STAR OF THE SOUTH

Victorian Environment Effects Statement

Attachment IV - EES scoping requirements checklist

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Note: The EES scoping requirements use the term "the project" throughout. This term refers to "the proposed works and effects within Victorian jurisdiction". See Section "1. Introduction General EES Requirements" below for further details.

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
1. Introduction General EES Requirements	In light of the potential for significant environmental effects, on 11 May 2020 the Victorian Minister for Planning determined under the *Victorian Environment Effects Act 1978 (EE Act)* that Star of the South Wind Farm Pty Ltd is to prepare an environment effects statement (EES) for the proposed Star of the South Offshore Wind Farm, focusing on the proposed works and effects within Victorian jurisdiction. The purpose of the EES is to provide a sufficiently detailed description of the project, assess its potential effects on the environment and assess alternative project layouts, designs and approaches to avoid and mitigate effects. The EES will inform and seek feedback from the public and stakeholders. The Minister will issue an assessment of the project' environmental effects under the EE Act to conclude the EES process. The Minister's assessment will then inform statutory decision-makers responsible for the project's approvals. While the scoping requirements are intended to cover all relevant matters, the EES will also need to address other issues that emerge during the EES investigations, especially those relevant to statutory decisions that will be informed by the assessment.	Whole EES
1.1 Minister's requirements for this EES	The Minister decided that an EES was required to assess the project potential environmental effects, focusing on the proposed works within Victorian jurisdiction. The Minister published procedures and requirements applicable to the preparation of the EES, in accordance with section 8B(5) of the EE Act and identified key environmental risks that would need to be addressed in the EES, namely: • Effects on biodiversity and ecological values within and near the project area including native vegetation, listed communities and species (flora and fauna) under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and DELWP advisory list, such as through loss, degradation or fragmentation of habitat, as well as related ecological effects;	*Chapter 8 – Onshore Ecology* *Technical Report G – Onshore Ecology* *Chapter 23 – Victorian Marine Environment* *Technical Report B – Benthic Ecology* *Technical Report C – Fish and Invertebrates* *Technical Report D – Marine Mammals* *Technical report E – Ornithology and Bats*
	• Effects on freshwater and marine environments and related beneficial uses, including as a result of any required dredging due to selection of the preferred port option, any changes to stream flows and/or discharge of sediment or waste through waterway crossings;	*Chapter 23 – Victorian Marine Environment* *Technical Report A – Coastal Processes and Sediment Transport* *Chapter 10 – Surface Water* *Technical Report I – Surface Water* *Chapter 24 – Victorian Marine Protected Areas* *Technical Report F – Marine Protected Areas*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage values;	*Chapter 13 – Onshore Aboriginal Cultural Heritage* *Technical Report K – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage* *Technical Report Z – Submerged Aboriginal Cultural Heritage*
	• Effects on the socioeconomic environment, at local and regional scales, including increased traffic movement and direct and indirect effects of construction of onshore assets; and	*Chapter 17 – Traffic and Transport* *Technical Report X – Traffic and Transport* *Chapter 20 – Social* *Technical Report R – Social*
	• Effects on existing landscape values.	*Chapter 20 – Social* *Technical Report R – Social*
1.2 Commonwealth requirements and alignment of assessment of processes	The project was also referred under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment in May 2020.	*Chapter 1 – Environment Effects Statement Introduction*
2.1 Assessment process and required approvals		*Chapter 5 – Victorian Legislative Framework* *Chapter 6 – Assessment Framework*
2.2 What is an EES?	An EES describes a project, it's rationale/benefit and its potential environmental effects. It should enable stakeholders and decision-makers to understand how the project is proposed to be implemented and the likely environmental effects of doing so. An EES has two main components: i. The EES main report – an integrated, plain English document that assesses the potential impacts of the project, examines avoidance, mitigation, or other measures to reduce the environmental effects and assesses residual effects. The main report draws on technical studies, data and statutory requirements and policy relevant to the environment and should clearly identify which components of the scope are being addressed throughout. ii. The EES technical reports- specialist studies, investigations and analyses that provide the basis for the EES main report. These reports will be exhibited in full, as appendices to the main report.	Process completed to inform the EES and technical reports. The Technical reports assess matters that cover both the EIS and EES requirements.
2.2 The EES process	The EES process has the following steps:	*Chapter 1 – Environment Effects Statement* Introduction

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Preparation of a draft study program and draft schedule by the proponent (completed); • Preparation and exhibition of draft scoping requirements by DELWP on behalf of the Minister with public comments received during the advertised exhibition period (completed); • Finalisation and issuing of scoping requirements by the Minister (completed); • Review of the proponent's EES studies and draft documentation by DELWP and a technical reference group (completed); • Completion of the EES by the proponent; • Review of the complete EES by DELWP to establish its adequacy for public exhibition; • Exhibition of the proponent's EES and invitation for public comment by DELWP on behalf of the Minister; • Appointment of an inquiry by the Minister to review the EES and public submissions received and provide a report to the Minister; and finally • Following receipt of the inquiry's report, preparation of an assessment on whether the project's environmental effects are acceptable by the Minister for the consideration of statutory decision makers	
2.4 Consultation plan	The proponent is responsible for informing and engaging the public and stakeholders to identify and respond to their issues and keep them informed of the EES studies. Stakeholders include potentially affected parties (including Traditional Owner groups and Registered Aboriginal Parties as relevant), interested community organisations and government bodies. Under its consultation plan the proponent informs the public and stakeholders about the EES investigations and provides opportunities for input and engagement during the EES investigations. The consultation plan is reviewed and amended in consultation with DELWP and the TRG before it is published on the planning website. The final consultation plan will: • Identify stakeholders; • Characterise public and stakeholders' interests, concerns and consultation needs, local knowledge and inputs; • Describe consultation methods and schedule; and • Outline how public and stakeholder inputs will be recorded, considered and/or addressed in the preparation of the EES.	*Chapter 7 – Community Engagement* *Attachment II – Consultation Report*
2.5 Statutory approvals and EES process	The project will require a range of approvals under Victorian legislation if it is to proceed. DELWP coordinates the EES process as closely as practicable with the approvals procedures, consultation and public notice requirements. The key approvals required under Victorian legislation are: a Planning Scheme Amendment under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, a consent to use and develop marine and coastal Crown Land under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 and a lease/licence under the Crown land (Reserves) Act 1978.	*Chapter 5 – Victorian Legislative Framework* *Chapter 6 – Assessment Framework*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
3.1 Matters to be addressed in the EES General approach	Preparation of the EES should be consistent with the principles of a systems approach and a risk-based approach. The EES should put forward a sound rationale for the level of assessment and analysis undertaken for any environmental effect or combination of environmental effects arising from all components and stages of the project. The EES should provide an analysis of the significance of the potential effects of the project, with consideration of: • The potential effects on individual environmental assets – magnitude, extent and duration of change in the values of each asset – having regard to intended avoidance and mitigation measures; • The likelihood of adverse effects, including those caused indirectly as a result of proposed activities, and associated uncertainty of available predictions or estimates; • Further management measures that are proposed where avoidance and mitigation measures do not adequately address effects on environmental assets, including specific details of how the measures address relevant policies; • Residual effects that are likely to occur assuming the proposed measures to avoid and mitigate environmental effects are implemented; and • Proposed approach to managing and monitoring environmental performance and contingency planning	*Chapter 6 – Assessment Framework*
3.2 Content and style	Together with the Minister's reasons for decision, the published procedures and requirements and the Ministerial Guidelines, the content of the EES and related investigations is to be guided by these scoping requirements. To facilitate decisions on required approvals, the EES should address statutory requirements associated with approvals that will be informed by the Minister's assessment, including decision-making under the Planning and Environment Act, Marine and Coastal Act, Aboriginal Heritage Act and other applicable legislation. The EES should also address any other significant issues that emerge during the investigations The EES should provide a clear, objective and well-integrated analysis of the potential effects of the proposed project, including proposed avoidance, mitigation and management measures, as well as feasible alternatives. While acknowledging the final documentation prepared will integrate both the EES and EIS requirements, the portions prepared in response to these scoping requirements should include:	Whole of EES *Chapter 5 – Victorian Legislative Framework* *Chapter 6 – Assessment Framework*
	• An executive summary;	EES Summary document
	• A description of the project, including its objectives, rationale, key elements, associated requirements for new infrastructure, resource use and use of existing infrastructure;	*Chapter 1 – Environment Effects Statement Introduction* *Chapter 4 – Victorian Works Project Description*
	• A description of the approvals required for the project to proceed, and their relationship to relevant laws, policies, strategies, guidelines and standards;	*Chapter 5 – Victorian Legislative Framework*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• A description of feasible alternatives capable of substantially meeting the project's objectives that may also offer environmental or other benefits (as well as the basis for the choice where a preferred alternative is nominated);	*Chapter 3 – Victorian Works Project Development*
	• Descriptions of the existing environment and future climate change scenarios, where this is relevant to the assessment of potential effects;	*Chapter 10 – Surface Water* *Technical Report I – Surface Water* *Chapter 23 – Victorian Marine Environment* *Technical Report A – Coastal Processes and Sediment Transport*
	• Appropriately detailed assessments of potential effects of the project (and feasible alternatives) on environmental assets and values, relative to the "no project" scenario, together with an estimation of likelihood and degree of uncertainty associated with predictions;	*Chapter 2 – Project Rationale* *Chapter 3 – Victorian Works Project Development*
	• Clear, active measures for avoiding, minimising, managing and monitoring effects, including a statement of commitment to implement these measures;	*Chapter 23 – Victorian Environmental Management Framework*
	• Predictions of residual effects of the project assuming implementation of proposed environmental management measures;	Whole of EES and Technical reports
	• Any proposed offset measures where avoidance and other mitigation measures will not adequately address effects on environmental values;	*Chapter 26 – Victorian Environmental Management Framework*
	• Assessment of cumulative impacts with other existing and proposed developments in the region;	Whole of EES and Technical reports
	• Documentation of the process and results of the consultation undertaken by the proponent during the preparation of the EES, including the issues raised by stakeholders or the public and the proponent's responses to these issues, in the context of the EES studies and the associated consideration of mitigation measures;	*Chapter 7 – Community Engagement* *Attachment II – Consultation Report*
	• Evaluation of the implications for the project and feasible alternatives from the implementation of legislation and policy;	Whole of EES
	• Evaluation against the principles and objectives of ecologically sustainable development; and	Whole of EES *Chapter 27 – EES Summary and Conclusions*
	• Conclusions on the significance of impacts on local, regional and state matters.	Whole of EES *Chapter 27 – EES Summary and Conclusions*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	The EES should also include an outline of a program for community consultation, stakeholder engagement and communications proposed for implementation during the construction and operation of the project, including opportunities for local stakeholders to engage with the proponent to seek responses to issues that might arise during project implementation.	*Chapter 7 – Community engagement* *Attachment II – Consultation Report*
	The proponent may choose to prepare a website with interactive functionality to provide an alternative form of access to EES information, which may complement the conventional EES chapters and technical documents. Such an approach should be discussed with DELWP Impact Assessment Unit and should be integrated with the preparation of the EES package, including review by the TRG.	EES and Technical reports will be available on a website.
	The proponent must also prepare a concise, graphical-based non-technical summary document (hard copy A4, no more than 25 pages) for free distribution to interested parties. The EES summary document should include details of the EES exhibition, public submission process and availability of the EES documentation	EES Summary document
3.3 Project description	The EES is to describe the project in sufficient detail to allow an understanding of all components, processes and development stages, and to enable assessment of their likely potential environmental effects. The project description should canvass the following:	
	• An overview of the proponent's environmental performance and track record, including experience in delivering similar projects, as well as organisation health, safety and environmental policies, and whether the proponent has been subject to any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, state or territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;	*Chapter 1 – Environment Effects Statement Introduction*
	• Contextual information on the project, including its objectives and rationale, its relationship to statutory policies, plans and strategies, including the justification for need for the project, selection of preferred options for alignment and design of the project (see section 3.4 below) and implications of the project not proceeding;	*Chapter 2 – Project Rationale* *Chapter 3 – Victorian Works Project Development*
	• Existing and planned land uses in the vicinity of the proposed project, supported by plans and maps;	*Chapter 22 – Land Use Planning* *Technical Report T – Land Use Planning* *Attachment I – EES Map book*
	• The proposed operational life of the project, and any decommissioning and rehabilitation arrangements; and	*Chapter 1 – Environmental Effects Statement Introduction* *Chapter 4 – Victorian Works Project Description*
	• Other necessary works proposed for the project, such as road upgrades and/or connections, and infrastructure and services relocation.	*Chapter 4 – Victorian Works Project Description*
	Description of the project's components (supported by visuals and diagrams) should detail: • Applicable standards and adopted specifications for infrastructure;	*Chapter 4 – Victorian Works Project Description*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Location, footprint, layout and access arrangements during construction and operation; • Design and expected construction staging and scheduling; • Proposed construction methods and materials, and extent of areas to be disturbed during construction; • Solid waste, wastewater and hazardous material generation and management during construction and operation; • Rehabilitation of site works areas; • Proposed tenure arrangements to provide for access for maintenance or other operational purposes; • Lighting, safety, security, and noise requirements during construction and operation; • Workforce accommodation facilities (if required) including location, size and required services; • Hours of operation, workforce requirements (total workforce); • Hours of construction work and a description of the expected duration of project components, including which components are temporary and which are permanent; and • Operational requirements including maintenance activities and decommissioning	
3.4 Project alternatives	The EES should document the proponent's design development process leading to the proponent's preferred form of the project as presented in the EES. The EES should explain the proponent's criteria for evaluating the feasibility of potential alternatives and explain how specific alternatives were shortlisted or rejected for evaluation within the EES, including with regards to environmental consideration/ impacts.	*Chapter 3 - Victorian Works Project Development* *Chapter 4 – Victorian Works Project Description*
	The EES should assess the likely environmental effects of feasible alternatives, particularly where these offer a potential to avoid or minimise adverse environmental effects whilst meeting the objectives of the project. The process for identification and assessment of the project alternatives and respective impacts will need to be documented in the EES including: • Description of alternatives considered in the project design process, including alternative transmission line alignments and substations; • Identification of methods and environmental criteria for comparison of alternatives and for selection of short-listed and preferred alternatives; • Assessment and comparison of the technical feasibility and environmental implications of feasible alternative options considered; • The basis for selecting the preferred project layout and design, particularly where alignments are located in proximity to environmentally sensitive areas; and • Description of how information gathered during the EES process was used to refine the preferred transmission line alignments and other project alternatives.	*Chapter 3 - Victorian Works Project Development*
	Key aspects of the project, for which the EES will need to demonstrate consideration of feasible alternatives, include:	*Chapter 3 - Victorian Works Project Development*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Potential corridors and alignments for the onshore transmission network, including criteria for excluding corridors and alignments from further consideration; • Siting of the proposed shore crossing at Reeves Beach, as well as the construction techniques employed; • Siting of substations required for the onshore transmission infrastructure, and the extent to which selection of these sites influence the choice of preferred alignment; • The rationale for the preferred mode of construction across the alignment (overhead or underground); and • Other feasible alternatives raised through feedback from the community or other stakeholders. The depth of investigation of alternatives and their impacts should be proportionate to their potential both to minimise potentially significant adverse effects and to meet project objectives	
3.5 Applicable legislation, policies and strategies	In addition to the Environment Effects Act, the EES will need to identify relevant legislation, policies, guidelines and standards and assess their specific requirements or implications for the project, particularly in relation to required approvals. The proponent will also need to identify and address other relevant policies, strategies, subordinate legislation and related management or planning processes that may be relevant to the assessment of the project	*Chapter 5 – Victorian Legislative Framework*
3.6 Evaluation objectives	Evaluation objectives are provided in Section 4 for each of the topics to be addressed in the EES. The proposed evaluation objectives identify desired outcomes in the context of key legislative and statutory policies, as well as the principles and objectives of ecologically sustainable development and environment protection, including net community benefit. In accordance with the Ministerial Guidelines, they provide a framework to guide an integrated assessment of environmental effects and for evaluating the overall implications of the project	Whole of EES
3.7 Environmental management framework	Competent management of environmental effects during project construction, operation and rehabilitation is required to meet statutory requirements, achieve necessary environmental outcomes, protect environmental values and sustain stakeholder confidence. Hence, the proposed environmental management framework (EMF) in the EES should describe a transparent framework with clear accountabilities for managing and monitoring the environmental effects and risks associated with the construction and operational phases. The entity responsible for approval of environmental plans should be identified. The EMF should describe the baseline environmental conditions to allow evaluation of the residual environmental effects of the project, as well as the efficacy of applied environmental management and contingency measures.	*Chapter 26 – Victorian Environmental Management Framework*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	Where appropriate the EMF should utilise adaptive management practices, acknowledging the need to continually improve, as well as utilise evidence-based science and a systems approach. The framework should include: • The context of required approvals and consents; • The proposed environmental management system to be adopted; • Organisational responsibilities and accountabilities for environmental management; • An environmental risk register that is maintained during project implementation; • The environmental management measures proposed in the EES to address specific issues, including commitments to mitigate adverse effects and enhance environmental outcomes; The EMF will set out the procedures for: • Complaints recording and resolution process; • Auditing and reporting of performance including compliance with relevant statutory conditions and standards; and • Review of the effectiveness of the EMF for continuous improvement Management measures proposed in the EES to address specific issues, including commitments to mitigate adverse effects and enhance environmental outcomes should be clearly described in the EMF.	
4. Assessment of specific environmental effects	The Minister's procedures and requirements (Appendix A of Scoping requirements) require the EES to particularly, but not exclusively, document the proposed works having: • Effects on biodiversity and ecological values within and near the project area including native vegetation, listed communities and species (flora and fauna) under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and DELWP advisory list, such as through loss, degradation or fragmentation of habitat, as well as related ecological effects; • Effects on freshwater and marine environments and related beneficial uses, including as a result of any required dredging due to selection of the preferred port option, any changes to stream flows and/or discharge of sediment or waste through waterway crossings; • Effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage values; • Effects on the socioeconomic environment, at local and regional scales, including increased traffic movement and direct and indirect effects of construction of onshore assets; and • Effects on existing landscape values. Given these matters are likely to cause effects on the environment and are set out in the procedures and requirements, the EES should assess these effects in detail. For those effects that can be demonstrated to have lower levels of risk of environment effects, the EES should describe and analyse these impacts in detail commensurate with their level of environmental risk.	Whole of EES

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	The matters to be investigated and documented within the EES are presented below, grouped by investigation theme. Each theme is presented with an evaluation objective. The following structure sets out how the EES should document its assessment of effects for each evaluation objective. 1 **Identify key issues or risks** that the project poses to the achievement of the evaluation objective. 2 **Characterise the existing environment** to underpin impact assessments having regard to the level of risk. The environmental risk assessment by the proponent could guide the necessary data acquisition. 3 **Assess the potential effects** of the project on the existing environment and evaluate their significance. 4 **Present design and mitigation** measures that could substantially reduce and/or mitigate the likelihood, extent and/or duration of potential effects. All design and mitigation measures must apply the mitigation hierarchy with justification of why higher order measures cannot be applied. a Avoidance: measures taken to avoid creating adverse effects on the environment from the outset, such as careful spatial or temporal placement of infrastructure or disturbance. b Minimisation: measures taken to reduce the duration, intensity and extent of impacts that cannot be completely avoided. c Rehabilitation/restoration: measures taken to improve degraded or removed ecosystems following exposure to impacts that cannot be completely avoided or minimised. d Offsets: measures taken to compensate for any residual, adverse impacts after full implementation of the previous steps of the mitigation hierarchy. Note that an assessment of residual effects (post mitigation) and their significance will be required to illustrate the likely effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures 5 **Propose performance criteria and management** to evaluate whether the project's effects are maintained within permissible levels and propose contingency approaches if they are not. The description and assessment of effects must not be confined to the immediate area of the project but must also consider the potential of the project to impact on nearby environmental values, including areas potentially impacted by offsite components of the project such as Corner Inlet Ramsar Wetland. In addition, the cumulative effect of the project in combination with existing activities and projects (approved and proposed) in the broader area/region should be assessed for all significant adverse effects.	
4.2 Biodiversity and habitat	Evaluation objective To avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, minimise, potential adverse effects on protected native vegetation and listed threatened species and their habitat and listed ecological communities, in both onshore and offshore environments, as well as address offset requirements consistent with state policies. Key issues • Direct or indirect loss of native vegetation or other habitat values due to project works or operational maintenance activities.	*Chapter 8 – Onshore Ecology* *Technical Report G – Onshore Ecology* *Chapter 23 – Victorian Marine Environment* *Technical Report B – Benthic Ecology* *Technical report C – Fish and Invertebrates* *Technical report D – Marine Mammals and Turtles*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Direct or indirect loss, disturbance and/or degradation of listed or other protected species and nearby habitat that may support listed or other protected flora, fauna or ecological communities. • Potential initiation or exacerbation of listed potentially threatening processes under the FFG Act. • Potential impacts on habitats within protected areas, such as national parks, state parks or other conservation reserves. • Potential impacts on planted native vegetation established through environmental programs. • Potential impacts on the ecological character and associated biodiversity values of Ramsar Wetlands. • Disruption to the movement of fauna between areas of habitat across the broader landscape, for example, through collisions with transmission line infrastructure. • Potential cumulative effects on listed threatened flora and fauna species, and their habitats, from the project in combination with other projects. • The availability of suitable offsets for the loss of native vegetation and habitat for listed threatened species under the FFG Act. Existing environment • Characterise the type, distribution and condition of biodiversity values within a suitable study area, comprising the project site and its environs, including native vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic/marine habitat and habitat corridors or linkages. • Identify planted or recovered vegetation established through environmental programs. • Describe the biodiversity values that could be directly or indirectly affected by the project, including: – Native vegetation and any ecological communities listed under the FFG Act; and – Presence of, or suitable habitats for, protected flora and fauna species, in particular species listed under the FFG Act and DELWP advisory lists. • Describe any existing threats to biodiversity values, including but not limited to: – Historic or ongoing disturbance or alteration of habitat conditions (e.g. habitat fragmentation, severance of wildlife corridors or habitat linkages, changes to water quantity or quality and fire hazards); – Potentially threatening process listed under the FFG Act; and – The presence of any declared weeds, pathogens and pest animals within and in the vicinity of the project area. • Describe any trends observed in existing biodiversity values, including but not limited to historic or ongoing increases or declines in populations or communities, including their reasons where known.	*Technical report E – Ornithology and Bats*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Characterisation of the existing environment is to be informed by relevant databases, literature (and published data), community observations (including citizen science and information from residents and landholders in or adjacent to the area of interest), appropriate targeted and/or seasonal surveys and modelling of the potential and actual presence of threatened species and communities consistent with DELWP survey guidelines, conservation advices and threatened species recovery plans or action statements. Where surveys do not identify a listed species or community, but past records and/or habitat analysis suggest that it may occur, a precautionary approach to the further investigation and assessment of its occurrence should be applied. Likely effects • Assess the direct and indirect effects of the project including feasible design, location and alignment alternatives, and including transport route upgrades and other ancillary activities, on native vegetation, listed ecological communities, and listed threatened and other protected flora species. • Assess the direct and indirect effects of the project and feasible alternatives, on listed threatened and other protected fauna species under the FFG Act and/or DELWP advisory lists or their habitats. • Assess the direct and indirect effects on planted or recovered native vegetation established through environmental programs. • Assess the direct and indirect effects of the project during construction and operation on biodiversity values, including: – Disturbance or alteration of habitat conditions (e.g. habitat fragmentation, severance of wildlife corridors or habitat linkages, displacement due to avoidance of project infrastructure, changes to water quantity or quality and fire hazards); – Disturbance through noise or vibration in the offshore environment; – Disturbance through changed shipping activities due to the project; – Direct removal of individuals or destruction of habitat; – Threats of mortality of listed threatened or other protected fauna (including site and species specific risk-factors); and – The presence and potential spread of any declared weeds, pathogens and pest animals within and in the vicinity of the project area. • Assess the potential effects on listed threatened or other protected fauna species having considered issues and experiences with similar projects elsewhere in the world, as well as being cognisant of unique values existing in this locale. • Assess the potential impacts on habitat connectivity of listed or other protected species, both onshore and offshore, including but not limited to migratory species. • Assess the potential cumulative effects on listed threatened or other protected fauna species, and their habitats, from the project in combination with other projects that might have similar types of impacts.	

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	Mitigation measures • Identify and describe potential alternatives, proposed design options and mitigation measures and their expected effectiveness in avoidance or reduction of significant effects on any flora, fauna and ecological communities listed on the FFG Act or DELWP advisory lists or other protected species or protected area estate. Provide clear statements noting which avoidance and/or mitigation measure will be committed to. • Identify staging or timing options for works that could help to avoid or minimise adverse effects on seasonal values (e.g. migratory species, breeding behaviour). • Justify and describe the assumptions and level of uncertainty associated with the proposed measures achieving their desired outcomes. • Describe the application of the three-step approach to; avoiding the removal of native vegetation, minimising impacts from removal of native vegetation that cannot be avoided, and providing offsets to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal of native vegetation. Performance objectives • Describe and evaluate proposed commitments to manage residual effects of the project on biodiversity values, including an outline of an offset strategy to secure appropriate offsets to satisfy state offset requirements. • Develop contingency measures to be implemented in the event of unintended adverse residual effects (including ineffective mitigation) on flora and fauna values requiring further management.	
4.3 Water and catchment values	Evaluation objective To minimise adverse effects on water (including groundwater, waterway, wetland, estuarine, intertidal and marine) quality and movement. Key issues • The potential for adverse effects on the functions, values and beneficial uses of surface water environments, such as interception or diversion of flows or changed water quality or flow regimes. • The potential for adverse effects on the functions, values and beneficial uses of groundwater due to the project's shore crossing construction. • The potential for adverse effects to coastal landforms, including changes to hydrodynamic and sediment transport as a result of the project. • The potential for adverse effects on nearby and downstream water environments due to changed flow regimes, floodplain storage, run-off rates, water quality changes, or other waterway conditions, including in the context of climate change projections. • The potential for disturbance of contaminated, saline, dispersive or acid sulphate soils.	*Chapter 9 – Groundwater* *Technical report H – Groundwater* *Chapter 10 – Surface Water* *Technical report I – Surface Water* *Chapter 24 – Victorian Marine Protected Areas* *Technical Report F – Marine Protected Areas* *Technical Report A – Coastal Processes and Sediment Transport*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Potential effects to values through spills of fuels or chemicals or the introduction of invasive species. Existing environment • Describe marine, estuarine, intertidal and freshwater waters and their beneficial uses that could be affected by the project, such as from changed water quality, or water movement. • Characterise the local groundwater quality and behaviour, including the protected beneficial uses and values and identifying any GDEs that might be affected by the project during construction. • Characterise soil types and structures in the project area and identify the potential location and disturbance of dispersive, acid sulphate, saline or potentially contaminated soils, or soils of other special characteristics that could affect or be affected by the project. Likely effects • Identify and evaluate effects of the project on groundwater, waterway, wetland, estuarine, intertidal and marine waters potentially affected by project works, including with appropriate consideration of climate change scenarios and possible cumulative effects. • Identify and assess potential residual effects of the project on soil stability, erosion and the exposure and disposal of contaminated or hazardous soils (e.g. acid sulphate soils). • Identify potential residual effects resulting from the generation, storage, treatment, transport and disposal of solid and liquid wastes. • Ensure a systems-based assessment where necessary, with marine water quality, hydrodynamics and marine ecology studies undertaken together. Mitigation • Identify and evaluate aspects of project works and operations, and proposed design refinement options or measures, that could avoid or minimise significant effects on groundwater, waterway, wetland, estuarine, intertidal and marine waters. • Describe further potential and proposed design options and measures that could avoid or minimise significant effects on groundwater, waterway, wetland, estuarine, intertidal and marine waters during the project's construction and operation, including response measures for environmental incidents. • Describe potential and proposed design options and measures that could avoid or minimise significant effects on soil stability. • Describe available options for treatment or disposal of the various categories of solid and liquid wastes generated by the project. Performance criteria • Describe and evaluate the approach to monitoring and the proposed contingency measures to be implemented in the event of adverse residual effects on groundwater, waterway, wetland, estuarine, intertidal and marine waters requiring further management.	

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Describe contingency measures for responding to unexpected but foreseeable impacts such as disturbance of acid sulphate soils	
4.4 Cultural heritage	Evaluation objective To avoid or minimise adverse effects on Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage and associated values. Key issues • Potential for adverse effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage values (including underwater Aboriginal cultural heritage, tangible and/or intangible), both known and unknown. • Potential for adverse effects on historic cultural heritage values (including underwater cultural heritage and archaeology), both known and unknown. • Potential for permanent loss of heritage values. Existing environment • Review land use history, previous studies and relevant registers to identify areas with known or potential Aboriginal cultural heritage value. • Identify and characterise Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or areas of sensitivity, and intangible cultural heritage values potentially impacted by the project in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties and traditional owner groups. • Characterise the seafloor to attempt to reconstruct submerged landscapes utilizing relevant survey data, to identify submerged Aboriginal tangible and/or intangible cultural heritage. • Identify and document known, and previously unidentified places, sites, objects and/or artefacts of historic cultural heritage significance potentially impacted by the project, including any areas of significant archaeological interest, in accordance with Heritage Victoria guidelines. Likely effects • Assess the potential effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage resulting from the project and alternatives. • Assess the potential effects on sites and places of historic cultural heritage significance. Assessments are to be undertaken in accordance with the Heritage Act 2017, Heritage Victoria's Guidelines for Conducting Archaeological Surveys (2020) or updates and other guidance documents. Maps of site extents showing their proximity to proposed works should be provided. Mitigation • Describe and evaluate proposed design, management or site protection measures that could avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects on known or potential Aboriginal or historical cultural heritage values. • Develop management and contingency measures in accordance with the requirements for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. Performance criteria	*Chapter 13 – Onshore Aboriginal Cultural Heritage* *Technical Report K – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage* *Technical Report Z – Submerged Aboriginal Cultural Heritage* *Chapter 14 – Historical Heritage* *Technical Report L – Historical Heritage*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Outline any proposed commitments to mitigate and manage residual effects on sites and places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance (within the framework of a CHMP as appropriate). • Outline any proposed commitments to mitigate and manage residual effects on sites and places of historical heritage significance, including site investigation and recording procedures	
4.5 Landscape and visual	Evaluation objective To minimise and manage potential adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity. Key issues • Potential effects on significant landscape values in the vicinity of the project, especially national parks, other reserves and areas formally identified for their landscape values, such as within the Wellington, South Gippsland and LaTrobe Shire planning schemes. • Potential for nearby residents and communities to be exposed to significant effects on visual amenity from project infrastructure Existing environment • Characterise the landscape character, features and values of the project area and its environs. • Identify public and private view sheds to the project and characterise visual values of the area, including dark skies. • Identify the components of the project that may result in a significant visual amenity effect. • Identify viewsheds in which the project site features, including from nearby residences (where permitted), public lookouts, tourist attractions, roads and key vantage points in the vicinity. • Identify existing built features within the landscape and their impact on the existing landscape and visual setting. Likely effects • Assess the landscape and visual amenity effects of the project, including on public and private views. Use photomontages and other visual techniques to support the assessment. • Assess the potential for cumulative impacts associated with the development of the project in the context of existing built infrastructure, as well as nearby proposed/approved developments (where such information is publicly available). Mitigation • Outline and evaluate any potential design and siting options that could avoid and minimise potential effects on landscape and visual amenity of neighbouring residences and communities and additional management strategies that may further minimise potential effects. Performance criteria	*Technical Report U – Seascape, Landscape and Visual*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Describe proposed measures to manage residual effects on landscape and visual amenity values, including in the context of potential rehabilitation and restoration work.	
4.6 Land use and socioeconomic	Evaluation objective To avoid and minimise adverse effects on land use, social fabric of the community, local infrastructure, and local businesses and tourism during construction, operation and decommissioning of the project. Key issues • Potential disruption to existing and/or proposed land uses, with associated economic and social effects. • Potential effects on social cohesion resulting from disruption of existing networks or effects on community facilities and recreational activities. • Potential economic and social effects from the project, such as through disruption of business, industry (including agriculture and fisheries) or tourism opportunities. Existing environment • Describe the project area and its environs in terms of land use (existing and proposed), residences, zoning and overlays and public infrastructure that support current and strategic patterns of economic and social activity. • Describe the local community and social setting, including businesses and industry within the area such as agriculture and fisheries. • Characterise tourism usage of the project area and its surroundings, including national parks and reserves. Likely effects • Identify potential long and short-term effects of the project on existing and potential land uses and public infrastructure. • Identify potential social impacts from the project, including through changes interfering with the current usages of private land and community facilities in the area Identify potential economic effects of the project, considering direct and indirect consequences on employment, local and regional economy and industries in the area, including agriculture and fisheries. • Identify potential impacts from workforce requirements such as additional demand on housing and public services in the immediate and broader area. • Identify potential impact on tourism and tourist attractions within the project area and surrounding natural reserves. Mitigation • Demonstrate whether the project is consistent with relevant planning scheme provisions and other relevant policies (including approved management plans for adjacent public land). • Outline measures to minimise potential adverse effects of the project and enhance benefits to the community and local businesses and industry.	*Volume 3, Chapter 6 – Agriculture and Forestry* *Technical Report S – Agriculture and Forestry* *Chapter 20 – Social* *Technical Report R – Social* *Chapter 21 – Business and Tourism* *Technical Report Q – Business and Tourism* *Chapter 22 – Land Use and Planning* *Technical Report T – Land Use Planning* *Technical Report N – Commercial and Recreational Fisheries*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	Performance criteria • Describe proposed measures to mitigate, offset or manage social, land use and economic outcomes for communities living, and businesses operating, within the project area and its environs as well as proposed measures to enhance beneficial outcomes.	
4.7 Community amenity, safety, roads and transport	Evaluation objective To avoid, or minimise where avoidance is not possible, adverse effects on community amenity and health and safety, with regard to noise, vibration, dust, the transport network, fire risk management and electromagnetic radiation. Key issues • Potential for adverse effects resulting from project-related noise or vibration at sensitive receptors during construction and operation. • Managing traffic disruptions for residents, businesses and travellers during the construction of the project. • Potential damage to local and regional road surfaces along transport routes and increased risk to road safety on transport routes. • Implications of the project for fire risk management on surrounding land, including fire ignition risks arising from the project. • Risks to human health, including due to electromagnetic emissions radiation from the project. Existing environment • Describe the existing, approved and committed transport network in and around the project, including proposed construction transport route options, in terms of capacity, condition, accessibility and potentially sensitive users. • Characterise the ambient noise environment in and adjacent to the project in established residential, farming, commercial and open space areas and at other sensitive land use and high amenity locations. • Identify sensitive receptors that could be affected by noise, dust or electromagnetic radiation from project construction or operation. • Characterise the fire risks associated with the project area and its surrounds. Likely effects • Assess the potential effects of construction activities on the transport network, including safety, amenity and accessibility impacts. • Identify any works required to accommodate project traffic during construction (having regard to the type and dimensions of vehicles and loads) and potential environment effects. • Assess the potential effects of the project on noise and vibration amenity at sensitive receptors, including through consideration of relevant EPA publications.	*Chapter 18 – Air Quality* *Technical Report Y – Air Quality* *Chapter 16 – Onshore Noise and Vibration* *Technical Report W – Onshore Noise and Vibration* *Chapter 15 – Electromagnetic Field Exposure* *Technical Report V, – Electromagnetic Field Exposure* *Chapter 17 – Traffic* *Technical Report X – Traffic and Transport*

Section	Scoping requirement	Section addressed
	• Assess the risks that the project could cause a fire affecting land and assets within or outside the project area. • Assess the implications of the project for fire risk management or bushfire suppression activities within the project area or in its vicinity. • Identify potential effects of electromagnetic radiation from the project on sensitive receptors. • Identify and assess risks to the project's ongoing sustainability including susceptibility to extreme weather events in the context of modelled climate change scenarios. Mitigation • Outline any required transport infrastructure works or upgrades required to address adverse impacts of the project construction and operation, including impacts on accessibility (e.g. access road construction and upgrades). • Describe and evaluate the proposed traffic management and safety principles to address changed traffic conditions during construction and operation of the project. • Describe and propose siting, design, mitigation and management measures to control dust from construction activities. • Describe and evaluate both potential and proposed design responses and/or other mitigation measures (e.g. staging/scheduling of works) which could minimise noise and vibration during construction and operation. • Describe and assess potential measures for avoiding, mitigating or managing impacts of electromagnetic radiation on human health. • Identify measures for avoiding, managing and minimising fire risks arising from the project, having regard to planning and other policy provisions. Performance criteria • Describe proposed measures to manage and monitor effects on community amenity, health and safety, the transport network, fire risk management and electromagnetic radiation and identify likely residual effects, including compliance with standards and proposed trigger levels for initiating contingency measures. • Describe contingency measures for responding to unexpected impacts to community amenity, health and safety, the transport network, fire risk management and electromagnetic radiation resulting from the project during construction and operation of the project	