APPROVAL

Goyder South Hybrid Renewable Energy Facility – OTL and Substation, Worlds End, SA (EPBC 2021/8959)

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133(1) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (the EPBC Act). Note that section 134(1A) of the EPBC Act applies to this approval, which provides in general terms that if the approval holder authorises another person to undertake any part of the action, the approval holder must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the other person is informed of any conditions attached to this approval, and that the other person complies with any such condition.

Details

Person to whom the approval Goyder Wind Farm Common Asset Pty Ltd

is granted (approval holder)

ACN of approval holder 649 966 138

Action To construct and operate an overhead transmission line and

substation within the Regional Council of Goyder, South Australia.

[See EPBC Act referral 2021/8959].

Approval decision

My decisions on whether or not to approve the taking of the action for the purposes of each controlling provision for the action are as follows.

Controlling Provisions

Listed Threatened Species and Communities	
Section 18	Approve
Section 18A	Approve

Period for which the approval has effect

This approval has effect until 31 December 2057.

Decision-maker

Name and position	Kylie Calhoun	
	Assistant Secretary	
	Environment Assessments West (WA, SA, NT) Branch	
Signatura		

Lylie Cal

Signature

Date of decision 28 July 2022

Conditions of approval

This approval is subject to the conditions under the EPBC Act as set out in ANNEXURE A.

ANNEXURE A – CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Part A - Conditions specific to the action

Impact limits

- 1. The approval holder must not:
 - a. clear more than 1.08 hectares of Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia TEC within the project area;
 - b. **impact** any **Spiller's Wattle** or **Peep Hill Hop-bush**, including within the locations shown in the maps at <u>Attachment B</u> and <u>Attachment C</u>, respectively; and
 - c. **impact** any **protected matter**, except for what is allowed under condition 1.a., within the **project area** or within **access tracks**.

Environmental management plans

- 2. To minimise **impacts** to **protected matters** during **construction** and **operation**, the approval holder must implement the **CEMP**.
- 3. For the protection of the **Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia TEC**, the approval holder must implement the **INTG TEC Management Plan** for the duration of this approval.

Environmental offsets

Offset Management Plan

4. To compensate for residual **significant impacts** to the **Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia TEC**, the approval holder must submit to the **Department** for the **Minister's** approval an Offset Management Plan (OMP) within 6 months of the date of this approval.

The OMP must:

- a. be consistent with the **Environmental Management Plan Guidelines**;
- include a reference to the EPBC Act approval conditions to which the OMP refers;
- include summary information on the residual significant impacts to the Iron-grass Natural
 Temperate Grassland of South Australia TEC that will be compensated for by the offset(s);
- d. identify a suitable environmental offset(s) to compensate for residual **significant impacts** to the **Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia TEC** which meets the requirements of the **Environmental Offsets Policy** to the satisfaction of the **Minister**;
- e. include the size of the proposed offset(s) in hectares, maps that visually describe the location and accurate boundaries of the offset(s), in accordance with the **Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects**, and detailed baseline habitat quality information on the proposed offset(s);
- f. specify the nature and timing of the proposed legal mechanism to secure the offset area(s), with proposed contingency measures for if the specified legal mechanism is not established within the specified timeframe;
- commit to measurable and achievable ecological benefits and provide timeframes for their achievement;
- h. detail how the offset(s) will be protected, and how ecological benefits will be maintained once achieved;
- i. detail a monitoring program which will determine progress towards achievement and maintenance of the ecological benefits of the proposed offset(s), which must include:

- i. measurable performance indicators to monitor the progress of the offset towards the achievement of the ecological benefits;
- ii. trigger values for corrective actions; and
- iii. the timing and frequency of monitoring to detect trigger values and changes in the performance indicators;
- j. include an assessment of risks to achieving the ecological benefit(s) and what risk management strategies will be applied to address these;
- k. specify how and at what frequency offset(s) management results, monitoring program findings and assessments of ecological benefits will be reported to the **Department** and the public;
- I. propose corrective actions, if trigger values are reached, or if performance indicators are not attained, to ensure ecological benefit are achieved and maintained once achieved;
- m. include links to referenced **plans** and applicable conditions of approval (including State approval conditions), if any; and
- n. justify and specify the period for which the OMP will be implemented.

The approval holder must not **commence operation** until the OMP has been approved by the **Minister** in writing. The approval holder must implement the approved OMP for the period described in the approved OMP.

- 5. If the OMP (required under Condition 4) has not been approved by the **Minister** in writing within 18 months of the date of this approval, and the **Minister** notifies the approval holder that the submitted OMP is not suitable for approval, the **Minister** may, at least 2 months after so notifying the approval holder, approve a version of the OMP revised by the **Department**.
- 6. The approval holder must provide written evidence to the **Department** that the offset site(s) required under the approved OMP has/have been acquired and **secured** within 12 months of the OMP approval date. The approval holder must provide written evidence to the **Department** identifying the **legal securing mechanism** by which each offset site will be permanently protected for conservation within 10 **business days** of **securing** the offset.

Note: The approval holder may choose to combine the OMPs required as conditions of approval for other proposed elements of the **Goyder South Hybrid Renewable Energy Facility**. In this case, the approval holder must clearly demonstrate how the offset requirement(s) for each individual proposed element is being met and identify unique offset area(s) for each approved action geospatially.

Part B – Standard administrative conditions

Notification of date of commencement of the action

- 7. The approval holder must notify the **Department** in writing of the date of **commencement of the action** and the date of **commencement of operation** within 10 **business days** after the date of **commencement of the action** and after the date of **commencement of operation**.
- 8. If the **commencement of the action** does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not **commence the action** without the prior written agreement of the **Minister**.

Compliance records

- 9. The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.
- 10. If the **Department** makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of **compliance records** to the **Department** within the timeframe specified in the request.

Note: **Compliance records** may be subject to audit by the **Department** or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the **EPBC Act**, and or used to verify compliance with the conditions. Summaries of the result of an audit may be published on the **Department**'s website or through the general media.

Submission and publication of plans

- 11. The approval holder must:
 - a. submit **plans** electronically to the **Department** for approval by the **Minister**;
 - b. unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**, publish each **plan** on the **website** within 20 **business days** of the date:
 - i. of this approval decision if the version of the plan to be implemented is specified in these conditions; or
 - ii. the **plan** is approved by the **Minister** if these conditions require that the **plan** be approved by the **Minister**; or
 - iii. the **plan** is approved by the responsible State minister or State authority if the **plan** is required as part of the **SA development approval**.
 - iv. a revised action management plan is submitted to the **Minister** or the **Department** if the **plan** is submitted in accordance with condition 23;
 - c. exclude or redact **sensitive ecological data** from **plans** published on the **website** or provided to a member of the public; and
 - d. keep **plans** published on the **website** until the end date of this approval.
- 12. The approval holder must ensure that any **monitoring data** (including **sensitive ecological data**), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under a **plan** is prepared in accordance with the **Guidelines for Biological Survey and Mapped Data**, and submitted electronically to the **Department** in accordance with the requirements of the **plan**.

Annual compliance reporting

- 13. The approval holder must prepare a **compliance report** for each 12 month period following the date of **commencement of the action**, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the **Minister**. The approval holder must:
 - a. publish each **compliance report** on the **website** within 60 **business days** following the relevant 12 month period;
 - notify the **Department** by email that a **compliance report** has been published on the **website**and provide the weblink for the **compliance report** within 5 **business days** of the date of
 publication;
 - c. keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires;
 - d. exclude or redact **sensitive ecological data** from **compliance reports** published on the **website**; and
 - e. where any **sensitive ecological data** has been excluded from the version published, submit the full **compliance report** to the **Department** within 5 **business days** of publication.

Note: Compliance reports may be published on the Department's website.

Reporting non-compliance

- 14. The approval holder must notify the **Department** in writing of any: **incident**; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in **plans**. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than 2 **business days** after becoming aware of the **incident** or non-compliance. The notification must specify:
 - a. any condition which is or may be in breach;
 - b. a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance; and

- c. the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the **incident** and/or non-compliance. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available.
- 15. The approval holder must provide to the **Department** the details of any **incident** or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in **plans** as soon as practicable and no later than 10 **business days** after becoming aware of the **incident** or non-compliance, specifying:
 - a. any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future;
 - b. the potential **impacts** of the **incident** or non-compliance; and
 - c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.

Independent audit

- 16. The approval holder must ensure that **independent audits** of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested in writing by the **Minister**.
- 17. For each **independent audit**, the approval holder must:
 - a. provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the **Department**;
 - only commence the **independent audit** once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the **Department**; and
 - c. submit an audit report to the **Department** within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.
- 18. The approval holder must publish the audit report on the **website** within 10 **business days** of receiving the **Department's** approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the **website** until the end date of this approval.

Revision of action management plans

- 19. The approval holder may, at any time, apply to the Minister for a variation to an action management plan approved by the Minister or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, by submitting an application in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the EPBC Act. If the Minister approves a revised action management plan (RAMP) then, from the date specified, the approval holder must implement the RAMP in place of the previous action management plan.
- 20. The approval holder may choose to revise the action management plan approved by the Minister under condition 3, or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact.
- 21. If the approval holder makes the choice under condition 20 to revise an action management plan without submitting it for approval, the approval holder must:
 - a. notify the **Department** in writing that the approved action management plan has been revised and provide the **Department** with:
 - i. an electronic copy of the RAMP;
 - ii. an electronic copy of the RAMP marked up with track changes to show the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP;
 - iii. an explanation of the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP;
 - iv. the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a **new or increased impact**; and

- v. written notice of the date on which the approval holder will implement the RAMP (RAMP implementation date), being at least 20 **business days** after the date of providing notice of the revision of the action management plan, or a date agreed to in writing with the **Department**.
- subject to condition 23, implement the RAMP from the RAMP implementation date.
- 22. The approval holder may revoke their choice to implement a RAMP under condition 20 at any time by giving written notice to the **Department**. If the approval holder revokes the choice under condition 20, the approval holder must implement the action management plan in force immediately prior to the revision undertaken under condition 20.
- 23. If the **Minister** gives a notice to the approval holder that the **Minister** is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would be likely to have a **new or increased impact**, then:
 - a. condition 20 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the RAMP; and
 - b. the approval holder must implement the action management plan specified by the **Minister** in the notice.
- 24. At the time of giving the notice under condition 23, the **Minister** may also notify that for a specified period of time, condition 20 does not apply for one or more specified action management plans.

Note: conditions 20, 21, 22 and 23 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the **EPBC Act** which allows the approval holder to submit a revised action management plan, at any time, to the **Minister** for approval.

Completion of the action

25. Within 20 business days after the completion of the action, and, in any event, before this approval expires, the approval holder must notify the **Department** electronically of the date of completion of the action and provide completion data.

Part C - Definitions

In these conditions, except where contrary intention is expressed, the following definitions are used:

Access tracks means the areas enclosed by the dashed blue lines, dashed red lines and dashed green lines and labelled 'existing public road', 'existing private access track' and 'new access track', respectively, on the maps at Attachment D for the purpose of establishing, using and maintaining access and maintenance routes to the overhead transmission line and substation located within the **project area**.

Business day means a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday in the state or territory of the action.

CEMP means the Construction Environmental Management Plan required under and currently approved in accordance with the requirements of condition 9 of the **SA development approval**.

Clear/Clearing means the cutting down, felling, thinning, logging, removing, killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting or burning of vegetation.

Commencement of the action/Commence the action means the first instance of any specified activity associated with the action including clearing and construction. Commencement of the action/Commence the action does not include minor physical disturbance necessary to:

- i. undertake pre-clearance surveys or monitoring programs;
- ii. install signage and /or temporary fencing to prevent unapproved use of the project area;
- iii. protect environmental and property assets from fire, weeds and pests, including installation of temporary fencing, and use of existing surface access tracks;

- iv. install temporary site facilities for persons undertaking pre-commencement activities so long as these are located where they have no **impact** on the **protected matters**; or
- v. undertaking geotechnical investigations if it causes only minor physical disturbance and is required well in advance of most site works to inform design.

Commence operation/Commencement of operation means the first instance the transmission line and substation are used for commercial purposes.

Completion data means an environmental report and spatial data clearly detailing how the conditions of this approval have been met. The **Department**'s chosen spatial data format is **shapefile**.

Completion of the action means the date on which all specified activities associated with the action have permanently ceased.

Compliance records means all documentation or other material in whatever form required to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of approval in the approval holder's possession or that are within the approval holder's power to obtain lawfully.

Compliance report(s) means written reports:

- i. providing accurate and complete details of compliance, **incidents**, and non-compliance with the conditions and the **plans**;
- ii. consistent with the *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines*, Commonwealth of Australia 2014;
- iii. include a **shapefile** of any clearance of any **protected matters**, or their habitat, undertaken within the relevant 12 month period;
- iv. annexing a schedule of all **plans** prepared and in existence in relation to the conditions during the relevant 12 month period; and
- v. advising of the identity and current contact details of all persons authorised to act for the approval holder in relation to this approval.

Construct/Construction means the erection of a building or structure that is or is to be fixed to the ground and wholly or partially fabricated on-site; the alteration, maintenance, repair or demolition of any building or structure; preliminary site preparation work which involves breaking of the ground (including pile driving); the laying of pipes and other prefabricated materials in the ground, and any associated excavation work; but excluding the installation of temporary fences and signage.

Department means the Australian Government agency responsible for administering the **EPBC Act**.

Environmental Management Plan Guidelines means the *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines*, Commonwealth of Australia 2014.

Environmental Offsets Policy means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 Environmental Offsets Policy, Commonwealth of Australia 2012, or any subsequent official revision produced by the **Department**.

EPBC Act means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

Goyder South Hybrid Renewable Energy Facility is a renewable energy development located between Burra and Robertstown in the Mid North of South Australia. The **Goyder South Hybrid Renewable Energy Facility** includes, in addition to the action subject of this approval, the proposed actions described in the **EPBC Act** referrals EPBC 2021/8957, EPBC 2021/8958 and EPBC 2021/8960.

Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects means the *Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects*, Commonwealth of Australia 2021.

Guidelines for Biological Survey and Mapped Data means the *Guidelines for Biological Survey and Mapped Data*, Commonwealth of Australia 2018.

Impact (verb) means to cause any measurable direct or indirect disturbance or harmful change as a result of any activity associated with the action.

Incident means any event which has the potential to, or does, impact on one or more **protected matter**.

Independent audit means an audit conducted by an independent and **suitably qualified person** as detailed in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines*, Commonwealth of Australia 2019.

Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia TEC means the **EPBC Act** listed threatened ecological community (TEC) Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia (INTG).

INTG TEC Management Plan means the *Goyder South Hybrid Renewable Energy Facility INTG TEC Management Plan*, EBS Ecology 2022 (version 3 of 28 June 2022 or a subsequent revised version thereof approved by the **Minister** in writing).

Legal securing mechanism means the legal agreement and/or legally binding mechanism under relevant South Australia state legislation, or equivalent, implemented to provide enduring protection for the offsets against development incompatible with conservation.

Minister means the Australian Government Minister administering the **EPBC Act** including any delegate thereof.

Monitoring data means the data required to be recorded under the conditions of this approval.

New or increased impact means a new or increased environmental impact or risk relating to any **protected matter**, when compared to the likely impact of implementing the action management plan that has been approved by the **Minister** under condition 3, including any subsequent revisions approved by the **Minister**, as outlined in the *Guidance on 'new or increased impact'* relating to changes to approved management plans under EPBC Act environmental approvals, Commonwealth of Australia 2017.

Operation means the usage of the transmission line and substation for the purposes of transforming and/or redistributing electric current.

Peep Hill Hop-bush means the EPBC Act listed threatened species Dodonaea subglandulifera.

Plan(s) means any of the documents required to be prepared, approved by the **Minister**, implemented by the approval holder and/or published on the **website** in accordance with these conditions (includes action management plans and/or strategies).

Project area means the location of the action, represented by the area shown enclosed by the orange line labelled 'OTL and Substation Project Area' on the map at Attachment A.

Protected matter(s) means a matter protected under a controlling provision in Part 3 of the **EPBC Act** for which this approval has effect.

SA development approval means the approved development application number 422/V009/20 R1 (or subsequent approved revisions thereof) granted under section 131 (19) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (SA) for the **Goyder South Hybrid Renewable Energy Facility**.

Secure/secured/securing means to execute a legal agreement and/or legally binding mechanism under relevant South Australia state legislation, or equivalent, to provide enduring protection for the offsets against development incompatible with conservation.

Sensitive ecological data means data as defined in the *Sensitive Ecological Data – Access and Management Policy V1.0*, Commonwealth of Australia 2013.

Shapefile means location and attribute information of the action provided in an Esri shapefile format. Shapefiles must contain '.shp', '.shx', '.dbf' files and a '.prj' file that specifies the projection/geographic coordinate system used. Shapefiles must also include an '.xml' metadata file that describes the shapefile for discovery and identification purposes.

Significant impacts are **impacts** which are important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to their context or intensity, and assessed within the framework of the *Matters of National Environmental Significance – Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1*, Commonwealth of Australia 2013.

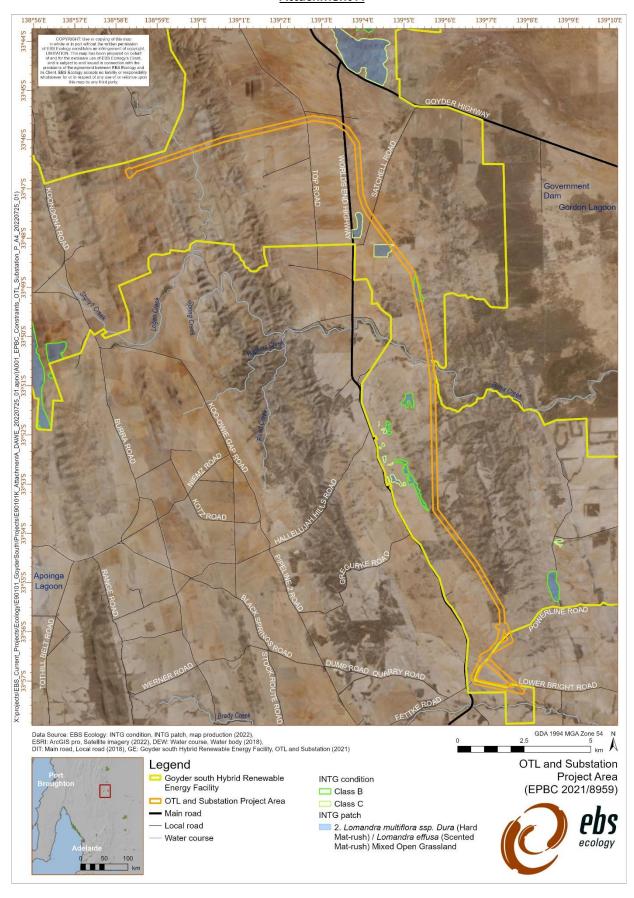
Spiller's Wattle means the **EPBC Act** listed threatened species *Acacia spilleriana*.

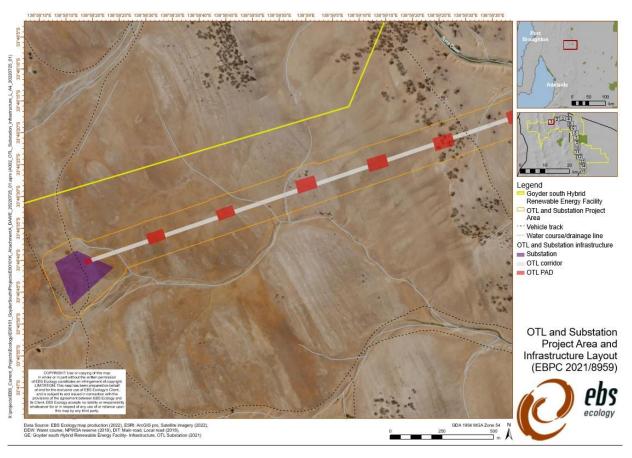
Suitably qualified person means a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills and/or experience related to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative independent assessment, advice and analysis on performance relative to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods and/or literature.

Website means a set of related web pages located under a single domain name attributed to the approval holder and available to the public.

ATTACHMENTS

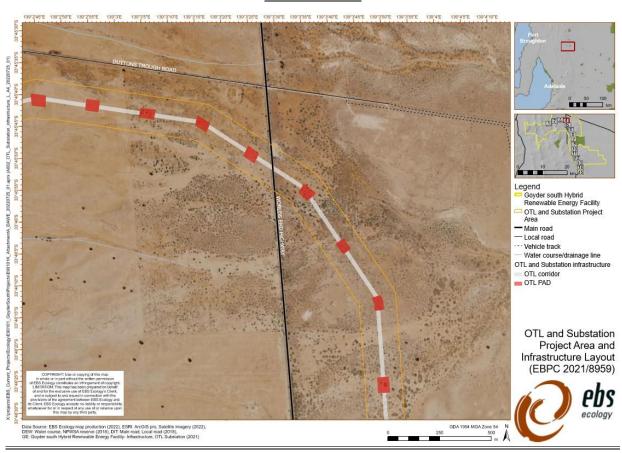
- 1. Attachment A Location of the overhead transmission line and substation infrastructure within the Goyder South Hybrid Renewable Energy Facility, and Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland (INTG) of South Australia threatened ecological community occurrences.
 - 1.a. <u>Attachments A1-A15</u> Large scale maps of the area depicted in <u>Attachment A</u>.
- 2. <u>Attachment B</u> Spiller's Wattle known occurrences.
- 3. Attachments C1-C3 Peep Hill Hop-bush known occurrences.
- 4. Attachment D Access tracks associated with the overhead transmission line and substation.
 - 4.a Attachments D1-D3 Large scale maps of the area depicted in Attachment D.

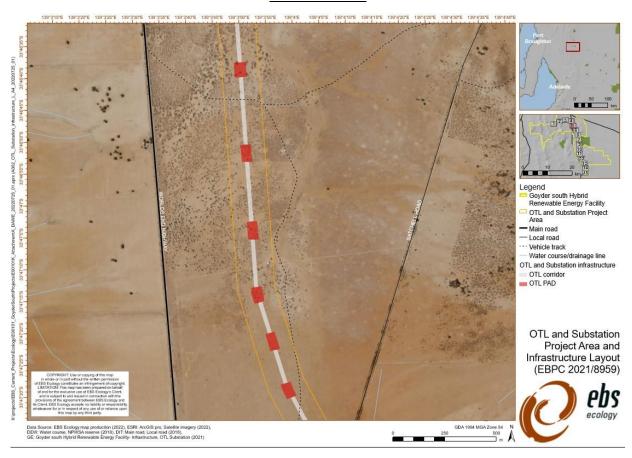






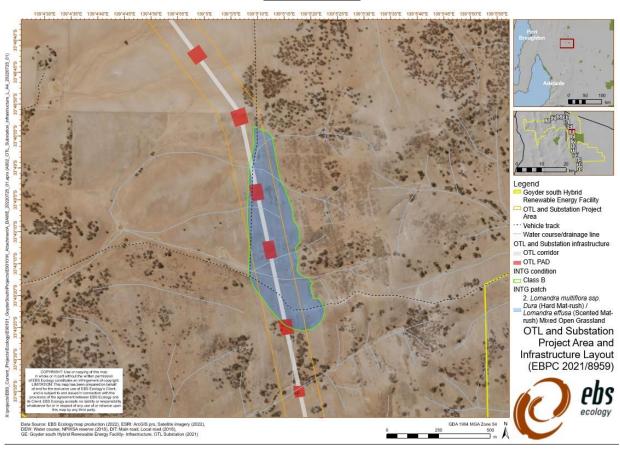






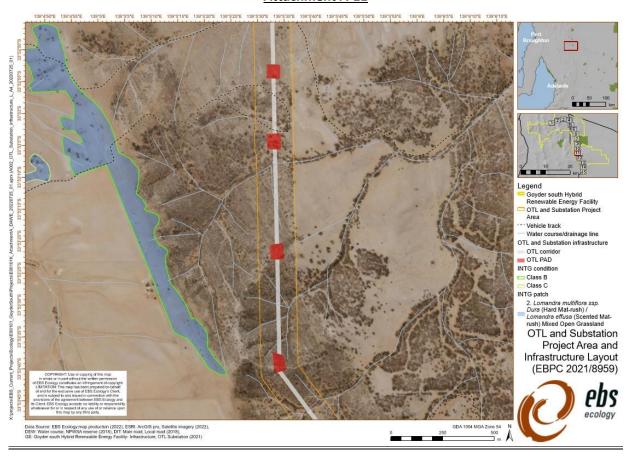






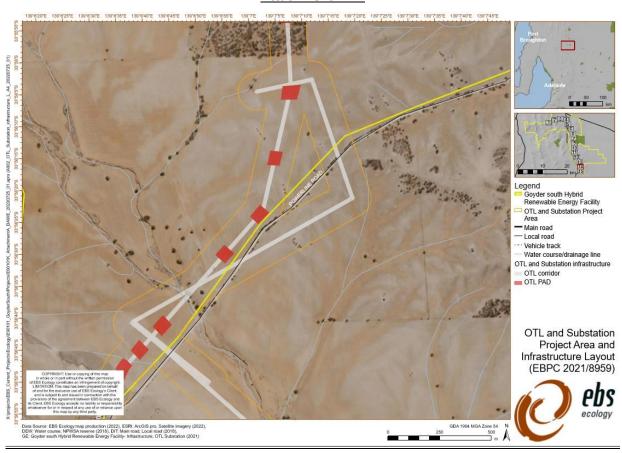


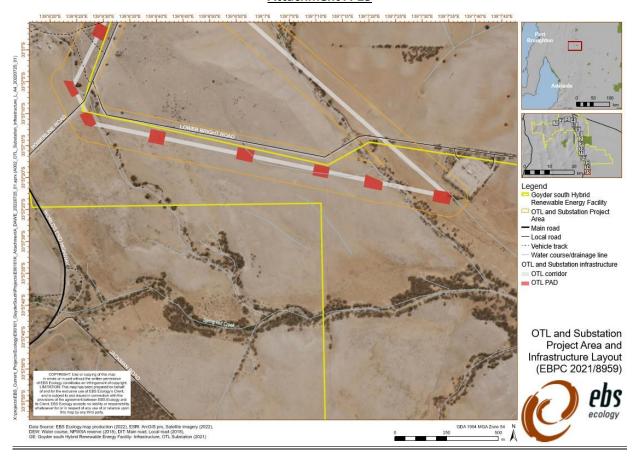












Attachment B









Attachment D

