbance to fauna has been considered and measures implemented to minimise it where appropriate. ▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate that control measures have been implemented.	▪ Significant areas for native fauna identified by a suitably trained and experienced personnel are avoided either spatially, temporally, or measures put in place to minimise disturbance.	***#BIO05 (disturbance to fauna)***
▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate there are no native fauna casualties that could have reasonably been prevented through the management measures/controls described in the EIR.	▪ 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. ▪ Excavations are kept open for the minimum amount of time and are regularly checked for trapped fauna. ▪ Boreholes are capped / backfilled to prevent injury or death to wildlife.	***#BIO06 (fauna mortality)***
▪ Clearance data and/or visual inspection demonstrates no clearance outside of approved areas.	▪ Areas of habitat important to threatened or migratory fauna species are identified during the planning process and impacts are avoided, either spatially or temporally.	***#BIO07 (threatened or migratory species)***

▪ No uncontrolled fires as a result of authorised activities. ▪ OMP includes an emergency response plan (or similar) that clearly outlines the response to a fire related incident, both caused by authorised activities and/or threatening authorised activities from offsite. ▪ Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 requirements are complied with. ▪ Infrastructure, site design, and management plans comply with relevant requirements of the CFS Renewable Energy Facilities Guide and checklist, or as otherwise agreed with CFS.	▪ Fire prevention and firefighting equipment is present, certified and maintained in accordance with applicable standards.	***#BIO09 (fire / loss of habitat)***
Objective 4: Minimise disturbance to receptors, land use and infrastructure		
Assessment Criteria	**Leading Performance Criteria**	**Controls identified in EIR**
▪ The applicant must consult with landowners, pastoral lease holders, Traditional Owners, the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) or relevant council, any affected Government agencies and any potentially affected receptors on the potential impacts (including cumulative impacts) of the proposed activities and how they will be adequately managed prior to the approval of the OMP. ▪ The applicant must provide a report that details the result of the consultation, setting out the people consulted, any issues of concerns raised and the steps if any proposed to be taken to address those concerns in the OMP. ▪ Management and monitoring measures for dust impacts to sensitive receptors are documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required. ▪ Records demonstrate that no reasonable complaints received about air quality are left unresolved.	▪ 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).	***#AIR01 (air quality, dust)*** ***#NOI1 (noise and vibration)*** ***#SOC02 (landowner infrastructure and activities)***
▪ 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.* ▪ Records demonstrate that no reasonable complaints received about noise levels are left unresolved	▪ Location of sensitive receptors (e.g. pastoral station residences) considered when planning activities, and avoidance or mitigation measures implemented where required.	***#NOI01 (noise and vibration)***
▪ Records demonstrate that no reasonable complaints received about aerial surveys are left unresolved. ▪ Consultation with landowners undertaken prior to starting aerial surveys.		***#SOC01 (aerial surveys)***

▪ Aircraft and drone operations comply with Civil Aviation Safety Authority regulations.		
▪ Landowner / stakeholder complaints are documented, and reasonable steps taken to resolve them can be demonstrated.	▪ Landowners are consulted prior to survey activities, and relevant control and management measures consistent with those identified in the EIR are implemented.	***#SOC02 (landowner infrastructure and activities)***
Objective 5: Minimise visual impact of regulated activities		
Assessment Criteria	**Leading Performance Criteria**	**Controls identified in EIR**
▪ Visual assessment undertaken where mast or campsite siting is proposed within 500 m from a non-associated dwelling, tourist accommodation, and/or township. ▪ Records demonstrate no reasonable complaints received about visual amenity are left unresolved.	▪ Meteorological masts or campsites located in areas that minimise visibility from residential, tourist development, or otherwise visually sensitive areas such as geogeritage sites.	***#VIS01 (visual amenity)***
Objective 6: No damage, disturbance or interference to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage unless authorised under the relevant legislation		
Assessment Criteria	**Leading Performance Criteria**	**Controls identified in EIR**
▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate no damage, disturbance or interference to any Aboriginal sites, objects and remains (all as defined under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*) unless authorisation has been obtained under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*. ▪ Any Aboriginal heritage sites, objects and remains (together Aboriginal heritage) discovered during operations have been appropriately reported and responded to, consistent with the applicable Native Title Agreement, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* and the *Coroners Act 2003*. ▪ Records demonstrate that works have stopped in the vicinity of a discovery of Aboriginal heritage.	▪ Records demonstrate that 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. ▪ In the event the conditions of a cultural heritage survey or work area clearance(s) are not complied with, the incident is appropriately reported[1] , investigated and remediated in consultation with the relevant Traditional Owners, Native Title holders and in accordance with any applicable Native Title Agreement. ▪ 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). ▪ Where required, development of and adherence to a cultural heritage management plan in consultation with the relevant Traditional Owners. ▪ Records demonstrate that Taa Wika has been searched to identify and avoid the location of registered Aboriginal heritage sites.	***#HER01 (Aboriginal heritage)***

[1] This may include compliance with reporting obligations pursuant to section 20 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*

	▪ Procedures, systems and plans are in place if Aboriginal heritage is encountered.	
▪ 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 *Heritage Places Act 1993* unless approval has been obtained under the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. ▪ 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 OCA will be notified in accordance with the Heritage Places Act 1993.	▪ 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. ▪ Procedures, systems and plans are in place if archaeological artefacts are encountered	***#HER02 (non-Aboriginal heritage)***
Objective 7: No introduction or spread of weeds, pest animals and pathogens as a consequence of regulated activities		
Assessment Criteria	**Leading Performance Criteria**	**Controls identified in EIR**
▪ 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. ▪ Relevant management plan for weeds and pests is developed in consultation with PIRSA/DEW/SAAL. ▪ A specific environmental management plan for Buffel Grass will be developed and implemented in line with the Buffel Grass best practice management guide for the resources industries. ▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate that the presence of weeds, pest animals or pathogens is consistent with or better than pre-disturbance conditions and adjacent land. ▪ Declared weeds, pest animals or pathogens occurring within/adjacent to operational areas are reported and managed in accordance with relevant legislation, SA Arid Lands Regional Landscape Plan and declared pest animal and weed policies. ▪ Any excavation or fill material surplus to the requirements of the development must be disposed of such that it will not adversely impact on native vegetation, contribute to erosion or sedimentation, or facilitate the spread of pest plant and pathogenic material.	▪ Records demonstrate that all equipment and vehicles are inspected, and cleaned where required, before arrival at the site. ▪ Areas of significant weeds are identified and flagged for avoidance unless for their control. ▪ Waste securely stored and removed off-site for disposal at appropriately licensed waste handling facility to prevent access by fauna.	***#BIO04 and #BIO08 (weeds and pest animals)*** ***#SOC03 (land use)***

▪ Baseline weed and pest animal assessment undertaken by appropriately trained and experienced personnel prior to commencing operations. ▪ Pathogen desktop assessment undertaken to determine the potential of presence or spread of pathogens and the commensurate level of control required. ▪ 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. ▪ Declared plants occurring within/adjacent to operational areas are reported and managed in accordance with relevant legislation and the SA Arid Lands Regional Landscape Plan.		***#SOC03 (land use)***
Objective 8: No injuries, deaths or health impacts to the public, third parties, or on-site personnel from regulated activities that could have been reasonably prevented by the operator		
Assessment Criteria	**Leading Performance Criteria**	**Controls identified in EIR**
▪ Any notifiable incidents (as per section 35 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*) involving the public investigated by a suitably qualified independent third party.	▪ Guidance in the Advisory Circular 139.E-05v1.1 – Obstacles (including wind farms) outside the vicinity of a CASA certified aerodrome, is adhered to. ▪ Notification to CASA and other relevant agencies undertaken where required. ▪ Measures to ensure visibility of meteorological masts to aircraft implemented, maintained and monitored.	***#SAF01 (aviation hazard)***
▪ No uncontrolled fires as a result of regulated activities ▪ OMP includes an emergency response plan (or similar) that clearly outlines the response to a fire related incident, both caused by authorised activities and/or threatening authorised activities from offsite. ▪ Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 requirements are complied with. ▪ Infrastructure, site design, and management plans comply with relevant requirements of the CFS Renewable Energy Facilities Guide and checklist, or as otherwise agreed with CFS.	▪ Fire prevention and firefighting equipment is present, certified and maintained in accordance with applicable standards during on-site works.	***#SAF02 (fires)***
▪ Traffic-related incidents investigated by a suitably qualified independent third party show that the accident could not have been reasonably prevented by the Operator. ▪ Traffic impact assessment report developed to the satisfaction of DIT, where DIT managed roads are used for activities	▪ Driver awareness training for all personnel. ▪ Traffic and journey management procedures followed ▪ All employees and contractors to comply with the *Road Traffic Act 1961*	***#SAF03 (traffic)***

undertaken under a REFL. ▪ Dilapidation reports prepared both prior to commencement and upon completion of project activities where DIT managed road assets may be affected.		
▪ Any notifiable incidents (as per section 35 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*) involving the public investigated by a suitably qualified independent third party. ▪ Certification of the design of meteorological mast and infrastructure of other authorised activities by a qualified structural engineer prior to construction ▪ Meteorological mast and infrastructure of other authorised activities constructed and verified for compliance with the certified design. ▪ Undertake fitness for purpose assessments and audits of management systems to ensure operational and procedural safety at a frequency as outlined in the OMP.	▪ 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.	***#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**
▪ Management measures for waste generated during the construction and decommissioning stages documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan and Decommissioning and Rehabilitation plan. ▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate that waste has been segregated and transported to an EPA licensed waste disposal facility for recycling or disposal. ▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate wastewater disposed in accordance with the South Australian *Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013* (or to the satisfaction of the Department of Health) and consistent with the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015*.	▪ Waste is securely contained prior to removal from site. ▪ Waste management is undertaken in accordance with the EPA's Waste Hierarchy model and the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010*. ▪ Wastewater is managed according to *the Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013*.	***#SOI03 (waste management)***
Objective 10: Rehabilitate land adversely affected by regulated activities		
Assessment Criteria	**Leading Performance Criteria**	**Controls identified in EIR**
▪ OMP includes a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan (or similar) that outlines how any infrastructure or equipment will be decommissioned and the land rehabilitated.	▪ Final decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to be provided 6 months prior to decommissioning activities commencing. Plan to be approved by DEM.	***#SOI02 (soil inversion and compaction***) ***#VIS01 (visual amenity)*** ***#SOC02 (land use and infrastructure)***

▪ Rehabilitation of disturbed areas occurs progressively and is completed at the conclusion of construction.	▪ Rehabilitation is included in the projects time plan and budget.	
▪ Records of audits/inspections demonstrate that all waste has been removed from site following completion of activities unless alternative agreement is reached with the regulator and landowner(s). ▪ Records demonstrate no reasonable stakeholder complaints regarding rehabilitation of land are left unresolved.	▪ Inspections demonstrate no evidence of soil contamination or waste remaining as a result of activities.	***#SOI03 (waste management)***
▪ 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, re-contouring of the ground surface and revegetating (where required) consistent with pre-existing conditions (unless alternative agreement is reached with the regulator and landowner). ▪ Decommissioning and rehabilitation activities are undertaken in accordance with a plan that has been approved by DEM		***#VIS01 (visual amenity)*** ***#SOC02 (land use and infrastructure)***
▪ OMP includes a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan (or similar) that outlines how any infrastructure or equipment will be decommissioned and the land rehabilitated, including restoration of drainage patterns to as near as possible to their undisturbed state. ▪ Records demonstrate no reasonable stakeholder complaints regarding restoration of drainage patterns are left unresolved. ▪ Restoration of land disturbance is undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements and approved by the landowner or in accordance with landowner's wishes.	▪ Inspections demonstrate no evidence of alteration of drainage patterns as a result of activities following rehabilitation.	***#SWR03 (civil construction works)***
▪ Records of audits / inspections carried out in accordance with the Operational Management Plan demonstrate that groundwater infrastructure has been decommissioned in accordance with requirements under the *Landscape South Australia Act* (unless alternative agreement is reached with the regulator and landowner).	▪ Records of audits / inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate that boreholes are backfilled in accordance with relevant industry standards and guidelines (e.g. DEM Earth Resources information sheet M21 Mineral Exploration Drillholes — General specifications for construction and backfilling).	***#GWR02 (borehole or groundwater well installation)***
▪ OMP includes a management plan that includes information on how revegetation is planned. DEW to be consulted where relevant.		***#BIO01***

3. Incident Reporting

3.1 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 sets out the potential immediately reportable and reportable incidents relevant to REFL regulated activities.

Table 2: Incident definitions for REFL regulated activities

Immediately reportable incident	Reportable incident
1. A person is seriously injured[1] or killed. 2. An imminent risk to public health or safety arises. 3. Disturbance to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage without appropriate permits and approvals[2]. 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 affects the health of native flora and fauna species[3]. 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[5]. 6. Any removal of flora or fauna without appropriate permits and approvals[4]. 7. Any event resulting in the activation of emergency response and/or evacuation procedures of an area or the need for emergency service personnel.	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. Malfunction or failure of critical plant or equipment that had (or still has) potential to cause an immediately reportable incident. 3. Unresolved reasonable complaints from stakeholders regarding operations. 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).

[1] As per the definition in Section 36 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*

[2] Pursuant to *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* and *Heritage Places Act 1993*

[3] 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.

[4] Pursuant to *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (flora) and *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (fauna) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

[5] Pursuant to the *Plant Health Act 2009, Livestock Act 1997* and *Landscape SA Act.*

3.2 Reporting requirements

3.2.1 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 HRE 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.

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.

3.2.2 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.

3.2.3 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*.

3.2.4 Reporting to AAR

Any unexpected discovery of Aboriginal heritage sites, objects 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.

3.2.5 Reporting to PIRSA

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

4. References

DEM. (2024). Environmental Impact Assessment Criteria Guidelines. *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Regulatory Guidelines HRERG002. Department for Energy and Mining, South Australia, Adelaide*.

DEM. (2026). *Environmental Impact Report - Renewable Energy Feasibility Licence Activities - Whyalla West and Gawler ranges East Release Areas.* Adelaide: Department for Energy and Mining.

DSD. (2014). GAS Criteria Tables for the Construction, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Borrow Pits in the Cooper Basin SA. *Department of State Development, November 2014*.

CONTACT

Regulation and Compliance Division

Department for Energy and Mining
Level 7, 30 Gouger Street, Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 618, Adelaide SA 5001

P: +61 8 8463 3000
E: DEM.EnergyRegulation@sa.gov.au
www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/hydrogen-and-renewable-energy