

Commonwealth Park to Woden Light Rail Project

Application Number: **02156**Commencement Date: **07/12/2023**Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Commonwealth Park to Woden Light Rail Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Transport - Land

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Road

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/12/2033

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Public transport in Canberra is currently provided by a bus network and the existing Light Rail network between Gungahlin and the City Centre. Despite the broad coverage of the bus network, there is a limit to its capacity to meet the movement needs of a growing city and to support its projected population growth.

Light Rail between the northern area of Gungahlin to the City Centre is currently operational with 14 stops. The ACT Government has committed to continue to better connect Canberra by extending the existing Light Rail network from the City Centre to Woden Town Centre. The extension of the Light Rail has been split into two projects. The first stage being City to Commonwealth Park (Stage 2A), which received Conditional Approval from the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (EPBC 2019/8582). Stage 2A has also been granted Works Approval by the National Capital Authority (NCA), and Development Approval (DA) by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD).

The second stage of this extension would comprise Commonwealth Park to Woden (Stage 2B), (the Project). The Project would extend the north south alignment between Gungahlin, the City Centre, and Woden Town Centre. An EPBC Referral was previously submitted for a different proposal for Stage 2B, which provided an alignment on the eastern side of State Circle through the National Triangle (EPBC 2019/8491). This referral for Stage 2B does not constitute either a request to vary Referral 2019/8491 or a withdrawal of Referral 2019/8491. This referral, which is for the Project, comprises a separate proposal.

The Project is located on both Territory and National Land and crosses Designated Areas and the Parliamentary Zone as shown in Figure 3-4 of Appendix A (page 18).

Key Project Features include:

- About 10 kilometres (km) of light rail track between Commonwealth Park and Woden Town Centre including stops
- Two alternative alignment options being considered through the National Triangle including:

- an alignment along State Circle East (SCE) (see Figure 1-2 of Appendix A page 4). Figure 1-2 shows two options being considered to connect to Adelaide Avenue, either from State Circle or Capital Circuit
- an alignment through National Triangle-Barton (NTB), which would follow King George Terrace, Macquarie Street, Bligh Street, National Circuit and Sydney Avenue, before connecting with State Circle (see Figure 1-2 of Appendix A page 4)
- A new dedicated light rail bridge on Commonwealth Avenue over Lake Burley Griffin
- Landscaping features consistent with the prescribed outcomes in the National Capital Plan (NCP) and what was envisioned by the Griffins' plan for Canberra
- Track infrastructure, including wire-free areas from the approved Stage 2A stop at Commonwealth Park through the Parliamentary Zone. The final endpoint of wire-free travel would be determined during detailed design
- Road network alterations to accommodate the Project
- Active transport connections and Integration with the wider public transport network
- Dedicated traction power substations (TPS) to provide electricity for the Project
- Upgrade of the existing stabling depot and maintenance facility in Mitchell to accommodate additional light rail vehicles
- Rail systems infrastructure, including inground service routes, wayside cabinets, and communications systems.

Route

The Project would pass through the suburbs of Parkes, Capital Hill, Yarralumla, Forrest, Deakin, Curtin, Hughes, and Phillip (Figure 1-2 of Appendix A page 4).

The SCE alignment option would use existing roads passing through and along:

- Commonwealth Avenue
- State Circle
- Adelaide Avenue
- Yarra Glen
- Callam Street, Woden.

The NTB alignment option would pass through the suburb of Parkes and Barton and through or along:

- King George Terrace
- Macquarie Street
- Bligh Street
- National Circuit
- Sydney Avenue.

Light Rail Stops

Indicative stop locations would include:

- Common alignment (applicable to both alignment options)
 - Melbourne Avenue
 - Hopetoun Circuit
 - Kent Street
 - Carruthers Street
 - Phillip Oval
 - Woden

SCE alignment option

- Albert Hall
- Kings Avenue (on State Circle)
- Sydney Avenue (on State Circle)

NTB alignment option

- Treasury
- Bligh Street
- Sydney Avenue.

Each stop would have step-free access, passenger information displays, audio announcements and signage. Cycle racks would be provided where possible to encourage connectivity between the two modes.

The final number of stops and the location of each stop would be confirmed during design development and would be dependent on:

- The preferred alignment through the National Triangle
- Technical considerations, patronage and demand (including future land use change)
- Where wire-free technology is implemented
- Ongoing community and stakeholder consultation
- Land releases and developments adjacent to the proposed alignment.

Power Supply and Substations

Overhead wiring and on-board energy storage would power the Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs). It is anticipated that about three TPSs would be needed to service the Project. The final number and location of substations would be determined during design development. Substations would be adjacent to the overhead wire section of the alignment, generally south of the National Triangle from a location to be determined during detailed design. The number of substations and the detail, location, and power specification of each substation would be confirmed during design development in consultation with power network providers.

Construction Compounds

Construction compounds would be needed to support construction of the Project. Construction compounds would be used to temporarily store materials, equipment, and waste; carry out certain maintenance work; and house site offices and worker amenities.

The construction compounds would be located to minimise impacts to the following sensitive locations where feasible and reasonable:

- Areas of environmental, cultural, and social sensitivity, including MNES or triggers listed in the Planning Act 2023.
- Areas identified in the land release program prior to the estimated completion date for the Project
- Heavily used surface car parks
- Areas of imminent future development.

Potential locations for construction compounds within the Project footprint can be seen within **Section 4.3.2 of Appendix A (pg 37-38)**

Additional Light Rail Vehicles including expansion of existing depot at Mitchell

Additional LRVs would be needed to supplement the existing rolling stock to cater for the new Project and associated patronage increase. These would be stabled at the Mitchell Depot.

The Project would include an upgrade and expansion of the existing stabling depot and maintenance facility in Mitchell to accommodate additional LRVs and facilities such as workshops and parking (this is the area marked approximately 7km to the north of the project in Section 2 of this referral). The expansion of the depot would be contained to within the existing site boundary. Suitable and approved traffic management arrangements would be put in place as required to ensure the safe movements of construction vehicles. Construction access would be via the existing road network, and, where relevant, proposed adjustments.

Construction Activities

Construction activities would be required within and near the proposed rail corridor. Construction planning would be further informed by early works which would include activities such as surveys, service adjustments, property adjustments and geotechnical investigations. Indicative construction activities for the Project would likely include:

- Early and enabling works including establishment of construction compounds and environmental controls, as well as utility relocation and protection
- Transport network and public domain modifications to roads, public transport, car parking, property access and pedestrian and cyclist facilities including traffic signal prioritisation
- Building a bridge over Lake Burley Griffin at Commonwealth Avenue and other crossings and/or viaducts along the alignment where required
- Earthworks and civil works for construction and installation of the light rail track route and slabs. This would include vegetation clearing activities within the light rail corridor once the alignment is defined. Clearance activities would result in direct and indirect impacts to flora and fauna.
- Construction of light rail stops, including access, facilities, security, CCTV, lighting, and furniture and other customer facilities (e.g., passenger information display systems)
- Footpath verge surfaces and road pavements
- Upgrade and expansion of the existing stabling depot and maintenance facility in Mitchell
- Providing power supply, including TPSs, inground service routes, and overhead lines
- Installation of rail systems, signalling and testing.

Operational Activities

This would involve operation of the light rail itself as well as maintenance activities on light rail vehicles, the depot, track, communications, signals stop, substation equipment and landscaping. These works would generally be confined to the boundaries of the rail infrastructure itself. Further details of both activities and impacts during the operational phase will be developed during the assessment stage. It is not anticipated that there will be any impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance, beyond that considered during construction, within the operational phase.

As the Project is currently in its preliminary design stages the reported impacts in this referral are based on a worst case precautionary approach, the assumption is that their scale and extent can be reduced. This is further indicated by the fact that the project area and disturbance footprint are the same in this referral. The disturbance footprint which is currently being considered is approximately 180 ha. Areas to be avoided or retained will be defined during the detailed design process and subsequent assessment phase.

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

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

No

1.2.4 Related referral(s)

EPBC Number	Project Title
2014/7379	Capital Metro Stage 1 Light Rail Service, ACT
2019/8582	City to Commonwealth Park Light Rail 2A

EPBC Number	Project Title
2023/09567	Commonwealth Avenue Utility Relocation
2019/8491	Commonwealth Park to Woden Light Rail Project, ACT

1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

This project is related to other projects which are associated with the light rail network in Canberra including:

Commonwealth Park to Woden 2019/8491

Major Projects Canberra previously submitted an EPBC Referral for the Commonwealth Park to Woden Light Rail Project which provided an alignment on the eastern side of State Circle (ie. Referral 2019/8491) (see Figure 1-2 of Appendix A). A Referral decision was received by the Commonwealth with controlling provisions of national heritage places, listed threatened species and communities and Commonwealth Land requiring assessment through an Environmental Impact Statement.

As a result of landscape planning, technical investigations and engagement with key stakeholders as part of continuing to develop Stage 2B, work to date has identified a number of challenges with an alignment on the eastern side of the State Circle, including:

- Potential visual impacts to Parliament House for stops located on State Circle.
- Construction duration and potential impacts from the Commonwealth Ave State Circle transition.
- Interface issues associated with the project and proposed stop locations and the planned National Security Office Precinct.

Major Projects Canberra does not presently consider those challenges to be insurmountable, but does want to consider both that alignment and other alternative alignments in more detail.

While Referral 2019/8491 contemplated a Barton option in the event of “insurmountable issues” with the alignment on the eastern side of State Circle, Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) advice notes that to formally progress the Barton alignment as an option through the EIS process, a new referral would have to be submitted as the proposition could result in different impacts and may therefore require different EIS investigation requirements. This referral for Stage 2B does not constitute either a request to vary Referral 2019/8491 or a withdrawal of Referral 2019/8491. This referral, which is for the Project, comprises a separate proposal.

City to Commonwealth Park Light Rail 2A 2019/8582

This project consists of a 1.7-kilometre run between the existing City to Gungahlin light rail terminus at Alinga Street to a new terminus on Commonwealth Avenue opposite Commonwealth Park. It would include two other stops at Edinburgh Avenue and at the northern end of Commonwealth Avenue (City South). The light rail will run down the middle of Northbourne Avenue, the west side of London Circuit and Commonwealth Avenue. Additional work needed to support the light rail would include construction of a new intersection between London Circuit and Commonwealth Avenue and the creation of a new rail bridge over Parkes Way.

Although the Project will provide opportunity for the expansion of the light rail network, the Project is independent and separate from other parts of the Canberra light rail network, including the proposed City to Commonwealth Park project, which will facilitate access to (and use of the area between) the City, employment and education hubs in City West, emerging developments in West Basin, and the north shore of Lake Burley Griffin.

The Project relates to the extension of Canberra’s light rail network south of Lake Burley Griffin, past the Parliamentary Zone and to Woden. Unique features of the Project’s urban and environmental context and setting that distinguish it from other stages of the light rail network include:

- Crossing of Lake Burley Griffin via a new bridge built between the existing Commonwealth Avenue road bridges.
- A route on or near part of the Parliamentary Zone.
- Proximity to National heritage places.

Engaging with these features results in various additional design, construction and planning requirements that do not arise for other parts of Canberra’s light rail network. For example, given the proximity of the Project to the Parliamentary Zone, Major Projects Canberra will have to engage in a specific planning approval process when developing the Project.

The Project’s environmental impacts can also be considered as ‘stand-alone’ given the areas affected by the other projects across the broader Canberra light rail network would be geographically discrete from this Project.

The Project is part of the ACT Government’s long-term intention to develop a light rail network in Canberra.

Commonwealth Ave Utility Project 2023/9567

This utilities project is related to both the City to Commonwealth Park Light Rail Stage 2A project and the Commonwealth Park to Woden Light Rail Stage 2B project. It involves the movement and enhancement of utilities that would otherwise intercept with other light rail projects, including their proposed construction compound areas, thereby allowing continued access to those utilities at all times.

In these circumstances, Major Projects Canberra does not believe that the utilities project is part of either the Stage 2A project or the Stage 2B project.

Although the utilities project will, to some extent, facilitate the construction of parts of the Stage 2A project or the Stage 2B project (by removing a potential interface that would otherwise occur during construction of those projects), the utilities project is independent and separate from other parts of the Canberra light rail network, including the proposed Stage 2A project and the Stage 2B project, primarily because:

- the utilities project can be carried out independently of each of the Stage 2A project and the Stage 2B project; and
- it is important, for the co-ordination of construction programs for each of the current light rail projects and other planned major projects, to ensure the continuity of communications utility services through this important area.

Capital Metro Stage 1 Light Rail Service ACT 2014/7379

Light Rail between the northern area of Gungahlin to the City Centre is currently operational with 14 stops provided along Northbourne Avenue, the Federal Highway and Flemington Road.

The project was completed in 2020. The referral decision was that the proposal was not a controlled action.

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

Environmental Planning and Assessment Framework

The Project would be subject to Territory, National and Commonwealth environmental planning policy and instruments. Specifically, development would be controlled and approved by the:

- ACT Territory Planning Authority (TPA) under Planning Act 2023 (Planning Act) for the areas of the footprint impacting on Territory land that is not Designated.
- Australian Government National Capital Authority (NCA) under the Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (PALM Act) for the areas of the footprint impacting on Designated Areas.
- Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act) for the areas of the footprint that would impact on protected matters of national environmental significance (NES matters) and Commonwealth land values.
- Both Houses of Parliament under the Commonwealth Parliament Act 1974 for the areas of the footprint impacting on the Parliamentary Zone.

Section 3 in Appendix A describes the land boundaries covered by each of the above planning instruments, with more detail on each described below.

Territory Planning Approval

Those parts of the Project footprint located outside Designated Areas will need Development Approval from TPA under the Planning Act. The development approval process will involve an assessment of the Project against the provisions of The Territory Plan 2023 (Territory Plan), which is administered by the TPA under provisions of the Planning Act. The object of the Territory Plan is “to ensure, in a manner not inconsistent with the national capital plan, the planning and development of the Territory, to provide ... people ... with an attractive, safe and efficient environment in which to live and work and have their recreation”.

The Territory Plan is the statutory instrument used to implement the strategic land use, environmental, transport, built form and social policies established by the TPA for the ACT. Development tables within the Territory Plan are used to determine whether development is ‘exempt’, ‘prohibited’ or ‘assessable’. Assessable development is assessed via a specific process termed ‘a track’.

The ‘assessment track’ that is adopted for a project depends on its consistency with the Territory Plan development codes and land use zoning objectives, the suitability of the land for development, and the scale of the environmental and social impact. Responsibility for the assessment and determination of a Development Application lies with TPA or with the Minister if called in under Section 106 of the Planning Act. In relation to the Project, the proposal is to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to support an ‘impact track’ Development Application.

In relation to the Project, a Development Application would be required for some portions of the southern end of the Project, as well as a small section in Barton if the National Triangle – Barton option is utilized, that are not Designated Areas. The Development Application is also likely to be subject to public exhibition; during which time members of the public and relevant ACT Government entities can submit questions and queries about the Project (termed a representation).

All commitments made as part of an EIS, and any relevant conditions placed on the Project through an EIS approval process, would be implemented during the detailed design, construction and operation phases for those areas subject to the Planning Act.

Works Approval

Those parts of the Project footprint located within Designated Areas will need Works Approval from the NCA in accordance with the PALM Act.

The NCP is the overarching strategic plan for the ACT that provides a framework for land use and development throughout the Territory. The object of the NCP is “to ensure that Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance”. The NCP, approved by the Australian Parliament, represents the guiding principle for the planning, design and development of Designated Areas; defined as areas with the “special characteristic areas of the National Capital including that they are recognised for their cultural landscape, realm and amenity values in representing the Griffin Plan”.

Designated Areas are divided into a series of precincts. Codes provide objectives and planning and design controls for aspects of development or types of development in each precinct, as discussed in the Parliamentary Zone context.

Works Approval is needed for all works in a Designated Area. The NCA will make its assessment against the NCP including relevant precinct codes and other policies such as those relating to outdoor lighting.

The ACT Government and the NCA have been successful in establishing a solid working relationship throughout the design and delivery of the City to Gungahlin light rail, as well as Raising London Circuit. This included, for example, effective coordination between ACTPLA and the NCA in agreeing consistent conditions of approval, as far as possible having regard to the different regulatory regimes that applied. This relationship would be beneficial in seeking Works Approval for the Project.

This included discussing design concepts, route alignments and approvals processes, and it has fundamentally shaped the Project as

described in this referral.

In general, if EPBC Act approval is required for a project, the NCA would grant a Works Approval for that Project after the EPBC Act approval (if any) had been granted. Accordingly, design work for the Project will be progressed earlier than usual in an EPBC Act process so that the NCA has enough information when considering the Project to give it confidence in the Project and to ensure that any design adjustments are incorporated into the Works Approval process.

Under this approach, an environmental assessment undertaken for the EPBC Act would provide the context of the Project and address its implications in detail. The Works Approval application would seek to confirm key aspects of the Project as detailed in the EIS; including the detailed alignment, the location of stops; landscaping; materials and finishes; and key roadworks activities during construction.

EPBC Act Approval

Commonwealth Approval is needed under the EPBC Act where an 'action' (which includes a development project) has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on one of nine NES matters or Commonwealth land values.

In this case, consideration has been given as to whether the Project is likely to have a significant impact on the NES matters and Commonwealth Land values under the EPBC Act.

This referral focusses on identifying if the Project's impacts are predicted to be significant. Guidelines have been developed to help assess if the Project is likely to have a significant impact. Upon carrying out an assessment under these guidelines, Major Projects Canberra has decided to refer the Project to Commonwealth Minister for the Environment for their opinion whether it is a 'controlled action'.

Parliamentary approval

Works and development that take place in the Parliamentary Zone needs approval from both the lower and upper Houses. The proposal is 'laid before' each House and it must be approved by resolution of each House in accordance with Section 5 of the Parliament Act 1974.

Integrated process

As noted above, all levels of government have collaborated to streamline the approvals process to enable consistency in assessment requirements, the approvals process and the conditions of approval given the different governance covering the Project footprint. Section 3 of Appendix A illustrates the proposed process and the governance relationship. This referral will coincide with an application for Scoping Document with TPA; the first step in the Territory Development Application process. The proposal is to prepare a single EIS to respond to both Commonwealth and Territory requirements. The Parliamentary and Works Approvals, and Development Application would be sought after completion of the EIS process.

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

This section describes the consultation carried out in relation to the Project to date.

Preliminary Consultation

Consultation has been an important part of the development of the underpinning strategies for the extension of the light rail network. Previous reports, such as Transport for Canberra (2012) (refer to Appendix I), the ACT Planning Strategy (2018) (refer to Appendix D) and Moving Canberra 2019-2045 (Integrated Transport Strategy) (refer to Appendix J) have informed the development of consultation planning for the route of the Project. Each of the studies detail the strategies to improve the intermodal transport system within the ACT whilst targeting net zero emissions. MPC has undertaken formal and informal consultation which will continue appropriate to the expansion of the light rail network.

In addition to circulation of regular information updates to the public, the following organisations and special interest groups have been identified as parties requiring targeted consultation concerning the expansion of the light rail network:

- Community Councils, including Gungahlin, North Canberra, South Canberra, Woden, Tuggeranong and West Creek.
- Government bodies including the Climate Change Council, Heritage Council and the NCA (which has planning approval role in the Project).
- Landowners and businesses along the route that would be directly affected by construction and the new Project infrastructure.
- Business, industry groups that have a keen interest in how the Project is delivered and associated development opportunities.
- Special interest groups that have a keen interest in how the light rail network is built and the social, environmental and economic opportunities created by the Project.

Expert advice, community and stakeholder feedback, insights, assistance with planning work and the experience of construction and operations on the City to Gungahlin light rail project, are helping to shape the delivery of the expansion of the light rail network and the Project.

Stakeholders have thus far had the opportunity to comment on aspects of the Project through either formal consultations or informally by providing comments and enquiries through the project inbox, hotline and interactive map. Stakeholders and the wider public have also been informed about the project via publicly available Project information updates.

Community consultation about Light Rail Stage 2B to Woden began in May and June 2017 seeking initial feedback on route alignment. More than 40,000 people were reached through online and in-person methods, with 4,772 providing direct feedback.

Matters discussed included options for the route, alignment of the tracks, potential stop locations, and areas of specific community, cultural or environmental importance. In addition to the key themes, people were also encouraged to share their vision for the City to Woden corridor and opinions about broader urban renewal issues. These have been considered in the design development.

The consultation was extensive and high-profile, attracting media interest and significant stakeholder commentary.

Further consultation was also undertaken in 2021.

Ongoing Engagement and Consultation

The route of the Project will pass through some of Canberra's established suburban areas and a town centre in the process of revitalisation. Major Projects Canberra also notes the presence of a significant part of the diplomatic community within close proximity to the route of the Project, and the importance of this community within a national context.

Major Projects Canberra is committed to an ongoing consultation process with the community, local businesses, educational institutions and other key stakeholders throughout the expansion of the light rail network. These stakeholder consultations are planned via various engagements including community pop-ups and workshops, website and social media channels and formal meetings and working groups. More recent engagement has included the use of the Project's Community Reference Group (CRG). The CRG, established in 2020 has provided ongoing feedback to the project team about Light Rail Stage 2. Since 2023 the CRG has been engaged specifically about aspects of the Project.

Other engagement initiatives have included discussions with a range of Commonwealth Government Departments in relation to Commonwealth lands, heritage and biodiversity matters primarily through the National Triangle. These agencies included:

- Parliament House Departments (House of the Senate, House of Representatives, Department of Parliamentary Services)
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Finance
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Treasury
- Australian Federal Police
- Attorney General's Department
- Office of National Intelligence
- Australian Tax Office
- Department of Defence
- Australian National Audit Office
- Museum of Australian Democracy

The early engagement with the Commonwealth Government Departments indicates general support for the project, acknowledging the broad community value the project will provide to Canberra, for both Canberrans and the national and international tourists to the city. Many commented on the importance to protect the heritage values and character along the route alignment, and through the National Triangle. The long-term nature of this project requires a commitment to developing enduring stakeholder and community relationships and the stakeholder and community engagement program scheduled to commence in early 2024, reflects the level of effort required.

Future consultation

Major Projects Canberra intends to engage with a comprehensive range of impacted and interested stakeholders including interest groups, peak advocacy groups, community councils, residents, commuters, businesses, educational institutions (early learning, schools, universities), major cultural institutions, event spaces, hotels, places of worship and embassies. Engagement will also include indigenous groups such as the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, Registered Aboriginal Organisations, United Ngunnawal Elders Council and representatives from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy.

Finally, as described elsewhere in this Referral, a number of the Commonwealth and Territory environmental approval and planning approval processes involve public consultation and further provide interested stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the Project.

Consultation Principles

Principles contained in the ACT Government's Engaging Canberrans: a guide to community engagement (Refer to Section 2.1 of Appendix B Page 7) have been used to guide the engagement and consultation process used by Major Projects Canberra. A full communications and engagement strategy was developed for the Project and approved by the ACT Government. All engagement activity is guided by the approach set out in the overarching strategy. For each underpinning activity a communications and engagement plan has been developed. Engagement activities are part of an ongoing conversation as the broader Canberra light rail network is planned and delivered. While the Canberra light rail network has been discussed for decades, the ACT Government has been engaging directly on the Canberra light rail network with the community and stakeholders' conversations.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) collects your personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) through this platform for the purposes of enabling the department to consider your submission and contact you in relation to your submission. If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested on this platform (name and email address), the department will be unable to contact you to seek further information (if required) and subsequently may impact the consideration given to your submission.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Australian government agencies, persons or organisations where necessary for the above purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act). Your personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, email us at privacy@awe.gov.au.

Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details	
ABN/ACN	66676633401
Organisation name	Major Projects Canberra
Organisation address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA
Referring party details	
Name	Matthew Gencur
Job title	Director - Environment and Approvals
Phone	0417673630
Email	matthew.gencur@act.gov.au
Address	

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

No

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

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details	
ABN/ACN	66676633401
Organisation name	Major Projects Canberra
Organisation address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA
Person proposing to take the action details	

Name	Ashley Cahif
Job title	Project Director
Phone	02 6207 1680
Email	ashley.cahif@act.gov.au
Address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA

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

No

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

No

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

Major Projects Canberra has an excellent environmental record. It applies very high environmental standards to its projects, including all light rail projects. It has developed constructive relationships with Commonwealth and ACT environmental regulatory agencies and the local communities in which it operates.

Major Projects Canberra has not had any legal proceedings under a Commonwealth or Territory law for the protection of the environment, or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

In addition, Major Projects Canberra has not received any fines, penalty notice or other enforcement action under a Commonwealth or Territory law relating to environmental matters.

Major Projects Canberra currently has three actions referred under the EPBC Act including:

- City to Commonwealth Park Light Rail Project, ACT (EPBC 2019/8582) (ie. the Stage 2A project)
- Commonwealth Avenue Utility Relocation Project, ACT (EPBC 2023/09567)

As noted earlier in this referral, Major Projects Canberra also currently has a referral for a different proposal for Stage 2B, which provides an alignment on the eastern side of State Circle through the National Triangle (ie. Referral 2019/8491).

MPC is aware that there is currently an investigation in relation to compliance, and a potential breach with conditions of the Gunghalin Strategic Assessment.

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

While Major Projects Canberra is undertaking the Project, the Project would be undertaken in accordance with relevant ACT Government policies and guidelines, including:

- the MPC Sustainability Policy (APPENDIX C) - The sustainability policy details MPC's vision to deliver their inherent sustainability benefits of light rail
- ACT Planning Strategy 2018 (APPENDIX D) - The ACT Planning Strategy 2018 is the key strategic document for managing growth and change in the ACT.
- the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25 (APPENDIX E) - This strategy outlines the next stage of the ACT Government's climate change response and identifies actions to meet targets and prepare for climate change.

Works will be implemented in line with Major Projects Canberra's Strategic Plan:2020-25 (APPENDIX F) which is the key strategic document for implementing projects. Each of the strategies/policies detail the aims to improve the intermodal transport system within the ACT whilst targeting net zero emissions.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

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

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details	
ABN/ACN	66676633401
Organisation name	Major Projects Canberra
Organisation address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA
Proposed designated proponent details	
Name	Ashley Cahif
Job title	Project Director
Phone	02 6207 1680
Email	ashley.cahif@act.gov.au
Address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

ABN/ACN	66676633401
Organisation name	Major Projects Canberra
Organisation address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA
Representative's name	Matthew Gencur
Representative's job title	Director - Environment and Approvals
Phone	0417673630
Email	matthew.gencur@act.gov.au
Address	

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN/ACN	66676633401
Organisation name	Major Projects Canberra
Organisation address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA
Representative's name	Ashley Cahif
Representative's job title	Project Director
Phone	02 6207 1680
Email	ashley.cahif@act.gov.au
Address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

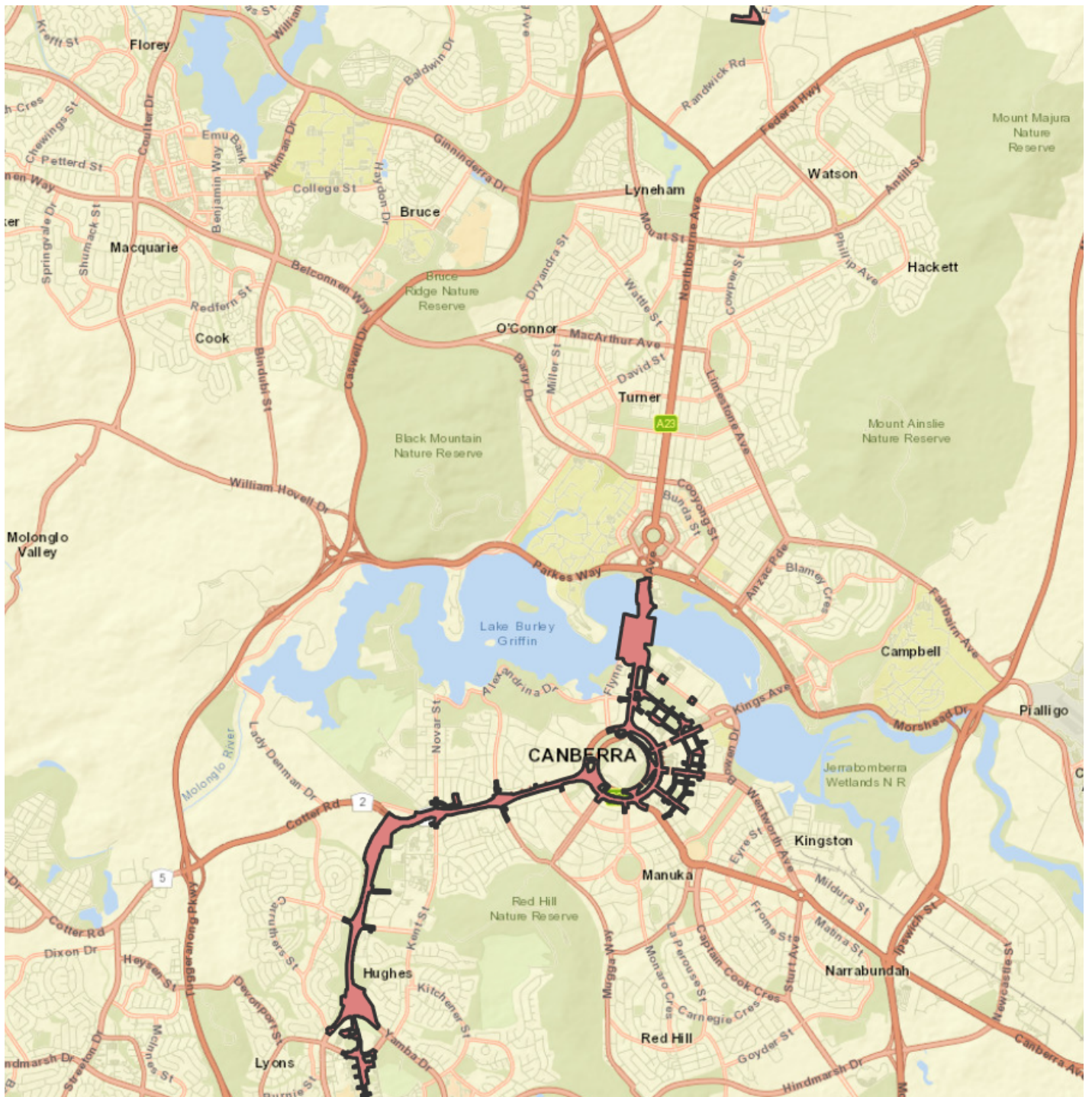
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Commonwealth Avenue, Acton, ACT to Callam St, Phillip and Sandford St, Mitchell.

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

Australian Capital Territory

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

No

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

Most of the Project would be contained within the existing road reserves. It consists of either unleased Territory land or unleased National land. Figure 3-4 of Appendix A (pg18) shows the locations where works are either in the road reserve of Territory Land or National Land.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Project footprint is a degraded urban landscape within existing transport corridors and subject to frequent disturbance due to past development. The majority of the Project Area was found to support existing infrastructure, exotic vegetation, or landscape plantings.

The project commences within the centre of Canberra and travels 10km to the south through to Woden. The Mitchell Depot, which will only require expansion within the boundary of the existing property, is approximately 7km to the north of the centre of Canberra.

The Project footprint crosses various landscape and urban character precincts. The existing visual environment of the Project corridor is generally characterised by:

- open public areas of Commonwealth Park and West Basin;
- campus-style government and commercial developments within Commonwealth Avenue;
- the Parliamentary Zone and State Circle.
- Low-density residential areas and embassies within Deakin, Curtin and Hughes; and
- Multistory commercial, residential and retail developments in the Woden Town Centre.

Each precinct represents a different character zone that would require differing treatments and strategies for integrating the Project within its context. There are also mature trees and other landscaping elements along the Project that have substantial value within the streetscape; specifically, along Commonwealth Avenue.

The project is located within an urban environment that includes residential properties, mixed use, government precincts, commercial premises, educational facilities, and recreational areas. Table 7-2 of Appendix A (pg 60-61) summarises the major land uses and key buildings/areas along the Project corridor.

At this preliminary stage of development of the project it is anticipated that access to the Project area will be via the existing road network. Detailed description of the access through each stage of the development will be developed during the detailed design stages and also during the time leading up to the commencement of works as there are a number of ACT Territory and Commonwealth Government proposals scheduled along the alignment which will impact access routes.

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

The Project footprint is existing Territory or National road reserve and it is currently used to provide access into and out of the city. The land uses next to the road reserve in the project footprint includes mixed uses. The project is located within an urban environment that includes residential properties, mixed use, government precincts, commercial premises, educational facilities, and recreational areas. Table 7-2 of Appendix A (pg 60-61) summarises the major land uses and key buildings/areas along the Project corridor.

Key adjacent land uses include high-density commercial development within Woden, to low-to-medium residential development either side of the Adelaide Avenue/Yarra Glen corridor. Recreation, tourism and education-related land uses are located in the Parliamentary Zone. Sensitive land uses located next to the Project footprint include residential dwellings, commercial premises (e.g. cafes, restaurants and commercial buildings), educational facilities, places of worship, medical facilities and recreational facilities. Various parts of the Project alignment also present a sensitive land use from a ceremonial perspective associated with Canberra's status as the Nation's Capital. An extensive list of social infrastructure adjacent to the project footprint can be seen in Section 7.1.1.2 of Appendix A (Page 54).

Future land uses around the Project will be guided by the ACT Government's Planning and District Strategies, and in Designated Areas through the NCP managed by the NCA. Proposed major projects along the alignment include:

1. **West Basin residential development (Acton Waterfront)** - New residential precinct, comprising new dwellings, shops, cafes, restaurants, community spaces and supporting infrastructure.
2. **John Gorton Campus Carpark (Kings Avenue, Parkes)** - Works to include a multi-storey car park and childcare facility at the John Gorton campus.
3. **National Security Precinct Development (York Park, Barton)** - Works to include delivery of a new National Security Precinct.
4. **Australian Taxation Office Building (Sydney Avenue, Barton)** - New office accommodation, including commercial and supporting facilities
5. **Canberra Institute of Technology Campus Woden** - New purpose-built campus, transport interchange, youth foyer and mixed commercial and community facilities.
6. **Woden bus depot** - New bus shelters, wash and refuel area, maintenance facilities and operations building
7. **Hellenic Club Redevelopment (Callam St, Phillip)** - New 12-storey mixed commercial, including conference facilities, multi-purpose arena, hotel, office and eatery

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

The Project would pass through the Central National Area, which is a combination of the National Capital Plan (NCP) precincts crossed by the Project footprint. The Central National Area is a location of national significance as identified in the NCP. Most of the Project is also in a Designated Area, which are those locations in the Australian Capital Territory provisioned under the NCP that have the special characteristics that are recognised for their cultural landscape, realm and amenity values in representing the Griffin Plan.

The geometric design of the Parliamentary Triangle creates views across the lake to the city, War Memorial and to the hills north of the lake. Extensive landscaping and planting frames the views and enhances the vistas. Significant heritage and cultural values are woven into the landscape and not just the buildings in this zone. Extensive consultation with the NCA has resulted in careful design considerations for the treatment of the Project to ensure that these values are maintained and enhanced. This engagement and design collaboration is ongoing.

The Parliamentary Zone is also an important employment centre for Canberra and includes major Australian Government offices, Parliament House and accommodation. It also includes major tourist attractions such as the National Library, Questacon, Museum of Australian Democracy, National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery.

Key Landmarks the project would service are outlined in Table 4-1 of Appendix A (Page 23).

The Mitchell Depot is located adjacent to the Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve, which is also part of the Gunghalin Strategic Assessment area. Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve is a 159-hectare grassland protected area in the Gungahlin Valley. The reserve rises to a rocky knoll (Crace Hill) at 622 metres above sea level. Several grassy tracks traverse the reserve. Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve protects:

- a large remnant of critically endangered Natural Temperate Grassland on the slopes of Crace Hill (approximately 10% of the reserve)
- large populations of vulnerable Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*), endangered Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*) and endangered Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides*)

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

The gradient of the project footprint is generally level to gently undulating. The elevation within the project area ranges from around 560 m above sea level at Lake Burley Griffin and rises to 585 m along Stage Circle East. Between State Circle East and Woden the area undulates between 570 and 590 metres above sea level. The elevation at the Mitchell Depot is 585 m above sea level (refer to actmapi

Survey Infrastructure layer for contours within the project footprint).

The topography would need to be modified locally as the light rail can only operate on a shallow gradient. Other minor changes would be needed for the light rail to navigate existing bridges and traffic ramps within existing road reserves.

3.2 Flora and fauna

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

The city of Canberra is in the Southern Tablelands. The area hosts flora and fauna including remnant eucalyptus forest on the hills surrounding Canberra and lower lying areas and lake shores that contain remnant grasslands and riparian river frontages. The ecology of the Southern Tablelands provides habitat for native trees and grasses, birds, insects, reptiles and mammals.

The Project Area is a degraded urban landscape within existing transport corridors and subject to frequent disturbance due to past development. The majority of the Project Area was found to support existing infrastructure, exotic vegetation, or landscape plantings.

An ecological assessment has been completed for the project area the results of which are summarised below (APPENDIX G Section 4.4 - 5.0 pg 61-93 and summarised in Section 6.0 pg101-102):

Biodiversity surveys undertaken around the Project confirmed that the following fauna and flora have the potential to occur within proximity to the Project:

Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) which is vulnerable under the EPBC Act and Nature Conservation (NC) Act:

- potentially important foraging habitat is mapped between Launceston Street and Melrose Drive in Woden

- Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) which is listed as endangered under the EPBC Act and NC Act:

- there are confirmed records of Gang-gang Cockatoo breeding within 200 m of the Project area in Hughes

- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) which is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and NC Act

- Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*) which is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and NC Act:

- Golden Sun Moth were recorded near Commonwealth Park, around State Circle, and along Adelaide Avenue near the Cotter Road junction

- Perunga Grasshopper (*Perunga ochracea*) which is listed as Endangered under the NC Act

- Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*) which is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and NC Act.

No individuals of any threatened flora species were detected within the Project area during targeted surveys.

The Mitchell yard is located adjacent to the Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve, which is also part of the Gunghalin Strategic Assessment area. Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve protects:

- a large remnant of critically endangered Natural Temperate Grassland on the slopes of Crace Hill (approximately 10% of the reserve)
- large populations of vulnerable Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*), endangered Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*) and endangered Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides*).

All works at the Mitchell Yard will be within the boundaries of the existing disturbed yard.

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

The ACT is located within the Southern Central Highlands Fold Belt geological province. This province has a complex geological history with many periods of folding, faulting and volcanic activity. The rock types present in this sequence indicate the area was previously dominated by a marine environment, with periodic volcanism. A review of the existing geological maps indicates that the ground conditions underlying the alignment comprise:

- Quaternary and Tertiary Alluvium.
- Early Late Silurian Deakin Volcanics and Yarralumla Formation.
- Late Middle Silurian Canberra Formation.
- Late Early Silurian Black Mountain Sandstone and State Circle Shale.
- Late and Middle Ordovician Pittman Formation.

The area from Commonwealth Park to Hobart Avenue is predominantly underlain by the Canberra Formation; a conglomerate (mix) of mudstone, siltstone, minor sandstone, limestone, hornfels (a type of metamorphic rock), dacitic ignimbrite (a type of igneous rock made of hardened volcanic ash called tuff) and volcanoclastic sediments. Within the remainder of the alignment the subsurface geology is dominated

by mudstone and siltstone with minor limestone, hornfels and sandstone of the Yarralumla Formation.

Soils

The overlying soils are characteristic of the underlying geology of the project footprint and are mainly dominated by soils of the Williamsdale Group, the Alluvial Landscape Pialligo Group, the Residual Anembo Group, the Alluvial Ginninderra Creek Group and the Transferral Landscape

Burra Group. The characteristics of these groups are outlined below:

- The Williamsdale group are transferal soils that occur on gently undulating rises and valley flats. They are generally deep deposits and consist mostly of transported products of erosional processes.
- The Pialligo group occurs as alluvial soils along rivers, streams and bodies of water. Pialligo soils occur on floodplains of current water and historical rivers and streams.
- The Anembo group are residual soils that occur on undulating rises and flats on granitic material and are generally shallow to moderately deep deposits.
- The Ginninderra Creek group are alluvial soils that occur on gently undulating floodplains in the Canberra Lowlands and are generally deep deposits. The Burra Group are transferal soils that occur on undulating to rolling low hills and alluvial fans. They are generally shallow to moderately deep deposits and have a complex soil distribution.

Acid Sulfate Soils

There is an extremely low to low probability for acid sulfate soils (Class 4) across the project footprint identified in the Australian Soil Resource Information System.

Vegetation

The majority of the Project Area was found to support existing infrastructure, exotic vegetation, or landscape plantings. Six vegetation communities were identified with the project area with the remaining areas constituting blue and formed infrastructure. The extent of each of the varying vegetation and communities can be seen below (refer to Appendix G Page 54):

1. Natural Temperate Grasslands (High Diversity) - 0.4%
2. Natural Temperate Grasslands (Moderate Diversity) - 0.1%
3. Exotic Grassland - 34.9%
4. Non-Local Native Ground-cover - 1%
5. Landscape Plantings - Exotic - 9%
6. Landscape Plantings - Native - 11.4%
7. Water (Lake Burley Griffin and artificial wetlands) - 0.9%
8. Construction site - 0.8%
9. Infrastructure (buildings, roads, drains and paths) - 41.6%

Appendix A Section 6.4 and 7.5 provide additional information regarding the soil and vegetation characteristics and planted trees in and local to the project footprint.

Nine pest plants declared under the ACT Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005 (PP&A Act) were recorded including two Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), which were both common throughout the Project Area. One Weed of National Significance and three species declared under the PP&A Act were recorded in the site immediately adjacent to the Mitchell Project Area. Table 4.11 of Appendix G (page 93) lists the pest plant species identified and location.

Bushfires

The following areas of the alignment are located within bushfire prone land:

- Northeast of Capital Hill in Yarralumla
- The suburbs of Red Hill, Deakin, and Yarralumla
- Within the Project area on Adelaide Avenue near Kent Street
- The eastern area of the intersection of Yarra Glen and Carruthers Street.

The mapped areas can be seen in Figures 7-1 to 7-3 within APPENDIX A (pg 70-73)

3.3 Heritage

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

Places in, or next to the Project footprint that are on the Commonwealth heritage list and other places recognised as having heritage values to the project area are identified in Section 6.1 of Appendix A (Page 33), and Section 1.4 of Appendix H (Page 3).

The proposed works are in the vicinity of, or within the boundary of, listed and nominated heritage places. There are no Commonwealth listed heritage items listed in proximity to the Mitchell Depot area. The relevant heritage listings include:

1. National Library of Australia and Surrounds which is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) under the EPBC Act (Place ID 105470)
2. Parliament House Vista, Anzac Parade which is listed on the CHL (Place ID 105466)
3. Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands which is listed on the CHL (Place ID 105230)
4. Old Parliament House and Curtilage, King George Terrace, Parkes which is listed on the CHL (105318) and National Heritage List (NHL) (105774)
5. Old Parliament House Gardens, King George Terrace, Parkes which is listed on the CHL (105616)
6. Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes which is a Nominated Commonwealth Heritage place
7. East Block Government Offices Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes which is listed on the CHL (105349)
8. West Block and the Dugout Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes which is listed on the CHL (105428)
9. Commencement Column Monument Federation Mall which is listed on the CHL (105347)
10. National Rose Gardens King George Terrace, Parkes which is listed on the CHL and ACT Heritage Register (ACTHR) (105473)
11. King George V Memorial King George Terrace, Parkes which is listed on the CHL (105352)
12. John Gorton Building (JGB) Parkes PI, Parkes which is listed on the CHL (105472)
13. Communications Centre at JGB King Edward Tce, Parkes, which is listed on the CHL (105618)
14. State Circle Cutting State Circle, Parkes which is listed on the CHL (105733)
15. York Park North Tree Plantation Kings Avenue, Barton which is listed on the CHL (105242)
16. Patent Office (former) Kings Avenue, Barton which is listed on the CHL (105454)
17. Edmund Barton Offices Kings Avenue, Barton which is listed on the CHL (105476)
18. The Lodge 5 Adelaide Avenue, Deakin which is listed on the CHL (105452)
19. Albert Hall Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla ACT Heritage Register
20. Canberra Croquet Clubhouse and Lawns Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla ACT Heritage Register
21. St Andrew's Church Precinct State Circle, Forrest ACT Heritage Register
22. Hotel Canberra Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla ACT Heritage Register Interim Heritage Listing
23. Treasury Building King Edward Terrace which is listed on the CHL (106258)
24. Aboriginal Tent Embassy King George Terrace National Heritage List Commonwealth Heritage List Nominated (105836) (within Parliament House Vista CHL)
25. Hotel Kurrajong 8 National Circuit, Barton ACT Heritage Register
26. Telopea Park School New South Wales Crescent, Barton ACT Heritage Register
27. Burns Memorial 28 National Circuit, Forrest ACT Heritage Register
28. The Brassey Hotel 12 Macquarie Street, Barton ACT Heritage Register
29. Barton Housing Precinct 5 Belmore Gardens, Barton ACT Heritage Register
30. Wesley Uniting Church 20 National Circuit, Forrest ACT Heritage Register Nominated
31. Barton Conference Centre Brisbane Avenue and National Circuit Barton ACT Heritage Register Nominated

A summary on each of the abovementioned items which are either listed or nominated to the Commonwealth or National Heritage register can be seen within Section 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 of Appendix H (pg 13-32)

The Project is located in and next to several National and Commonwealth significant vistas and conservation areas. It is partly located within the Parliamentary Triangle, Lake Burley Griffin, and Main Avenues. The areas are important in terms of the Griffin's original design for Canberra and their visual relationships between nationally significant landmarks. Consideration will be given for those heritage items located outside of the study area that may have unobstructed views towards the proposed alignment. This will include items nominated but currently not listed. The non-Aboriginal archaeological potential of the Project footprint is largely unknown.

There is potential for archaeological remnants associated with former pastoral land uses; for example, homesteads that used to be located within the project footprint. However, detailed historical research, including the analysis of archival information, plans and maps, would be needed to assess the archaeological potential of the project footprint. This detailed assessment would consider the archaeological potential associated with listed items such as Woden Cemetery.

The potential impacts to non-Aboriginal archaeological would be assessed in detail as part of an EIS. Ancillary impacts associated with construction impacts and noise and vibration have not yet been considered in detail and will be assessed during the EIS.

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

The project area is located on Ngunnawal country. Indigenous people have occupied Canberra and the surrounding region for more than 20,000 years, and the landscape of the central Canberra area and its natural and cultural environment continue to have cultural heritage significance to the Traditional Owners. The ACT Heritage Register includes two Aboriginal cultural sites within the Parliament House Vista: a campsite on the southern banks of the Molonglo (now inundated by Lake Burley Griffin) and artefacts discovered in the Old Parliament House Senate Gardens. The Parliamentary House Vista Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (APPENDIX K pg 22-27) included an assessment of the archaeological and cultural sensitivity of the general area including the project footprint. The HMP noted an area of archaeological potential which had been previously identified in Kings Park, on the northern side of Lake Burley Griffin, along with several sites that had been recorded along the banks of the Molonglo River. Among those were two sites located approximately 500–600m north-east of the Flynn Drive cloverleaf. Other cultural values assessments for Commonwealth Avenue and surrounds have identified Capital Hill

as a significant cultural area, with an ochre quarry on the northwestern side along Stirling Ridge. The presence of artefact and cultural sites along the banks, ridges and hills near the Molonglo River suggests that intact landforms in the near vicinity of the river are likely to have the potential to retain archaeological evidence of the prior occupation of the area by Aboriginal people.

An important Aboriginal cultural place within proximity to the project is the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, which has identified heritage values, through its individual nomination to the National Heritage List (NHL), and as an inclusion in the CHL citation for the Parliament House Vista. Capital Hill is also a well-known Aboriginal cultural site.

3.4 Hydrology

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

The Project falls into two sub-catchments:

- Lake Burley Griffin/Molonglo River catchment, which covers the Kent Street overpass on Yarra Glen/Adelaide Avenue. This area drains directly to Lake Burley Griffin.
- Yarralumla Creek catchment, which covers the remaining section of the alignment west of the Kent Street overpass to the end of the alignment at Woden. This area discharges into Yarralumla Creek, which eventually enters Molonglo River downstream of Scrivener Dam.

A review of existing flood mapping data on ACTMapi has indicated that the Lake Burley Griffin/Molonglo River 1-in-100-year flood level is not located within the project footprint. Previous studies including the City Area Infrastructure Capacity and Catchment Study, Coranderrk Street GPT Short-term Upgrade Options Assessment and Urban Strategy, Linking City Centre to the Lake identified the potential for flooding issues at the low point on the northern side of the Coranderrk Pond. These reports also identified deficiencies in the local drainage network draining to and from the Coranderrk Pond. The main flooding constraint identified for the Project is around Woden. Findings from the Yarralumla Creek and Long Gully Flood Study indicated that in the 500-year ARI flood event, there would be nuisance flooding along Callam Street, Launceston Street and the car parks near the Woden Town Centre.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	Yes	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	No	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	Yes	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

There are no World Heritage items within proximity to the project area.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	National heritage
No	No	High Court - National Gallery Precinct
Yes	Yes	Old Parliament House and Curtilage

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

Yes

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

The project will have indirect impacts on the heritage values of Old Parliament House and Curtilage. The likely indirect impacts relate to the 'large scale' and extent of the project and the 'community perception' about future 'changes' to the cultural, social and/or symbolic heritage environment.

The direct impacts on the heritage values of Old Parliament House and Curtilage will relate to the visual and physical construction including:

- civil works associated with existing roads
- alteration of existing road alignments, such as at the junctions entering/exiting the Parliamentary Zone/National Triangle,
- civil works associated with the creation of new rail corridors through green space/landscape areas, such as the entry/exit points off Commonwealth Ave

- removal of established mature and historically/culturally significant trees, individual trees or avenues of trees, planted by Weston in the 1920s.

The project will also have positive direct and indirect impacts to the Old Parliament House and Curtilage by providing a public transport system which provides the public and staff better access to the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD).

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

Yes

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

Impacts to Old Parliament House and Curtilage are considered likely to be significant due to alterations to the fabric and landscape.

An assessment has been completed for impacts to historic heritage in accordance with Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2.

Cumulative/Temporary/Permanent

The construction period of the light rail will be 'temporary', while the inclusion of light rail and construction itself will have permanent impacts to varying degrees. The cumulative impacts of the light rail are not fully understood at this stage; however, they could relate to variations on the scope, time delays and the overall extent of change proposed to the heritage environment.

The degree and scale of the heritage impacts would be variable, depending upon the location and proximity to the heritage places. Some impacts will be permanent, and others will be temporary during the period of construction.

Reversible/Irreversible

The physical construction of light rail, including associated ancillary infrastructure are irreversible actions.

Cultural/Social/Symbolic (tangible and intangible)

Cultural, social and symbolic impacts (intangible heritage values) are associated with all heritage values in the Central National Area. Consultation would establish the community-held values and assist in understanding the extent and nature of any impacts.

Visual/Physical (form, function, character, scale)

As noted above, physical impacts will arise from civil works associated with the road alignments and introduction of the rail corridor, and the removal (and potential replacement) of existing established/historic avenue trees and significant tree species (for their cultural and natural heritage values).

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

Yes

4.1.2.8 Please elaborate why you think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The proposed action is considered to be a controlled action because it has been assessed that there would be a residual significant impact to heritage values even with the implementation of measures to avoid or reduce impact.

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

As indicated within Appendix A Section 1.3 (Page 2) and Section 1.2 of this referral the Project is currently giving consideration to two alignments through the National Triangle. Refinement of the project area to one alignment will reduce the impact on heritage values within the Project area, as well as the amount of vegetation impacted.

As the Project is currently in its preliminary design stages the reported impacts in this referral are based on a worst case precautionous approach, the assumption is that their scale and extent can be reduced. This is further indicated by the fact that the project area and disturbance footprint are the same in this referral. That said, for the Project to be feasible given its linear nature, it would be impossible to fully avoid impacts.

Mitigation measures for Heritage

Specific mitigation measures will be developed during the detailed design and environmental assessment stage of the project. Strategies to avoid and minimise impacts on heritage listed items would likely include measures to:

- Avoid impacts on the attributes that give a place or item its heritage significance.
- Ensure sympathetic urban design through the development of urban design requirements with an independent panel of heritage and design specialists.
- Develop and implement a dedicated tree replacement and landscape strategy for the medium term enhancement of the existing landscape character; noting that many of the significant trees on Commonwealth Avenue south of Lake Burley Griffin, are reported as being in "fair" to "poor" health.
- Propagate a series of next-generation Himalayan cedars from the original trees on Commonwealth Avenue.
- Minimise the extent of overhead poles and wires by using wire-free running through the most sensitive Central National Areas, including Commonwealth Avenue, and the Parliamentary Zone, as far as practicable.

Many of the measures would be introduced under the construction environmental management plan and EIS to be completed for the works.

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

No offsets are proposed or required for the proposed action.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
No	No	Banrock Station Wetland Complex
No	No	Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes
No	No	Riverland
No	No	The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland

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

No

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

There will be no impacts on the abovementioned Ramsar Wetlands the closes of which is approximately 500km away.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>
No	No	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>
No	No	<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>
No	No	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Yes	Yes	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>
No	No	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>
No	No	<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>
No	No	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>
No	No	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population)
No	No	<i>Delma impar</i>
No	No	<i>Dodonaea procumbens</i>
No	No	<i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i>
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>
No	No	<i>Grantiella picta</i>
No	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>
No	No	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>
No	No	<i>Lepidium aschersonii</i>
No	No	<i>Lepidium ginninderrense</i>

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Lepidium hyssopifolium
No	No	Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor
No	No	Litoria aurea
No	No	Litoria booroolongensis
No	No	Litoria castanea
No	No	Litoria raniformis
No	No	Maccullochella macquariensis
No	No	Maccullochella peelii
No	No	Macquaria australasica
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma
No	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)
No	No	Polytelis swainsonii
No	No	Pomaderris pallida
No	No	Prasophyllum petilum
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus
No	No	Rostratula australis
No	No	Rutidosis leptorhynchoides
No	No	Senecio macrocarpus
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata
No	No	Swainsona recta
Yes	Yes	Synemon plana
No	No	Thesium australe

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes	Yes	Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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

Yes

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

A preliminary ecological assessment has been completed for the footprint of the Project to inform potential impacts on ecological values from project construction and operations. This assessment provides preliminary results for the locations of ecological values along the proposed alignment, including the presence of ecological communities, threatened species and their habitat as listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Findings of these investigations, as well as conducting desktop reviews utilising search tools as indicated in Section 3.1 of Appendix G (Page 10) indicated that there is the potential for direct and/or indirect impacts on the following protected matters listed under the EPBC Act:

- 0.51 ha of EPBC Act listed Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands critically endangered community and the NC Act listed Natural Temperate Grassland critically endangered ecological community is located within the project area.
- Confirmed foraging habitat for *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (gang-gang cockatoo) is located throughout the LRS2B and Mitchell Project Area, and there is potential for breeding to occur due to the presence of hollow bearing trees due to the observation of potential breeding behaviour and the presence of known nest trees within 200 m of the LRS2B Project Area. Foraging habitat that is likely to meet the definition of 'habitat critical for the survival of the species' on the basis of information provided in the EPBC Act listing advice for *C.fimbriatus* is present in both Project Areas.
- For the LRS2B Project Area habitat for *Synemon plana* (golden sun moth), including 8.35 ha of confirmed habitat and 7.94 ha of possible habitat. Four populations of *S. plana* were confirmed to be supported within the LRS2B Project Area.

Noting further surveys and assessment is currently being undertaken to determine the nature and scale of the impacts associated with the proposed action. **As all works at Mitchell are within the boundary of the existing depot, which has been disturbed, there is no potential for impact on the abovementioned species at this location.**

Impacts from the project

Potential biodiversity impacts which could affect the abovementioned threatened species and ecological communities that could occur during construction of the Project would include:

Natural Temperate Grassland

- Clearing of listed and protected ecological communities

Golden Sun Moth and Gang Gang Cockatoo

- Clearing of listed and protected ecological communities
- Clearing of vegetation that is not listed or protected
- Clearing of habitat for listed and protected species, including hollow-bearing trees
- Spread of invasive species off-site (during construction and decommissioning)
- Injury and mortality of fauna species during vegetation clearing and/or because of collisions with construction plant and vehicles
- Indirect impacts such as from light, sedimentation, and noise
- Indirect impacts of fragmentation, edge effects and isolation of populations.

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

Yes

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

The Project includes proposed actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and therefore assessment against the EPBC Act significant impact guidelines (DoE, 2013) is required.

A significant impact assessment was undertaken for all species assessed as having a moderate to high likelihood of occurring in the Project Areas (Appendix G Section 3.2; Section 4.2). This assessment has determined the proposed action is likely to significantly impact the following matters of environmental significance and referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment for assessment against the provisions of the EPBC Act is considered warranted (Appendix A of Appendix G):

- Natural Temperate Grasslands of the South Eastern Highlands – critically endangered ecological community under the EPBC Act. Utilising the existing project footprint the proposed action could impact 0.51ha of this critically endangered community which is considered to be a significant impact.
- *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (gang-gang cockatoo) – endangered under the EPBC Act. Based on the potential impact to critical foraging habitat, the proposed action is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the Gang Gang cockatoo. The Project Area includes hollow bearing trees that will be assessed as suitable breeding habitat as part of the 2023/24 field assessment.
- *Synemon plana* (golden sun moth) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act. Four populations of *Synemon plana* occupying a combined preliminary area of 8.35 ha of confirmed and 7.95 ha of possible habitat was recorded in the Project Area. Based on the cumulative impact on multiple populations within the Project Area, the proposed action is likely to have a significant adverse impact on *S. plana*.

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

Yes

4.1.4.8 Please elaborate why you think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

As indicated within Section 4.1.4.5 of this referral a significant impact assessment identified that potential impacts to three items listed as protected matters could occur. Noting further assessment is being undertaken, based on the current disturbance area, the proposed preliminary design for the project and understanding of site conditions the proposed action as detailed within this referral is considered to be a controlled action.

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

As indicated within Appendix A Section 1.3 (Page 2) and Section 1.2 of this referral the Project is currently giving consideration to two alignments through the National Triangle. Refinement of the project area to one alignment will reduce the amount of vegetation impacted and habitat for the above mentioned threatened fauna species.

As the Project is currently in its preliminary design stages the reported impacts in this referral are based on a worst case precautionous approach, the assumption is that their scale and extent can be reduced. This is further indicated by the fact that the project area and disturbance footprint are the same in this referral. That said, for the Project to be feasible given its linear nature, it would be impossible to fully avoid impacts. For that reason, the following mitigation measure would be introduced as the Project progresses through its design and delivery phases.

- Undertake detailed design and route optimisation considering the golden sun moth and gang-gang cockatoo habitat, within the project footprint.
- Limit the construction footprint within and local to the golden sun moth and gang-gang cockatoo habitat and other vegetated areas to reduce direct and indirect impacts.
- Supplement this by creating, maintaining and monitoring no-go zones for the construction footprint next to the golden sun moth and gang-gang cockatoo habitat and native temperate grassland community to ensure vehicles, machinery and heavy foot traffic does not impact on these areas where possible.
- Define specific requirements under a construction environmental management plan to restrict or limit certain activities from taking place in or near the golden sun moth and gang-gang cockatoo habitat and native temperate grassland community and other vegetated areas.
- Develop a tree replacement, reuse and planting strategies throughout the project footprint in collaboration with experienced arborists, the NCA, and appropriate Commonwealth and Territory Government stakeholders.
- Have an appropriately trained and qualified arborist carry out the required tree felling.
- Avoid branch trimming where feasible and reasonable. Otherwise any trimming, lopping or pruning would be carried out by accredited and experienced arborists using cleaned and sterilised equipment to prevent the transmission of plant pathogens.
- Locate all construction compounds and laydown areas to avoid or otherwise minimise vegetation removal. Note: the removal of native or mature canopy species for compound purposes would be avoided.
- Prevent the dispersal of weed seed or soil-borne pathogens through the implementation of vegetation hygiene protocols for footwear, vehicles, heavy plant and machinery as multiple plants are declared pest species in the ACT under the Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Plants) Declaration 2005 (No 1).
- Design, install and maintain appropriate sediment and erosion controls during excavation works to prevent any potential sediment runoff entering nearby stormwater drains.

Specific mitigation measures will be developed during the detailed design and environmental assessment stage of the project.

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

There are no proposed offsets for the works until a design scope is finalised, however any biodiversity offsets would be calculated and provided in accordance with Commonwealth and state/territory legislation in future assessment.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos
No	No	Apus pacificus
No	No	Calidris acuminata
No	No	Calidris ferruginea
No	No	Calidris melanotos
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus
No	No	Monarcha melanopsis
No	No	Motacilla flava
No	No	Myiagra cyanoleuca
No	No	Pandion haliaetus
No	No	Rhipidura rufifrons

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

No

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

A preliminary ecological assessment has been completed for the Project which gave considerations to migratory species which were identified in the Matters of National Environmental Significance Search (MNES). A likelihood of occurrence assessment was completed for migratory species occurring within the project area which would require targeting during the field survey. The criteria for likelihood of occurrence assessment can be seen in Table 3.1 of Appendix G (pg 10-11). The likelihood of occurrence assessment can be seen in Appendix C of the attached Preliminary Ecological Assessment (Appendix G).

Of the 14 migratory species that were identified within the MNES protected matters search only one migratory bird species potentially had habitat within the Project area, that being the *Hirundapus caudacutus* (white-throated needle-tail) – which is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

Hirundapus caudacutus are likely to be an intermittent visitor to the aerial habitat over the Project Areas, consistent with other parts of the landscape surrounding the ACT. It is not anticipated that the species would interact with habitat or infrastructure in the Project Areas. Due to the aerial nature of its lifestyle and wide distribution, along with the absence of substantial changes to landscape use or vegetation patterns likely in the Project Areas, impacts from the proposed action on the species are considered unlikely. While *Hirundapus caudacutus* was identified as having a moderate likelihood of occurrence in the Mitchell Project Area and has been recorded in the LRS2B Project Area, due to the aerial and highly mobile nature of the species, a habitat assessment and targeted surveys for this species would not be informative and are not warranted.

A significant impact assessment was completed for the *Hirundapus caudacutus* (white-throated needle-tail) which concluded that the proposed action is unlikely to result in a significant impact to *Hirundapus caudacutus* (Refer to Appendix A of attached Appendix G Page A-7).

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

No Nuclear Actions will be completed as part of this project.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no Commonwealth Marine areas within the Project Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The project will have no impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas**4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? ***

No

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

The project is not a large coal mining development or coal seam gas project.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth land area
Yes	Yes	Commonwealth Avenue, Canberra
No	Yes	Edmund Barton Building
Yes	Yes	Lake Burley Griffin
No	Yes	Patent Office

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

Yes

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

Potential impacts on Commonwealth land include the following:

- Construction and operation of the light rail on or near Commonwealth land.
- Adjustments to the intersection and mid-block arrangements.
- Utility relocations and traffic management control.
- Landscaping changes.
- The operation of the light rail in terms of amenity and noise generated from passing LRVs.

Impacts on landscapes and soils

The Project is not likely to substantially: alter natural landscape features; cause subsidence, instability or substantial erosion; or involve large scale soil or mineral excavations on Commonwealth Land as described in Section 3.3. The Project would involve locally excavating the modified landscape (including the removal of mature and significant trees along the Commonwealth Avenue/Adelaide Avenue and State Circle or through National Triangle Barton depending on which route is selected), however this would be restored through landscaping, tree-planting, and public realm enhancements as further developed through the Works Approval processes and Development Application.

Specific impacts would be determined through the Project EIS.

Impacts on water resources

The Project is unlikely to have significant impacts on water resources. The proposed alignment is located within the Lake Burley Griffin/Molongolo River catchment on Commonwealth Land. The Project would include the construction of a new bridge over Lake Burley Griffin at Commonwealth Avenue. This can be controlled and managed during construction through proven and effective measures to prevent sediment or pollutant discharge. Temporary impacts on the local stormwater and drainage regime would be negligible in the context of the size of the overall catchment.

Operationally, the works would see a minor increase in runoff volumes and rates, while stormwater infrastructure would be designed to accommodate any increase. The Project would also be designed to minimise its susceptibility to flooding without any material change to the flood risk or potential to surrounding land and property.

Based on the ability to effectively manage construction works under industry-standard controls and the design including provisions to manage the increase in stormwater discharge and minimise any increased flood risk, it is concluded that there would be no material or significant impact on the availability or quality of surface waters in the area, including Lake Burley Griffin.

Pollutants, chemicals, and toxic substances

The Project's construction and operation is unlikely to generate large quantities of smoke, fumes, chemicals, nutrients, or other pollutants that would substantially reduce local air or water quality.

The Project's construction may have short-term impacts on the local air quality from clearing activities, stockpiling, managing topsoil, and other construction-related activities leading to the creation of dust, which can be effectively managed using industry-standard controls. Conversely, extension of the light rail network would increase public transport use, helping reduce car dependency. This would have the potential to improve local air quality through an overall reduction in vehicle emissions.

Potential contamination, soil and geology impacts associated with the Project include:

- Potential (re)mobilisation of existing contaminants.
- Physical and chemical changes to the soil and geological characteristics.
- Erosion and sedimentation caused by excavation and vegetation removal leading to a secondary and indirect reduction in surface and groundwater quality.
- Introduction of new pollutants and contaminants into the receiving environment and their potential to impact on sensitive receivers.

The potential for the above impacts to occur can be managed and minimised through effective and proven management controls. This will be further considered as part of the EIS process.

A search of the Australian Soil Resource Information System indicates that the acid sulfate soil potential along the proposed alignment is extremely to very-low (Class C4). As such, this is not considered a risk to the building or operating the Project.

Impacts on plants

The Project would occur predominantly within the existing road reserve on Commonwealth Land but would involve some impacts on planted vegetation, including within the median of Commonwealth Avenue and Adelaide Avenue/Yarra Glen and also through the National Triangle. Potential impacts to plants in the context of landscape values are discussed separately in relation to heritage impacts (refer to the section above).

No threatened plant species were recorded within the project footprint on Commonwealth Land during any of the completed field surveys. Given the results of the completed desktop assessment and field surveys, it is considered highly unlikely that any threatened flora species occur in the study area on Commonwealth Land. This will be further considered as part of the EIS process.

Impact on animals

The Project has the potential to significantly impact threatened fauna species, that being the critically endangered gang-gang cockatoo and the vulnerable golden sun moth on Commonwealth land. No listed migratory species were recorded or are considered to occur in the project footprint. This will be further considered as part of the EIS process. Any potential impacts to animals would result from any vegetation and tree clearance along the route. Impacts can be effectively minimised through an ecological management plan.

Impacts on people and communities

During construction, temporary changes to traffic arrangements, and localised short term impacts to amenity maybe experienced by people and communities that live, work within or travel through the Project impact area on Commonwealth Land. Notwithstanding, once complete, the Project would provide a dedicated Inter-Town Public Transport System that would connect key employment, residential and cultural centres on the south of Lake Burley Griffin. The Project responds to the growth projected for Canberra without diminishing livability that communities enjoy. The Project would enhance the cultural identity of the Parliamentary Zone, including the national and cultural attractions, and improve connectivity of individuals and communities. This will be further considered as part of the EIS process.

Impacts on heritage

Places within or adjacent to the project footprint that are listed on the Commonwealth heritage list are described in Section 2.2.1 of Appendix H (Page 13). The Project will likely have indirect impacts on multiple heritage listed places as described in Section 4.3 of Appendix H (Page 41). The likely indirect impacts relate to the 'large scale' and extent of the Project and the community perception about future 'changes' to the heritage environment; especially in the context of values and attributes described Section 4.2.3 of Appendix E. The impacts on the heritage values relate to the physical construction including:

- Civil works associated with existing roads, primarily on Commonwealth Avenue and National Triangle.
- Civil and landscape works associated with the creation of new rail corridors through green space/undeveloped areas; such as across the landscape to join the route from State Circle (east) to Adelaide Avenue.
- The construction of a new bridge over Lake Burley Griffin
- Removal of established mature and historically/culturally significant trees, individual trees or avenues of trees (planted following the Griffins' plan).

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

Yes

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

Impacts to historic heritage are considered likely to be significant due to alterations to the fabric and landscape of the Parliamentary Zone including items listed in Section 2.2.1 of Appendix H (Page 13).

An assessment has been completed for impacts to historic heritage in accordance with Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2.

Cumulative/Temporary/Permanent

The Project would introduce new infrastructure within an important area of cultural and social value in the Parliamentary Zone. While the Project is being predominantly built within an existing transport corridor (with the exception of the National Triangle-Barton alignment where it diverges), it would still change the amenity and character of the Parliamentary Zone. Additional temporary impacts may also be introduced during construction mainly from vegetation clearance and potential tree removal.

The cumulative impacts of the Project are not fully understood at this stage; however, it is expected that the Project would impact on multiple heritage values in the Parliamentary Zone resulting in an additive cumulative impact overall. The detail of additive cumulative impacts would be confirmed in the Project EIS.

The degree and scale of potential heritage impacts would be variable depending upon the location and proximity to the heritage places. Some impacts will be permanent while others would be temporary, only lasting for the construction period.

Reversible/Irreversible

The light rail infrastructure would irreversibly alter the setting and relationship of the road network through the areas of Commonwealth Land impacted by the Project. The vegetation and tree removal would cause an irreversible impact on the Commonwealth Land values created under the Griffin's design, however this could be partially mitigated through effective urban treatments and landscape planting. The construction works would result in short-term reversible impacts on the area's values. The construction footprint could be largely reinstated once the Project is built.

Cultural/Social/Symbolic (eg tangible and intangible heritage values)

Impacts on the cultural, social and symbolic heritage values associated with all heritage values and places in the project footprint are likely and would have a heritage impact. At this investigative project stage, uncertainty around the degree and intensity of heritage impacts is likely to be of high public/community concern.

Consultation with stakeholders and community groups would establish an understanding of the community-held values (cultural, social and symbolic) and assist in understanding the extent and nature of any impacts.

Visual/Physical

As noted above, physical impacts will arise from civil works associated with the introduction of the Project and removal of the existing established/historic avenue trees and significant tree species (for their cultural and natural heritage values). These impacts would be partially mitigated through effective urban treatments and landscape planting.

Other issues to be considered through the EIS

- Analysis of the 'positive impacts' (benefits) that introducing light rail would bring to the heritage values, including environmentally sustainable tree species, increased public transport, reduction of cars.

The Project passes through the Central National Area of Canberra, an extensive cultural landscape comprising buildings, roads, parks, tree plantings and a lake. This area encompasses Commonwealth Heritage Places such as the Parliament House Vista; the significance of which is in part the aesthetic value, the sweeping views along each direction of the designated axis, and the symmetries and scale arising from features within these views; including the symmetrical characteristics of the road network.

In this sense, the replacement of trees and repurposing of road space within this vista may alter the setting of a heritage place, however this is not believed to be in a manner which is inconsistent with the heritage values of the place. The Project would not substantially diminish the value of a heritage place for a community or group.

The Project is not believed to:

- Involve extension, renovation, or substantial alteration of a heritage place in a manner which is inconsistent with the heritage values of the place.
- Involve the erection of buildings or other structures adjacent to, or within important sight lines of, a heritage place which are inconsistent with the heritage values of the place.
- Substantially restrict or inhibit the existing use of a heritage place as a cultural or ceremonial site.

Threatened Fauna

As indicated within Section 4.1.4.4 and 4.1.4.6 of this referral a significant impact assessment identified that potential impacts to two items listed as protected matters could occur within Commonwealth Land.

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

Yes

4.1.10.8 Please elaborate why you think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The proposed action is considered to be a controlled action because it has been assessed that there would be a residual significant impact to heritage values even with the implementation of measures to avoid or reduce impact.

As indicated within Section 4.1.4.4 and 4.1.4.6 of this referral a significant impact assessment identified that potential impacts to two items listed as protected matters could occur within Commonwealth Land. Noting further assessment is being undertaken, based on the current disturbance area, the proposed preliminary design for the project and understanding of site conditions the proposed action as detailed within this referral is considered to be a controlled action.

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

As indicated within Appendix A Section 1.3 (Page 2) and Section 1.2 of this referral the Project is currently giving consideration to two alignments through the National Triangle. Refinement of the project area to one alignment will reduce the impact on heritage values within the Project area, as well as the amount of vegetation impacted and habitat for the threatened fauna species within Commonwealth Land.

As the Project is currently in its preliminary design stages the reported impacts in this referral are based on a worst case precautionous approach, the assumption is that their scale and extent can be reduced. This is further indicated by the fact that the project area and disturbance footprint are the same in this referral. That said, for the Project to be feasible given its linear nature, it would be impossible to fully avoid impacts.

Mitigation measures for Heritage

Strategies to avoid and minimise impacts on heritage listed items would likely include measures to:

- Avoid impacts on the attributes that give a place or item its heritage significance.
- Ensure sympathetic urban design through the development of urban design requirements with an independent panel of heritage and design specialists.
- Develop and implement a dedicated tree replacement and landscape strategy for the medium term enhancement of the existing landscape character; noting that many of the significant trees on Commonwealth Avenue south of Lake Burley Griffin, are reported as being in "fair" to "poor" health.

- Propagate a series of next-generation Himalayan cedars from the original trees on Commonwealth Avenue.
- Minimise the extent of overhead poles and wires by using wire-free running through the most sensitive Central National Areas, including Commonwealth Avenue, and the Parliamentary Zone, as far as practicable.

Many of the measures would be introduced under the construction environmental management plan and EIS to be completed for the works.

Mitigation measures for threatened fauna species

The following mitigation measure would be introduced as the Project progresses through its design and delivery phases.

- Undertake detailed design and route optimisation considering the golden sun moth and gang-gang cockatoo habitat, within the project footprint.
- Limit the construction footprint within and local to the golden sun moth and gang-gang cockatoo habitat and other vegetated areas to reduce direct and indirect impacts.
- Supplement this by creating, maintaining and monitoring no-go zones for the construction footprint next to the golden sun moth and gang-gang cockatoo habitat to ensure vehicles, machinery and heavy foot traffic does not impact on these areas where possible.
- Define specific requirements under a construction environmental management plan to restrict or limit certain activities from taking place in or near the golden sun moth and gang-gang cockatoo habitat and other vegetated areas.
- Develop a tree replacement, reuse and planting strategies throughout the project footprint in collaboration with experienced arborists, the NCA, and appropriate Commonwealth and Territory Government stakeholders.
- Have an appropriately trained and qualified arborist carry out the required tree felling.
- Avoid branch trimming where feasible and reasonable. Otherwise any trimming, lopping or pruning would be carried out by accredited and experienced arborists using cleaned and sterilised equipment to prevent the transmission of plant pathogens.
- Locate all construction compounds and laydown areas to avoid or otherwise minimise vegetation removal. Note: the removal of native or mature canopy species for compound purposes would be avoided.
- Prevent the dispersal of weed seed or soil-borne pathogens through the implementation of vegetation hygiene protocols for footwear, vehicles, heavy plant and machinery as multiple plants are declared pest species in the ACT under the Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Plants) Declaration 2005 (No 1).
- Design, install and maintain appropriate sediment and erosion controls during excavation works to prevent any potential sediment runoff entering nearby stormwater drains.

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

There are no proposed offsets for the works until a design scope is finalised, however any biodiversity offsets would be calculated and provided in accordance with Commonwealth and state/territory legislation in future assessment.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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

No

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

The project is located wholly within the Australian Capital Territory within Australia. As such there will be no direct and/or indirect impacts on Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- National Heritage (S15B)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

- World Heritage (S12)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

Alternative locations for the proposed action are inherent within this application for a Referral. The current proposal allows for consideration of two alternate alignments through the National Triangle. Section 1.2.1 and 1.2.5 of this referral and Section 1.3 of Appendix A (Page 2) describe the project area and provide the justification for consideration of a second alignment through National Triangle. These alternatives include:

- an alignment along State Circle East, which includes two alignment options being considered to connect to Adelaide Avenue, either from State Circle or Capital Circuit (Figure 1-2 of Appendix A (Page 4)).
- an alignment through National Triangle-Barton, which would follow King George Terrace, Macquarie Street, Bligh Street, National Circuit and Sydney Avenue, before connecting with State Circle.

The two alignment options will continue to be investigated in parallel during preparation of the EIS. The Draft EIS may either consider both alignment options or a single preferred option. A preferred alignment option may be selected prior to publication of the final EIS based on continued design development and investigations, as well as consultation with key stakeholders.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.	30/11/2023	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX B Engaging Canberrans_Community Engagement.pdf This is a guide that supports ACT government directorates in improving community engagement planning and practice.	31/12/2010	No	High
#2.	Document	APPENDIX D ACT-Planning-Strategy 2018.pdf The ACT Planning Strategy 2018 is the key strategic document for managing growth and change in the ACT	31/12/2017	No	High
#3.	Document	APPENDIX I - Transport for Canberra 2012-2031.pdf Transport for Canberra highlights the important relationship between land use and transport that are critical to transforming our city.	31/12/2011	No	High
#4.	Document	APPENDIX J - Moving Canberra 2019-2045 (Integrated Transport Strategy).pdf This Strategy takes this intent and the ambition of Transport for Canberra further by providing a longterm vision for a smart, sustainable, integrated transport network. It looks toward 2045 and considers how transport can help achieve our target of becoming a net zero emissions Territory.	31/12/2017	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX C Light-Rail-Sustainability-Policy-1.pdf The sustainability policy details MPC's vision to deliver the inherent sustainability benefits of light rail		No	High
#2.	Document	APPENDIX D ACT-Planning-Strategy 2018.pdf The ACT Planning Strategy 2018 is the key strategic document for managing growth and change in the ACT	31/12/2017	No	High
#3.	Document				

	APPENDIX E ACT-Climate-Change-Strategy-2019-2025.pdf	31/12/2018 No	High
	This strategy outlines the next stage of the ACT Government's climate change response and identifies actions to meet targets and prepare for climate change.		
#4.	Document APPENDIX F MPC-Strategic-Plan-2020-25-final (1).pdf	31/12/2019 No	High
	The MPC Strategic Plan is the key strategic document for implementing projects.		

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf	30/11/2023 No	High	
	The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.				

3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf	30/11/2023 No	High	
	The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.				

3.1.3 Natural features, important or unique values that applies to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf	30/11/2023 No	High	
	The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.				
#2.	Link	Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve			High
		https://www.parks.act.gov.au/find-a-park/canberra..			

3.1.4 Gradient relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Actmapi Survey Infrastructure layer			High
		https://app2.actmapi.act.gov.au/actmapi/index.ht..			

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX G - Preliminary Ecological Assessment_.pdf	20/11/2023 No	High	
	The assessment informs potential impacts on ecological values from project construction and operations.				

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf	30/11/2023 No	High	
	The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.				
#2.	Document	APPENDIX G - Preliminary Ecological Assessment_.pdf	20/11/2023	High	
	The assessment informs potential impacts on ecological values from project construction and operations.				

3.3.1 Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.	30/11/2023	No	High
#2.	Document	APPENDIX H Preliminary Heritage Advice Report.pdf The preliminary heritage advice identifies potential heritage issues and constraints, and allows understanding of the extent of potential impacts on the heritage places along the proposed routes.	21/09/2023	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX K - Parliament House Vista Heritage_Management_Plan_Volume_1_0.pdf This heritage management plan for the Parliament House Vista provides a sound basis for the good management and conservation of this place and its heritage significance.	31/12/2009	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX G - Preliminary Ecological Assessment_.pdf The assessment informs potential impacts on ecological values from project construction and operations.	20/11/2023	No	High

4.1.4.5 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX G - Preliminary Ecological Assessment_.pdf The assessment informs potential impacts on ecological values from project construction and operations.	20/11/2023	No	High
#2.	Document	APPENDIX G - Preliminary Ecological Assessment_.pdf The assessment informs potential impacts on ecological values from project construction and operations.	20/11/2023	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.	30/11/2023	No	High

4.1.5.3 (Migratory Species) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX G - Preliminary Ecological Assessment_.pdf The assessment informs potential impacts on ecological values from project construction and operations.	20/11/2023	No	High

4.1.10.2 (Commonwealth Land) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX H Preliminary Heritage Advice Report.pdf The preliminary heritage advice identifies potential heritage issues and constraints, and allows understanding of the extent of potential impacts on the heritage places along the proposed routes.	20/09/2023	No	High

4.1.10.5 (Commonwealth Land) Why you consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	APPENDIX H Preliminary Heritage Advice Report.pdf The preliminary heritage advice identifies potential heritage issues and constraints, and allows understanding of the extent of potential impacts on the heritage places along the proposed routes.	20/09/2023	No	High
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4.1.10.10 (Commonwealth Land) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.	30/11/2023	No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.	30/11/2023	No	High

4.3.3 Why an alternate timeline for your proposed action was not possible.

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.	30/11/2023	No	High

4.3.5 Why an alternative location for your proposed action was not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.	30/11/2023		High

4.3.7 Why an alternative activity for your proposed action was not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	APPENDIX A - LRS2B_Preliminary Environmental Assessment.pdf The preliminary environmental assessment has been prepared to assess potential impacts associated with the Project.	30/11/2023	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	66676633401
Organisation name	Major Projects Canberra
Organisation address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA
Representative's name	Matthew Gencur
Representative's job title	Director - Environment and Approvals
Phone	0417673630
Email	matthew.gencur@act.gov.au

Address

- Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *
- By checking this box, I, **Matthew Gencur of Major Projects Canberra**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	66676633401
Organisation name	Major Projects Canberra
Organisation address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA
Representative's name	Ashley Cahif
Representative's job title	Project Director
Phone	02 6207 1680
Email	ashley.cahif@act.gov.au
Address	GPO Box 158, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601, AUSTRALIA

- Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *
- I, **Ashley Cahif of Major Projects Canberra**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

- Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

- I, **Ashley Cahif of Major Projects Canberra**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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