


# Form

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

PART A: PROPONENT AND REFERRER INFORMATION AND PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION			
<b>Referrer information</b>			
<b>Who is referring this proposal?</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proponent <input type="checkbox"/> Decision-making authority <input type="checkbox"/> Community member/third party	
<b>Name</b> Haakon Nielssen			
<b>Position</b>	Project Approvals & Stakeholder Relations Manager	<b>Organisation</b>	TransAlta
<b>Email</b>	haakon_nielssen@transalta.com		
<b>Address</b>	191	St Georges Terrace	
	Perth	WA	6000
<b>Date</b>	24 August 2023		
Does the referrer request that the EPA treat any part of the proposal information in the referral as confidential? <i>Provide confidential information in a separate attachment.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Does the referrer confirm that they consent to receive correspondence electronically?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Referral declaration for proponent and Authorised representative: I, Haakon Nielssen, declare that I am authorised to refer this proposal on behalf of TransAlta and further declare that the information contained in this form is true and not misleading.  Date: 24 August 2023			
<b>Proponent information</b>			
<b>Name of the proponent/s</b> <i>Include Trading Name if relevant</i>		TEC Desert Pty Ltd and TEC Desert No.2 Pty Ltd in partnership as Southern Cross Energy (TransAlta)	
Australian Company Number(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	79 271 003 656	
<b>OR</b> Australian Business Number(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Pre-referral discussions</b>			
<b>Have you had pre-referral discussions with the EPA (including the EPA Services of DWER)?</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

<p><i>If so, provide name, date, and overview of discussions.</i></p>	<p>TransAlta have undertaken engagement with the EPA through the course of developing the referral, including a pre-referral meeting held on 25 May 2023. Feedback from these discussions have informed the content of the referral.</p>
<p><b>Proposal information</b></p>	
<p><b>Proposal name</b></p>	<p>Mt Keith Power Station Capacity Expansion Project</p>
<p><b>What is the proposal? (Include general description in the <a href="#">Instructions and template: How to identify the content of a proposal</a>)</b></p>	<p>The proposal seeks approval for the construction of up to 150MW generating reciprocating gas engines and associated infrastructure to support our customer BHP Nickel West’s plans to implement nickel processing and recovery projects at Mt Keith over the coming decade.</p> <p>The project is located on a brownfield site adjacent to BHP Nickel West’s Mount Keith operations mine site approximately 75 kilometres south-east of Wiluna and 80 km north of Leinster in the north-eastern Goldfields region of Western Australia.</p> <p>The project is being developed by TransAlta for BHP Nickel West as part of a broader long-term plan to decarbonise nickel mining operations using a combination of renewable and firm generation.</p>
<p><b>Have you provided electronic spatial data, maps, and figures in the appropriate format?</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>What type of proposal is being referred?</b></p> <p><i>For significant amendment or derived proposal, provide the associated existing Ministerial statement number/s</i></p> <p><i>For a proposal under an assessed planning scheme, provide the scheme number and name</i></p>	<p>ü significant proposal. <i>Choose which type of significant proposal</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new proposal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> significant amendment (proposal only)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> significant amendment (conditions only)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> significant amendment (proposal and conditions)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strategic proposal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> derived proposal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> proposals of a prescribed class</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> proposal under an assessed planning scheme</p>
<p><b>Proposal content:</b> Complete the corresponding template (Proposal Content Document) from the <a href="#">Instructions and template: How to identify the content of a proposal</a> for the type of proposal identified above. The completed form <b>must be</b> submitted with the referral.</p>	
<p><b>Alternatives</b></p>	<p>Refer to Referral Supporting Document.</p>

## PART B: ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

### Environmental factors

What are the likely significant environmental factors for this proposal?	<input type="checkbox"/> Benthic Communities and Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Processes <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Environmental Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> Flora and Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Landforms <input type="checkbox"/> Subterranean Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Environmental Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Waters <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions <input type="checkbox"/> Social Surroundings <input type="checkbox"/> Human Health
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*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	<b>EPA policy and guidance</b>	Refer to section 4 of the Referral Supporting Document.
2	<b>Receiving environment</b>	
3	<b>Likely environmental impacts</b>	
4	<b>Application of the mitigation hierarchy</b>	
5	<b>Assessment and significance of residual impacts</b>	
6	<b>Likely environmental outcomes</b>	

### Holistic impact assessment

Refer to section 4 and 5 of the Referral Supporting Document.

### Cumulative environmental impact assessment

Refer to section 5 and 8 of the Referral Supporting Document.

### Consultation

Refer to section 3 of the Referral Supporting Document.

### Supporting documents

Provide a list of the supporting documents

Has the referrer provided survey information according to the <a href="#">Instructions and Form: IBSA Data Packages</a> and/or the <a href="#">Instructions and form: IMSA Data Packages</a> <i>Biodiversity spatial data not relevant to this referral because a) this is a single factor Greenhouse Gas referral, and b) the 2ha project site is already cleared within the Mt Keith Operations ore concentrating facility.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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### Conclusion

The Proponent has referred the proposal because it will exceed the EPA's threshold for assessment of 100,000 tCO<sub>2-e</sub> per year of GHG emissions under its Environmental Factor Guideline.

Whilst the addition of new, efficient reciprocating gas engines will result in the creation of new GHG emissions to meet BHP Nickel West's existing and new loads, the quantity of emissions and overall emission intensity will be lower than TransAlta's alternative available option of operating its existing diesel plant.

As an off-grid network, clean, reliable and affordable power source is critical to support our customer's growth and decarbonisation aspirations. This proposal will enhance the reliability of TransAlta's network for the addition of renewable energy generation and provide sufficient capacity to meet intermittency in solar and battery energy storage from TransAlta's Northern Goldfields Solar Project and future renewables. The energy produced will power BHP Nickel West's Northern Goldfields operations and support its growth as the world's leading nickel supplier to the battery metals market, essential to a decarbonising world.

The proposal is considered unlikely to result in a significant impact to other environmental factors.

**PART B: ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOR SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS ONLY**

<b>Type of significant amendment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> significant amendment to the approved proposal <input type="checkbox"/> significant amendment to the implementation conditions <input type="checkbox"/> significant amendment to both the proposal and the implementation conditions
<b>Information of the approved proposal</b>	
<b>Combined effects of the approved proposal and significant amendment</b>	
<b>Analysis of existing implementation conditions</b>	
<b>Previous changes to the Proposal and or implementation conditions</b>	
<b>Compliance</b>	
<b>Environmental Performance</b>	
<b>Control of implementation of significant amendment</b>	

**PART B: ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOR A PROPOSAL UNDER AN ASSESSED SCHEME ONLY**

What new environmental issues are raised by the proposal that were not assessed during the assessment of the planning scheme?	
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How does the proposal not comply with the assessed scheme and/or the environmental conditions in the assessed planning scheme?	
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**PART B: ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOR DERIVED PROPOSALS ONLY**

Demonstrate how the proposal will meet the environmental outcomes defined through the assessment of the strategic proposal	
Provide an analysis of the existing implementation conditions of the related strategic proposal in relation to the derived proposal	

**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 regulating the activity and the specific approval required. (Example table at the end of form)	See table 2-3 in Referral Supporting Documentation
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).	A Greenhouse Gas Management Plan has been prepared that provides a path for net zero by 2050 for TransAlta’s Northern Goldfields network. The plan also details that deep and substantial reductions will be made to the network by 2030 and that the installation of the gas reciprocating engines will facilitate a deeper penetration of renewable energy into the network.

**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 project is located at BHP Nickel West’s Mt Keith operations located approximately 75 kilometres southeast of Wiluna and 80 kilometres north of Leinster in the north-eastern Goldfields region of Western Australia.
Name of the Local Government Authority in which the proposal is located.	Shire of Wiluna
Is rezoning of any land required before the proposal can be implemented?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

If yes, please provide details.	
What is the current land use on the property, and the extent (area in hectares) of the property?	The project will be located on a previously disturbed brownfield site within the Mt Keith operations mine site. The project area is approximately 4 hectares.
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 type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  TransAlta has been granted a miscellaneous licence L53/271 over the project area
<b>Commonwealth Government approvals</b>	
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has the proposed action been referred? If yes, when was it referred and what is the reference number (EPBC No.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____ EPBC No.: _____
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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – controlled action <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – not a controlled action
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - Bilateral <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Accredited
Is approval required from other Commonwealth Government/s for any part of the proposal? <i>If yes, describe.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Approval:
<b>Decision-making authority referrals <u>ONLY</u></b>	
What approval/s, under your authority, are required for this proposal? <i>Please provide details.</i>	