Government of South Australia
Department for Energy and Mining

Adoption of Statement of Environmental Objectives - Guideline

Renewable Energy Feasibility Licence

Whyalla West and Gawler Ranges East release areas

Hydrogen and
Renewable Energy Act 2023



As guests here on Kaurna land, we acknowledge everything this department does impacts on Aboriginal country, the sea, the sky, its people and their spiritual and cultural connection 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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Overview

In accordance with section 62 of the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* (the HRE Act), the Minister must not grant a licence unless an approved Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) in respect of proposed authorised operations is in force.

Section 61 of the HRE Act requires that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) addressing proposed authorised operations must be prepared for the purpose of the approval of an SEO.

Therefore, as part of a Renewable Energy Feasibility Licence (REFL) application, applicants must demonstrate that an approved EIR and SEO are in place that are relevant to the proposed authorised operations.

For the purposes of fulfilling a licence application, this guideline should be read in conjunction with other relevant guidance developed by DEM, see "Process for HRE approval" below for more information.

Adoption of an approved (existing) statement of environmental objectives

Pursuant to section 62(4) of the HRE Act, the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) has prepared adoptable EIRs and SEOs to streamline the approval process and ensure consistency for certain renewable energy activities undertaken within South Australia, without detriment to protection of the environment. These adoptable SEOs are set out under regulation 35 of the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Regulations 2024* (the HRE Regulations).

This guideline is specific to the *Statement of Environmental Objectives – Renewable Energy Feasibility Licence – Whyalla West and Gawler Ranges East release areas* (REFL - release area SEO), which relates to the construction, installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of renewable energy infrastructure to assess feasibility of exploiting a renewable energy source. This guidance is in place to assist applicants to demonstrate the relevance of this SEO to their authorised operations, instead of developing their own project specific SEO.

For DEM to accept that the adoptable EIR and SEO are relevant to the licence application, the application must fulfill regulation 35(2) by:

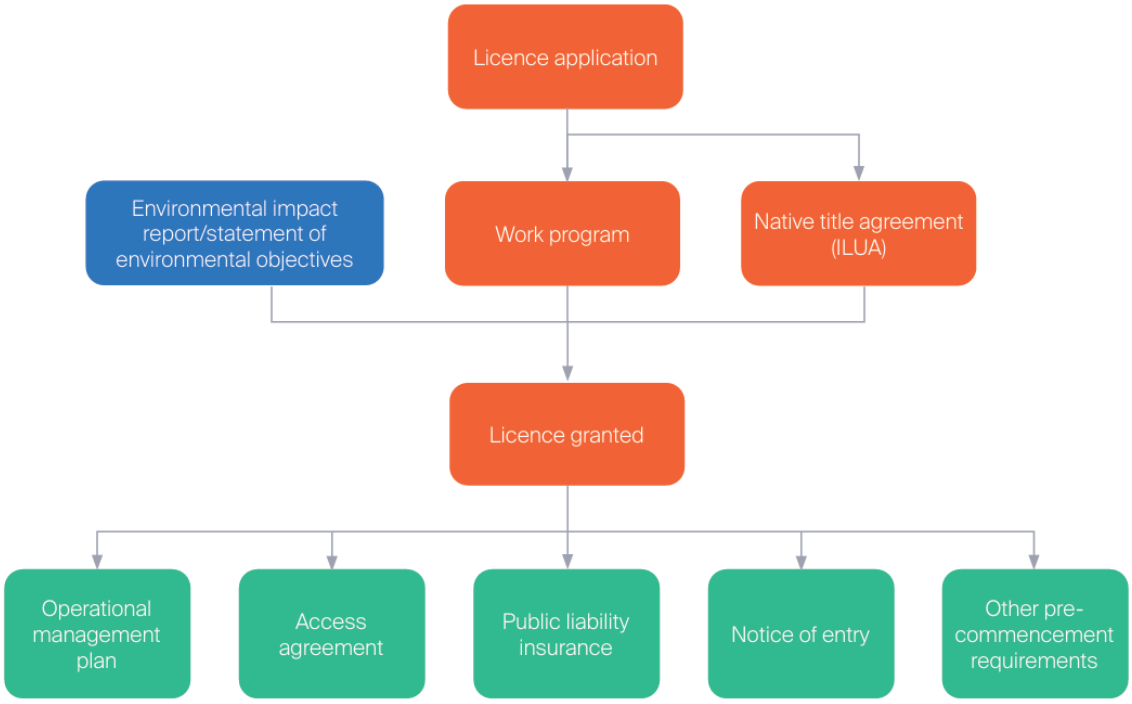
- indicating that it is the intention to rely on the statement; and
- demonstrating that their proposed authorised operations fall within the ambit of that statement.

The following guidance (Appendix A) has been developed by DEM to assist applicants with the preparation for a licence application with the intention of utilising the REFL - release area SEO.

Note that the use or application of this document does not guarantee compliance with the HRE Act. The onus is on the applicant to demonstrate compliance with the HRE Act and HRE Regulations.

Process for HRE approval

Further information on obtaining a licence under the HRE Act is available in the DEM developed Obtaining a right to access designated land to explore for renewable energy resources in South Australia information sheet. The general requirements for obtaining a licence and commencing operations are shown in the diagram below.



Demonstration of relevance

For an applicant to adopt the REFL – release area SEO, regulation 35(2)(b) requires that the applicant demonstrate that the proposed activities fall within the ambit of the SEO. This includes demonstrating that the proposed authorised operations are within the scope of the EIR and SEO and meeting the exclusion criteria (see Section *1.2.1 Exclusions and Constraints* of the EIR), as well as demonstrating that the proposed site is suitable for the proposed operations.

The EIR and SEO have intentionally been developed to be broad scoping to capture all operations that may be undertaken within an REFL and to facilitate those operations across the Whyalla West and Gawler Ranges East release areas. Therefore, in addition to demonstration that the proposed authorised operations are within the ambit of the SEO (and EIR), applicants must also provide site specific detail as part of demonstrating that no additional potential impacts or unacceptable level of impact is introduced that has not been considered within the EIR.

Due to the broad scoping nature of the documents, applicants must provide site specific detail that describes the environment at the site to demonstrate that the proposed licence area is suitably sited.

It also requires demonstration of how the objectives, assessment criteria and leading performance criteria set out in the SEO will be met for the life of the proposed operations.

Proposed operations

The EIR and SEO relates to the construction, installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of renewable energy infrastructure to assess feasibility of exploiting a renewable energy source. The activities that could potentially be undertaken under a REFL that are covered by this SEO are the following:

- Access track construction
- Aerial surveys
- Meteorological masts
- Portable remote sensing devices
- Vehicle-based field surveys
- Geotechnical investigations
- Groundwater investigations
- Campsites

The following exclusions and constraints are outlined in Section 1.2.1 of the EIR. Applicants must demonstrate that their proposed licence areas do not apply to the following:

- Areas defined as reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- Activities deemed to be Level 4 for proposed vegetation clearance, in accordance with the Native Vegetation Council Risk Assessment Fact Sheet are generally excluded but can be considered on a case-by-case basis whereby it can be shown that the proponent has attempted to avoid and minimise vegetation clearance.
- Activities deemed to have significant impact to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
- Areas within the Planning and Design Code (P&D Code) Heritage Adjacency Overlay and State Significant Native Vegetation Areas Overlay.
- Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement and Significant Environmental Benefit Offset areas.
- Meteorological masts located within 500m from non-associated dwellings and tourist accommodation are also outside the scope of the EIR and SEO (consistent with the P&D Code's existing defined setback distances).

Subsequently, proponents proposing activities that are outside the coverage of this EIR would be required to develop a project specific EIR and SEO for assessment under the HRE Act.

Description of the project area

Because the release areas are situated on designated land, applicants need a licence to be able to undertake the on-ground surveys described in section 3 - Description of activities, in the EIR. It is expected that applicants will use desktop studies to demonstrate their activities will be within the scope of the EIR/SEO.

A sufficient level of information must be provided to DEM such that it can be determined that the exclusions outlined above do not coincide with the proposed authorised operations. To assist DEM's assessment, the licence area and proposed location(s) for activities should be shown in a figure and shapefiles should be included in the submission where available.

Environmental elements

The application should briefly describe the relevant environmental elements of the proposed authorised operations. Site specific details and a description of how the authorised operations might have an impact on any environmental elements should also be included. This could, for example, include any known heritage sites on or near the licence area, any registered native flora or fauna, roads proposed to be used, etc.. The EIR covers the following broad environmental elements (see Section 4 of the EIR for details):

- Landscape and bioregions
- Water resources
- Flora, fauna and biodiversity
- Population centres and infrastructure
- Land use
- Heritage
- Amenity

Assessment against SEO Objectives

Proponents must demonstrate how the objectives, assessment criteria and leading performance criteria detailed in the SEO will be met. In several cases this will mean committing to undertaking relevant assessments once a licence is obtained and there is on-ground access. The EIR and SEO have been intentionally developed to be broad scoping and as such there may be instances where particular objectives, assessment criteria and/or leading performance criteria are not applicable to a specific operation. The relevant objectives will depend on the impacted elements of the environment as a result of the proposed operations. If an objective or related criteria is not deemed relevant for the proposed authorised operations, this should be justified briefly.

An example of an assessment against objectives is shown in Table 2 of Appendix A.

Consultation

The SEO stipulates that a proponent must undertake consultation prior to the approval of the Operational Management Plan (OMP).

The proponent must consult with landowners, the council, any affected government agencies and reasonably affected receptors.

An owner of land, or landowner, as defined under the HRE Act, includes:

- a person who holds a registered estate or interest in the land conferring a right to immediate possession of the land; or
- a native title holder in respect of the land; or
- a person who has, by statute, the care, control or management of the land; or
- a person who is lawfully in occupation of the land; or
- a person who holds a pastoral lease in respect of the land; or
- a person who holds a resources tenement in respect of the land; or
- the holder of an aquaculture lease or aquaculture licence under the Aquaculture Act 2001; or
- a person of a class brought within the ambit of this definition by the regulations;

Council, meaning the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) or relevant council over the land where activities are proposed. If activities are proposed in close proximity to a neighbouring council then that council should also be included (case-by-case).

Relevant government agencies that should be considered for consultation include but are not limited to:

- Attorney Generals Department – Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
- Civil Aviation authority
- Commissioner of Highways
- Department for Environment and Water
- Department of Primary Industries and Regions
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport
- Department for Housing and Urban Development
- Environmental Protection Authority
- Native Vegetation Council
- Outback Communities Authority
- SA Arid Lands Landscapes Board
- Relevant council
- South Australian Country Fire Service

Generic e-mail addresses for these agencies can generally be found within the *Referral of matters to prescribed body under the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* guideline.

Reasonably affected receptors, are generally identified through the impact assessment tables in Section 5.2, for example, neighbouring receptors where they may be visually impacted, or Traditional Owners of Aboriginal sites or objects on the land that the authorised operations may impact.

The matters of consultation must be focused on which potential environmental impacts and

management measures identified in the EIR (and accompanying SEO) that relate specifically to the proposed activities.

As part of the OMP application, it must be demonstrated to DEM that consultation has been suitably undertaken through a report that details the persons consulted, any issues of concerns raised, and the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to address those concerns.

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

Supporting documentation

Operational Management Plan

There are some requirements of the SEO, e.g. management plans, that can be met through the OMP. The specific requirements of the OMP are outlined within section 66 of the HRE Act and regulation 37 of the HRE Regulations. This includes details on management and monitoring measures, along with details on any audits/inspections and/or management systems relevant for the proposed operations. The pre-commencement requirements, including requirements for the OMP are detailed in the Pre-commencement requirements for final on-ground approvals information sheet.

Where an applicant intends to meet the requirements of the SEO via the OMP, this should be clearly stated in the assessment against the SEO. The following management plans are included in the SEO that should be considered on a case-by-case basis for relevance. Where an objective, assessment criteria or leading performance criteria are not relevant this can be stated in the assessment against the SEO with a brief justification.

The SEO considers management plans relating to:

- Soils
- Surface water and groundwater
- Contamination
- Native vegetation and native fauna
- Dust
- Stakeholders (including complaints management)
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage
- Weeds, pests, pathogens
- Traffic
- Emergency response

- Waste management
- Decommissioning and rehabilitation

Environmental assessments

The specific assessments and level of detail required to demonstrate that the objectives of the SEO will be and/or are met will depend on the scope and scale of the proposed authorised operations. The level of detail provided should be commensurate to the level of potential impact as a result of the authorised operations and must adequately demonstrate that impacts to the environment are understood and will be avoided or appropriately managed. The application must also provide sufficient information such that it can be determined if the proposed activities are within the scope of the EIR and SEO and do not fall within any of the exclusions or constraints set out.

Undertaking an assessment against the SEO may also:

- determine the level and type of assessment(s) required; and
- inform the timing of submission of an environmental assessment or management plan, e.g. submission upon licence application to demonstrate applicability of the SEO or submitted within the OMP.

Studies undertaken will determine the suitability of the site and ultimately fulfill the relevant assessment criteria and/or leading performance criteria of the SEO. Studies that have been undertaken should be attached to the application as demonstration that the existing environment has been considered for the proposed licence area and that the proposed site is suitable, that the potential impacts are acceptable (by avoidance and/or appropriate management), and that the objectives of the SEO are met.

Appendix A – Template

Renewable Energy Feasibility Licence assessment against the SEO

Introduction

State the project and state the relevant SEO the application intends to adopt.

The Applicant

Information about the applicant and contact information.

Scope and site suitability

Demonstrate that the proposed authorised operations are within the scope EIR.

Check that the proposed licence area does not coincide with the exclusions and constraints in Section 1.2.1 of the EIR. Provide evidence to support the assessment, e.g. output from Protected Matters Search Tool for MNES.

TABLE 1 EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Exclusion (section 1.2.1 of EIR)	Check – does not occur within licence area
Areas defined as reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*	
Activities deemed to be Level 4 for proposed vegetation clearance, in accordance with the Native Vegetation Council Risk Assessment Fact Sheet are generally excluded but can be considered on a case-by-case basis whereby it can be shown that the proponent has attempted to avoid and minimise vegetation clearance.	
Activities deemed to have significant impact to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).	
Areas within the Planning and Design Code (P&D Code) Heritage Adjacency Overlay and State Significant Native Vegetation Areas Overlay.	
Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement and Significant Environmental Benefit Offset areas.	

Meteorological masts located within 500 m from non-associated dwellings and tourist accommodation are also outside the scope of the EIR and SEO (consistent with the P&D Code's existing defined setback distances).	

Proposed activities

Provide a description of all proposed activities. This section should include:

- *Proposed location of activities and licence area*
- *Proposed activities (as described in Section 3 of the EIR)*
- *Indicative timeline of project*
- *Description of proposed activities relating to the construction, installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of met mast infrastructure (for the purpose of renewable energy feasibility assessment).*

Note: Where available, please include a shapefile with the proposed licence area with your application.

Environmental elements

Describe high-level site specific details and a description of if/how the authorised operations might have an impact on relevant environmental elements. Information should be provided to demonstrate that an assessment of site suitability has been undertaken.

Assessment against SEO

See Table 2 below for example.

Supporting documents

Information to support a licence application may be provided as attachments, e.g. documents, desktop studies, figures, maps, other relevant imagery, etc.

Table 2. provides examples of an assessment against Objective 1 and Objective 3 of the SEO, including the relevant assessment criteria and leading performance criteria. Where a criteria is straightforward and where no further justification is needed, a √ symbol indicates that the criteria will be complied with. In all other instances a comment and/or explanation is required.

Applicants must provide an assessment against each objective, as stated above, where an assessment criteria or leading performance criteria is not relevant to the project this should be stated.

TABLE 2 ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE SEO

Objective 1: No significant changes in soil stability, structure or composition, resulting from regulated activities	
Assessment Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments [EXAMPLE]**
▪ 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.	*No bulk fuels or chemicals to be bought to or stored on site. Small volumes of fuels and chemicals will be present during construction, maintenance, and decommissioning, e.g. vehicles, chemicals for construction purposes.* *Spills procedure in place to be complied with to consider minor spills management. Auditing/inspection schedule to be outlined within OMP.*
▪ 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.	*As above, small volumes of chemicals/fuels only to be used on site during construction, maintenance, and decommissioning. Procedure in place to be submitted in OMP.*
▪ Landowners consulted regarding land-disturbing activities to minimise potential for surface disturbance and facilitate rehabilitation (where required).	*Landowner agreement in place and ongoing consultation with landowner has been undertaken. Landowner to be consulted regarding commencement prior to entering land for operations.* *Licence area is located on gently sloping land and desktop assessment of the site on NatureMaps identified a minor watercourse (unclassified) that terminates within the property that will be avoided via micro-siting of met mast. No other*

	surface features were identified that may be impacted by disturbance works, therefore landscape board has not been consulted.
▪ OMP includes relevant management plan/procedure that effectively manages and minimises soil inversion, compaction and erosion to reduce potential for impacts to land quality.	*Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to be submitted in the OMP. The plan will include erosion controls that will be implemented during construction and operation.*
▪ 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.	*Audit schedule to be submitted as part of OMP in accordance with the HRE Act and HRE Regulations.* *Soil Management Plan to be submitted in OMP. The plan will address management of soils during construction (e.g. appropriate management of stockpiled soils) and management of soil conditions, e.g. wheel ruts, heavily compacted areas, soil inversion.*
▪ No reasonable complaints received regarding soil compaction, inversion, erosion or reduced land quality are left unresolved.	*Stakeholder Management Plan including complaints management procedure in place.* *Ongoing consultation with the landowner and landowner agreement in place.*
▪ Management and monitoring measures for existing contaminated soil or acid sulphate soils will be documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required.	*Desktop assessment undertaken, negligible potential for acid sulphate soils at the site. No recorded contaminated sites located within the proposed licence area.* *Stop work procedure in place upon unexpected discovery to be complied with.*
▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate existing soil contamination/acid sulphate soils have been appropriately managed (if encountered).	*As above, desktop assessment undertaken, negligible potential for acid sulphate soils at the site. No contaminated site records within licence area.* *Stop work procedure in place upon unexpected discovery to be complied with. If unexpected find occurs the OMP will be updated to reflect auditing/inspection schedule based on the type of contamination identified.*

Leading Performance Criteria	Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments [EXAMPLE]
▪ 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).	*No bulk fuels or chemicals to be bought to or stored on site. Small volumes of fuels and chemicals will be present during construction, maintenance, and decommissioning, e.g. vehicles, chemicals for construction purposes. These will be stored in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines.*
▪ Inspections demonstrate no evidence of spills of chemicals and/or fuels as a result of activities undertaken.	*Audit and inspection schedule to be outlined in the OMP.*
▪ Personnel trained in correct procedures for use of materials, including refueling and clean- up	*Management systems submitted via the OMP will include relevant contractor management plans and procedures.*
▪ Appropriate spill response equipment is available on site during on-site operations.	*√*
▪ 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.	*Minor water courses identified within the proposed licence area that will be avoided by micro-siting of met mast. Result of field assessment to be submitted in the OMP.* *Ongoing consultation and an agreement in place with landowner for proposed disturbance works.*
▪ 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.	*No tracks will be constructed in areas of higher sensitivity such as gibber areas, wetlands or salt lakes.*
▪ Desktop assessment undertaken for potential acid sulphate soils or existing contamination and activity location avoids risk areas.	*Desktop assessment undertaken, negligible potential for acid sulphate soils at the site and no existing contaminated sites within the proposed licence area, and low/negligible potential for unexpected finds.*
▪ Micro-siting avoids areas of potential acid sulphate soils or existing contamination as far as practicable.	*Not applicable, desktop assessment indicates negligible potential for acid sulphate soils.*
▪ Field screening undertaken for presence of acid sulphate soil existing contamination if excavating in a risk area.	*Not applicable, desktop assessment indicates negligible potential for acid sulphate soils.*
Objective 2: No significant disturbance to surface drainage patterns and no adverse impacts to surface water and groundwater quality or quantity	
Assessment Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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.	
▪ 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.	
▪ 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 undertaken unless an applicable permit has been obtained.	
▪ 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.	
Leading Performance Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**

▪ Fuel and chemicals on site 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 during on-site operations.	
▪ Desktop 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.	
▪ 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).	
▪ 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 — 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	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments [EXAMPLE]**
▪ 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.	*Desktop study (see Appendix x[1]) estimates veg clearance to be Level 2 as only minor clearance is necessary. Field assessments will be undertaken to confirm and the result to be provided in OMP.*

[1] Please refer to where more detailed information can be found within your application documentation. E.g. any desktop studies undertaken.

▪ 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 assessment to be undertaken by consultant (qualified ecologist) after licence grant. Results will be appended to the OMP. Areas identified within the desktop assessment for State listed species (flora) have preferentially been avoided, see section xxx. Where native vegetation cannot be avoided, native vegetation clearance approval will be sought from the NVC.*
▪ Ecological surveys are timed appropriately to detect threatened flora and fauna where they may occur.	*Ecological field assessment proposed to be undertaken in June because.. [insert justification for chosen time period).*
▪ Ecological assessment by appropriately trained and experienced personnel demonstrates that cumulative impacts to native flora and fauna have been assessed and considered.	*To be included in the ecological assessment and demonstrated in OMP.*
▪ Ecological assessment includes a description of weed management, landscape connectivity and vegetation condition.	*To be included in the ecological assessment and demonstrated in OMP.*
▪ 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.	*Native vegetation clearance application to be developed and submitted to the NVC.*
▪ 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.	*Currently sensitive areas (state listed flora species) have been avoided. Field assessment to determine if additional sensitive areas are present and if further consultation necessary.*
▪ 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.	*Need for further consultation will be determined after the ecological field assessment.*

▪ Records (e.g. ecological assessments) demonstrate no listed threatened and/or migratory species will be significantly impacted (unless appropriate approval has been obtained).	*State listed flora species identified on-site in desktop study (attached) within proposed licence area. Met mast location has been sited away from this area and will further be micro-sited to avoid identified locations of listed flora species.*
▪ 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).	*Ecological survey data obtained will be reported to the BDBSA.*
▪ Management and monitoring measures for any vegetation and/or biodiversity impacts are documented in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, where required.	*Native vegetation management plan (and monitoring) may be required as part of NVC approval. If required, this will be submitted with the OMP and complied with.*
▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate there has been no unauthorised clearing of native vegetation.	*Audit schedule to be outlined in OMP. Native vegetation clearance only to be undertaken in accordance with NVC approvals (to be obtained).*
▪ 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.	*No borrow pits are planned.*
▪ 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.	*Ecological field assessment to be undertaken. Necessary considerations and/or measure to be demonstrated in OMP.*
▪ Records of audits/inspections carried out in accordance with the OMP demonstrate that control measures have been implemented.	*Audit schedule to be provided in OMP and policies/procedures that provide additional detail regarding implementation of control measures to be submitted in OMP. Note that control measures outlined in EIR will be adopted where relevant.*
▪ 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.	*Audit schedule to be provided in OMP.*
▪ Clearance data and/or visual inspection demonstrates no clearance outside of approved areas.	*√*
▪ No uncontrolled fires as a result of authorised activities.	*Operations required for met mast are generally low risk for fire, e.g. fire ignition sources limited to vehicles and potentially some minor hot works during construction. The site is not located within a bushfire protection area and the Bushfire Hazards Overlay – High Risk is not applicable. Works may occur during fire danger season.* *Relevant controls in place to avoid starting fire as outlined in EIR, particularly standard measures including installation of lightning rods on the met mast. During construction operations (where hot works are required) vehicle(s) to be fitted with 32L fire extinguisher.*
▪ OMP includes an emergency response plan (or similar) that clearly outlines the response to a fire related incident, both caused by	*Emergency response plan to be submitted in OMP and complied with.*

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.	*√*
Leading Performance Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments [EXAMPLE]**
▪ Site selection and infrastructure micro-siting avoid threatened flora species listed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.	*Desktop study has informed site selection (see Appendix X). Further micro-siting will be undertaken after field assessment. Result to be included in OMP.*
▪ Activities confined to existing cleared areas and existing access tracks where possible.	*Siting has been undertaken to avoid vegetated areas (see Appendix X).*
▪ Relevant control and management measures implemented consistent with standards for borrow pit management as per DSD (2014).	*No borrow pit planned.*
▪ 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.	*Field assessment undertaken by consultant (qualified ecologist) after licence grant. Results will be appended to the OMP.*
▪ 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.	*Desktop study has informed site selection and significant areas avoided (see Appendix X). Field assessment undertaken by consultant (qualified ecologist) after licence grant. Results will be appended to the OMP.*
▪ 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.	*√*
▪ Areas of habitat important to threatened or migratory fauna species are identified during the planning process and impacts are avoided, either spatially or temporally.	*Desktop study has informed site selection and significant areas avoided (see Appendix X). Field assessment undertaken by consultant (qualified ecologist) after licence grant. Results will be appended to the OMP.*
▪ Fire prevention and firefighting equipment is present, certified and maintained in accordance with applicable standards.	*√*
Objective 4: Minimise disturbance to receptors, land use and infrastructure	
Assessment Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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.	

▪ 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.	
▪ Records demonstrate that no reasonable complaints received about aerial surveys are left unresolved.	
▪ Consultation with landowners undertaken prior to starting 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.	
Leading Performance Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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).	
▪ Location of sensitive receptors (e.g. pastoral station residences) considered when planning activities, and avoidance or mitigation measures implemented where required.	

▪ Landowners are consulted prior to survey activities, and relevant control and management measures consistent with those identified in the EIR are implemented.	
Objective 5: Minimise visual impact of regulated activities	
Assessment Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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.	
Leading Performance Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ Meteorological masts or campsites located in areas that minimise visibility from residential, tourist development, or otherwise visually sensitive areas such as geogeritage sites.	
Objective 6: No damage, disturbance or interference to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage unless authorised under the relevant legislation	
Assessment Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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 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.	
Leading Performance Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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 reported1 , 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.	
▪ Procedures, systems and plans are in place if Aboriginal heritage is encountered.	
▪ 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	
Objective 7: No introduction or spread of weeds, pest animals and pathogens as a consequence of regulated activities	
Assessment Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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. 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.	
▪ 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.	
Leading Performance Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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.	
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	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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.	

▪ 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.	
▪ 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 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.	
Leading Performance Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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.	
▪ Fire prevention and firefighting equipment is present, certified and maintained in accordance with applicable standards during on-site works.	
▪ Driver awareness training for all personnel.	
▪ Traffic and journey management procedures followed.	

▪ All employees and contractors to comply with the Road Traffic Act 1961.	
▪ 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.	
Objective 9: Optimise waste management (in order of most to least preferable) - avoidance; reduction; reuse; recycling; treatment; and disposal	
Assessment Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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.	
Leading Performance Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ 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.	
Objective 10: Rehabilitate land adversely affected by regulated activities	
Assessment Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ OMP includes a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan (or similar) that outlines how any infrastructure or equipment will be decommissioned and the land rehabilitated.	
▪ Rehabilitation of disturbed areas occurs progressively and is completed at the conclusion of construction.	
▪ 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.	
▪ 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.	
▪ 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.	
▪ 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).	
▪ OMP includes a management plan that includes information on how revegetation is planned. Plan to be approved by the Native Vegetation Council.	
Leading Performance Criteria	**Relevant to proposed activities/additional comments**
▪ Final decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to be provided 6 months prior to decommissioning activities commencing. Plan to be approved by DEM.	

▪ Rehabilitation is included in the projects time plan and budget.	
▪ Inspections demonstrate no evidence of soil contamination or waste remaining as a result of activities.	
▪ Inspections demonstrate no evidence of alteration of drainage patterns as a result of activities following rehabilitation.	
▪ 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).	

Further information

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