Matters of National Environmental Significance Cross Reference Table





EPBC Act Assessment Requirements (Supplementary SEARs) – Reference Summary

Section	Assessment Requirement	EIS Reference
1	Background and description of the action	Sections 1 and 2
2	The environment including matters of national environmental significance (MNES) ¹	
	The Assessment Documentation must include a description of the environment and management practices of the proposal site and the surrounding areas and other areas that may be affected by the action. Include all relevant MNES protected by controlling provisions of Part 3 of the EPBC Act (see Attachment 2 for MNES specific to the project):	
	(d) Listed threatened species and communities (including suitable habitat that are or are likely to be present in the vicinity of the site, including the following details:	Section 4.9 and Appendices E and F
	 Details of the scope, timing/effort (survey season/s) and methodology for studies or surveys used to provide information on the listed species/community/habitat at the site (and in areas that may be impacted by the project). 	
	(h) A description of the water resource environment relevant to the coal seam gas development or large coal mining development.	Sections 4.7 and 4.8 and Appendices C and D
3	Impacts ¹	
	(a) The Assessment Documentation must include a description of all of the relevant impacts of the action on MNES (identified in Section 2). Impacts during the construction, operational and (if relevant) the decommissioning phases of the project must be addressed, and the following information provided:	
	i. a description of the relevant impacts of the action;	Sections 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9 and Appendices C,
	 a detailed analysis of the nature and extent of the likely direct, indirect and consequential impacts relevant to MNES, including likely short-term and long- term impacts – refer to the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance for guidance on the various types of impact that need to be considered; 	D, E and F
	 iii. a statement whether any relevant impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible; 	
	 any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts; 	
	v. an explanation of how Indigenous stakeholders' views of the action's impacts to biodiversity and cultural heritage have been sought and considered in the assessment. Including where relevant, how guidelines published by the Commonwealth in relation to consulting with Indigenous peoples for proposed actions that are under assessment have been considered and applied; and	Section 4.10 and Appendix G
	vi. where the proposal is a coal seam gas development or large coal mining development and likely to significantly impact on a water resource	Sections 4.7 and 4.8 and Appendices C, D
	(b) The Assessment Documentation should identify and address cumulative impacts, where potential project impacts are in addition to existing impacts of other activities (including known potential future expansions or developments by the proponent and other proponents in the region and vicinity).	Sections 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9 and Appendices C, D, E and F
	(c) The Assessment Documentation should also provide a detailed assessment of any likely impact that this proposed action may facilitate on the relevant MNES at the local, regional, state and national scale.	Sections 4.7, 4.8, 4.9 and Appendices C, D, E and F

¹ World Heritage properties, National Heritage places, wetlands of international importance (listed under the Ramsar Convention), migratory species protected under international agreements, Commonwealth marine areas, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and nuclear actions (including uranium mines) are not applicable to the action, as described in the EPBC Act referral for the action and controlled action decision (EPBC 2015/7431).



EPBC Act Assessment Requirements (Supplementary SEARs) - Reference Summary (Cont.)

Section	Assessment Requirement	EIS Reference
4	Avoidance and mitigation measures/alternatives ¹	
	Avoidance and Mitigation Measures	
	The Assessment Documentation also must take into account relevant agreements and plans that cover impacts on MNES including but not limited to:	Section 4.9 and Appendices E and F
	any recovery plan, conservation advice for the species or community;	
	any threat abatement plan for a process that threatens the species;	
	any wildlife conservation plan for the species;	
	the IESC Information Guidelines for Proposals Relating to the Development of Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mines where there is a Significant Impact on Water Resources	Sections 4.7 and 4.8 and Appendices C and D
	The Assessment Documentation must include, and substantiate, specific and detailed descriptions of the proposed avoidance and mitigation measures, based on best available practices and must include the following elements:	Section 7
	(a) A consolidated list of avoidance and mitigation measures proposed to be undertaken to prevent or minimise the relevant impacts of the action on MNES, including:	
	 a description of proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to deal with relevant impacts of the action, including mitigation measures proposed to be taken by State/Territory governments, local governments or the proponent; 	
	 assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the mitigation measures, including the scale and intensity of impacts of the proposed action and the on-ground benefits to be gained through each of these measures; 	
	iii. a description of the outcomes that the avoidance and mitigation measures will achieve;	
	iv. any statutory or policy basis for the mitigation measures; and	
	v. the cost of the mitigation measures.	
	(b) A detailed outline of a plan for the continuing management, mitigation and monitoring of relevant MNES impacts of the action, including a description of the outcomes that will be achieved and any provisions for independent environmental auditing.	
	Where appropriate, each project phase (construction, operation, decommission) must be addressed separately. It must state the environmental outcomes, performance criteria, monitoring, reporting, corrective action, contingencies, responsibility and timing for each environmental issue.	
	(c) The name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program.	

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EPBC Act Assessment Requirements (Supplementary SEARs) – Reference Summary (Cont.)

Section	Assessment Requirement	EIS Reference
	Alternatives The Assessment Documentation must include any feasible alternatives to the action to the extent reasonably practicable, including:	
	(a) if relevant, the alternative of taking no action;	Section 6.7
	(b) a comparative description of the impacts of each alternative on the triggered MNES protected by controlling provisions of Part 3 of the EPBC Act for the action; and	
	(c) sufficient detail to make clear why any alternative is preferred to another.	
	Short, medium and long-term advantages and disadvantages of the options must be discussed.	
5	Residual impacts/offsets ¹	
	The Assessment Documentation must provide details of:	
	(a) the likely residual impacts on MNES that are likely to occur after the proposed activities to avoid and mitigate all impacts are taken into account.	Sections 4.7, 4.8, 4.9 and Appendices C, D, E
	 Include the reasons why avoidance or mitigation of impacts is not reasonably achieved; and 	
	ii. Identify the significant residual impacts on MNES.	
	Offset Package	
	The Assessment Documentation must provide:	
	(a) Details of the offset package to compensate for significant impacts on MNES;	Sections 4.9 and 7
	(b) An analysis of how the offset package meets the requirements of the EPBC Act Offsets Policy, a discussion on the feasibility and the workings outlined in Attachment 3; or	Section 4.9 and Appendix E
	(c) Details of how the offset meets an endorsed state offsets policy.	Section 4.9 and Appendix E
6	Environmental record of person(s) proposing to take the action	Section 6
7	Economic and social matters	
	The economic and social impacts of the action, both positive and negative, must be analysed. Matters of interest include:	
	(a) details of any public consultation activities undertaken, and their outcomes;.	Section 3
	(b) details of any consultation with Indigenous stakeholders.	Section 4.10 and Appendix G
	 (c) projected economic costs and benefits of the Project, including the basis for their estimation through cost/benefit analysis or similar studies; 	Section 4.16 and Appendix M

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EPBC Act Assessment Requirements (Supplementary SEARs) – Reference Summary (Cont.)

Section	Assessment Requirement	EIS Reference
	(d) employment opportunities expected to be generated by the Project (including construction and operational phases.	Sections 2, 4.16 and 4.17 and Appendices M
	Economic and social impacts should be considered at the local, regional and national levels. Details of the relevant cost and benefits of alternative options to the proposed action, as identified in Section 4 above, should also be included. Identification of affected parties is required, including a statement mentioning any communities that may be affected and describing their views.	and N
8	Information sources provided in the assessment documentation	Sections 4 and 8 and Appendices A to Q
9	Conclusion	
	An overall conclusion as to the environmental acceptability of the proposal on each MNES, including:	
	 (a) a discussion on the consideration with the requirements of the EPBC Act, including the objects of the EPBC Act, the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the precautionary principle; 	Section 6
	(b) reasons justifying undertaking the proposal in the manner proposed, including the acceptability of the avoidance and mitigation measures; and	Sections 4.9, 6 and 7 and Appendix E
	(c) if relevant, a discussion of residual impacts and any offsets and compensatory measures proposed or required for significant residual impacts on MNES, and the relative degree of compensation and acceptability.	Section 4.9 and Appendix E

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