

Appendix A DAWE Referral Decision



**Notification of
REFERRAL DECISION AND DESIGNATED PROPONENT – controlled action
DECISION ON ASSESSMENT APPROACH**

Kumbarilla Renewable Energy Park, 40kms west of Dalby, Queensland (2021/9018)

This decision is made under section 75 and section 87 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

proposed action	To construct and operate a photovoltaic power station including associated infrastructure and access corridor approximately 40 km west of Dalby, Queensland [See EPBC Act referral 2021/9018].
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decision on proposed action	The proposed action is a controlled action. The project will require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed.
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relevant controlling provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)
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designated proponent	Elecseed Pty Ltd - ACN: 632 472 327 Korea Midland Power Co Ltd – ABN: NA
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assessment approach	The project will be assessed by preliminary documentation.
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Decision-maker

Name and position	Andrew McNee Assistant Secretary Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch
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Signature	
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date of decision	27 September 2021
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Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

EPBC Ref: 2021/9018

Mr Kyu Hong Lee
Chief Strategy Officer
Elecseed Pty Ltd
310 Edward Street
BRISBANE CITY QLD 4300

Dear Mr Lee

Additional information required for preliminary documentation

Kumbarilla Renewable Energy Park

I am writing to you in relation to your proposal to develop and operate a photovoltaic 100 megawatt power station and access corridor approximately 40 km west of Dalby, Queensland.

On 27 September 2021, a delegate of the Minister decided that the proposed action is a controlled action and that it will be assessed by preliminary documentation. Further information will be required to be able to assess the relevant impacts of the proposed action.

Details outlining the further information required are at [Attachment A](#). Details outlining the information requirements for offset proposals required under the EPBC Environmental Offsets Policy are at [Attachment B](#).

Details on the assessment process and the responsibilities of the proponent are set out in the enclosed fact sheet. Further information is available from the department's website at <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc>.

If you have any questions about the assessment process or the further information required, please contact Eireann Tobin, by email to eireann.tobin@environment.gov.au, or telephone 02 6274 1926 and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Miles', with a horizontal line underneath.

Richard Miles
Director
Queensland South Assessments
14 October 2021

ATTACHMENT A
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR
ASSESSMENT BY PRELIMINARY DOCUMENTATION

Kumbarilla Renewable Energy Park, 40km west of Dalby, QLD (2021/9018)

1. General content, format and style

The preliminary documentation must:

Include:

- a) The information contained in your original referral
- b) All additional information submitted to the department in support of the referral
- c) The further information you provide on the impacts of the proposed action and the strategies you propose to avoid, mitigate, and/or offset those impacts (as described below), and
- d) Other relevant information on the matters protected by the EPBC Act.

Follow the structure of this information request.

Include a reference table indicating where to find the information fulfilling this request.

Contain sufficient information to enable interested stakeholders and the Minister (or delegate) to understand the environmental consequences of the proposed development on matters of national environmental significance (MNES).

Specifically, it must contain sufficient information to allow the Minister (or delegate) to make an informed decision on whether or not to approve, under Part 9 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the undertaking of the action for the purposes of each controlling provision.

Please note that the department may require further information, in addition to the information required below, should new information come to light during the assessment stage (e.g. an additional species has been identified onsite).

Ensure all work and conclusions:

- a) Are evidence based and the evidence is provided.
- b) Use scientifically robust methodologies appropriate to the purpose, detail why the methodology/s was selected, and are described and referenced.
- c) Consider and state any limitations in the chosen approach.
- d) Are supported by peer reviewed literature, with references provided, or expert opinion.
- e) Are presented clearly, unambiguously, succinctly and objectively.
- f) Are, where appropriate, supported by maps, plans, diagrams or other descriptive detail.

- g) Demonstrate consideration of relevant Approved Listing Advice(s), Approved Conservation Advice(s), Recovery Plan(s), Threat Abatement Plan(s) or comparable policy guidelines, and approved survey methods.

Be able to read as a stand-alone document and must include summaries of all relevant information. Detailed technical information, studies or investigations necessary to support the main text should be attached as appendices to the main document.

2. Description of the action

The preliminary documentation must include a description of the action

2.1	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The location, boundaries, and size (in hectares) of the disturbance footprint, and of adjoining areas and vegetation, which may be indirectly impacted by the proposal, including from material stockpiles, vehicle access and associated activities. b) A description of all components of the proposed action, including the anticipated timing and duration, (including start and completion dates) of each component of the proposed action. This should include a detailed outline of the expected timing of any staged clearing over the construction period. c) A description of the construction and operation of the solar farm and associated works (i.e. activities that comprise its operation). d) An indicative layout plan for the proposed action area, including the location and type of land use, key infrastructure, and the number and location of dwellings, other buildings, open space, and conservation areas.
2.2	<p>The department notes that the proponent's website (https://k-rep.com.au) and the referral describe the proposed action as part of a two stage development. Later stages proposed on the website include a further 100 MW photovoltaic power station and 80MW green hydrogen production facility.</p> <p>The department considers that the proposed action is likely to facilitate future impacts through these later stages. Provide a discussion on the relationship of the proposed action with these later stages. Information in the following document may help to describe the relationship.</p> <p>EPBC Act Policy Statement on Staged Developments-Split Referrals at: https://www.environment.gov.au/resource/epbc-act-policy-statement-staged-developments-split-referrals-section-74a-epbc-act.</p> <p>The discussion should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The likely size and location of those later stages and any potential impacts on matters protected under the EPBC Act • The likely impacts may comprise of desktop and/or onsite surveys

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps of the proposed sites for activities associated with the larger Kumberilla Renewable Energy Project.
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3. Description of the environment and Matters of National Environmental Significance

Listed threatened species and ecological communities and listed migratory species

From the information provided to date, the department considers that the matters that may or are likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed action include, but are not limited to:

- Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) – – vulnerable.

The department also considers that there is a real chance or possibility that significant impacts may arise in relation to the following:

- Squatter Pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*) – vulnerable
- Yakka Skink (*Egernia rugosa*) – vulnerable.

Note: this may not be a complete list and it is your responsibility, as the proponent, to ensure that any species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act at the time of the controlled action decision, which will or are likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed action, are assessed for the Minister’s consideration.

Any matters protected by a listing events (i.e. new listing or up-listing of a species or ecological community, e.g. from vulnerable to endangered category) that occur after the controlled action decision cannot be considered in the decision to approve or not approve an action, as set out in s158A of the EPBC Act. However, for the purpose of offsets, where a species was listed at the time of the controlled action decision and has subsequently been up or down-listed, the department will use the current listing status to calculate offset requirements.

Furthermore, it is also the responsibility of the proponent to maintain awareness of any changes to species distributions. Please ensure that a recent Protected Matters Search Tool report has been generated and used during the assessment stage before finalising the draft preliminary documentation.

Habitat quality

In accordance with the Koala habitat assessment tool in the EPBC Act referral Guidelines for the listed Koala, the referral notes that the site contains habitat critical to the survival of the Koala with a score of 8. The department disagrees with this score and considers that a score of 10 is more appropriate for the following reasons:

- a. Koala occurrence (+2) – Surveys conducted in May 2020 and January and May 2021 identified the presence of Koala scat, scratches and two Koala skulls within the proposed action area, therefore there is evidence of one or more Koalas within the last five years.
- b. Vegetation composition (+2) – the site contains a ‘woodland’ or ‘open forest’ with two or more known Koala food tree species, including Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*), Queensland Peppermint (*Eucalyptus exserta*), and Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*).

- c. Habitat connectivity (+2) – the proposed site is part of a contiguous landscape of greater than 1000 ha.
- d. Key existing threats (+2) – the proponent states that the existing threat is medium because on juvenile Koala skull was found, one dingo was observed and the area is known to have a wild dog problem. The department does not consider this represents evidence of infrequent or irregular Koala mortality from vehicle strike or dog attack. The department considers there is little or no evidence of Koala mortality from vehicle strike or dog attack at present and therefore this criteria should be scored as +2.
- e. Recovery value (+2) – the department considers that, given the scale and location of the proposed action site, it is likely to be important for achieving the interim recovery objectives for the inland context and should be scored +2.

The preliminary documentation must provide a description of the environment affected by and surrounding the proposed action area, over both the short and long term. Specific matters this section must address include, but are not limited to:

3.1	A description of any potential MNES (including but not limited to those listed in this request for information) that occur in the project area and adjacent areas.
3.2	A description and map of the current land use/s, land topography, surface and ground water bodies, waterways and vegetation communities (habitat types as they relate to potentially impacted listed threatened species) on the proposed action site and adjoining areas.
3.3	<p>For listed threatened species and ecological communities that have the potential, or are likely, to be present at and in the vicinity of the project site, including but not limited to those listed in this request for further information, this section must provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Information on the abundance, distribution, ecology and habitat preference of the species or communities. b) Quantification of the extent of habitat and (if known) the number of individuals present or historical patterns of use on and surrounding the proposed action site (including maps identifying known or potential habitat). c) Assessment of the quality and importance of known or potential habitat for the species or communities within the proposed action site and surrounding areas. d) Information detailing known populations or records within at least five kilometres of the development footprint and (if known) the size of these populations. e) Information on the survey methodology used, including a map/s of survey points or transects, how the survey points or transects were selected, when surveys were conducted (e.g. dates, time of day, season, etc.) and search effort (e.g. 20 hours over eight days).

	<p>f) An assessment of the adequacy of any surveys undertaken. In particular, the extent to which these surveys were appropriate for the species and undertaken in accordance with relevant survey guidelines.</p> <p>g) Results of any surveys undertaken.</p>
3.4	<p>Information about the methods, data and scientific literature used to identify and assess the environmental values on the proposed action site and surrounding areas, including survey data and historical records. Survey data for the proposed action site must be provided for the above listed threatened species, should be as recent as possible, and must not have been collected more than five years before the date of this letter.</p>

4. Quantification of impacts

Based on the information provided in the referral, additional information provided in support of the referral, information provided in the Species Profile and Threats Database, and observation records provided in the Atlas of Living Australia, the department considers that:

- Due to the presence of Koala food trees across the proposed action area and as there are few barriers to movement, the proposed action is likely to result in the loss of 213 ha of habitat critical to the survival of the Koala. General guidance for determining Koala habitat in open/cleared areas is provided in [Attachment C](#).
- Further information regarding the presence of habitat and potential impacts are required to determine whether or not the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on the Squatter Pigeon and the Yakka Skink. Squatter Pigeons are often sighted in opportunistic sightings rather than in targeted surveys. Opportunistic sightings of threatened species should be considered when determining presence of these species onsite.
- The department notes that the action may also result in indirect impacts on MNES and habitat adjacent to the proposed action site. Indirect impacts may result from edge effects; mortality or injury to MNES from increased traffic; and/or predation from domestic dogs. Direct and indirect impacts on adjacent habitat areas may also render this habitat to be functionally lost.

To clarify the extent and nature of impact on listed threatened species and ecological communities as a result of the proposed action, the preliminary documentation must:

4.1	<p>Include current maps and coordinates/shapefile of the proposed impact area and areas of habitat for MNES proposed to be retained. Maps must clearly identify development footprints, buffer zones, and any conservation areas where impacts will be avoided, and areas of adjacent habitat that would be subject to indirect impacts, including areas that are to be retained within and adjacent to the site.</p>
4.2	<p>Confirm the area of habitat that will be directly and indirectly impacted by the proposed action, including areas where:</p> <p>a) Connectivity to surrounding habitat will be retained, removed or functionally lost.</p>

	b) Adjacent habitat will be subject to intensification of ongoing impacts (for example, through increased levels of dust or polluted runoff).
4.3	Confirm the quantity and quality of suitable habitat to be impacted within the proposed action area.
4.4	<p>Provide an assessment of the direct, indirect, consequential and cumulative impacts that may occur during construction and post-construction phases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The nature and extent of impacts (including direct, indirect and facilitated impacts), including timing and whether the impact is temporary or permanent. b) Details of any policy guidelines, relevant studies, surveys or consultations with species experts/field specialists, which were not included in the referral or additional information provided in support of the referral. c) A local and regional scale analysis of likely impacts, with reference to the project's potential contribution to cumulative impacts in the context of development patterns in the locality and region. d) A risk assessment of potential impacts from the action that are likely to be unpredictable, severe, or irreversible. <p><i>Note: Facilitated impacts may include (but are not limited to) the risk of injury or mortality to MNES as a result of the introduction of domestic dogs, vehicle strike as a result of increased traffic use and/or the development of domestic pools.</i></p>
4.5	Provide a description of environment management activities that will be undertaken as part of the development of the proposed action including management activities intended to avoid and mitigate impacts on listed threatened species. You should include an assessment on the management activities intended benefit, likelihood of success, corrective actions should the intended benefit not occur and details of who will be responsible for each activity if third party providers are intended to be used.

5. Avoidance and mitigation

To clarify the proposed measures to avoid and mitigate impacts, the preliminary documentation must:

5.1	<p>Provide a consolidated description of all proposed measures to avoid and mitigate impacts, including those provided in the referral and any additional to those described in the referral.</p> <p>This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discussion of consideration and assessment of alternative strategies, plans and measures to avoid and mitigate impacts (e.g. alternative plans, retention of habitat/movement corridors/buffers, and fauna-friendly development and road design).
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Details about pre-clearance and clearance procedures to ensure that species are detected and managed to minimise mortality, stress, injury, or introduction of disease. c) A description (including maps and imagery) of the location, boundaries and size of buffer areas or proposed exclusion zones, and details on how these areas will be enhanced, protected and maintained. Also include a description of any fences or barriers which may be installed around areas where impacts will be avoided. d) Details of any rehabilitation measures to be implemented for disturbed areas, including rehabilitation objectives, target species, timing of rehabilitation stages, methodology, maintenance measures, schedules, and monitoring. e) Details of any ongoing mitigation and management measures during the operation of the facility.
5.2	<p>For each measure proposed, indicate the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Responsible party b) Environmental outcomes to be achieved c) Millstones / performance / completion criteria d) Proposed monitoring and evaluation program.
5.3	<p>Provide an assessment of the predicted effectiveness of each proposed avoidance or mitigation measure, noting that the effectiveness of a particular measure is a reflection of confidence in the ability of the measure to reduce the risk of a threat. The assessment of effectiveness should be evidence based and include examples of demonstrated success of a particular measure to achieve the desired avoidance/mitigation outcome.</p>
5.4	<p>Please provide a table showing where in the preliminary documentation how relevant Guidance documents (i.e. Recovery Plans, Threat Abatement Plans and Conservation Advices) have been considered. That is, having regard to and providing a discussion on the objectives of the documents.</p>

6. Proposed offsets

Based on the referral information, the department considers that the proposed action is likely to have a residual significant impact on the Koala and may have a residual impact on Squatter Pigeon and Yakka Skink.

Where residual significant impacts remain after consideration of avoidance and mitigation measures, an environmental offset will be required to compensate for the impacts in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offsets Policy* (EPBC Offsets Policy). Offsets must be specific to the species or ecological community being impacted and must improve or maintain the viability of the species.

Habitat quality assessment methodology

The following must be adhered to when assessing habitat quality for a listed species.

- The methodology chosen to assess habitat quality must be evidence-based, quantitative, robust and repeatable.
- The same methodology to assess habitat quality must be used at both impact and offset sites for input into the EPBC Act Offsets Assessment Guide.

Note: The department currently uses an adaptation of the DEHP guide, the Modified Habitat Quality Assessment (MHQA) Version 1.2 April 2017.

- The quality score for an area of habitat must relate directly to habitat requirements of the species (e.g. number of Koala feed trees).

Note: This may inform outcome-based conditions if the Minister decides to approve the proposed action.

- Risk of loss scores with and without offset must be substantiated by strong evidence where the risk of loss exceeds a score of 0.

Note: Risk of Loss is the chance that values for the protected matter on the proposed offset site will be permanently lost due to development reducing the extent and viability of that protected matter. Land zoning, stochastic events, land degradation, speculation that a landowner may sell or clear their land or actions that would necessitate approval under the EPBC Act do not constitute a risk of loss.

- There are three components that need to be considered when calculating habitat quality which should be weighted as follows: site condition (30%), site context (30%), and species stocking rates (40%). The MHQA provides some guidance on what may be considered for each habitat quality component.
- When calculating offsets, please refer to the department's published guidance: [How to use the Offsets Assessment Guide](#).

In the past, the Koala habitat assessment tool at Table 4 (p. 27) of the *EPBC Act referral guidelines for the listed koala* has been used by proponents to assess habitat quality for that species at proposed offset sites, however the department notes that this methodology may not accurately account for potential habitat quality improvements as a result of management measures over time.

The department encourages all proponents to initially consult the department on appropriate methodology to calculate a habitat quality score, before conducting their assessment.

For further details regarding offset requirements, see Attachment B.

If a residual significant impact is identified, the preliminary documentation must include an offset proposal, which must:

6.1	<p>Demonstrate how the offset proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Meets the principles outlined in the EPBC Offsets Policy. b) Addresses the considerations and requirements outlined in the EPBC Offsets Policy, including but not limited to sections 6 and 7 of the EPBC Offsets Policy. c) Directly contributes to the ongoing viability of the EPBC listed species or ecological community and will deliver an overall conservation outcome that improves and/or maintains the viability of the protected matter, as compared to what is likely to have occurred under the status quo, i.e. if neither the action nor the offset had taken place. d) Compensates for the impact over the entire duration of the impact (i.e. should impacts be in perpetuity, the offsets must also be delivered in perpetuity). <p><i>Note: while the offsets do not need to be secured before the decision on whether to approve the proposed action, should the proposed action be approved, conditions of an approval are likely to require that offsets are secured, and management measures are in place, before commencement of the proposed action.</i></p>
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7. Economic and social matters

The preliminary documentation must:

7.1	Provide details on the social and economic costs and/or benefits of undertaking the proposed action, including the basis for any estimations of costs and/or benefits. Where possible, please include the total economic capital investment and economic ongoing value of the project.
7.2	Identify if economic benefits and employment opportunities are in addition to what would have been expected if the action were not to take place.
7.3	Provide details of any public stakeholder consultation activities, including the outcomes of those consultations.
7.4	Provide details of any consultation with Indigenous stakeholders.

8. Ecologically sustainable development

The preliminary documentation must:

8.1	Provide a description of how the proposed action meets the principles of ecologically sustainable development, as defined in section 3A of the EPBC Act.
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ATTACHMENT B

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EPBC ACT OFFSET PROPOSALS

The offset proposal must include, but not be limited to, the following:

Details in relation to the proposed offset package, including:

- a) A description of the proposed offset site(s) including location, size, condition, and relevant ecological/species habitat features, landscape context and cadastre boundaries of the offset site(s) (supported by mapping).
- b) Evidence of the presence of, or usage by, relevant protected matter(s) on, or adjacent to the proposed offset site(s), and the presence and quality of habitat for protected matter(s) on the proposed offset site.
- c) Current and likely future tenure of the proposed offset site and details of how the offset site will be legally secured for the full duration of the impact.

Details and justification demonstrating how the proposed offset package will maintain or improve the viability of the protected matter(s) consistent with the EPBC Environmental Offsets Policy and *EPBC Act Offsets Assessment Guide*. This includes:

- a) Offset completion criteria (i.e. environmental outcomes) to be achieved, and reasoning for these in reference to relevant statutory recovery plans, conservation advices, and threat abatement plans. The outcomes must be relevant to the protected matter (e.g. within 15 years of commencement of the action, 85 per cent of the offset site contains X number of Koala habitat trees).
- b) Milestones to demonstrate adequate progress towards achieving the offset completion criteria (e.g. within 10 years of commencement of the action the proponent must increase, by at least 20 per cent, the number of available Koala food trees at the offset site).
- c) Specific environmental management activities and mitigation that will attain and maintain the completion criteria, including the management of threats to relevant species and the timing of actions (e.g. complete the planting, and ensure a survival rate of 90 per cent, of at least 15, 000 seed, sapling, or tube stock (or equivalent) Koala food tree species within five years following commencement of the action; reduce the invasive weed coverage on the offset site to 5 per cent within five years following commencement of the action implement an annual non-native feral pest control program over a 10 year period).
- d) An evaluation of risks that may prevent the offset from achieving the completion criteria. Where risks exist, what mitigations will you put in place to minimise impacts on the offset site.

Note: It is okay to identify risks that are beyond your control. Even if risks will have severe impacts, such as catastrophic bushfire. Identifying these risks acknowledges that it may not be possible to require full remediation from certain types of catastrophes.

- e) An offset proposal or plan should consider the risk of not achieving each milestone or completion criteria throughout the implementation of the offset and plans put in place to rectify the problem in a timely manner.
- f) Baseline survey information to determine the presence of relevant protected matters and the extent and quality of the respective habitat(s) at the proposed offset site(s) in accordance with the relevant survey guidelines or using a scientifically robust and repeatable methodology.
- g) A monitoring and corrective action program to measure the success of the environmental outcomes, which must include performance indicators, milestone outcomes, monitoring requirements, trigger values, corrective measures, and identified roles and responsibilities in accordance with the requirements in section 3 of the departments Environmental Management Plan Guidelines:
<https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/environmental-management-plan%ADguidelines>
- h) Evidence of how the proposed offset completion criteria for the offset will be maintained over the duration of the offset.
- i) Justification of how the offset package meets the *EPBC Act Offsets Assessment Guide*, in particular:
- Evidence of the likely effectiveness of any proposed management actions (i.e. rehabilitation / restoration / re-creation of habitat) to support quality improvement and/or maintenance of the proposed offset site(s) for the relevant protected matter(s).
 - The time over which management actions will deliver the proposed improvement or maintenance of habitat quality for the relevant protected matter(s).
 - The risk of damage, degradation or destruction to any proposed offset site(s), in the absence of any formal protection and/or management, over a foreseeable time period (20 years). This information is important in determining the comparative benefit of a proposed offset.
 - Evidence to support 'confidence in results' for averted loss and quality scores.

Note: where increases in habitat quality of the offset site are being proposed by the proponent to meet the direct offset requirements, the department will require specific details of site condition, site context or stocking rate measures to be implemented commensurate to the expected level of habitat improvement.

ATTACHMENT C

Information to assist in the assessment of potential impacts on the Koala

Note: This document is not a policy document. The information below is provided to inform the assessment process and is based on information available in the EPBC Koala Referral Guidelines and other statutory documentations relevant to the Koala.

- Surveys must be undertaken in accordance with departmental guidelines, State guidelines and/or best practice survey methodologies in Queensland.

Note: Departmental survey methodologies are generally available in a species profile on the Species Profile and Threats (SPRAT) Database.

- Provide detailed justification for any proposed deviation/s from departmental guidelines, State guidelines and/or best practice survey methodologies (e.g. seasonality, duration, repetition of survey effort, survey techniques, etc.).
- Habitat assessments must be derived from information:
 - obtained from field surveys and vegetation assessments
 - in the SPRAT Database
 - in relevant departmental documents (e.g. approved conservation advices, recovery plans, listing advices, draft referral guidelines, etc.)
 - published research and other relevant sources (where relevant).
- The department highly recommends the use of the following habitat description for the Koala to inform habitat assessments:

Koala	<p>Any forest or woodland (including remnant, regrowth and modified vegetation communities) containing species that are Koala food trees or any shrubland with emergent Koala food trees.</p> <p>Forest: A vegetation community which conforms to the structural form of tall or low forest (including all sub-forms) in Australia, as defined by Specht (1970) (see Attachment 1 of the Guidelines).</p> <p>Woodland: A vegetation community which conforms to the structural form of woodland (including all sub-forms) in Australia, as defined by Specht (1970) (Attachment 1 of the Guidelines).</p> <p>Shrubland: A vegetation community which conforms to the structural form of shrubland (including all sub-forms) in Australia, as defined by Specht (1970) (Attachment 1 of the Guidelines).</p> <p><u>Attachment 1</u> of the Guidelines provides guidance on the structural forms of vegetation in Australia. For example, areas with trees <10 m and <10% foliage cover of tallest plant layer, fall within the category of 'low open-woodland'.</p>
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- The department notes that whilst cleared areas may not provide key foraging or shelter habitat for the Koala, these areas may be traversed by Koalas moving between adjacent areas of Koala habitat. Additionally, if scattered trees are present, these areas may provide potential feed and shelter trees across very sparse tall open woodlands.

- Further, areas of cleared land located between vegetated areas may fall within the category of low open woodland as it is part of a larger contiguous patch of habitat, and there is no barrier that is likely to prevent the movement of Koalas.
- The department notes that the Queensland Regional Ecosystem (RE) mapping may be used to inform the determination of habitat, however habitat assessments must consider and align with the information in the SPRAT Database and relevant departmental documents.
- The extent of habitat should be considered at its broadest extent.
- Where there is any variation in the habitat assessment approach from the information available in the SPRAT Database, it should be discussed with the department prior to the submission of the referral or assessment documentation, and must be supported by scientific evidence including published research, independent expert advice and information derived from field surveys.
- Review recent EPBC Act approvals for approval definitions of habitat for listed threatened species and communities to inform the habitat assessment.
- Provide the total amount of each type of habitat (in hectares) in the project site and the total amount of each type of habitat (in hectares) in the disturbance footprint.
- Provide detailed maps of each type of habitat for EPBC Act listed threatened species and ecological communities in the project site, with an overlay of the disturbance footprint.