

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT REPORT**

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Strategic Assessment Report is to assess the impacts of actions taken under the Plan on Protected Matters. These Terms of Reference are to be applied by Glen Ora in the development of the Strategic Assessment Report. The Agreement provides further information on the Strategic Assessment Report, the Plan and the Terms of Reference and how these relate to each other. These Terms of Reference form part of the Agreement and adopt the definitions used in clause 2 of the Agreement.

### **2. PROTECTED MATTERS**

#### **Identification of affected Protected Matters**

The Strategic Assessment Report must describe Protected Matters likely to be impacted by actions taken under the Plan. The following Protected Matters must be addressed:

- a) World heritage properties (sections 12 & 15A)
- b) National heritage places (sections 15B & 15C)
- c) Wetlands of international importance, also known as Ramsar wetlands (sections 16 & 17B)
- d) Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)
- e) Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)
- f) Nuclear actions (sections 21 & 22A)
- g) Commonwealth marine areas (sections 23 & 24A)
- h) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B & 24C)
- i) A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D & 24E)
- j) Commonwealth land (sections 26 & 27A)
- k) Commonwealth heritage overseas (sections 27B & 27C)

The Strategic Assessment Report must describe the Protected Matters within the geographic extent of the Plan. This includes the Protected Matters likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by actions taken under the Plan. The Strategic Assessment Report must:

- a) describe the current and past condition of Protected Matters;
- b) describe the past and projected trends of Protected Matters;

- c) describe the existing threats to Protected Matters;
- d) identify those aspects of the environment considered critical to the continued presence and functioning of Protected Matters identified as potentially at risk;
- e) describe the methodology for identifying Protected Matters, together with an analysis of the strengths, limitations and expected effectiveness of methodologies used; and
- f) identify any key information gaps, further studies needed and any proposals to address critical information needs.

### **Identification and analysis of potential impacts**

The Strategic Assessment Report must identify and analyse the likely impacts of development on biodiversity and Protected Matters within the area actions are proposed to be taken under the Plan, and against the desired conservation outcomes identified in the Plan. The Strategic Assessment Report must include analysis of:

- a) the nature of potential development and description of the types of impacts considered, including short and long term, direct, indirect, cumulative, consequential and offsite impacts;
- b) relevant conservation advices, recovery plans and threat abatement plans for listed threatened species and communities;
- c) aspects of the environment considered critical to the continued presence and functioning of Protected Matters and long term influences on the supporting landscape ecosystems at a local and regional scale; and
- d) whether any impacts to Protected Matters are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible.

### **Measures to avoid, mitigate, offset and adaptively manage impacts on Protected Matters**

The Strategic Assessment Report must include an analysis of the likely effectiveness of the Plan in protecting Protected Matters and in achieving conservation outcomes at the regional landscape scale, including how any risk and uncertainty has been managed. The analysis must include consideration of local and State imposed constraints to achieving proposed avoidance, mitigation and offset measures.

## **3. PROMOTING ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Strategic Assessment Report must describe and assess how the principles of ecologically sustainable development (section 3A of the EPBC Act) have been applied in developing the Plan and how these will be implemented.

## **4. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: ADDRESSING UNCERTAINTY AND MANAGING RISK**

The Strategic Assessment Report must identify and assess the adequacy of key adaptive management measures included in the Plan that are intended to address uncertainties, information gaps and inherent

risks. Uncertainties could, for example, include knowledge gaps in scientific understanding and the timing, effectiveness, or capacity to implement, maintain, operate and enforce management measures.

## **5. INFORMATION SOURCES**

For information and data used in the assessment of the Plan, the Strategic Assessment Report must state:

- a) the source and currency (date) of the information;
- b) the names of persons involved in preparing the documentation and the work prepared by each of these persons; and
- c) the reliability and limitations of the information.