

Form

Referral of a proposal under s. 38 of the EP Act

PART A: PROPONENT AND REFERRER INFORMATION AND PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

Referrer information

Who is referring this proposal?

☒ Proponent

☐ Decision-making authority

☐ Community member/third party

Name Ryan Hepworth

Signature



Position

Senior Assessment and Approvals Specialist

Organisation

Western Power

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Address

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Wellington Street

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WA

6000

Date

21/02/2024

Does the referrer request that the EPA treat any part of the proposal information in the referral as confidential?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Provide confidential information in a separate attachment.

Does the referrer confirm that they consent to receive correspondence electronically?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Referral declaration for proponent and Authorised representative:

I, **RYAN HEPWORTH** declare that I am authorised to refer this proposal on behalf of **ELECTRICITY NETWORKS CORPORATION T/A WESTERN POWER** and further declare that the information contained in this form is true and not misleading.

Date: 21/02/2024

Proponent information

Name of the proponent/s

Include Trading Name if relevant

Electricity Networks Corporation trading as Western Power

Australian Company Number(s)

☐

18 540 492 861

OR

Australian Business Number(s)

☒

Pre-referral discussions

Have you had pre-referral discussions with the EPA (including the EPA Services of DWER)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

<p><i>If so, provide name, date, and overview of discussions.</i></p>	<p>A pre-referral briefing of the project was provided to Mr Hans Jacob, Ms Tonja Boyd and Ms Erika Eto, DWER EPA Services, on 8 December 2023. Western Power provided a general overview of the project and summary of preliminary assessment of EPA factors (ENQ-0000917).</p>
<p>Proposal information</p>	
<p>Proposal name</p>	<p>Northern Terminal to Neerabup Terminal 330kV Transmission Line.</p>
<p>What is the proposal? (Include general description in the Instructions and template: How to identify the content of a proposal)</p>	<p>The Northern Terminal (NT) to Neerabup Terminal (NBT) 330kV Transmission Line proposal (the Proposal) is located approximately 13 km north of Perth in the City of Swan and City of Wanneroo. The Proposal is for the construction of a new 330kV dual circuit transmission line between NT in Malaga and NBT in Pinjar, a length of approximately 29 km. The purpose of the proposal is to reinforce the North Region transmission network to remove constraints on existing connected generation and provide additional capacity to connect large-scale renewable energy generation and meet future demand.</p> <p>The Proposal involves the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of transmission infrastructure (either steel lattice towers, steel poles or hybrid of both options). For the purposes of this referral, the level of impact is based on steel lattice towers being used. • Installation of 330kV overhead conductors, grounding wires and communications wires • Construction of a 4-m wide permanent maintenance access track centred on the line route. • Establishment of a 60 m-wide vegetation clearance zone (ie, 30 m either side of the line route) in line with AS7000:2016. Maximum vegetation height in this zone will be limited to 3 m. <p>In addition, the Proposal includes the following temporary construction activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction access track

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break and winch sites every 6 km of line for stringing conductors • Clearing within a 20m wide corridor where necessary for turnaround areas, laydown/storage areas, laying of conductors and other construction activities. <p>Western Power has developed an indicative project layout to determine the anticipated impact area for the Proposal. The total impact area is 160.98 ha within a development envelope of 163 ha. The Proposal requires clearing up to 92.12 ha of native vegetation, and 68.86 ha of non-native vegetation.</p> <p>The proposed transmission line will run in parallel to the existing 330kV transmission line between NT and NBT. The Proposal will be located on a mix of tenure types, including residential areas near Ballajura and Malaga Train Station, regional park (Whiteman Park) and Gngara Moore River State Forest.</p>
Have you provided electronic spatial data, maps, and figures in the appropriate format?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What type of proposal is being referred? <i>For significant amendment or derived proposal, provide the associated existing Ministerial statement number/s</i> <i>For a proposal under an assessed planning scheme, provide the scheme number and name</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> significant proposal. <i>Choose which type of significant proposal</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new proposal <input type="checkbox"/> significant amendment (proposal only) <input type="checkbox"/> significant amendment (conditions only) <input type="checkbox"/> significant amendment (proposal and conditions) <input type="checkbox"/> strategic proposal <input type="checkbox"/> derived proposal <input type="checkbox"/> proposals of a prescribed class <input type="checkbox"/> proposal under an assessed planning scheme
<p>Proposal content: Complete the corresponding template (Proposal Content Document) from the Instructions and template: How to identify the content of a proposal for the type of proposal identified above. The completed form must be submitted with the referral.</p> <p>Refer to Attachment 1 – Proposal Content Document</p>	

Alternatives	<p>The construction of a new 330kV transmission line between NT and NBT is required to unlock additional capacity in the north region of the transmission network. This will address existing constraints on power generation and provide capacity to connect additional large-scale renewable generation to the South West Interconnected System. Reinforcing the north region 330kV network is integral to meeting predicted future demand as well as ensuring Western Australian can support greater generation from renewable energy sources to achieve net-zero emissions. Therefore a 'do-nothing' option is not considered.</p> <p>The purpose of the Proposal is to significantly increase capacity in the power network. This can only be achieved by constructing a second 330kV transmission line between NT and NBT. Therefore, other network configurations or utilising lower voltage lines to reduce the footprint is not possible.</p> <p>Different line route options were not considered possible during project development. The entry into NT is highly constrained from surrounding urban development, restricting the line route to the existing Western Power easement between NT and Tonkin Highway. Co-locating the proposed transmission line with the existing 330kV transmission line was considered the least impact on surrounding current and future land uses, and minimised environmental impacts by constructing the transmission line in existing disturbed corridor. Therefore, no other options for the line route have been considered. Western Power has made slight changes to the line route to avoid important areas, such as avoiding significant vegetation as much as possible, and swapping the line to the western side of the existing transmission line to avoid Dick Perry Reserve. This reserve protects historically significant pines and recreational areas.</p>
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PART B: ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Environmental factors

What are the likely significant environmental factors for this proposal?

- ☐ Benthic Communities and Habitat
- ☐ Coastal Processes
- ☐ Marine Environmental Quality
- ☐ Marine Fauna
- ☒ Flora and Vegetation
- ☐ Landforms
- ☐ Subterranean Fauna
- ☐ Terrestrial Environmental Quality
- ☒ Terrestrial Fauna
- ☐ Inland Waters
- ☐ Air Quality
- ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ☐ Social Surroundings
- ☐ Human Health

For **each** of the environmental factors identified above, complete the following table, or provide the information in a supplementary report

Potential environmental impacts – for each environmental factor

1	EPA policy and guidance	Please refer to Attachment 3 (<i>Environmental Impact Assessment – Northern Terminal to Neerabup Terminal – February 2024</i> , Section 5 & Section 6, pgs 29-50) for assessment against each environmental factor.
2	Receiving environment	
3	Likely environmental impacts	
4	Application of the mitigation hierarchy, including other statutory decision-making processes	
5	Assessment and significance of residual impacts	
6	Likely environmental outcomes	

Holistic impact assessment

Please refer to Attachment 3 Environmental Impact Assessment – Northern Terminal to Neerabup Terminal – February 2024, Section 9, pgs 68

Cumulative environmental impact assessment

Please refer to Attachment 3 Environmental Impact Assessment – Northern Terminal to Neerabup Terminal – February 2024, Section 10, pgs 71

Consultation

Consultation has been and will continue to be undertaken with the following regulatory stakeholders during project development:

Stakeholder	Aspect
Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) – Swan Coastal Region	Interaction with Gnangara-Moore River State Forest
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)	Interaction with Malaga Train Station precinct
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation – EPA Services	Pre-referral briefing of the project
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	Pre-referral briefing of the project
City of Swan	Briefing and feedback on the line route
Main Roads WA	Interaction with Main Roads-managed roads

Comments were sought via letter and a feedback form from affected property owners along the southern section of the line route in the residential area of Ballajura. This has resulted in refining the line route to reduce impacts on surrounding properties. Consultation will continue with residents and the local community as project development continues and throughout the construction phase.

Western Power has a Noongar Alternative Heritage Agreement (NAHA) with the Whadjuk Agreement Group. An Activity Notice was submitted to the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) representative body in June 2023 in accordance with the requirements of the NAHA. Whadjuk traditional owners and knowledge holders participated in heritage surveys in December 2023, where an overview of the project was provided. Western Power is preparing to apply for s.18 consent under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

Supporting documents

Provide a list of the supporting documents:

Attachment 1 – Proposal Content Document

Attachment 2 – Figures

Attachment 3 – Environmental Impact Assessment – Northern Terminal to Neerabup Terminal

Attachment 4 – Tenure Summary

Attachment 5 – Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment

Attachment 6 – Summary of impact on Banksia Woodlands Patches

Has the referrer provided survey information according to the [Instructions and Form: IBSA Data Packages](#) and/or the [Instructions and form: IMSA Data Packages](#)

IBSA-2024-0092

☒ Yes

☐ No

Conclusion

Do you consider the proposal may have a significant effect on the environment?

The Proposal has the potential to have a significant effect on terrestrial fauna. The Proposal is unlikely to have a significant effect on flora and vegetation.

PART C: OTHER APPROVALS AND REGULATION

Decision-making authorities and their approvals

Provide a table list of the decision-making authorities, associated legislation or agreement

See Appendix 1.

regulating the activity and the specific approval required. (Example table at the end of form)	
Provide a summary of the statutory decision-making processes you consider can mitigate the potential impacts of the proposal on the environment. (Note: this should be a summary of the information provided in Part B section 2.4). (Example table at the end of form)	See Appendix 2.
Tenure and Local Government approvals	
Location of proposal: a) street address, lot number, suburb, and nearest road intersection; or b) if remote, the nearest town and distance and direction from that town to the proposal site.	The Proposal Area extends from Malaga to Pinjar, approximately 13-30 km north of the Perth CBD.
Name of the Local Government Authority in which the proposal is located.	City of Swan, City of Wanneroo
Is rezoning of any land required before the proposal can be implemented? If yes, please provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
What is the current land use on the property, and the extent (area in hectares) of the property?	The Proposal will be co-located within the existing 330kV transmission line between NT and NBT. The proposed transmission line will be constructed within an existing Western Power easement. There are a mix of land uses surrounding the Proposal, including residential areas near Ballajura and Malaga Train Station, regional park (Whiteman Park) and Gnangara Moore River State Forest.
Does the proponent have the legal access required for the implementation of all aspects of the proposal? <i>If yes, provide details of legal access authorisations / agreements / tenure.</i> <i>If no, what authorisations / agreements / tenure is required and from whom?</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Legal access to the land to build and operate the power network is authorised under the <i>Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979</i> . Sections of the line route on freehold land will be within existing Western Power easements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E663238 • D524508
Commonwealth Government approvals	
Does the proposal involve an action that may be or is a controlled action under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has the proposed action been referred? If yes, when was it referred and what is the reference number (EPBC No.)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: 21/02/2024 EPBC No.: TBC

<p>If referred, has a decision been made on whether the proposed action is a controlled action? If 'yes', check the appropriate box and provide the decision in an attachment.</p>	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – controlled action </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – not a controlled action </div>
<p>If the proposal is determined to be a controlled action, do you request that this proposal be assessed under a Bilateral Agreement or as an accredited assessment?</p>	<div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - Bilateral <input type="checkbox"/> No </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Accredited </div>
<p>Is approval required from other Commonwealth Government/s for any part of the proposal? <i>If yes, describe.</i></p>	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No </div> <p>Approval:</p>
<p>Decision-making authority referrals <u>ONLY</u></p>	
<p>What approval/s, under your authority, are required for this proposal? <i>Please provide details.</i></p>	

Appendix 1: Other approvals

Decision-making authority	Legislation or Agreement regulating the activity	Approval required (and specify which proposal element the approval is related to)
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>	A clearing permit may be required to undertake investigations or minor preliminary works.
Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)	<i>Planning & Development Act 2005</i>	Development Approval for the construction of transmission structures within zoned and reserved land under the Metropolitan Regional Scheme (MRS).
Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH)	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i>	S. 18 Consent to disturb an aboriginal heritage site.
DWER	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i>	Western Power is exempt from requiring a 5C licence under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> for any proposed dewatering due to the rights conferred under Section 49 of the <i>Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979</i> . However, permission to discharge waste water is still required from affected landowner/s or relevant regulatory agency (e.g. Water Corporation). Dewatering discharge shall be managed in accordance with the <i>Water Quality Protection Note 13 Dewatering of soils at construction sites</i> .
DWER	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i>	Section 11/17/21A Permit to interfere with the bed and banks of a watercourse or wetland.

Appendix 2: Other statutory decision-making process which can mitigate potential impacts on the environment.

Environmental impact	How is the impact regulated by other decision- making process(es)?	Limit(s) of the decision-making process(es) to regulate the impact eg time limits, excluded operations	Likely environmental outcome of decision-making process(es), and consistency with EPA objective	Conditions, enforcement, and review process required by decision-making process(es)	Stakeholder engagement in decision-making process(es)
Clearing native vegetation Impacts on terrestrial fauna	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is responsible for the control of native vegetation clearing and administration of clearing permits. Should the Proposal not be assessed under Part IV of the EP Act, potential impacts to vegetation and fauna can be assessed through the clearing permit process.	Impacts on terrestrial fauna associated with clearing non-native vegetation would not be assessed through the clearing permit process.	The EPA's objectives for Flora and Vegetation and Terrestrial Fauna are likely to be met through this statutory decision-making process.	Conditions can be placed on clearing permits to avoid, minimise or mitigate the impacts of native vegetation clearing.	A clearing permit application is subject to a public comments period. Decisions on clearing permits are subject to a 21-day appeals period.