



Preliminary Heritage Assessment

Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project

PREPARED FOR



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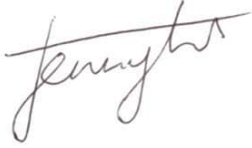
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Description
AAR	Aboriginal Ancestral Remains
ACHRIS	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System
ATSIHP Act	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)</i>
AUCHD	Australasian Underwater Cultural Heritage Database
Burra Charter	The Australia International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (2013)
CHL	Commonwealth Heritage List
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Cth)
Draft FNUCH Guidelines	Draft Technical Guidelines on the Archaeological Assessment of First Nations Underwater Cultural Heritage in Commonwealth Waters (2024)
EE Act	<i>Environment Effects Act 1978</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i>
ERM	Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FP-SR	First Peoples – State Relations
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
HCOANZ	Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand
IAC	Inter array cables
Iberdrola Australia	Iberdrola Australia OW 2 Pty Limited
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IPA	Indigenous Protection Area
LDAD	Low Density Artefact Distribution
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
MSL	mean sea level
nm	nautical miles
NHL	National Heritage List
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party

Acronym	Description
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
RNE	Register of the National Estate
TJB	Transition joint bay
TP	Transition Piece
UCH	Underwater cultural heritage
UCH Act	<i>Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 (Cth)</i>
VAHR	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register
VHD	Victorian Heritage Database
VHI	Victorian Heritage Inventory
VHR	Victorian Heritage Register
VWHI	Victorian War Heritage Inventory

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Iberdrola Australia OW 2 Pty Limited (**Iberdrola Australia**) proposes to construct and operate the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project (**the Project**), a renewable energy development to be located off the Gippsland coast of Victoria, Australia.

The Project is a 3 GW offshore wind project located 25+ kms from the Gippsland coast comprising an offshore wind farm and a transmission system of cables and substations to transfer electricity generated offshore to the National Electricity Market via an onshore connection point to the electricity network.

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (**ERM**) has been engaged by Iberdrola Australia as lead consultant to undertake environmental studies and assessments for the purpose of obtaining primary and secondary approvals for the Project.

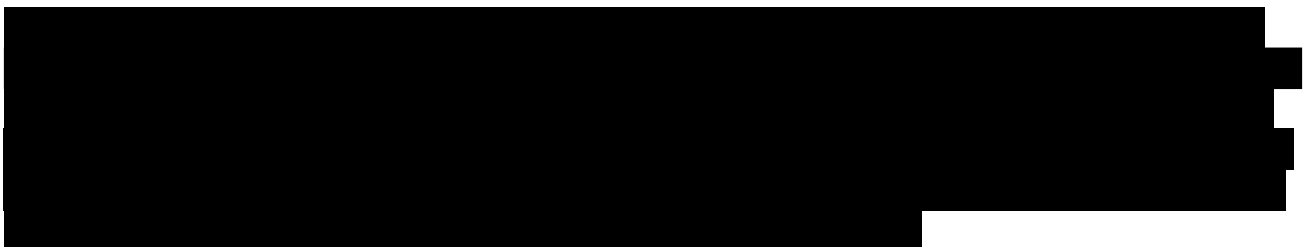
A preliminary assessment of potential environmental impacts has been carried out to inform the Project referrals under Commonwealth and Victorian legislation, environmental approvals and project development processes. This report documents the preliminary assessment and recommendations for further studies on heritage sensitivity values to inform the Project.

The Referral Area represents a broad investigation area for informing preliminary assessment and design processes. The footprint of the Project during both construction and operational stages is expected to be much smaller and within this broad investigation area. The Referral Area has been considered in two portions, onshore and offshore, to facilitate the assessment of terrestrial and marine heritage environments.

First Nations Heritage

The onshore and offshore portions of the Referral Area are within the lands and seas of the Gunaikurnai People, and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (**GLaWAC**) is the Registered Aboriginal Party (**RAP**) relevant to the Referral Area.

Coastal areas of south-east Australia, including the Bass Strait coastal area, were amongst the most densely populated First Nation regions. Tangible cultural values are represented by a high number of Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register sites within the onshore Referral Area, with discrete clusters of registered sites representing efforts of previous cultural heritage assessment work likely tied to other infrastructure and development projects.



The land adjacent to the coast and waterways has potential to contain unknown First Nations cultural heritage. A search of the Register of the National Estate (non-statutory) identified five recorded places in Indigenous and Natural place categories, all of which are conservation areas (including Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve, Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park and Marilyns Beach Area). In addition, three massacre sites were identified within the Referral Area, one of which is also listed as Victorian Heritage Inventory (**VHI**) H8321-0005.

There is potential for First Nations underwater cultural heritage (submerged landscapes) and values relating to Sea Country to occur in the Referral Area. First Nations People of the South-east Marine Region (Victoria), including GLaWAC, have a strong cultural and spiritual connection to the marine environment, and the use and management of coastal species that are part of ocean ecosystems. First Nations people's physical relationship with offshore waters within Bass Strait would have been based on travel to now submerged land bridges or islands, between the mainland and Tasmania.

Historic Heritage

Following early settlement of the region by non-First Nations people, the Gippsland region and the Bass Strait hold heritage significance through the formation of towns, agricultural practices, maritime trade and commerce (fishing, and earth resource collection), all of which hold varying levels of historic values.

The onshore Referral Area contains one Victorian Heritage Register (**VHR**) place, S875 (Unconfirmed Buried Wreck, Mcloughlins Beach), and two VHI (archaeological) items, H8321-0005 (Warrigal Creek Massacre Site) and H8220-0025 (Former Residence, Woodside Beach Road).

The offshore Referral Area contains four shipwrecks – three in Commonwealth Waters (AUCHD ID 6066, City of Hobart; AUCHD ID 6386, Magnolia; and AUCHD ID 6700, unidentified) and one in Victorian waters (AUCHD ID 6589, VHR S607, Sarah). It is noted that AUCHD 6066 and AUCHD ID 6700 have the same listed coordinates.

Potential Heritage Approvals

With consideration of the heritage values identified within the Referral Area, the following approvals are expected to be required for the Project:

- A mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (**CHMP**) is required under the provisions of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, with GLaWAC as the approval authority.
- Where impacts to VHR and VHI sites cannot be avoided, permits and/or consents will be required under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017*.
- Where impacts and/or disturbance to shipwrecks or a declared protected zone cannot be avoided, permit(s) may be required under the provisions of the *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018* (Cth) (**UCH Act**).

Recommended next steps

A recommended program of technical heritage investigations to inform future environmental and heritage impact assessments and to identify specific mitigation measures to manage potential impacts from the Project to heritage values are provided below:

- Cultural Values Recording, carried out to ascertain the biocultural and intangible heritage values for the Referral Area to identify culturally sensitive areas and values, to inform Project design development and the development of any required mitigation measures. The approach and process for the cultural values recording would be informed through engagement with, and be guided by, GLaWAC.

- Underwater Cultural Heritage Assessment, undertaken for both Commonwealth and State waters, incorporating a range of data analysis and assessment of submerged ancient landscapes, including bathymetry and other marine geophysical and archaeological data, and including consultation with GLaWAC. It would also address any requirements under the UCH Act, the *Heritage Act 2017* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*¹.
- Historic Heritage Impact Assessment, carried out on any registered historic heritage places or areas of archaeological sensitivity that may be potentially impacted by the Project, onshore and in Victorian waters. If the Project would impact any shipwrecks protected under the UCH Act, a maritime archaeologist would prepare a corresponding assessment.

¹ *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* includes protection for First Nations places on land and in coastal waters.

1. INTRODUCTION

Iberdrola Australia OW 2 Pty Limited (**Iberdrola Australia**) proposes to construct and operate the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project (**the Project**), a renewable energy development to be located off the Gippsland coast of Victoria, Australia.

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (**ERM**) has been engaged by Iberdrola Australia as lead consultant to undertake environmental studies and assessments for the purpose of obtaining primary and secondary approvals for the Project.

This preliminary heritage assessment has been developed to inform the project referrals under Commonwealth and Victorian legislation, environmental assessments and approvals, and project development processes. This report documents the preliminary assessment and recommendations for further studies on heritage values to inform the Project.

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

Aurora Green is a 3 GW offshore wind project being developed by Iberdrola Australia in Gippsland, located 25+ kms from the coast. The Project is proposed offshore between Seaspray/Honeysuckles and Woodside Beach within Commonwealth’s Declared Area OEI-01-2022 in Gippsland.

The electricity would be transmitted to a connection point onshore, via a transmission system of cables and substations, and would connect into the National Electricity Market to deliver electricity to homes and businesses (Figure 1-1). With a proposed operational life of 30-40 years, the Project would be developed in stages to align with the development of the industry and supporting infrastructure.

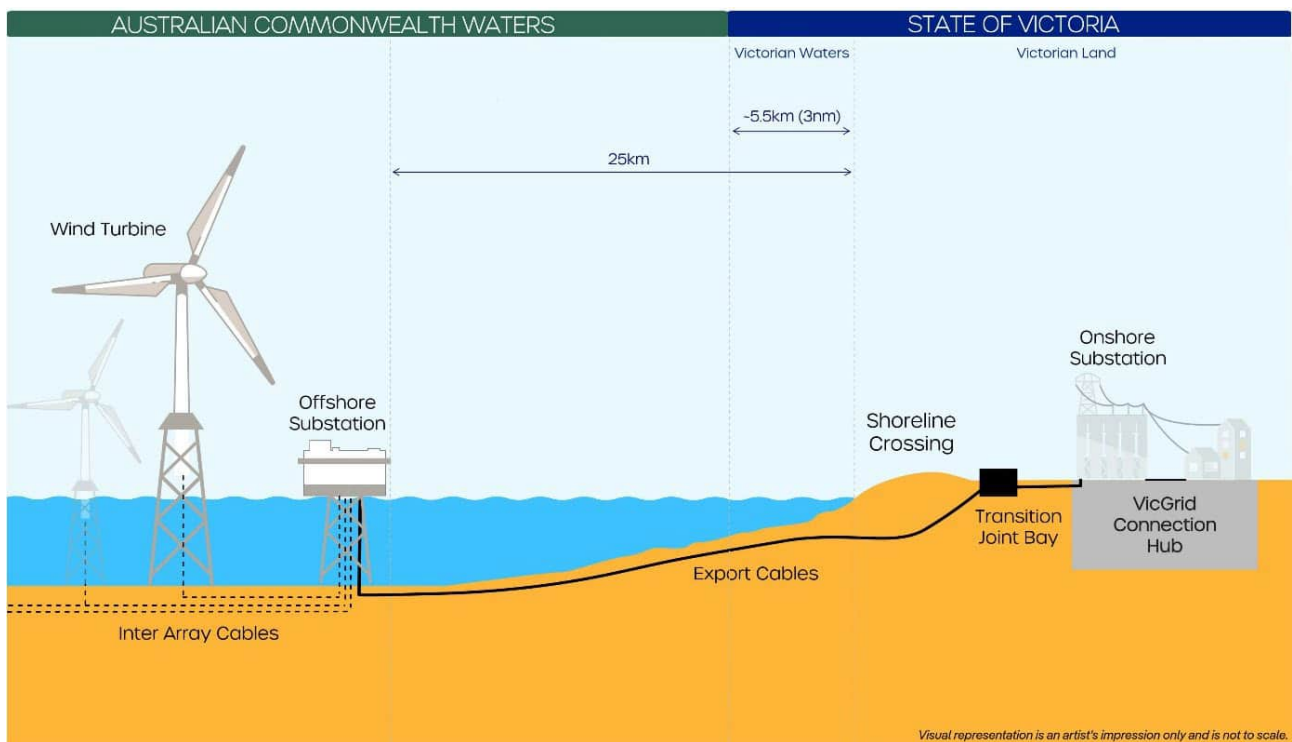


FIGURE 1-1 PROJECT COMPONENTS OVERVIEW (SECTION VIEW)

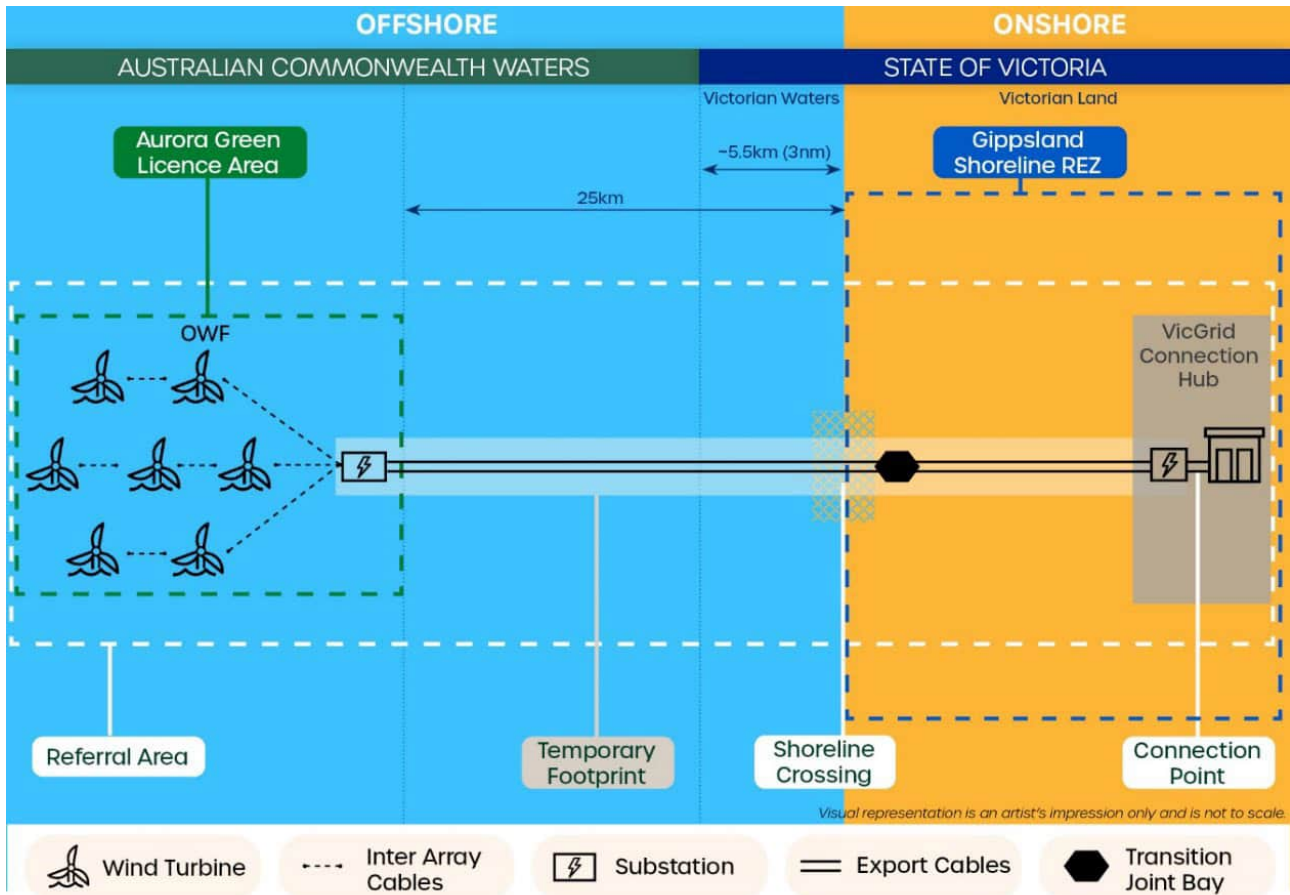


FIGURE 1-2 PROJECT COMPONENTS AND AREAS OVERVIEW (PLAN VIEW)

Once complete, it is expected that the delivery of the Project by Iberdrola Australia would provide the following benefits to the State of Victoria and Australia:

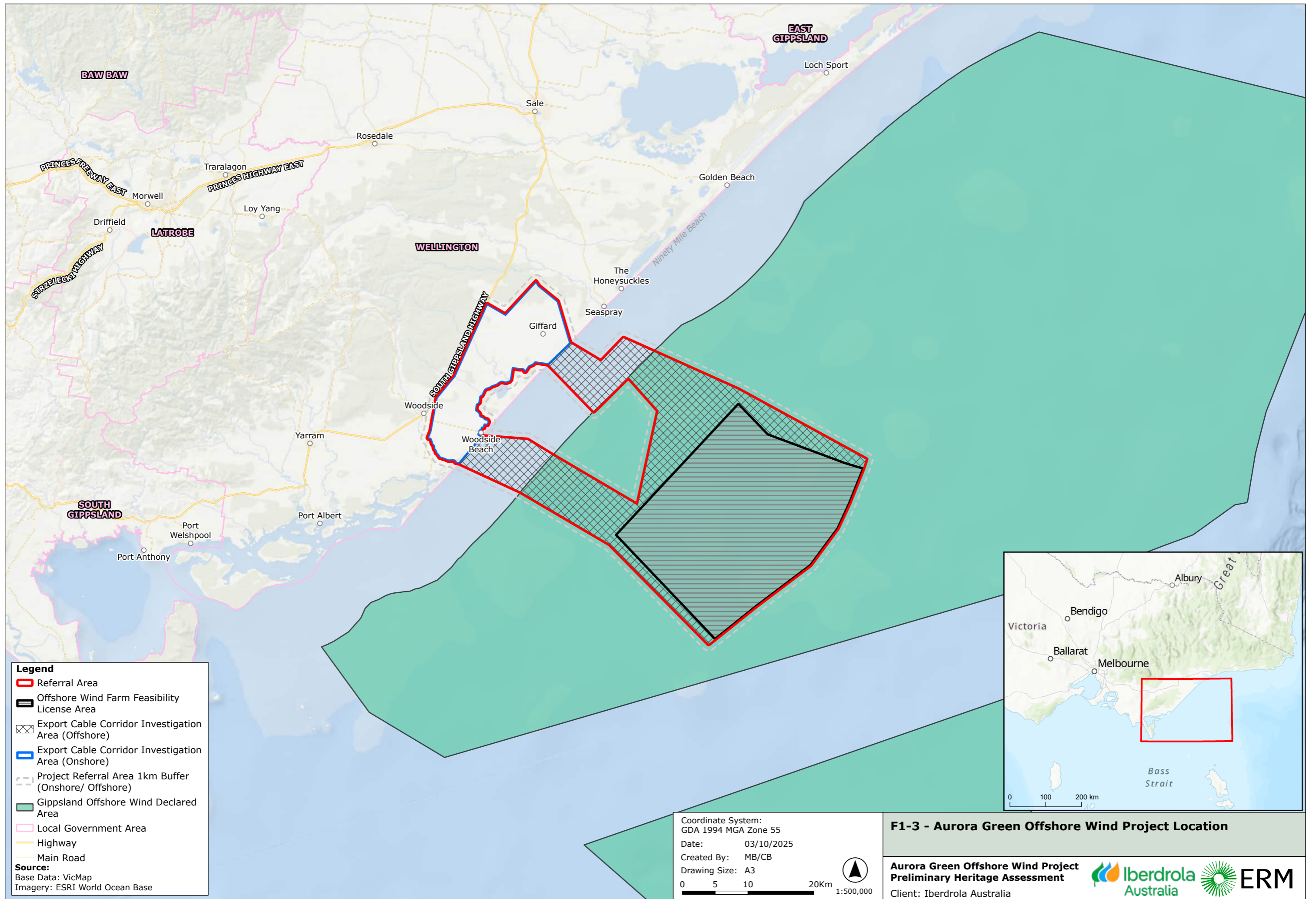
- up to 3 GW of offshore wind power generating capacity;
- clean energy to power up to 2.25 million households;
- 600 long-lasting, skilled jobs during operation;
- 1800+ jobs during construction;
- \$8 billion boost to the Victorian economy; and
- Grow and support local talent through apprenticeships, scholarships and research programs.

The Project comprises both offshore and onshore components (described herein and illustrated in Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2), and it is proposed to be developed within the Referral Area shown in Figure 1-3 and Figure 1-4.

- **Offshore wind farm (OWF)**, in Commonwealth waters, located between approximately 25 km and 50 km offshore from the towns of Woodside Beach and Seaspray/Honeysuckles, covering an area of 700 km², in water depth ranging from approximately 40 m to 60 m. The OWF would comprise up to approximately 150 wind turbines depending on the final design. It also includes inter array cables (**IAC**) and offshore substation(s).

- **Export cable corridor (ECC)**, to transmit the electricity generated from the turbines to the onshore connection point, encompassing offshore and onshore export cable portions spanning across both Commonwealth and Victorian State waters and land. The export cables would make landfall at a shore crossing location, with the offshore and onshore cable portions connected via underground cable transition joint bays (**TJB**) located within approximately 500 m of the coast. An Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area is currently being assessed to determine a final export cable corridor.
- **Onshore connection point**, comprising an onshore substation to be located within the VicGrid Connection Hub located in the Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone (**REZ**).
- **Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facility**, to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of the project. The O&M facility shall be located at an existing nearby port. The O&M facility is not part of the Referral area.

The delivery of the VicGrid Connection Hub does not form part of this Project. Iberdrola Australia would work with the party ultimately chosen by VicGrid to build, own and operate the transmission infrastructure in Gippsland that will facilitate the connection of offshore wind developments in the region.



Legend

- Referral Area
- Offshore Wind Farm Feasibility License Area
- Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area (Offshore)
- Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area (Onshore)
- Project Referral Area 1km Buffer (Onshore/ Offshore)
- Gippsland Offshore Wind Declared Area
- Local Government Area
- Highway
- Main Road

Source:
 Base Data: VicMap
 Imagery: ESRI World Ocean Base

Coordinate System:
 GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
 Date: 03/10/2025
 Created By: MB/CB
 Drawing Size: A3

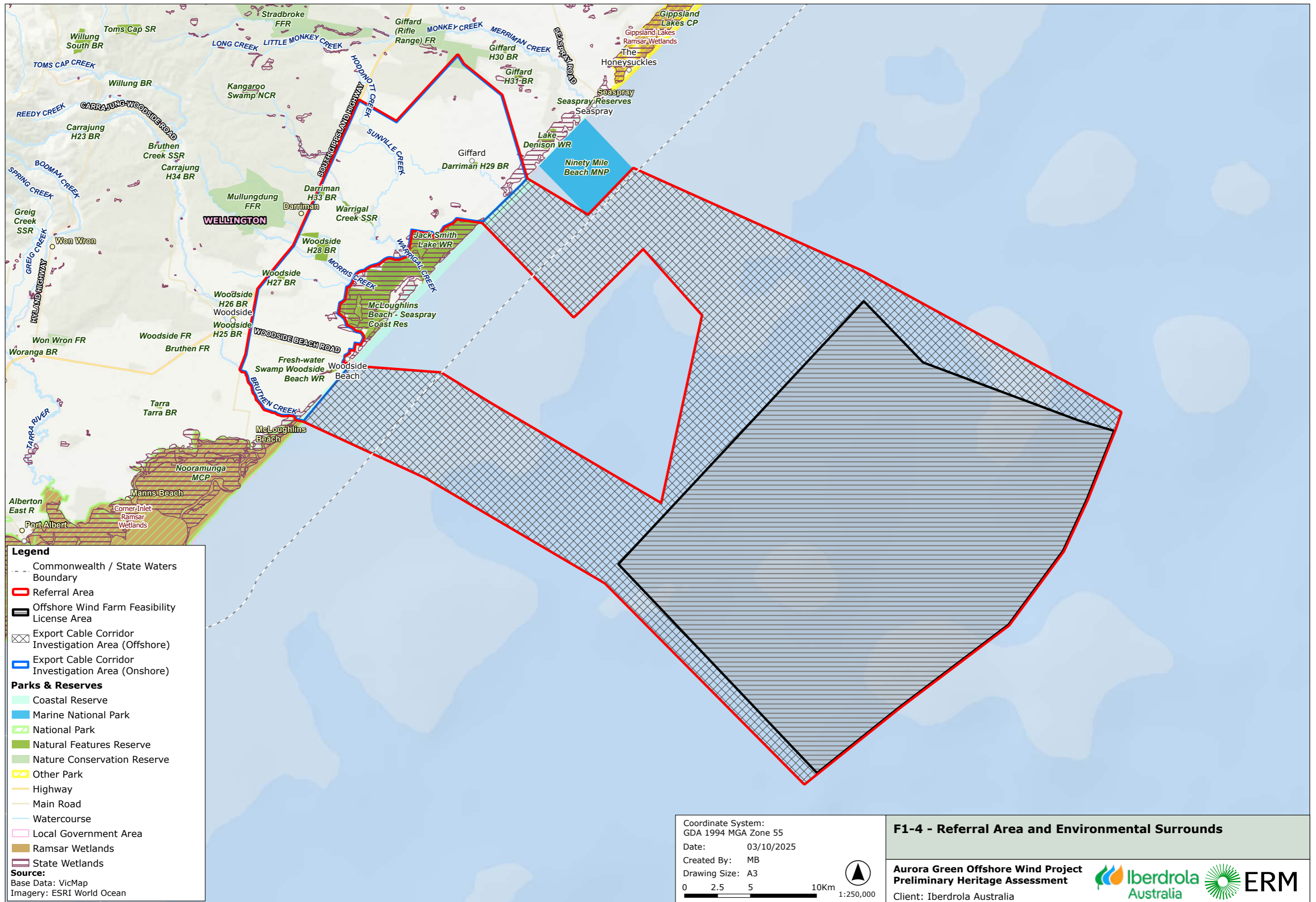
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F1-3 - Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project Location

Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project Preliminary Heritage Assessment

Client: Iberdrola Australia



Legend

- - - Commonwealth / State Waters Boundary
- Referral Area
- Offshore Wind Farm Feasibility License Area
- Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area (Offshore)
- Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area (Onshore)

Parks & Reserves

- Coastal Reserve
- Marine National Park
- National Park
- Natural Features Reserve
- Nature Conservation Reserve
- Other Park
- Highway
- Main Road
- Watercourse
- Local Government Area
- Ramsar Wetlands
- State Wetlands

Source:
 Base Data: VicMap
 Imagery: ESRI World Ocean

Coordinate System:
 GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Date: 03/10/2025

Created By: MB

Drawing Size: A3

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F1-4 - Referral Area and Environmental Surrounds

**Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project
 Preliminary Heritage Assessment**

Client: Iberdrola Australia




1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS ASSESSMENT

This report has been developed to inform the Project referrals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**) and the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (**EE Act**). The aim of this report is to present a baseline analysis of heritage sensitivity values within and in proximity to the Referral Area (Figure 1-4) and to inform the Project's potential impacts on those values.

The report includes:

- an assessment of known statutory and non-statutory cultural (First Nations), historic, natural, and underwater (maritime) heritage values and areas of sensitivity that represent heritage constraints within the onshore and offshore portions of the Referral Area;
- the development of a predictive statement identifying heritage values and sites likely to be located within the Referral Area;
- heritage sensitivity mapping based on identification of sensitivity receptors;
- a preliminary assessment of potential impacts of proposed Project activities on the identified and potential heritage resources;
- an identification of any requirements to undertake further assessment pursuant to relevant State or Commonwealth legislation; and
- recommendations of next steps to progress the heritage assessment process, aiding to inform project development and design.

1.3 TERMINOLOGY

Unless it is a direct reference to a piece of legislation, guidance document or other, where the use of the term 'Aboriginal' is appropriate, the report will use 'First Nations' or 'First Peoples'. The Gunaikurnai people will be explicitly referenced in regard to their Country. Gunaikurnai People are represented by the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (**GLaWAC**), the Registered Aboriginal Party (**RAP**) for the Gippsland region.

A glossary of terms utilised throughout this assessment is provided in Appendix C.

1.4 LIMITATIONS

The following heritage limitations are acknowledged in the preparation of this preliminary assessment:

- No field survey or site investigation was undertaken as part of the development of this assessment. As such, the heritage constraints identified in this report are based on information that is publicly available from sources identified in Section 2.2.
- No consultation with First Nations peoples/Registered Aboriginal Parties has been undertaken by ERM to inform this desktop assessment.
- For those areas showing no previously recorded cultural heritage, this does not preclude the presence of tangible or intangible heritage values within the land or seascape and may only reflect the lack of prior cultural assessment of a particular area.

- With regard to sensitive First Nations people's heritage information, location details (including coordinates) while available only to those who are authorised to access the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register, are not in themselves considered to be sensitive cultural heritage information. Information of archaeological, historical and scientific significance relating to Aboriginal historical places, artefact scatters, earth features, quarries, rock art, culturally modified trees, shell middens and stone features is also generally considered not to be sensitive cultural heritage information.² However, it is generally accepted that information, including images, relating to burials of Aboriginal Ancestral Remains (**AAR**) is sensitive information.
- Some information relating to re-interments of AAR, cultural places of anthropological, social or spiritual significance, or traditional knowledge, may be considered sensitive cultural heritage information. Four recorded AAR sites occur within the Project Referral Area, however detailed location information is not contained in this report, other than symbolic representation on high-level heritage sensitivity mapping.
- The figures depicting areas of cultural sensitivity and tangible cultural heritage provide a partial representation of the site extent due to limited available data and the absence of ground truthing. The mapped points serve as a guide for site context rather than a comprehensive depiction of the entire area.

² *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* - Information sheet: sensitive Aboriginal heritage information

2. METHODOLOGY

This section describes the approach and methodology applied to develop this Preliminary Heritage Assessment report.

2.1 DELINEATION OF HERITAGE ASSESSMENT AREA

The Referral Area includes a broad investigation area for informing preliminary assessment and design processes. The footprint of the project during both construction and operational stages is expected to be much smaller and within this broad investigation area.

The Referral Area has been considered in two portions, onshore and offshore, to facilitate the assessment of terrestrial and marine heritage environments, as described in Table 2-1 and shown in subsequent figures.

TABLE 2-1 DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERRAL AREA

Referral Area	Main Project Components/ Footprint	Location	Description of Environment
Onshore	ECC Investigation Area	Wellington Shire Council between South Gippsland Highway and the coast (excludes Jack Smith Lake Wildlife Reserve and land zoned as residential), Victoria	Predominantly agricultural with some land zoned for conservation (e.g., bushland reserves); coastal zone
	Onshore connection point		
Offshore	ECC Investigation Area	Victorian and Commonwealth Waters	Marine zone
	OWF Feasibility Licence Area	Commonwealth Waters	

For the purposes of this assessment, a 1 km buffer has been added to the Referral Area to improve spatial analysis by capturing adjacent data that might influence the Project, ensuring a more comprehensive search and inform better decision-making.

2.2 INFORMATION SOURCES

The desktop assessment included a comprehensive review of existing background information to gain a contextual understanding of the cultural landscape associated with the Referral Area.

Information was sourced utilising readily available data, through key Commonwealth, state and local database and register searches and included:

- DCCEEW Protected Matters Search Tool (**PMST**) for heritage matters of national environmental significance (**MNES**) e.g., World Heritage Properties and National and Commonwealth Heritage Places;
- Australian Heritage Database (which includes the Register of the National Estate [**RNE**]);
- Victorian Heritage Database (**VHD**) (which includes the Victorian Heritage Register [**VHR**] and Victorian Heritage Inventory [**VHI**]);

- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (**VAHR**) (via the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System [**ACHRIS**]);
- VicPlan information service and online map viewer (Wellington Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay);
- Australian Underwater Cultural Heritage Database (**AUCHD**) for maritime heritage site data; and
- Colonial Frontier Massacres Database (University of Newcastle).

Desktop research of terrestrial and maritime environments, including:

- digitised historical parish maps available from the National Library of Australia and the State Library of Victoria collection;
- archival information held by the National Library of Australia (Trove) and the State Library of Victoria;
- historic aerial photographs available from the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning and Geoscience Australia;
- publicly available heritage studies and archaeological assessment and reports and Cultural Heritage Management Plans (**CHMPs**).

Leading practice guidance, including:

- *Burra Charter: The Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance 2013*. The Burra Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance including owners, managers and custodians; and provides specific guidance for physical and procedural actions that should occur in relation to significant places. With regard to places of First Nations cultural value, the Burra Charter advises that cultural significance can be assessed through the application of four principal values: social, historical, scientific, and aesthetic. The following Practice Notes are used as reference tools for this assessment:
 - The Burra Charter and Archaeological Practice;
 - The Burra Charter and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management;
 - Intangible Cultural Heritage & Place;
 - Heritage and Sustainability 1 – Built Heritage.
- *Dhawura Ngilan: A vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage in Australia* is a landmark framework developed to guide best practice in the protection and management of Indigenous cultural heritage across Australia. *Dhawura Ngilan*, meaning "Remembering Country" in Ngunnawal language, was endorsed in 2020 by the Heritage Chairs of Australia and New Zealand. It consists of two key components:
 - The Vision – a high-level statement of principles for valuing and protecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.
 - Best Practice Standards – practical guidance for governments, businesses, and communities to implement culturally respectful heritage management.

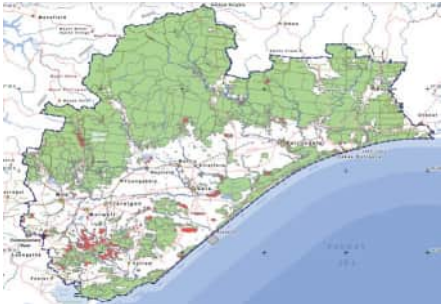
- *Dharwura Ngilan* is underpinned by the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (**FPIC**), which recognises that the affected Indigenous community can decide who represents them; and they are provided with adequate information and time to consider any information in a decision making that may affect their cultural heritage.
- *Australian Natural Heritage Charter* is a distillation of best practice conservation principles for Australia, based on the consensus of a broad range of experts. It aims to assist everyone with an interest in natural places to establish their natural heritage values and manage them. It can be applied to a wide range of places whether terrestrial, marine or freshwater. It offers a framework for making sound decisions for managing and restoring natural heritage places based on the ecological processes which occur in natural systems. It also provides a process that can be used to support and implement local, state and territory, national and international policies, agreements, strategies and plans. It does not replace statutory obligations.

2.3 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Referral Area is affected by a number of statutory controls for the planning and management of cultural heritage and archaeological resources. Table 2-2 summarises the key Commonwealth and Victorian legislation relevant to the assessment, and the requirements under each as they apply to the Project in its current form.

TABLE 2-2 STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY HERITAGE CONTROLS

Legislation	Description	Relevance to Project
Commonwealth Legislation		
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	<p>The EPBC Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities, Commonwealth marine environments, and heritage places, which are defined in the EPBC Act and referred to as MNES.</p> <p>The MNES of direct relevance to heritage considerations are World Heritage Properties and National Heritage Places, with are established on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) and the National Heritage List (NHL).</p> <p>Administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).</p>	<p>This report has considered the MNES relevant to the heritage environment that could be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project. The outcomes of the assessment are detailed in Section 4.</p>
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (ATSHP Act)</i>	<p>The ATSIHP Act protects areas and/or objects which are of significance to Aboriginal people that are under threat of destruction. The Act can, in certain circumstances, override state and territory provisions, or it can be implemented in circumstances where state or territory provisions are lacking or are not enforced. A significant area or object is defined as one that is of particular importance to Aboriginal people according to cultural tradition.</p> <p>The Act must be invoked by or on behalf of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person or organization. The Commonwealth Minister can make declarations under Section 10 of the Act</p>	<p>The Act could be invoked if areas or objects of cultural significance are under serious threat. This report presents high-level identification of First Nations sites and areas of cultural sensitivity to assist the client in avoidance of adverse impact to these areas during detailed design.</p>

Legislation	Description	Relevance to Project
	<p>to protect areas and objects from specific threats of injury or desecration, in situations where state or territory laws do not provide adequate protection of intangible heritage.</p> <p>While no formal database of Section 10 applications or declarations is publicly available, this information is registered in gazettal notices within the Federal Register of Legislation.</p> <p>Administered by DCCEEW.</p>	
<p><i>Native Title Act 1993</i></p>	<p>Section 211 of the Act provides that holders of native title rights covering certain activities do not need authorisation required by other laws to engage in those activities.</p> <p>Administered by the Attorney-General's Department, the Native Title Tribunal, and the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians.</p>	<p>This report identifies and acknowledges the Gunaikurnai People who have Consent Determination over large areas of Gippsland, including across the onshore Project Referral Area (determination areas shown in green below). Native Title determinations currently do not include the state coastal waters</p>  <p>National Native Title Register VCD2010/001</p>
<p><i>Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 (UCH Act)</i></p>	<p>Underwater cultural heritage, as defined by the Act, within state and territorial coastal waters is jointly protected under the relevant state and territory legislation, and Commonwealth legislation. Shipwrecks are protected by the Act to the lowest astronomical tide mark along the coast; and submerged Indigenous sites and aircraft are protected by state and territory legislation out to 3 nautical miles (nm).</p> <p>The new DCCEEW guidelines, <i>Assessing and Managing Impacts to Underwater Cultural Heritage in Australian Waters</i>, released in June 2024, provide direction and management of underwater cultural heritage.</p> <p>Similarly, the draft <i>Technical Guidelines on the Archaeological Assessment of the First Nations Underwater Cultural Heritage in Commonwealth Waters</i> are currently in the public display period and are expected to be finalised 2025.</p> <p>The AUCHD serves as the register for protected underwater cultural heritage for the UCH Act.</p> <p>Administered by DCCEEW.</p>	<p>This report has considered the underwater heritage environment that may be directly or indirectly impacted by project activities. The outcomes of the assessment are detailed in Sections 4 and 5.</p>

Legislation	Description	Relevance to Project
Victorian Legislation		
<i>Heritage Act 2017</i>	<p>The Act provides protection for all Victorian historic heritage sites and items that are at least 75 years old, including underwater heritage. The Act sets out procedures to identify items of state heritage significance, and of historical archaeological value. It also establishes the processes for obtaining approvals for changes to those items, enforcing compliance, and other administrative procedures, and creates offences and other enforcement measures to protect and conserve heritage.</p> <p>If an item has statutory heritage protection at a state level in Victoria, it will be recorded in the VHR or the VHI, a list of known historical archaeological sites in the State.</p> <p>Administered by Heritage Victoria (Department of Transport and Planning).</p>	Project activities are required to not disturb registered sites or archaeological places. This report has considered the state level heritage environment that may pose constraints to Project activities. The outcome of this assessment is detailed in Section 5.
<i>Heritage (Underwater Cultural Heritage) Regulations 2017</i>	<p>The regulations prescribe activities which are prohibited in, on or near a protected zone; activities which are prohibited in, on or near a registered shipwreck, historic shipwreck, registered shipwreck artefact or historic shipwreck artefact; and to prescribe forms and documents related to defined activities for the purposes of enacting the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i>.</p> <p>Administered by Heritage Victoria (Department of Transport and Planning).</p>	The Regulations can be used to determine if a permit is required for a particular Project activity.
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> and <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i>	<p>The Act provides for the protection of Aboriginal (First Nations) cultural heritage in Victoria. This Act prohibits the wilful destruction or disturbance of any Aboriginal cultural heritage site, place or object, whether on private or public land. The Act provides protection of Aboriginal cultural in terrestrial and coastal water environments in Victoria.</p> <p>The Act allows different First Nation organisations, groups and bodies to connect and better enforce and preserve policies regarding Aboriginal Heritage. It does this through establishment of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, RAPs, the VAHR, and approval processes, to manage activities that may impact First People's cultural heritage.</p> <p>The regulations define 'areas of cultural heritage sensitivity' and relate to landforms and soil types where Aboriginal places are more likely to be located. These include land within 200 m of named waterways and land within 50 m of registered Aboriginal cultural heritage. The regulations set out when a CHMP and/or a cultural heritage permit may be required.</p> <p>Administered by First Peoples – State Relations (FP-SR).</p>	<p>This report has considered the registered First Nations cultural heritage places that may pose constraints to Project activities. VAHR registered sites and areas of cultural sensitivity search results are detailed in Section 4 and 5.</p> <p>The Regulations can be used to determine if a CHMP is required for an activity. A CHMP is required if the activity lies within a specified area of cultural sensitivity and is a high impact activity.</p> <p>A CHMP must meet prescribed standards and be approved by the relevant RAP – which for the Project Referral Area is GLaWAC, before they can be used to support permit applications to local government or other agencies.</p> <p>The RAP boundary for GLaWAC includes the onshore and state water offshore sections of the Project Referral Area.</p>

Legislation	Description	Relevance to Project
<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>	The Act provides the legal framework for land use planning in Victoria. It guides how land is developed, protected, and used to ensure sustainable growth, environmental conservation, and community wellbeing. Local planning schemes established pursuant to the Act include strategic statements, policies, zones, overlays and other provisions, including heritage overlays.	The onshore Referral Area is affected by the provisions of the Wellington Planning Scheme, with clauses 15.03 and 22 outlining the requirements for heritage protection. This report has considered the local heritage environment that may pose constraints to Project activities. The outcome of this assessment is detailed in Sections 5.
Non-Statutory Heritage Registers and Listings		
Register of the National Estate (RNE)	The RNE was once a key national inventory of natural, Indigenous, and historic heritage places in Australia, and was officially deactivated 2012. Although the RNE is no longer a statutory register, its records are still accessible for historical reference via the Australian Heritage Database. RNE places can be protected under the EPBC Act if they are also included in another Commonwealth statutory heritage list or are owned or leased by the Commonwealth. In addition, places in the RNE may be protected under appropriate state, territory or local government heritage legislation.	RNE listings reflect sites and places that have heritage values, and avoidance of these places by Project activities would be prioritised so far as is reasonably practicable. Search results are detailed in Section 4.1.5.
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)	The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has been gathering information about heritage places in Australia for more than three decades and has a list of heritage places including individual buildings, precincts, natural environment places, or culturally significant artefacts. These listings do not attract any legal protection for a place, nor do they put the owner of a listed place under any legal obligation.	National Trust listings reflect sites and places that have heritage values and may not be listed on statutory registers. Avoidance of these sites by Project activities would be prioritised so far as is reasonably practicable. Search results are detailed in Section 4.1.5.
Victorian War Heritage Inventory (VWHI)	The VWHI contains information and images related to Victoria's war history including memorials, avenues of honour, memorial buildings, former defence sites and places of commemoration.	VWHI sites would be avoided by Project activities so far as is reasonably practicable. Search results are detailed in Section 4.1.5.

2.4 SEA COUNTRY INDIGENOUS PROTECTION AREA

In April 2021, the Australian Government committed funding as part of the Oceans Leadership Package to the Sea Country Indigenous Protection Area (**IPA**) Program. The program seeks to increase the area of sea in IPAs to strengthen the conservation and protection of Australia's unique marine and coastal environments. It also creates employment and economic opportunities for First Nations people.

This program provides funding to Indigenous organisations to expand existing IPAs and create new IPAs. The program is being used to support the development of a Sea Country IPA monitoring and evaluation system. It will also support a conference of Indigenous land and sea managers so they can share knowledge and experiences.

Following an open grant round in 2021, ten successful Sea Country IPA consultation projects were announced in May 2022, which included GLaWAC. At the time of preparation of this assessment, progress for the preparation and lodgement of a Sea Country IPA is still underway. Iberdrola Australia has commenced early engagement with GLaWAC to enable the sharing of Project data to support the IPA program. Ongoing consultation with GLaWAC will be undertaken to incorporate the outcomes of the IPA into planning and design for the Project.

3. UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

The Referral Area is located in a region characterised by plains and coastal dune features, land use of predominantly agricultural properties and regional services. There are a series of environmental reserves such as bushland reserves within proximity to and within the Referral Area, and it overlaps with the Mcloughlins Beach-Seaspray Coastal Reserve (Figure 1-4).

The onshore and offshore portions of the Referral Area are within the lands and seas of the Gunaikurnai People.

3.1 ONSHORE PROJECT REFERRAL AREA

The onshore Referral Area lies within the Wellington Shire municipality and encompasses largely agricultural properties associated with localities of Woodside, Darriman, Giffard and Seaspray as well as a number of reserves that include Woodside Beach Wildlife Reserve, Warrigal Creek Streamside Reserve, Darriman H29 Bushland Reserve, Woodside H28 Bushland Reserve, Woodside H27 Bushland Reserve, Darriman H33 Bushland Reserve, Mcloughlins Beach – Seaspray Coastal Reserve. The Referral Area avoids Jack Smith Lake Wildlife Reserve. The coastline comprises areas of McGaurans Beach, Woodside Beach and Reeves Beach.

3.1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

3.1.2 BIOREGION

The onshore Referral Area is within the Gippsland Basin Bioregion, located in south-eastern Victoria, stretching from the foothills of the Great Dividing Range to the Bass Strait coastline. This diverse bioregion is characterised by a mix of lowland plains, rolling hills, wetlands, and extensive coastal systems. The region includes the Gippsland Lakes, Australia's largest inland waterway, as well as sandy beaches, limestone cliffs, and coastal dunes along the Bass Strait (Australian Government, 2018).

Geologically, the coastal plains underlain by Tertiary and Quaternary sediments, while older Paleozoic rocks form the elevated regions of the Strzelecki Ranges (Australian Government, 2018), 90 km north of the onshore Referral Area. These ranges along with undulating low hills, coastal plains, and unique geological features creates a varied topography that supports a wide range of ecosystems (Australian Government, 2018; Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2004).

3.1.3 SOILS

The soils of the onshore Referral Area are largely derived from late Tertiary deposits, with surface horizons modified by wind. The original Tertiary sediments have been overlain by Pleistocene aeolian sediments (Agriculture Victoria, 2019b), contributing to the regions distinctive soil characteristics. These soils generally consist of dark grey to dark brownish sands and loams, often containing variable amounts of rounded gravel (Agriculture Victoria, 2019; Agriculture Victoria, 2019b).

A key soil type in this area is Sodosol, which is characterized by a strong texture contrast between the sandy or loamy topsoil and the more clay-rich subsoil (Australian Government, 2018). These soils often have poor drainage and can become sodic, affecting water infiltration and plant growth. Due to these properties, much of the land of the Gippsland Plains is primarily used for pasture and grazing, with dairy farming and livestock production being dominant agricultural activities.

3.1.4 HYDROLOGY

The onshore Referral Area is located at a coastal environment and includes several low order creeks, including Warrigal Creek. The highest number of sites and the highest densities of First Nations archaeological sites are usually found in close proximity to water and usually on elevated landforms. This assertion is supported by regional archaeological investigations. Confluences of waterways and creek lines across the bioregion will likely have evidence of archaeological activity and deposits.

3.1.5 FLORA AND FAUNA

The onshore Referral Area encompasses a diverse range of ecosystems, including wetlands, forests and coastal habitats, supporting a rich variety of flora and fauna. The south-western edge of the Referral Area lies close to the northern edge of the Corner Inlet Ramsar site. These internationally significant wetlands provide vital habitats for migratory bird species, waterbirds, and marine life. Additionally, Jack Smith Lake and its associated wetlands, listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia, are recognized for their exceptional bird diversity.

The native vegetation in the onshore Referral Area includes Manna Gum, Grey Box, Yertchuk, Banksia, and Tea Tree, which were likely culturally significant to the Gunaikurnai People and provide essential habitat for various species (Agriculture Victoria, 2019). The region supports a multitude of migratory species, both terrestrial and marine, due to its diverse water systems and coastal environments.

3.1.6 ETHNOHISTORY

The onshore Referral Area is the traditional lands of the Brataualung clan of the wider Gunaikurnai group who have inhabited the region for are at least 18,000 years (Figure 3-1).

The majority of First Nations archaeological sites in Gippsland are along the present coastline. Sea levels stabilised around 6000 years ago, and most shell midden sites for example, were formed since that time. Coutts' (1970) excavation of stratified dune sands at Wilsons Promontory to the south-west of the current activity area identified two cultural phases dating from ~6500 years ago.

TABLE 3-1 VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES

Victorian Historical Theme	Sub-Theme
Peopling Victoria's places and landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 Living as Victoria's original inhabitants • 2.2 Exploring, surveying and mapping • 2.4 Arriving in a new land • 2.7 Promoting Settlement
Transforming and managing the land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Living off the land • 4.3 Grazing and raising livestock. • 4.4 Farming

3.1.9 EXPLORATION

As George Bass explored the south-eastern coastline, he made the 'first recorded' observation of the coast of the Wellington Shire (Context, 2005:1). This sighting confirmed the existence of the strait between mainland Australia and Van Diemens Land (Tasmania). According to Context, "sailing in his small whaleboat, Bass was unimpressed by what he saw of the coast, describing the 'Long Beach', now the Ninety Mile Beach, as 'nothing but a low beach'. This lukewarm description did not encourage further investigation and although there is evidence that sealers worked in Corner Inlet, the area remained unknown until the late 1830s." (Context, 2005:1).

Drought in the Monaro district in 1838 and 1839 led to Angus McMillan's exploration further south in search of grazing land as far as Lake Wellington which he described as 'beautiful, rich, open plains.' (Context, 2005:1). Later in 1840, Paul Strzelecki followed much of McMillan's route then ventured further west towards Western Port. He also declared the land was fertile and beautiful. Both known as the founders of Gippsland, their explorations led to the pastoral boom that followed.

3.1.10 SETTLEMENT AND PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

By 1844, forty large pastoral runs had been established in the Gippsland region. Section 1 encompasses the former pastoral runs of Gammon Creek (established 1844), Warrigal Creek (28,400 acres, 1845), and Coady Vale (1845). These runs largely comprised open forests, open flats, saltwater swamps and lakes and were well grassed; they were used for the grazing of cattle and sheep (Context, 2005: 2-3 & Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 8168/P0002, Run 33, 34 & 37) (Figure 3-2).

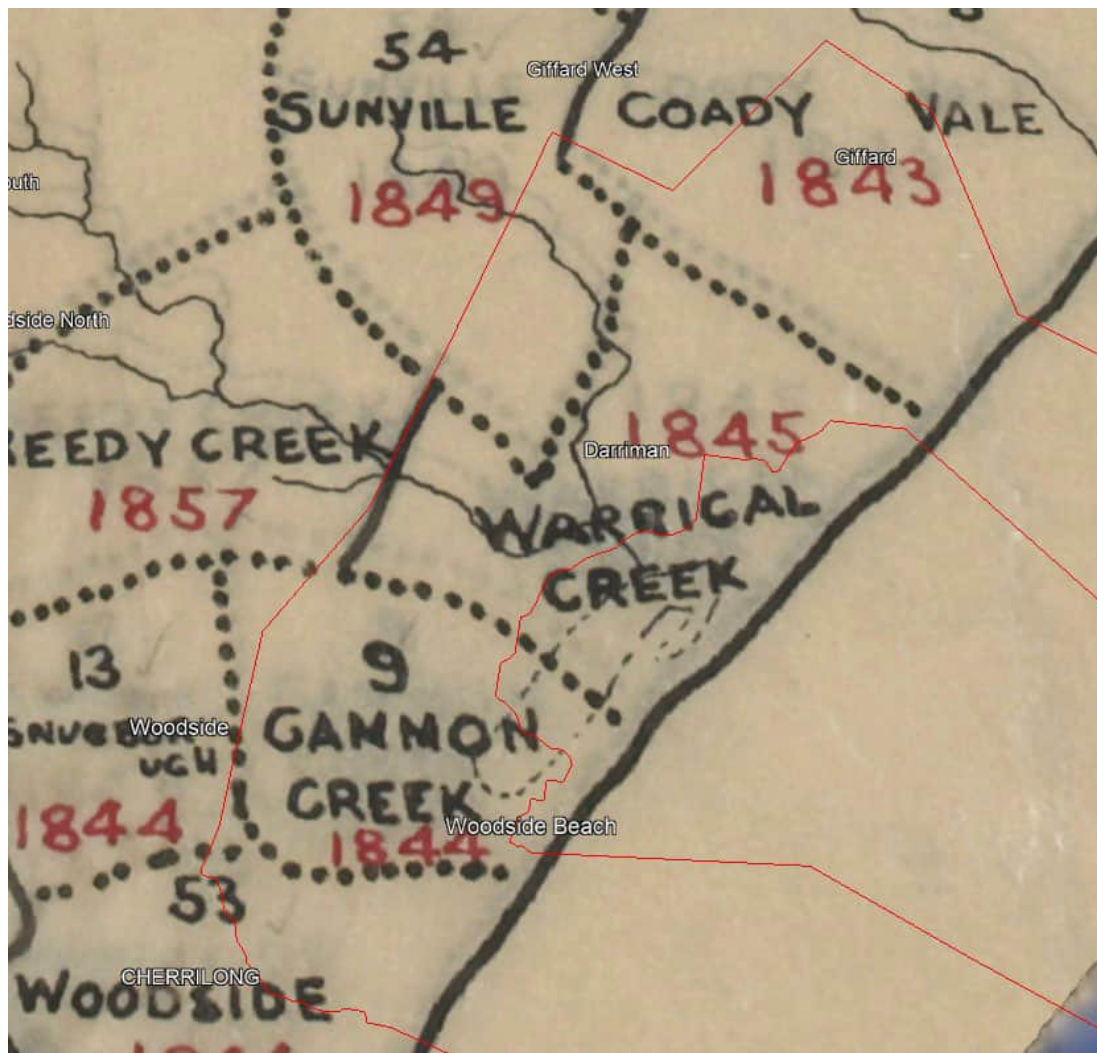


FIGURE 3-2 DETAIL OF 'PASTORAL GIPPSLAND IN 1857'

(Divided as large runs (Sunville, Coady Vale, Warrigal Creek, Gammon Creek). (PROV Map Viewer, Map 12543) *Indicative Referral Area in red outline)

As settlement increased following the passing of selection acts, townships and roads were surveyed in the 1860s, including Woodside (Context, 2005:2-3). Large pastoral runs were subdivided into smaller allotments following the introduction of closer settlement in the late 1890s. This involved grazing land being largely converted to mixed farming and dairying. Figure 3-3 shows the County of Buln Buln in 1881. The onshore Referral Area lies within the historic Parish of Glencoe. The towns of Woodside, Darriman and Seaspray are clearly established by 1881, and they, as well as the surrounding land, have been heavily subdivided. No built structures are delineated.

In c.1917, estates in the area, including at Woodside and Giffard, were further subdivided under the Soldier Settlement Scheme (Context, 2005:7-8). The Former Residence (677 Woodside Beach Road) located within the onshore Referral Area, is an example of this movement and the effort to provide sites for returned WWI servicemen and their families. This site is listed on the VHI (ID 8220-0025). It was received by Edward Hubert Hector Missen in 1920 as part of the Soldier Settlement Scheme (VHD Report, H8220-0025).

The lime mining industry developed in the region in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. A lime mining pit was opened at Darriman in 1904 and lime was also mined north of Woodside. Limestone mining recommenced at Merriman's Creek in the 1950s (originally opened in 1891), producing lime for cement manufacture (Context, 2005:19). Agricultural lime continues to be mined at Darriman to the south of Mullundung Forest Area. An operational lime quarry is also situated to the north of Merriman Creek (Earth Resources Victoria, 2023).

The onshore Referral Area remains a largely agricultural area, with the presence of some industrial activity (lime quarrying). A large portion of the area remains State forests and reserves. Marilyn's Beach Area, Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve (gazette in 1958), Jack Smith Lake Area, Gippsland Lakes Area and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park within the Referral Area are all included on the Register of the National Estate as either natural or Indigenous sites.

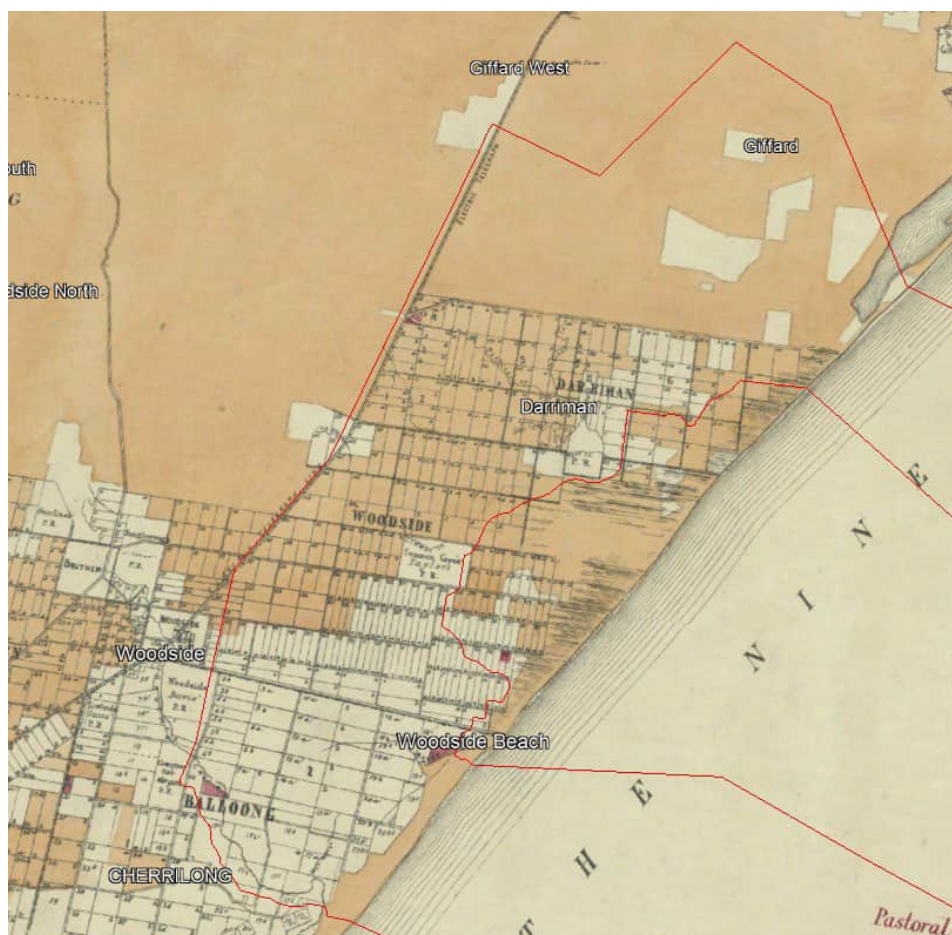


FIGURE 3-3 DETAIL OF LAND CLASSIFICATION MAP 'LC184-1 BULN BULN' (1881)

((PROV Map Viewer, Map 6874) *Indicative Referral Area shown in red.)

3.2 OFFSHORE REFERRAL AREA

The offshore Referral Area extends approximately 50 km from the Ninety-Mile Beach coastline and encompasses both Victorian and Commonwealth waters. Victorian coastal waters are a belt of water between the coastline and a line three nm seaward. Beyond the coastal waters is the territorial sea, extending 12 nm from the territorial sea baseline. The territorial sea and contiguous zone are governed by the Commonwealth. The offshore Referral Area includes both Victorian and Commonwealth waters.

3.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

The offshore Referral Area is located within the Twofold Shelf Marine bioregion, which encompasses numerous protected and significant areas including the Gippsland Lakes, and Ninety-Mile Beach and its associated marine national park. The bioregion comprises offshore calcarenite reefs and tidal deltas, which are under threat of erosion due to the decrease of reed swamp. There is moderate tidal range of approximately 2 m, and varying wave energy (Victorian National Parks Association, n.d). The seabed and intertidal zone include saltmarshes and reedbeds, sublittoral sand and muddy sand (Seamap Australia, 2025).

3.2.2 SEA COUNTRY

Coastal areas were among the most densely populated parts of Australia including Victoria. The First Nations peoples likely used coastal routes to spread southward along the continent as far as Tasmania, which was originally connected to the mainland. They have occupied, used and managed coastal land and sea environments for many thousands of years. These include those areas that were dry land before the current sea level stabilised around 6,000 years ago.

Cultural, social and spiritual meaning of Sea Country to First Nations Peoples is demonstrated in historical and contemporary accounts of dreaming stories. These stories are integral to understanding the importance of Sea Country. First Nations Peoples continue to use and harvest the resources of their Country and pass knowledge of the coastal and marine environment from generation to generation.

Sea Country is further discussed in Section 5.2.3.

3.2.3 MARITIME HISTORY

European maritime exploration of Victoria began in 1797 and 1798 when the Bass Strait was sailed by George Bass and Matthew Flinders, respectively. The sea was essential to the spread of settlement across Victoria; it provided transportation routes for people and goods. Between 1835 and 1839, 338 vessels arrived in Victorian ports, the vast majority of them at Melbourne (Barnard, 2008:10-12). During the 1840s, as settlement spread from the centre of Melbourne, coastal transport was the most convenient way to transfer the produce of local industries prior to the construction of bridges and roads (Barnard, 2008:12). Gippsland was a little-known region for European settlers until the steamer PS Clonmel, travelling from Sydney to Melbourne, was wrecked at the entrance to Port Albert, in January 1841 (Context, 2010:1).

Following its establishment, Port Albert became the main seaport of the Gippsland region. As the shipping trade grew, the Port Albert region became the major point for importation and exportation of goods; cattle, sheep, wool, dairy produce, timber, and fish were exported. Coastal transport was important to the increase of immigration to Australia; Port Albert provided entry to the Gippsland Gold Fields during the 1850s gold rush. The use of Port Albert declined when a navigable entrance from the ocean into the Gippsland Lakes was discovered in the late 1850s (Barnard, 2008:24). Later, in the twentieth century and during the World Wars, the ports of Victoria became integral to the naval defence of Australia (Barnard, 2008:40-44).

The shipwrecks that are within the offshore Referral Area and buffer zone were destined for Melbourne, Lakes Entrance and Port Phillip, with many of them carrying cargo including maize, stone, wool, and timber. These include:

- Within offshore Referral Area:
 - The Sarah (AUCHD 6589) was a sailing vessel destined for Port Phillip. The ship was driven ashore in a storm on Ninety-Mile Beach, Woodside in 1838. The purpose of the voyage was to transport Mr Henry Howey, his family, servants, and possessions to Mt Macedon Station, of which he was proprietor; all 25 passengers died. The Sarah is historically and socially significant for the mystery surrounding its disappearance, and the part its wreck played in impact to the Indigenous population of Gippsland. Following the disappearance of the Sarah, reports emerged of a white woman being held captive by Aboriginal people, and sightings were reported in the Port Albert and eastern Gippsland regions. By 1846 the reports had reached the stage of public and official concern; subsequently, police searches were undertaken between 1846 and 1849. This involved the killing of hundreds of Aboriginal people.
 - The Magnolia (AUCHD 6386) was a sailing vessel destined for Lakes Entrance. The ship went missing enroute and disappeared in 1887. The purpose of the voyage was to transport stone for the new entrance to the Gippsland Lakes; all four crew members died.
 - The City of Hobart (AUCHD 6600) was an iron steamer built for the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company for use in the inter-colonial passenger and cargo trade. Towards the end of its working life, it was reduced to carrying coal. On a voyage from Newcastle to Melbourne the propellor shaft broke and is thought to have pierced the hull, the vessel sinking soon afterwards. It is noted that an unknown shipwreck site (AUCHD 6700) has been identified during the Project geophysical surveys at the same location and registered on the AUCHD separately. Further investigation may determine if these are the same shipwreck or separate sites.
- Within onshore Referral Area:
 - Unconfirmed Buried Wreck, Mcloughlins Beach (S875) was found during oil drilling exploration activities in the dunes in the vicinity of Mcloughlins Beach. The VHD interpretation surmises that this wreck may possibly be the remains of the Sarah or Britannia, known to have wrecked in this area in the 1830s. Artefacts such as the figurehead of the Sarah were reported by the Port Albert harbourmaster at the time. The VHD entry also notes that wood analysed from the wreck was found to be oregon pine, a material commonly used in early sealing vessels, supporting the theory of pre-settlement maritime activity. A 1958 bulletin (*Condon, Fisher and Terpstra 1958 bulletin on oil boring published by Bureau of Mineral Resources*) is cited as containing

information about the discovery of a piece of ship buried in dune sands during oil boring near Mcloughlins Beach, however the bulletin has not been digitized or made publicly available. A later reference identifies the location of the wreck is approximate 2.5 km inland, but this likely incorrect compared to the description that shows the discovery as within the dunes of the beach.

4. HERITAGE DATABASE SEARCH RESULTS

4.1 ONSHORE REFERRAL AREA

4.1.1 WORLD AND NATIONAL HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

Part 3, Division 1 of the EPBC Act requires that actions that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on MNES require approval from the Australian Government Minister for the Environment. The MNES that relate to heritage matters are World Heritage Properties, and National Heritage Places.

Section 341ZC of the EPBC Act addresses Commonwealth Heritage Places, as the section requires the minimisation of adverse impacts to the heritage values of a National or Commonwealth Heritage Place. This might be direct impacts from physical disturbance or could also include secondary impacts in the event of activities that would impact on the visual aspect, cultural importance, landscaping and curtilage of an adjacent listed property. It is noted that 341ZC only applies to places legally gazetted as having Commonwealth/National heritage values by the Minister for the Environment.

4.1.2 WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

There are no World Heritage Properties near the Referral Area. The closest World Heritage Property is the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Carlton, Melbourne (Place ID 105143), located approximately 190 km north-east of the Referral Area western boundary.

4.1.3 NATIONAL AND COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE PLACES

The PMST was used to identify National and Commonwealth Heritage Places. There are no National Heritage Places in the vicinity of the Referral Area. The nearest National Heritage Place is the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves (Place ID 105891), with the closest section of this listed place located approximately 70 km north-east of the Referral Area at its nearest point.

The closest Commonwealth Heritage Place is Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse (Place ID 105375), which is located approximately 80 km south-west from the Referral Area at the nearest point.

4.1.4 STATE AND LOCAL HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

4.1.4.1 FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL HERITAGE

[REDACTED]

4.1.4.3 HISTORIC HERITAGE

Victorian Heritage Register

There is one VHR property within or in proximity to the onshore Referral Area, being the shipwreck located near Mcloughlins Beach (S875, Unconfirmed Buried Wreck Mcloughlins Beach) and described in Section 3.2.3.

The nearest confirmed VHR Property is the Goodwood Sawmill Site, Mullungdung Forest (Place ID H2011), located approximately 10 km north-west of the Referral Area's northern boundary.

Victorian Heritage Inventory

There are two VHI places located within the Referral Area, including:

- H8321-0005, Warrigal Creek Massacre Site, located in Wellington Shire at Kuchs Road, Darriman
- H8220-0025, Former Residence, Woodside Beach Road, located in Wellington Shire at 677 Woodside Beach Road, Woodside

Other VHI sites located beyond the 1 km buffer.

Wellington Planning Scheme

There are no locally listed heritage properties within or proximate to the onshore Referral Area. The nearest locally listed heritage property is the Hawthorne Bank, Yarraman, located approximately 17 km west of the onshore Referral Area's north-western boundary.

4.1.5 NON-STATUTORY HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

National Trust of Australia

There are no National Trust of Australia properties in proximity to the onshore Referral Area. The nearest National Trust of Australia Property is the Mulberry Hill, Langwarrin South, located approximately 150 km north-west of the Referral Area's north-western boundary.

The Archive of the Register of the National Estate

There are five recorded places on the RNE Database located within the onshore Referral Area, as tabled below.

TABLE 4-3 RNE DATABASE SEARCH RESULTS

Place ID	Class	Status	Name of Heritage Item	Address	Proximity to Referral Area
4802	Indigenous	Registered	Marilyns Beach Area	Woodside Beach Road, Woodside	Within
4795	Natural	Registered	Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve	Stringy Bark Lane, Darriman	Within
4800	Indigenous	Registered	Jack Smith Lake Area	Kuchs Road, Darriman	Within
15528	Natural	Indicative Place	Gippsland Lakes Area	Princes Highway, Bairnsdale	Within

Place ID	Class	Status	Name of Heritage Item	Address	Proximity to Referral Area
4776	Natural	Registered	Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park	Seacombe Loch Sport Road, Loch Sport	Within

4.2 OFFSHORE REFERRAL AREA

4.2.1 MARITIME HERITAGE

A search of the AUCHD was undertaken, applying a 1 km buffer around the offshore Referral Area to identify any maritime heritage within the vicinity, which identified four recorded shipwrecks (and as described in Section 3.2.3). Coordinates for shipwrecks often have discrepancies due to drift and wreck movement in the marine environment (ocean currents, storms, and seabed shifts can move a wreck from its original position), and variations in GPS system accuracy. For example, the AUCHD appears to indicate that an unknown wreck is located at the exact coordinates of the registration for the City of Hobart.

It is noted that unknown shipwreck sites have been identified during the Project geophysical surveys, which will be subject to further maritime archaeological assessment and may indicate other wrecks in the Referral Area not listed below.

TABLE 4-4 AUCHD SEARCH RESULTS

Shipwreck ID	Vessel Name	Applicable legislation	Latitude	Longitude	Proximity to Offshore Referral Area
6066	City of Hobart	UCH Act	-38.61	147.57	Within
6386	Magnolia	UCH Act	-38.465	147.225	Within
6589 (VHR S607)	Sarah*	<i>Heritage Act 2017</i>	-38.565	146.975	Within
6700	Unidentified: 22 Miles south-east of Seaspray	UCH Act	-38.61	147.57	Within

Note: 'Sarah' also has a VHR listing as it is located in Victorian waters.

4.3 SUMMARY OF THE HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

First Nations Heritage

Coastal areas of south-east Australia, including the Bass Strait coastal zone (and now submerged landscapes), were amongst the most densely populated First Nation regions. The First Nations cultural landscape is represented by a high number of VAHR sites within the onshore Referral Area, with discrete clusters of registered sites representing previous cultural heritage assessment work likely tied to infrastructure or other development projects.



values relating to Sea Country.

Historic Heritage

Following early settlement of the region by non-First Nations people, the Gippsland region and the Bass Strait hold heritage significance through the formation of towns, agricultural practices, maritime trade and commerce (fishing, and earth resource collection), all of which hold varying levels of historic values.

The onshore Referral Area contains one VHR place - (S875) - Unconfirmed Buried Wreck Mcloughlins Beach and two VHI (archaeological) items – a former residence at Woodside Beach Road, and the Warrigal Creek Massacre Site.

The offshore Referral Area contains four shipwrecks – three in Commonwealth Waters and one VHR-listed site (the 'Sarah') in State waters.

5. HERITAGE SENSITIVITY AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS ANALYSIS

This section provides an overview of heritage site types and predictive modelling based on the desktop research and data search results in Section 4. Sensitivity mapping of identified heritage places and areas of potential heritage values are presented for the onshore and offshore Referral Areas.

A high-level summary of potential adverse impacts to heritage values from project activities follows the sensitivity receptors discussion.

5.1 ONSHORE REFERRAL AREA - DISCUSSION OF HERITAGE SENSITIVITY

5.1.1 NATURAL HERITAGE

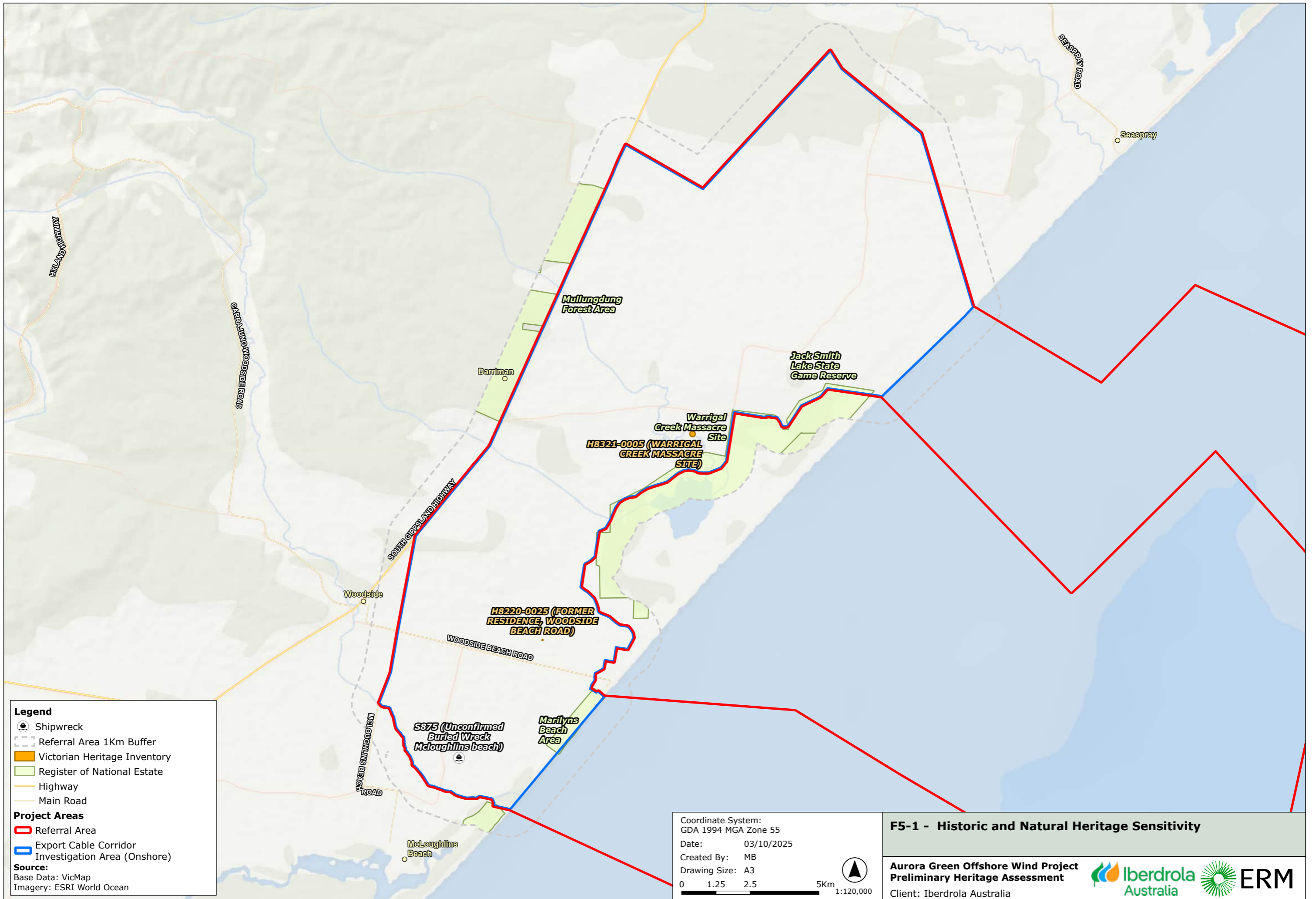
Natural heritage is integral to both onshore and offshore environments, encompassing ecosystems, biodiversity, and landscapes that are not only environmentally significant but also deeply connected to cultural values and traditions. Onshore, this includes terrestrial habitats, protected areas, and landscapes of cultural importance, while offshore extends to marine ecosystems, coastal environments, and underwater landscapes that hold ecological, economic, and cultural values.

Natural heritage is defined in the Australian Natural Heritage Charter (Article 1.1) as:

- natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which demonstrate natural significance;
- geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas that constitute the habitat of indigenous species of animals and plants, which demonstrate natural significance; and/or
- natural sites or precisely-delineated natural areas which demonstrate natural significance from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

Natural heritage significance means 'the importance of ecosystems, biodiversity and geodiversity for their existence value or for present or future generations, in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value' (Article 1.3). Assessing natural heritage significance is fundamental and necessary to the process of heritage conservation because it identifies the values that need to be recognised in conservation management and guides future management of the place.

Natural places, especially large ones, are likely to have a range of values which are important to consider when determining significance of place. While not assessed in detailed, it is likely that the three natural heritage places recorded within the Referral Area [Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve (ID 4795), Gippsland Lakes Area (15528) and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park (4776)] contain a range of values as outlined in *Protecting Natural Heritage: Using the Australian Heritage Charter* (2nd Edition), including Biodiversity, Ecosystem, Existence, Geodiversity, Scientific, Aesthetic and Social. The historic and natural heritage sensitivity is mapped in Figure 5-1.



Legend

- Shipwreck
- Referral Area 1Km Buffer
- Victorian Heritage Inventory
- Register of National Estate
- Highway
- Main Road

Project Areas

- Referral Area
- Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area (Onshore)

Source:
 Base Data: VicMap
 Imagery: ESRI World Ocean

Coordinate System:
 GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Date: 03/10/2025

Created By: MB

Drawing Size: A3

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F5-1 - Historic and Natural Heritage Sensitivity

**Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project
 Preliminary Heritage Assessment**

Client: Iberdrola Australia

5.1.2 FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL HERITAGE

5.1.2.1 AREAS OF FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY

With regard to cultural heritage values, 'areas of cultural heritage sensitivity' are defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018* and relate to landforms and soil types where Aboriginal places are more likely to be located. These include (*inter alia*) land within 200 m of named waterways, coastal Crown land, dunes, and land within 50 m of registered Aboriginal cultural heritage places. If an 'area of cultural sensitivity' is on the land that has been subject to significant ground disturbance, a management plan is not required for the activity. 'Significant ground disturbance' is defined in the Regulations as meaning disturbance of –

- a) the topsoil or surface rock layer of the ground; or
- b) a waterway – by machinery in the course of grading, excavating, digging, dredging or deep ripping, but does not include ploughing other than deep ripping.

The potential for encountering cultural heritage in an area is mitigated to a large extent by the specific land use history of the place, and the associated degree of previous ground disturbance. For example, modification of the original land surface by clearing, land levelling, and ploughing may have impacted earthen and stone features as well as dispersed stone artefacts had they been present. Past removal the original vegetation further reduces the chance of encountering culturally modified trees. Combined, the predictive model and land use history provide context for 'reading' the results of any cultural heritage investigation.

5.1.2.2 PREVIOUS FIRST NATIONS HERITAGE STUDIES

[REDACTED]

5.1.2.4 ABORIGINAL SITE TYPE PREDICTION

Based on the results and analytical conclusions of previous archaeological surveys in similar landscape contexts in the Gippsland region, it is possible to predict the types and topographic contexts of cultural heritage sites in the Referral Area. The occurrence and survival of archaeological sites is, however, dependent on many factors including micro-topography and the degree of land surface disturbance (and subject to a range of other factors within the marine environment).

ACHRIS search results indicate that the most frequently recorded cultural heritage sites within the Referral Area are shell middens, stone artefact scatters, and LDAD. AAR (burials) are also represented in the archaeological record.

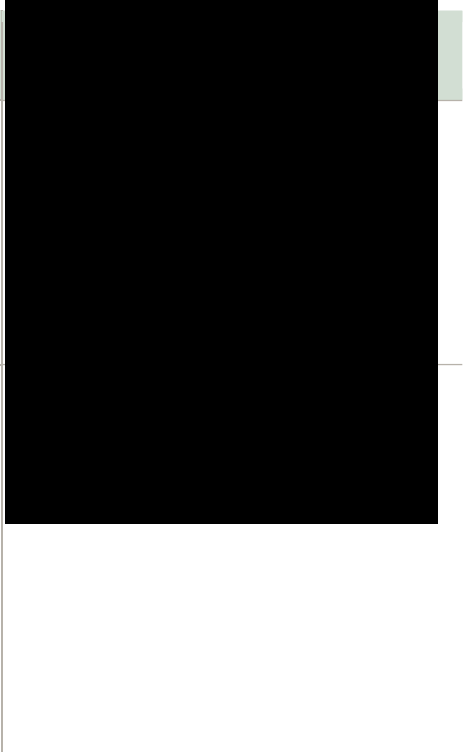
The types of Aboriginal cultural heritage site types previously recorded in the Gippsland region are described below in Table 5-1, with Referral Area-specific commentary provided. Note these site types are discussed within the terrestrial (onshore) environment, but potential exists for stone artefacts and other evidence of land occupation and use to be present within submerged landscape deposits.

TABLE 5-1 CULTURAL HERITAGE SITE TYPES AND APPLICATION TO ONSHORE REFERRAL AREA

Site Types	Definition
<p>Stone artefact scatters and LDADs</p>	<p>Stone artefact scatter sites are usually indicated by surface scatters of stone artefacts and sometimes fire blackened stones and charcoal. Where such sites are buried by sediment, they may not be noticeable unless exposed by erosion or disturbed by modern activities.</p> <p>Sites consisting of only one identified stone artefact, isolated from any other artefacts or archaeological evidence are referred to as 'Isolated Finds'. They are generally indicative of broader past Aboriginal use or occupation of an area.</p>
<p>Shell middens</p>	<p>Middens consist of accumulations of shell that represent the exploitation and consumption of shellfish and other food remains by First Nations people. Shell species may be marine, estuarine or freshwater depending on the environmental context and middens may also include other faunal remains, stone artefacts, hearths and charcoal.</p>

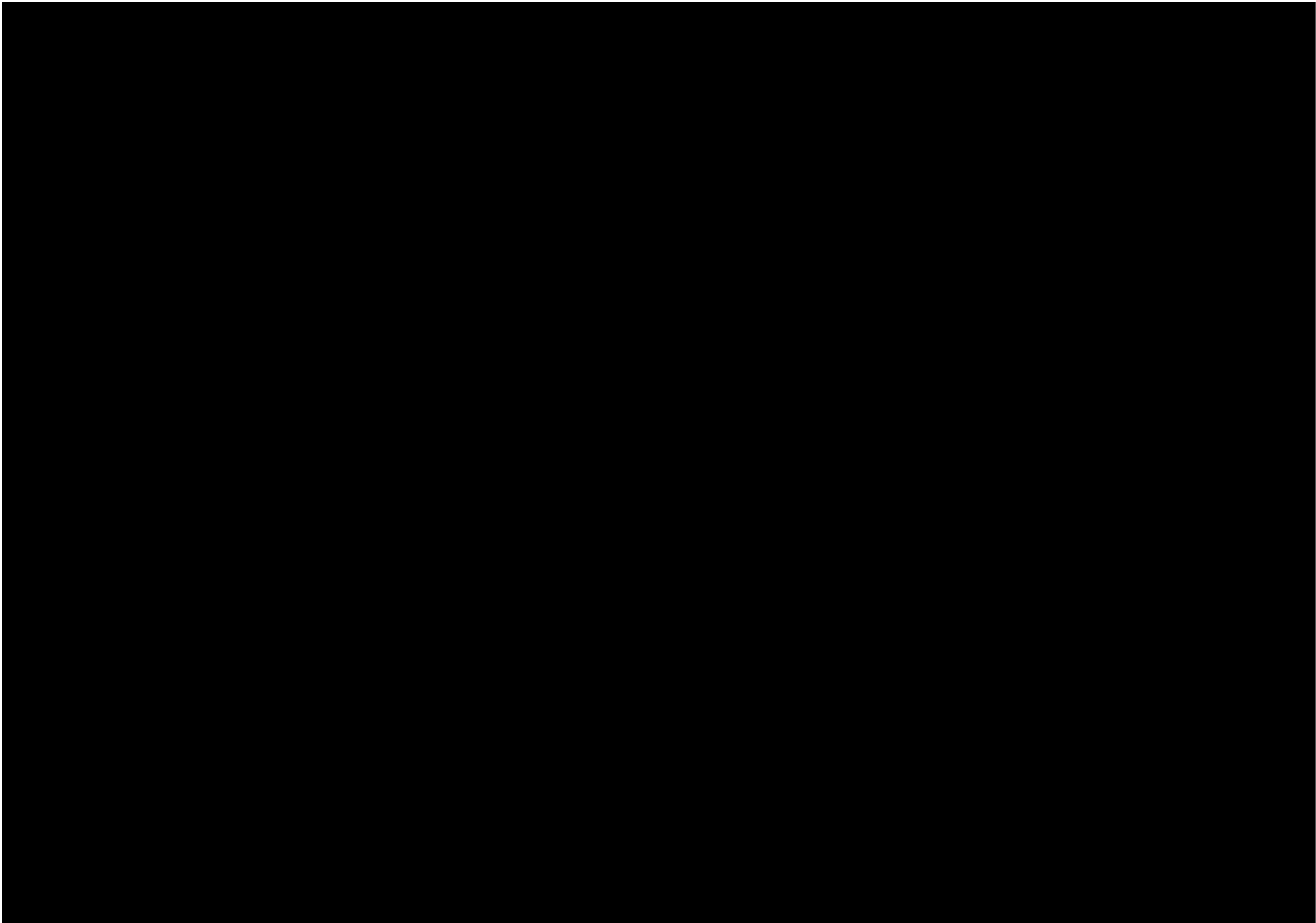
Site Types	Definition	
Shelter sites	Rock shelters and overhangs were used by First Nations people to provide camp sites or ceremonial sites sheltered from the rain and sun. The deposits in such sites are commonly very important because they often contain clearly stratified material in a good state of preservation.	
Grinding grooves	Grooves resulting from the grinding of stone axes or other implements are found on flat areas of suitable sandstone. They are often located near waterholes or creek beds as water is necessary in the sharpening process. In areas where suitable outcrops of rock were not available, transportable pieces of sandstone were used.	
Quarries	These are areas where stone was obtained for flaked artefacts or ground-edge artefacts, or where ochre was obtained for rock paintings, body decoration or decorating wooden artefacts.	
Art sites	Paintings, drawings, and stencils are commonly to be found where suitable surfaces occur in sandstone shelters and overhangs. These sites are often referred to as rock shelters with painted art. Rock engravings, carvings or peckings are also to be found on sandstone surfaces both in the open and in shelters. These are referred to as rock engraving sites.	
Water holes	Rock wells are subterranean water sources that have been either modified or maintained by First Nations people. Besides being important for the provision of clean drinking water rock wells may also have mythological significance to First Nations peoples and are often sacred places.	
Culturally modified trees	Culturally modified trees bear the marks of bark and wood removal for utilisation as canoes, shields, boomerangs or containers. Scars also resulted from the cutting of toeholds for climbing trees to obtain honey or to capture animals such as possums. It is commonly very difficult to confidently distinguish between culturally modified scars and natural scars or those made by Europeans. If the scar is a First Nations-modified marking, the tree must now be more than ~150 years old.	

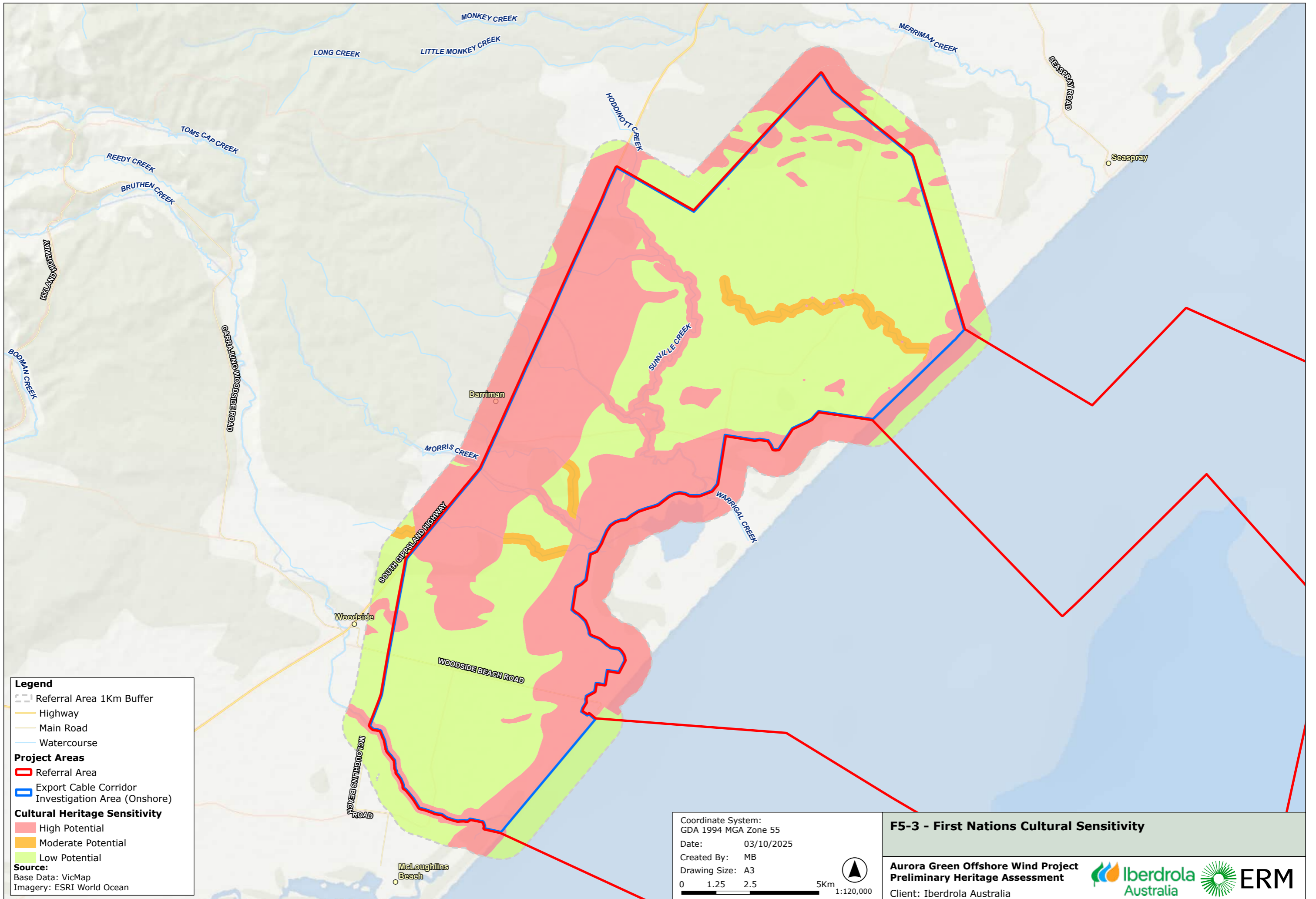
Site Types	Definition
<p>Aboriginal Ancestral Remains (burial sites)</p>	<p>Burials may be of isolated individuals, or they may form complex burial grounds. Burials tend to be in areas of sandy soil that were easy to dig and above floodwaters.</p>
<p>Stone arrangements, carved trees, earthen features (ceremonial grounds)</p>	<p>These site types are often interrelated. Stone arrangements range from simple cairns or piles of rocks to more elaborate arrangements; patterns of stone laid out to form circles and other designs or standing slabs of rock held upright by stones around the base.</p> <p>Ceremonial grounds were often marked by trees with intricate geometric or linear patterns or representations of animals carved into their trunks and may have also included earthen features.</p>



Past occupation within the Referral Area would have been heavily focused on key water courses and associated wetlands as rich resource procurement areas. Consequently, most archaeological sites can be expected adjacent to freshwater sources / within riverine corridors.

VAHR registered places and areas of cultural sensitivity are mapped in Figure 5-2 and Figure 5-3, respectively.





Legend

- Referral Area 1Km Buffer
- Highway
- Main Road
- Watercourse

Project Areas

- Referral Area
- Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area (Onshore)

Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

- High Potential
- Moderate Potential
- Low Potential

Source:
 Base Data: VicMap
 Imagery: ESRI World Ocean

Coordinate System:
 GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
 Date: 03/10/2025
 Created By: MB
 Drawing Size: A3

0 1.25 2.5 5Km 1:120,000

F5-3 - First Nations Cultural Sensitivity

**Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project
 Preliminary Heritage Assessment**

Client: Iberdrola Australia

5.1.3 HISTORIC HERITAGE

5.1.3.1 PREVIOUS HISTORIC HERITAGE STUDIES

Marinus Link EIS/EES Cultural Heritage Technical Study – Eco Logical Australia 2024

In 2022, an archaeological survey was conducted for a proposed 90 km underground cable between Waratah Bay and Morwell, located approximately 50 km north-west of the onshore Referral Area. The transect covered the 35 m wide construction corridor from the coast up to Morwell. The survey identified one historical archaeological site; a brick cistern located on a plain near Buffalo Creek, approximately 80 km west of the onshore Referral Area. The current landowner confirmed that a homestead once stood near the cistern but was later dismantled and relocated. Despite this, additional historical features may still be present on the property, and a VHI record has been drafted. Historical plans indicate that the property was owned by C.I Moore in the 1900s. Brick cisterns, commonly used in Australia from the 1870s until the early 20th century before town water supplies became widespread, have been documented in archaeological records (Casey and Lowe, 2005).

The types of historic heritage sites and historical archaeological resources that potentially occur within the onshore Referral Area are presented in Table 5-2.

TABLE 5-2 HISTORIC HERITAGE SITE TYPES AND APPLICATION TO ONSHORE REFERRAL AREA

Site types	Definition	Application to Onshore Referral Area
Pastoral and Agricultural Sites	Pastoral and agricultural sites relate to the arrival of European graziers, agriculturalists, and associated industries during the mid to late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Site type examples include old homesteads and associated structures such as work sheds, dairies, shearing sheds and labourer’s quarters, and dry-stone walling. Less conspicuous sites include survey markers (such as blazed trees) which are also of historical interest. Associated archaeological resources may include domestic assemblages or yard scatters associated with former living quarters, wells and privy deposits, rubbish pits, evidence of landscaping, evidence of land clearance such as tree boles and areas of burning, post holes associated with paddocks and stockyard/boundary fencing or for lightweight structures for agricultural purposes, such as timber shelters for storage, soil deposits containing plough marks and agricultural furrows, tracks and former creek crossings (corduroy road or simple bridge), weirs or bunds, or stone arrangements.	This site type is represented throughout the onshore Referral Area with a former homestead listed on the VHI.
Urban Sites	Gippsland towns contain historically significant commercial, public, and residential buildings from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Examples include railway stations, municipal halls, churches, libraries, schools, and courthouses. Parks, gardens, and cemeteries including the monuments, grave markers and other structures also have historical significance.	As the onshore Referral Area avoids urban centres, these site types do not occur within the Onshore Referral Area.

Site types	Definition	Application to Onshore Referral Area
Industrial and Mining Sites	Industrial features are dispersed across the region, which include abandoned butter factories, sawmills, and mining sites. Such sites mainly comprise earthworks, ruined built structures, and abandoned machinery including steam engines and boilers.	Early industrial complexes are represented beyond the 1 km buffer zone (e.g. Goodwood Sawmill, H2011).
Transport and Communication Sites	Culverts, road bridges and rail trestle bridges occur across the Gippsland region. The remains of early telegraph lines such as timber poles with glass and ceramic insulators may also be preserved. The railway lines established in the late nineteenth century have historical features including stations and sidings.	Whilst no conspicuous site such as a railway station or bridge has been recorded within the onshore Referral Area, less conspicuous features or evidence such as telegraph poles, etc. may be present in the landscape.

Historical cultural heritage sites in the onshore Referral Area would be anticipated to most likely relate to early pastoral or agricultural activities of the nineteenth century and early industrial activities of the last half of the nineteenth century or the first half of the twentieth century.

5.1.3.2 HISTORIC HERITAGE PREDICTIVE MODEL

Tangible historic heritage comes in many forms, such as historic buildings, dams, railways, mines, building foundations, archaeological deposits, and shipwrecks. Some heritage is movable (i.e., designed to be moved from place to place) (DCCEEW 2012). Tangible historic heritage comprises features, sites, site complexes, serial sites (sites that are historically connected, but distant from each other), routes, areas and landscapes including cultural landscapes (which are landscapes that contain interrelated natural and cultural elements), objects and/or collections of objects.

Historical archaeological resources are also provided blanket protection under the *Heritage Act 2017*, and if any historical archaeological artefacts or deposits are discovered during the course of activity, the regulator (Heritage Victoria) must be contacted immediately. Depending on the nature of the discovery, additional assessment may be required prior to the recommencement of excavation in the affected area.

The distribution of recorded historic heritage sites is shown in Figure 5-1. These include two VHI places and one VHR shipwrecks located within the onshore Project Referral Area.

5.2 OFFSHORE REFERRAL AREA – DISCUSSION OF HERITAGE SENSITIVITY

5.2.1 UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

5.2.1.1 MARITIME HERITAGE

Shipwrecks, sunken aircraft and other artefacts are protected and managed through the UCH Act, the *Heritage Act 2017* and the *Heritage (Underwater Cultural Heritage) Regulations 2017*.

In addition to the general protection provided to underwater heritage sites, State and Commonwealth legislation also make provision for site-specific protected zones.

There is potential for unknown underwater cultural heritage to be present within the offshore Referral Area in the form of unrecorded shipwrecks or aircraft and discarded refuse. Off the coast of Victoria, it is estimated, that over 800 ships have been wrecked or reported lost along the Victorian coast with no confirmed final resting place. Similarly, dumping of waste material into the sea off the coast of Victoria has been prevalent for much of the last 150 years. Any waste over 75 years of age may contain heritage significance and subject to protection under the UCH Act or the *Heritage Act 2017*.

The distribution of recorded underwater heritage sites (maritime only, at this stage of assessment) is shown in Figure 5-4. These include four shipwrecks within the Referral Area, three in Commonwealth waters, and one in State waters.

5.2.2 FIRST NATIONS UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE – SUBMERGED LANDSCAPES

Underwater cultural heritage also includes First Nations heritage. The Deep History of Sea Country project³ resulted in the first confirmed ancient underwater archaeological sites from the Australian continental shelf, located off the Murujuga coastline in north-western Australia.⁴ The two underwater sites are Cape Bruguieres, comprising 260 recorded lithic artefacts at depths to 2.4 m below sea level, and Flying Foam Passage where the find spot is associated with a submerged freshwater spring at 14 m.⁵

DCCEEW is responsible for administering the UCH Act and recently released the *Draft Technical Guidelines on the Archaeological Assessment of First Nations Underwater Cultural Heritage in Commonwealth Waters* (the **Draft FNUCH Guidelines**) for public review period⁶. The Draft FNUCH Guidelines were developed in 2024 in recognition that the UCH Act could also extend to the protection of submerged cultural landscapes, and more detailed direction was needed in addressing legislative obligations for proponents of near and offshore developments with regard to First Nations cultural heritage.

³ The project was administered by Flinders University and funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Project grant, for the period 1 March 2017 to 28 February 2020.

⁴ DCCEEW Australia State of the Environment Report 2022.

<https://soe.dceew.gov.au/heritage/environment/historic-heritage>

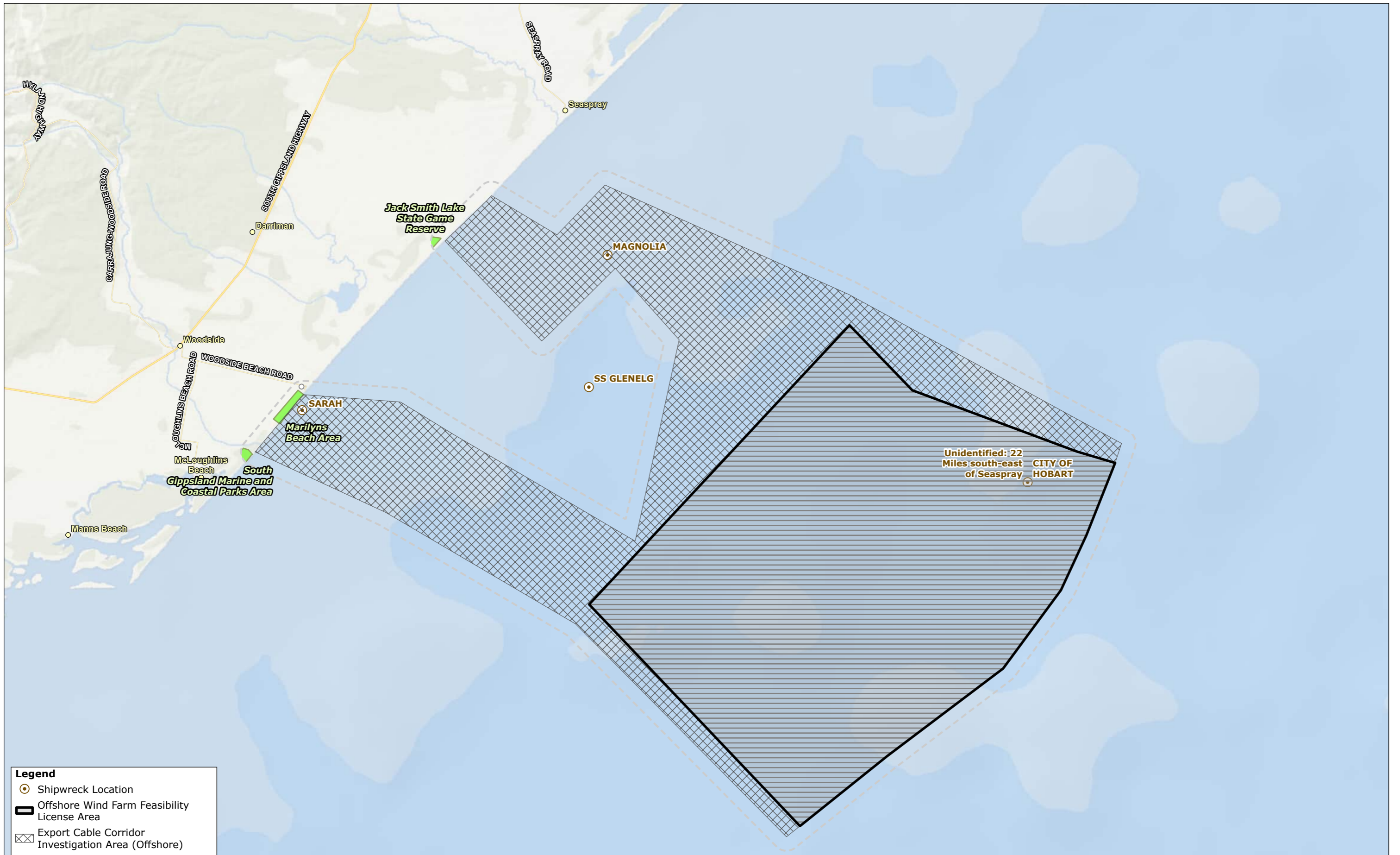
⁵ <https://deephistoryofseacountry.com/>

⁶ The Draft FNUCH Guidelines was released on 1 August 2024 for a seventeen-week public review period, with closing date set at 29 November 2024

The guidelines state that they should be read as a flow-down document under the overarching DCCEEW guidelines, *Assessing and Managing Impacts to Underwater Cultural Heritage in Australian Waters: Guidelines on the application of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 (2024)*.

Known or unknown First Nations cultural heritage sites in the coastal waters of Victoria are protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and are required to be managed in line with the Act and the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*. The process and identification and management of First Nations places in an underwater context follows the Draft FNUCH Guidelines and the project's impact mitigation hierarchy applied for terrestrial heritage such as the development of a CHMP or cultural heritage plan for any affected heritage (as required).

Whilst very few detailed First Nations underwater cultural heritage assessments have been undertaken in Australia, the preparation of new Commonwealth guidelines is a clear recognition of the potential for submerged landscapes to exist across Australia's continental shelf. The Bass Strait, as a former land bridge connecting mainland Australia to Tasmania, is a particular focus of interest for its potential to preserve traces of Pleistocene occupation. As the Marinus Link assessment (Cosmos Archaeology 2024) has demonstrated, submerged landforms are extant across the Bass Strait that have potential to contain intact archaeological evidence. This research could reveal new insights into First Nations maritime traditions, adaptation of extreme environmental change, and continuity of resource use. The study of submerged landscapes offers a deeper understanding of Australia's Indigenous past and contribute to global knowledge of prehistoric human migration and climate adaptation.



Legend

- Shipwreck Location
- Offshore Wind Farm Feasibility License Area
- Export Cable Corridor Investigation Area (Offshore)
- Referral Area 1Km Buffer
- Register of National Estate
- Highway
- Main Road

Source:
 Base Data: VicMap
 Imagery: ESRI World Ocean

Coordinate System:
 GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
 Date: 03/10/2025
 Created By: MB/CB
 Drawing Size: A3

0 2.5 5 10Km 1:250,000

F5-4 - Maritime Heritage Sensitivity

**Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project
 Preliminary Heritage Assessment**

Client: Iberdrola Australia

5.2.3 FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL VALUES – SEA COUNTRY

Sea Country holds immense significance for First Nations Peoples, including not only a geographical expanse but embodying a holistic connection to cultural identity, health, and wellbeing. Beyond the physical realm, Sea Country captures the entirety of associated living entities, ancestral spirits, creation stories, belief systems, and cultural obligations. The recognition of spiritual corridors extending seamlessly from terrestrial areas into nearshore and offshore waters emphasises the interconnectedness between land and sea in indigenous narratives.

It is recognised that spiritual corridors extend from terrestrial areas into nearshore and offshore waters⁷. Some First Nations Peoples have dreaming stories from when their ancestors lived on the coastal plains near the edge of the continental shelf. The boundaries of different Sea Country areas are often clearly defined by environmental features such as river mouths or rock formations.

First Nations People of the South-east Marine Region (Victoria), including GLaWAC, have a strong cultural and spiritual connection to the marine environment, and the use and management of coastal species that are part of ocean ecosystems:

*We see no distinction between the land and the sea. It is all a part of our Country. But our connection to the coastal and marine parts of our Country is rarely recognised, so we need to be clear about how important it is to us.*⁸

First Nations people's physical relationship with offshore waters within Bass Strait would have been based on travel to now submerged land bridges or islands, between the mainland and Tasmania. Cultural values would be identified by GLaWAC as knowledge holders who can speak for Sea Country associated with the Referral Area.

5.3 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO HERITAGE VALUES

A high-level summary of potential impacts to heritage values that may result from Project construction, operation, and decommissioning activities is presented in Table 5-3.

⁷ National Oceans Office 2002

⁸ <https://gunaikurnai.org/our-country/sea-country/>

TABLE 5-3 POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO HERITAGE VALUES BY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Project Aspect (Indicative)	Heritage Site / Value Type	Potential Impacts
Export cables connection to onshore substation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAHR sites • Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity • Areas of biocultural heritage sensitivity (intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage places/values) • Unrecorded historical archaeological resources • Historic heritage places (registered) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing and localised ground disturbance that may result in direct or indirect disturbance to cultural heritage or archaeological resources • Potential impact sources include, vibration and demolition resulting in archaeological disturbance, potentially altered historical arrangements and access, landscape and vistas, and acoustic treatment. <p>While there is the potential for impact to registered heritage sites, project activities would generally be discrete in nature with limited ground disturbance. These locations would be ground-truthed during field survey, and detailed design would prioritise avoidance so far as is reasonably practicable.</p> <p>Routing and micro-siting would be informed by archaeologists and First Nations representatives for sensitive sites along the coast, and by ecologists or geologists for natural heritage as required.</p>
Seabed and ocean horizon disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underwater heritage (shipwrecks, aircraft wrecks, artefacts) • Submerged ancient landscapes (currently unknown archaeological potential) • Sea Country values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct disturbance from construction such as boulder removal, seabed levelling, etc. and installation of infrastructure (wind turbine foundations, substations, cables, etc) • Localised scour around installed foundations may directly impact maritime or submerged landscapes with current unknown archaeological potential. • Impacts of increased sedimentation from construction/installation activities to seabed habitats supporting valuable ecosystems to First Nations Peoples (intangible values associated with particular species or resources) • Visual impacts to Sea Country or other intangible values from infrastructure placement • Localised changes to oceanic dynamics as result of installed infrastructure, exposing underwater heritage (unexpected find)

6. CONCLUSION

The Project includes both onshore and offshore infrastructure, with both underground and aboveground components. This assessment presents a high-level heritage constraints analysis, through heritage sensitivity mapping, that is suitable for information option assessment part of the Project development process. Further refinement of the sensitivity mapping during detailed assessments will assist in the design of terrestrial and marine siting footprints and infrastructure routes, to avoid areas of cultural, historic, natural, or underwater heritage sensitivity, and to confirm approvals requirements.

Heritage environment

The Referral Area is within a rich and diverse heritage environment. Identified heritage values across the onshore and offshore portions include State and locally listed historic heritage sites, archaeological places, natural heritage places, areas of cultural heritage sensitivity and Commonwealth listed shipwrecks. The following heritage values have been identified within the Referral Area:

- [REDACTED]
- one VHR place (offshore): listed shipwreck in Victorian waters, *Sarah* (VHR S607);
- one VHR place (onshore): Unconfirmed Buried Wreck Mcloughlins Beach (VHR S875);
- two VHI heritage items: H8321-0005 (Warrigal Creek Massacre Site) and H8220-0025 (Former Residence, Woodside Beach Road);
- four AUCHD registered shipwrecks: three in Commonwealth Waters (AUCHD ID 6066, City of Hobart; AUCHD ID 6386, Magnolia; and, AUCHD ID 6700, unidentified) and one in Victorian waters (AUCHD ID 6589, Sarah – as per VHR S607); and
- five non-statutory heritage items (RNE) relating to conservation areas (Natural, Indigenous).

There is potential First Nations underwater cultural heritage (submerged landscapes) and values relating to Sea Country. First Nations People of the South-east Marine Region (Victoria), including GLaWAC, have a strong cultural and spiritual connection to the marine environment, and the use and management of coastal species that are part of ocean ecosystems. First Nations people's physical relationship with offshore waters within Bass Strait would have been based on travel to now submerged land bridges or islands, between the mainland and Tasmania. Cultural values would be identified by GLaWAC as knowledge holders who can speak for Sea Country associated with the Referral Area.

Potential Heritage Approvals

With consideration of the heritage values identified within the Referral Area, the following primary approvals and secondary consents are expected to be required for the Project:

- A mandatory CHMP is required under the provisions of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, with GLaWAC as the approval authority.
- Where impacts to VHR and VHI sites cannot be avoided, permits and/or consents will be required under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017*.
- Where impacts and/or disturbance to shipwrecks or a declared protected zone cannot be avoided, permit(s) may be required under the provisions of the UCH Act.

Recommended next steps

A recommended program of technical heritage investigations to inform future environmental impact assessments and to identify specific mitigation measures to manage potential impacts from the Project to heritage values are provided below:

- Cultural Values Recording, carried out to ascertain the biocultural and intangible heritage values for the Referral Area to identify culturally sensitive areas and values, to inform Project design development and the development of any required mitigation measures. The approach and process for the cultural values recording would be informed through engagement with, and be guided by, GLaWAC.
- Underwater Cultural Heritage Assessment, undertaken for both Commonwealth and State waters, incorporating a range of data analysis and assessment of submerged landscapes, including bathymetry and other marine geophysical and archaeological data, and include consultation with GLaWAC. It would also address any requirements under UCH Act, the *Heritage Act 2017* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
- Historic Heritage Impact Assessment, carried out on any registered historic heritage places or areas of archaeological sensitivity potentially impacted by the Project, onshore and in Victorian waters. If the Project would impact any shipwrecks protected under the UCH Act, a maritime archaeologist would prepare a corresponding assessment.

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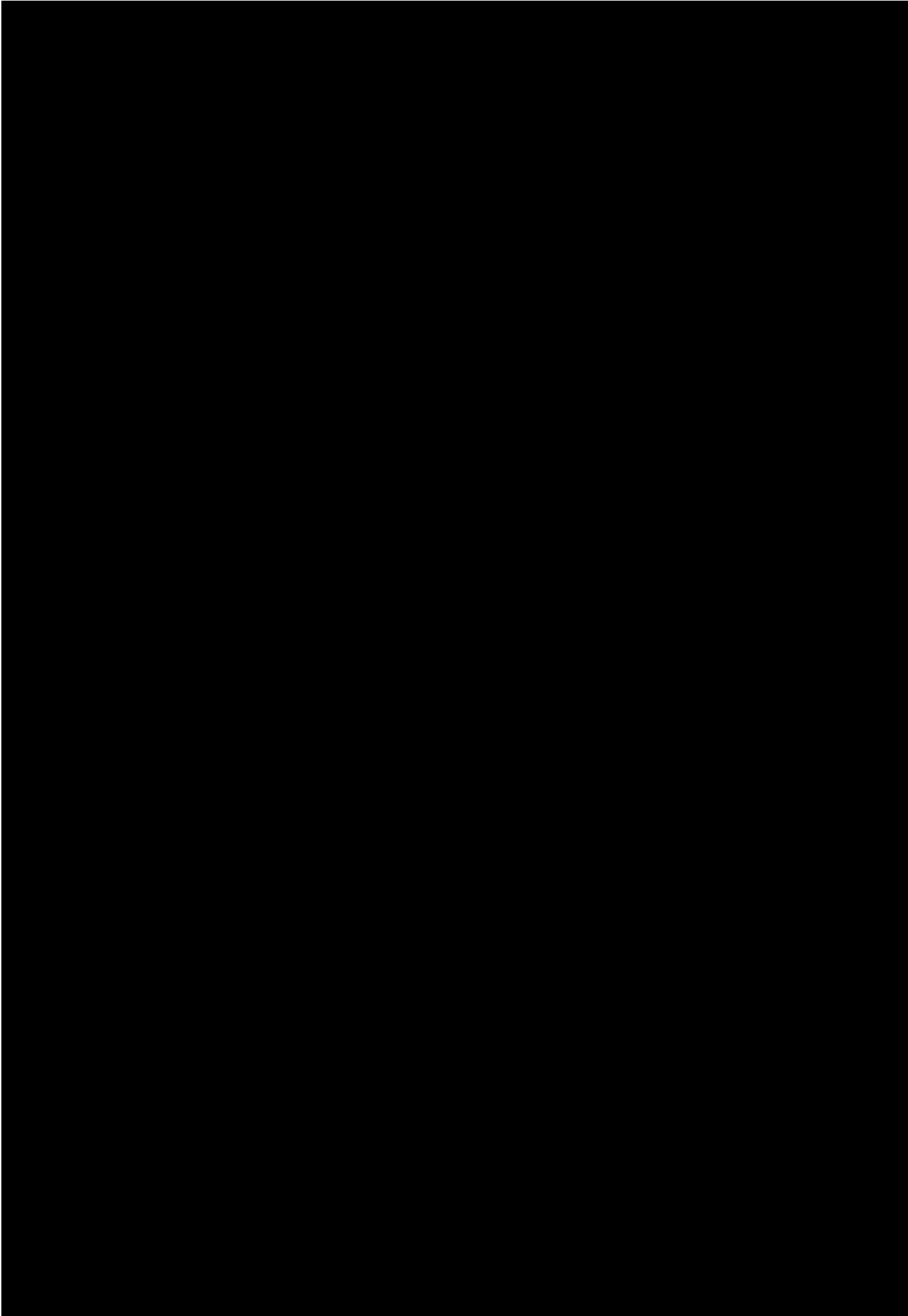
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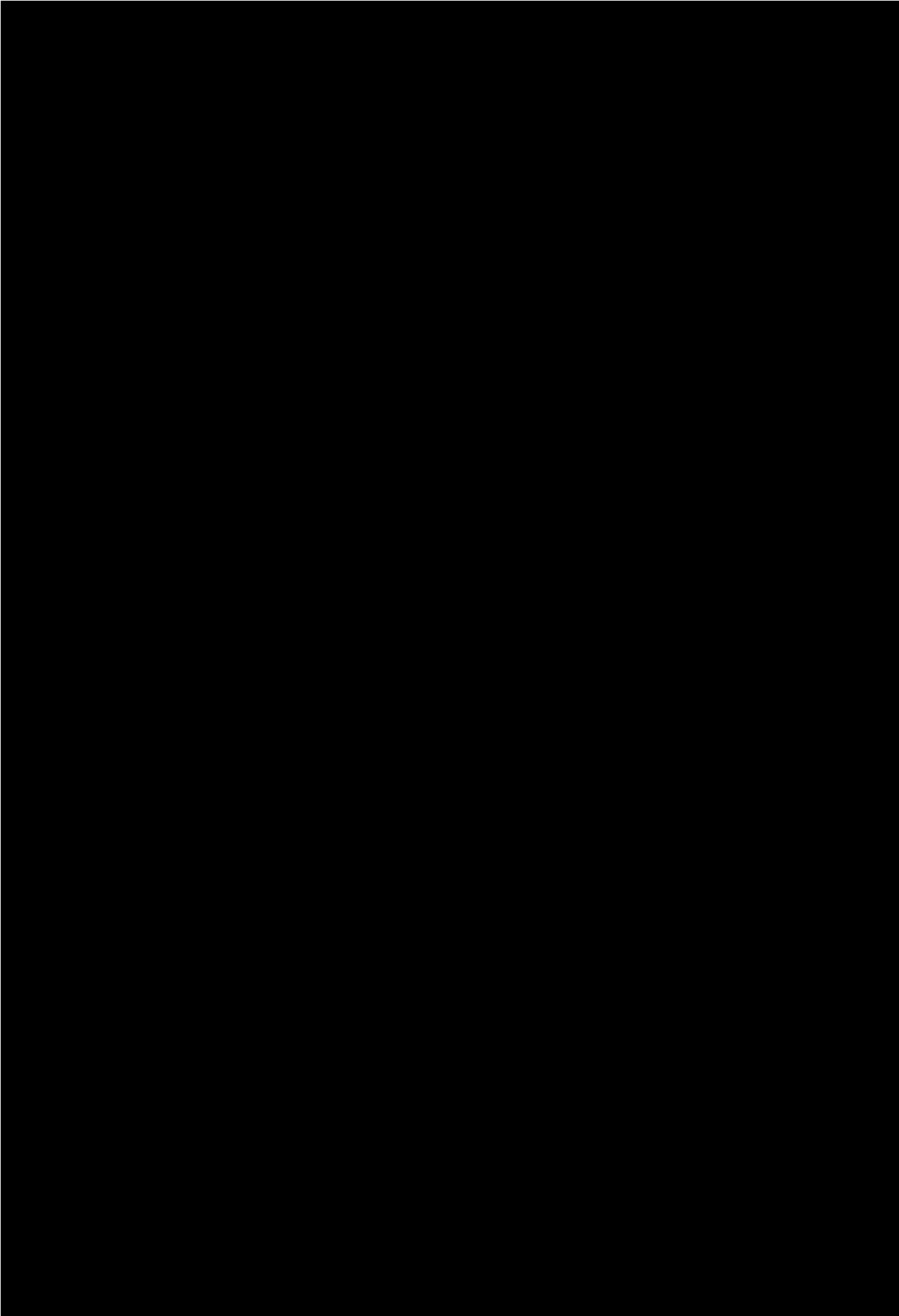
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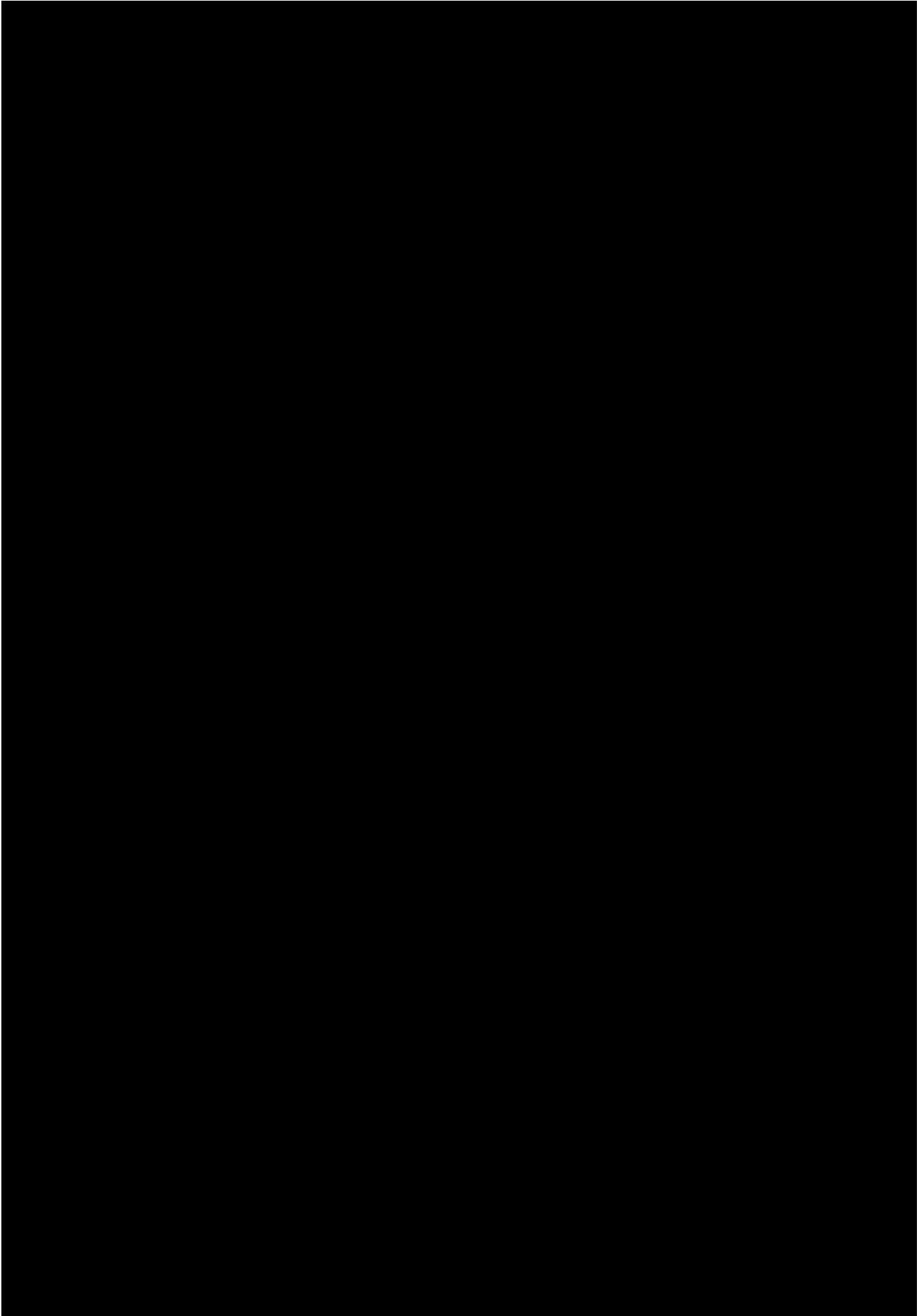


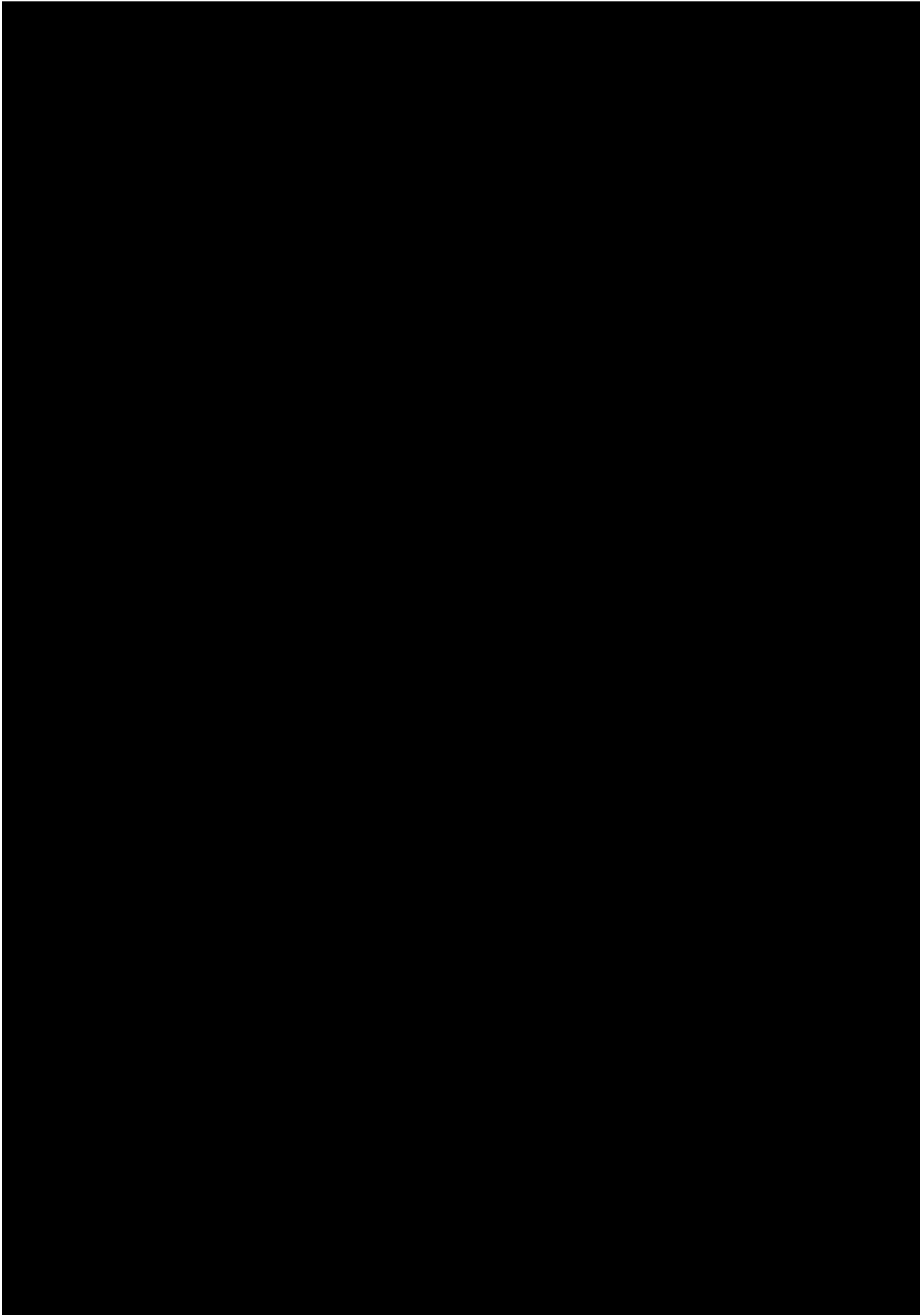
APPENDIX A

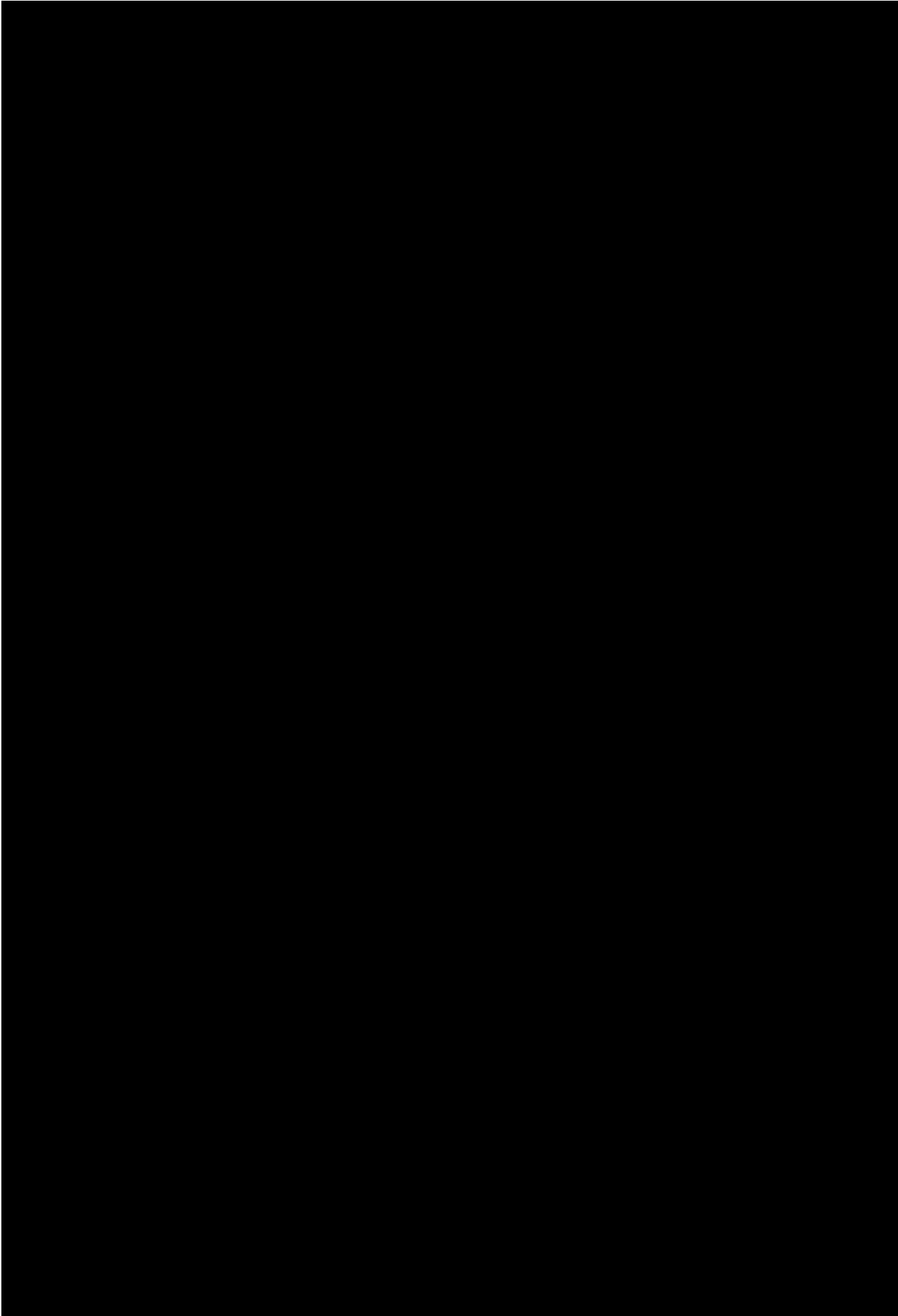
ACHRIS SEARCH RESULTS

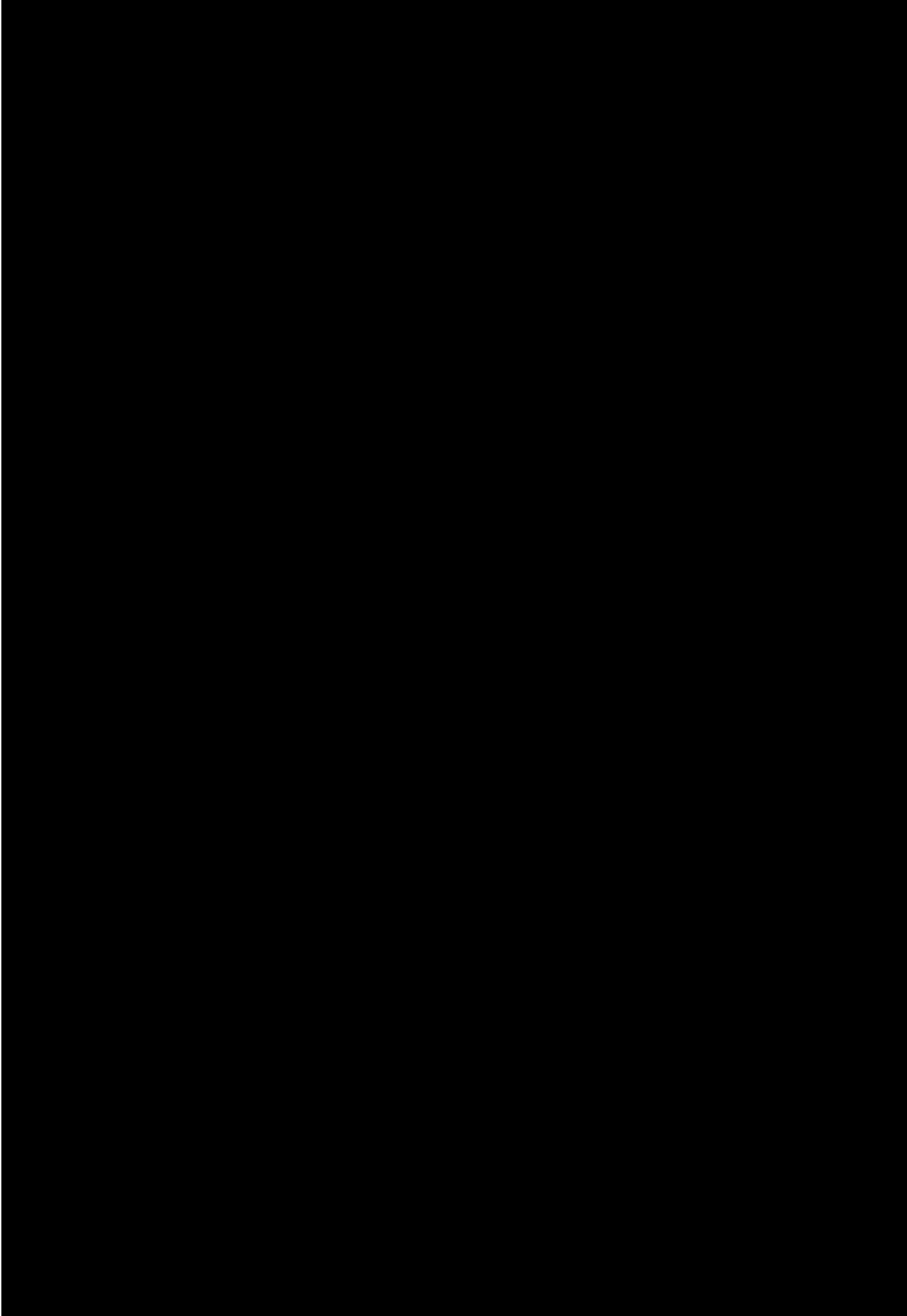


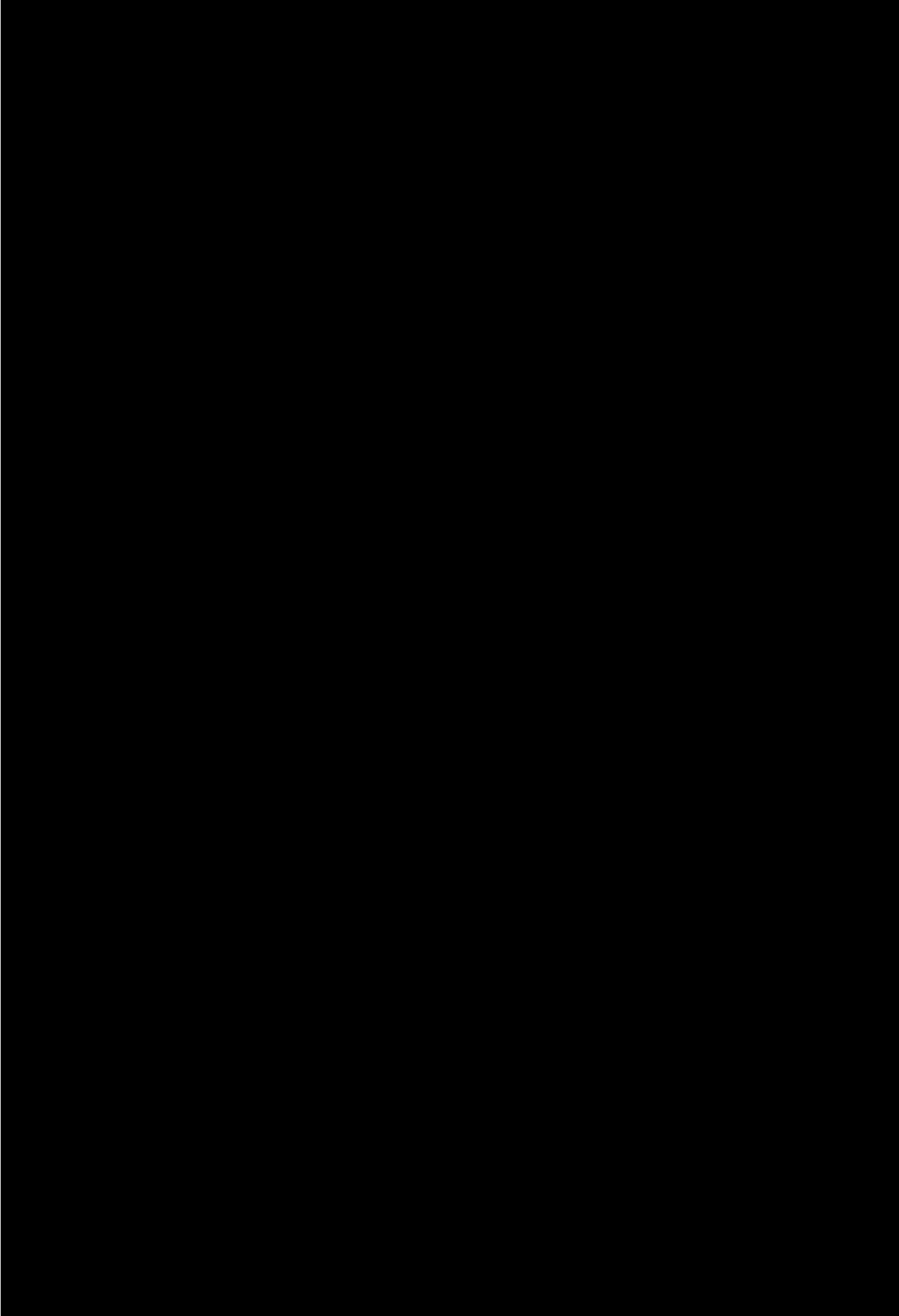


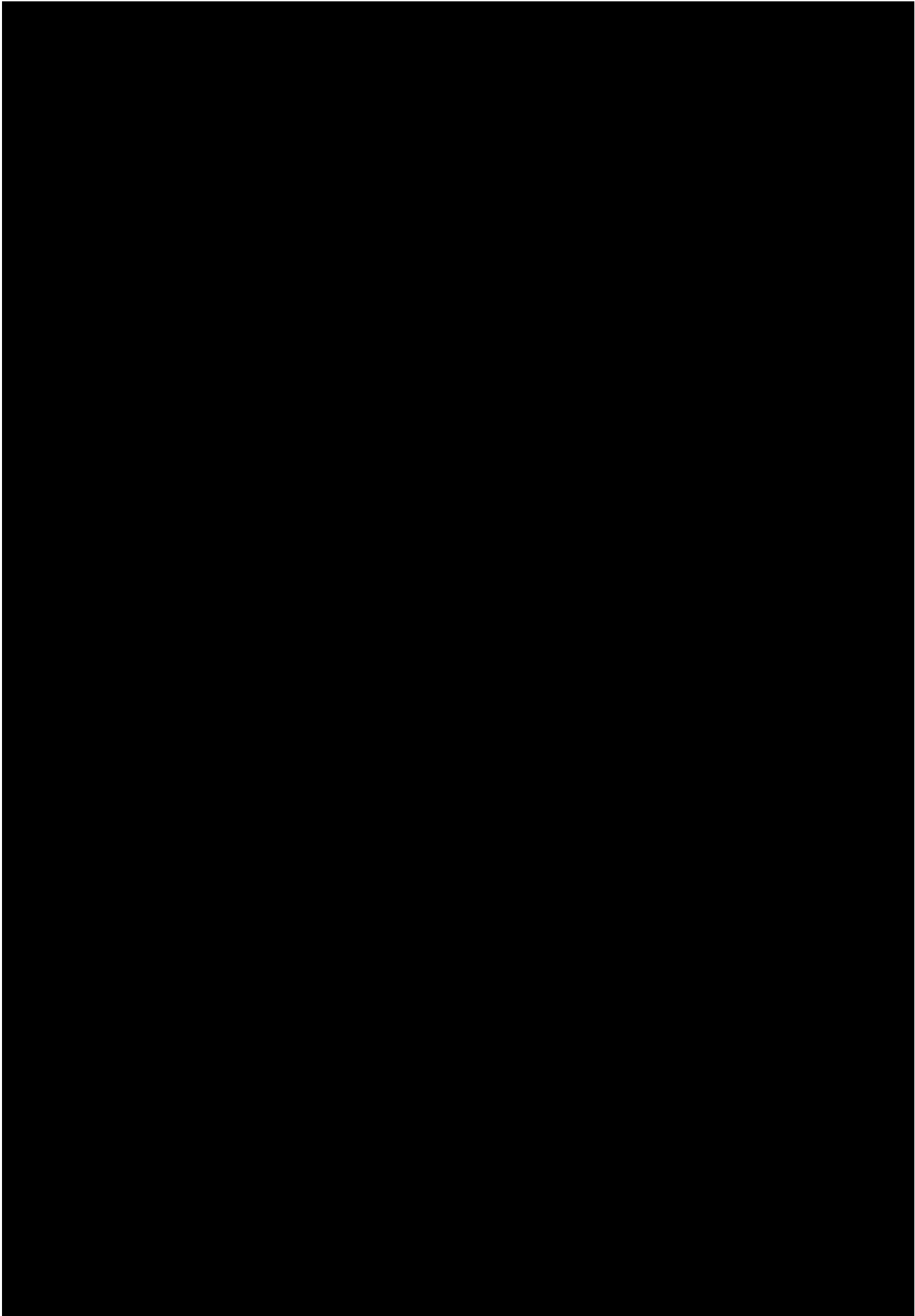


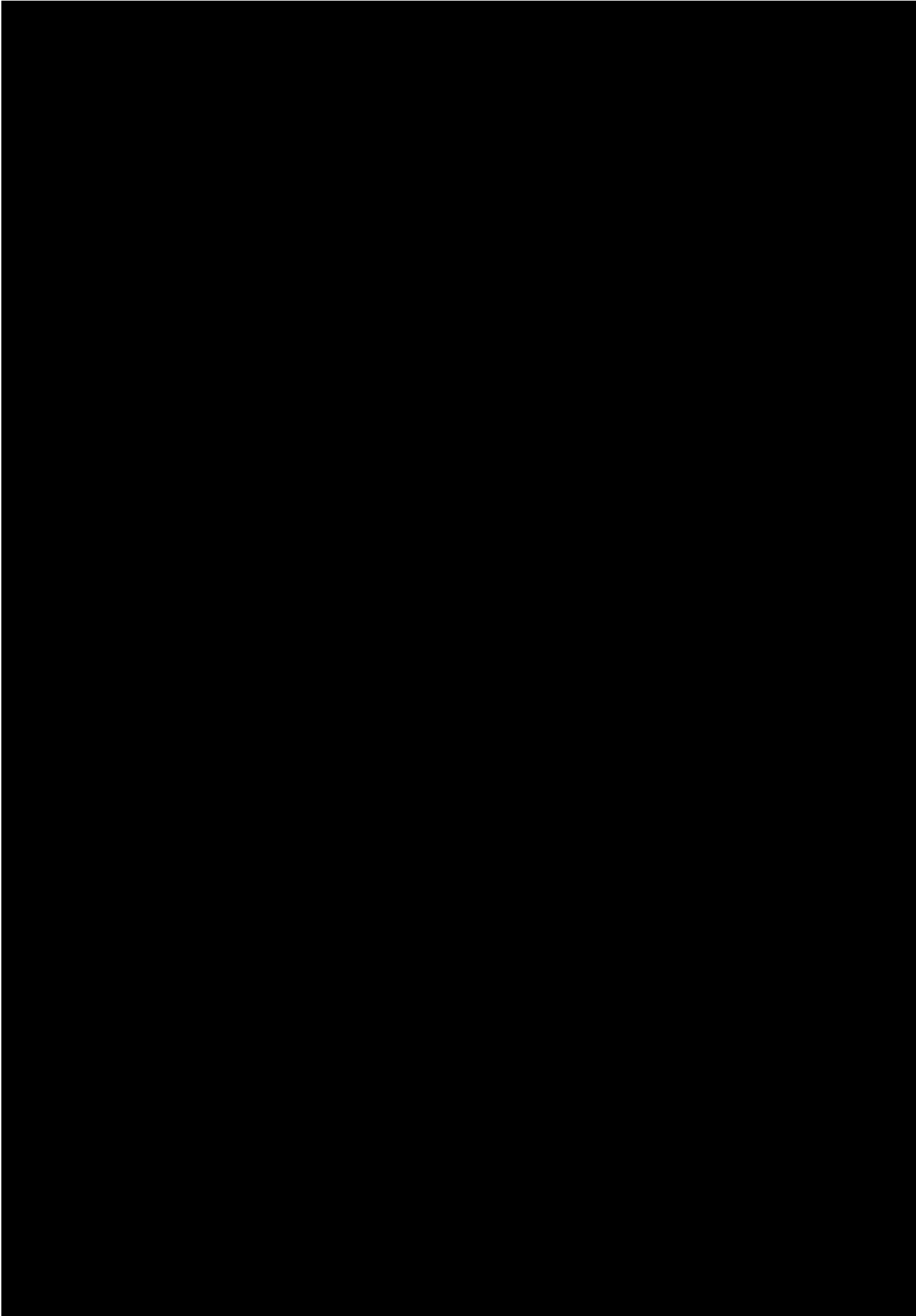


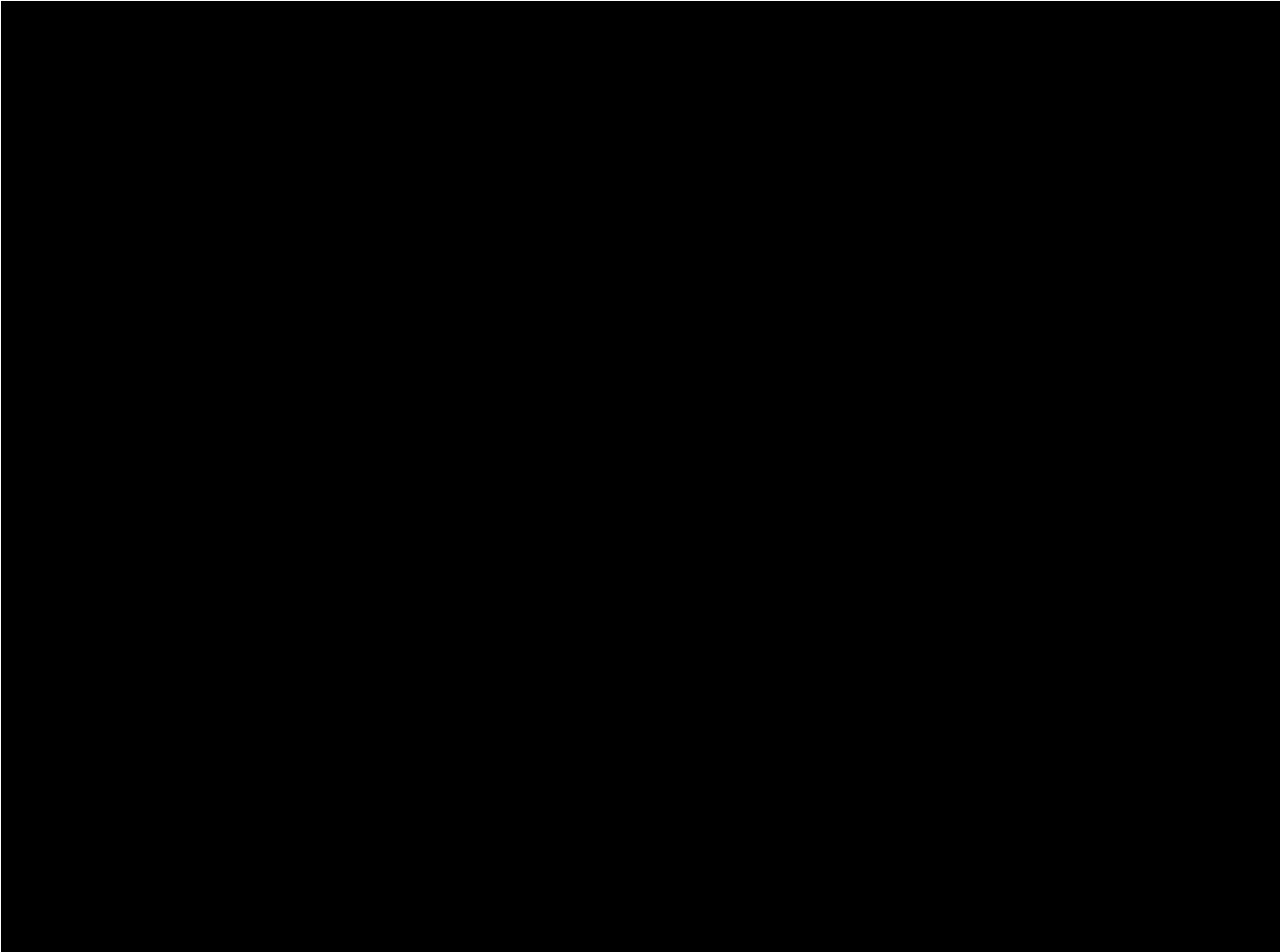














APPENDIX B

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



All glossary information was reviewed and researched from the following sources

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- First Peoples State Relation 2025 website
- Heritage Victoria 2025 website
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Term	Definition
Aboriginal Historical Place	An Aboriginal historical place is a location that is important because of its associations with, and cultural significance to, Aboriginal people. Such places may or may not contain archaeological remains. For example, a historical place could include the foundations of a mission building, or a massacre site at which no physical remains survive.
Aboriginal place	Aboriginal place is defined under Section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 as follows: 5. What is an Aboriginal place? 1. For the purposes of this Act, an Aboriginal place is an area in Victoria or the coastal waters of Victoria that is of cultural heritage significance to the Aboriginal people of Victoria. 2. For the purposes of subsection (1), area includes any one or more of the following— a. an area of land. b. an expanse of water. c. a natural feature, formation or landscape. d. an archaeological place, feature or deposit. e. the area immediately surrounding anything referred to in paragraphs (c) and (d), to the extent that it cannot be separated from the thing without diminishing or destroying the cultural heritage significance attached to the thing by Aboriginal people. f. land set aside for the purpose of enabling Aboriginal human remains to be.
Ancestral Remains or burial (non-Indigenous)	Usually, a sub-surface pit or location containing human remains and sometimes associated artefacts.
Archaeology	The study of the remains of past human activity through material remains such as artefacts, structures and other features.
Archaeological Resources	Archaeological resources are the physical remnants of past human life and activities that are of archaeological interest and generally at least one hundred years old, including artifacts, structures, and associated



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Term	Definition
	documentation, sites, and landscapes. These tangible materials—such as pottery, tools, or shipwrecks—provide critical insights into past cultures.
Artefact Scatter	Artefact scatters are the material remains of past Aboriginal people’s activities. Scatter sites usually contain surface or subsurface stone artefacts, but other material such as charcoal, animal bone, shell and ochre may also be present. No two surface scatters are the same.
BP	Before Present
Built Heritage	Built heritage generally refers to a wide range of places and objects from the past, including buildings, structures, gardens, and industrial sites, which are deemed to have cultural significance and are protected through the VHR or local planning schemes' Heritage Overlays. These places are valued for their historical, aesthetic, scientific, social, or spiritual importance for present and future generations.
Country	For Aboriginal peoples, particularly in Australia, "Country" is a term for their ancestral lands, waters, and seas, encompassing their spiritual beliefs, cultural practices, laws, language, identity, and sense of belonging. It is considered a living, spiritual entity rather than just a physical place, connecting people to their ancestors, plants, animals, and the environment itself. The term is capitalized to signify its deep cultural and spiritual significance, and only the Traditional Owners of a specific Country have the right to speak for it and welcome others to it.
Cultural Heritage	<p>Article 1 of the World Heritage Convention defines cultural heritage as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations, which are of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of history, art or science. • groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity, or their place in the landscape, are of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of history, art or science. • sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of Outstanding Universal Value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view. <p>Some properties might satisfy more than one of these definitions (e.g. be both a monument and group of buildings). This definition was developed in 1972, and concepts of cultural heritage have expanded since that time. Nonetheless, the definition has been interpreted very broadly to embrace the diversity of cultural heritage. The Operational Guidelines offer additional definitions regarding cultural landscapes, historic towns and town centres, heritage canals and heritage routes.</p> <p>Within Australia cultural heritage can relate to Aboriginal or post-contact heritage.</p>
Earth Feature	Aboriginal earth are places where Aboriginal people lived over long periods of time. These may consist of mounds often contain charcoal,



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Term	Definition
	burnt clay or stone heat retainers from cooking ovens, animal bones, shells, stone tools and, sometimes, Aboriginal burials.
Heritage Environment	Encompasses any location that may contain natural and cultural places, as well as intangible elements, and values that are significant to present and future generations, possessing aesthetic, scientific, social, or historical importance.
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)	A system of latitudes and longitudes, or east and north coordinates, centred at the centre of the earth's mass. GDA94 is compatible with modern positioning techniques such as the Global Positioning System (GPS). It supersedes older coordinate systems (AGD66, AGD84). GDA94 is based on a global framework, the IERS Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF), but is fixed to a number of reference points in Australia. GDA94 is the Victorian Government Standard and spatial coordinates for excavations, transects and places in CHMP documents.
Holocene	A geological epoch which began approximately 10,000 years ago in Australia
Isolated artefact	The occurrence of less than five items of cultural material within an area of about 100 square metres. It/they can be evidence of a short-lived (or one-off) activity location, the result of an artefact being lost or discarded during travel, or evidence of an artefact scatter that is otherwise obscured by poor ground visibility.
Intangible Heritage	Intangible heritage encompasses the living, nonphysical elements of a community's culture, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, knowledge, and traditional craftsmanship. Transmitted across generations, this heritage provides a sense of identity and continuity and is constantly being re-created and adapted by communities in response to their environment and interactions.
Low Density Artefact Distribution (LDAD)	A Low Density Artefact Distribution (LDAD) is the occurrence of stone artefacts at densities of up to 10 counted artefacts in any area of approximately 10m x 10m, or 100m ² , including within a single test pit of ≤1m ² . This density distinction has been adopted to facilitate a streamlined recording process for lower densities of artefacts.
Maritime heritage	Maritime heritage includes historical and cultural connection to the sea, encompassing underwater cultural heritage like shipwrecks, aircraft wrecks, submarines, and sunken vessels, as well as terrestrial sites, structures, and artefacts that contribute to the story of the maritime past. This heritage includes physical remains, such as the remains of wooden sailing ships, as well as a dispersed collection of artefacts and cultural infrastructure that tell the diverse stories of maritime development, trade, and society in the region.
Natural Heritage	Natural heritage refers to portions of the natural environment that hold aesthetic, scientific, social, or other special value for present and future generations. These can include unique landscapes like mountains, ecosystems, biodiversity, and specific sites of geological or biological significance, protected through various levels of government listing and community efforts, as seen in Victoria on the VHR or on the World, Commonwealth or National heritage register.



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Term	Definition
Object Collection	object collections can be the storage or reburial locations for artefacts located during archaeological assessments
Pleistocene	A geological epoch that began approximately 1.6 million years ago and lasted until roughly 10,000 years ago.
Post-contact	After contact with non-First Nations people; predominantly British settlement of Australia and subsequent immigration of other peoples.
Pre-contact	Before contact with non-First Nations people predominantly British settlement of Australia and subsequent immigration of other peoples.
Quarry (stone/ochre source)	A place where stone or ochre is exposed and has been extracted by Aboriginal people. The rock types most commonly quarried for artefact manufacture in Victoria include silcrete, quartz, quartzite, chert and fine-grained volcanics such as greenstone.
Scarred tree, Modified trees	Scars or modifications on trees may be the result of removal of strips of bark by Aboriginal people e.g. for the manufacture of utensils, canoes or for shelter; or resulting from small notches chopped into the bark to provide hand and toe holds for hunting possums and koalas. Modification may also include grafting or movements of branches during early growth to create markers Some scars may be the result of non-Indigenous activity, such as surveyors' marks.
Sea Country	In Australia, Sea Country refers to the integral marine and coastal estates of Aboriginal people, encompassing the sea, bays, estuaries, and coastal wetlands, and is considered an inseparable part of their "Country" in a holistic, cultural, and spiritual sense. It holds significant cultural, spiritual, and custodial meaning for Traditional Owners, including sacred sites, creation stories, and kin relationships with marine life, and represents an integrated cultural landscape rather than a separate entity from land Country.
Shell midden	A surface scatter and/or deposit comprised mainly of shell, sometimes containing stone artefacts, charcoal, bone and manuports. These place types are normally found in association with coastlines, rivers, creeks and swamps – wherever coastal, riverine or estuarine shellfish resources were accessed and exploited.
Significance	The importance of a heritage place or place for aesthetic, historic, scientific or social values for past, present or future generations.
Stone artefact	Any piece of stone that has been culturally modified (includes manuports).
Submerged Ancient Landscapes	Submerged ancient landscapes (or landforms) are those areas of former dry land that have been submerged due to both long-term and short-term processes of environmental change, most commonly sea-level rise since the end of the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) (c. 26,500 and 19,000–20,000 years ago) to the Late Glacial Maximum (c. 13,000–10,000 years ago). This transition generally signifies the change between the Pleistocene period to the Holocene.



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Term	Definition
Tool	An artefact that has been retouched and/or utilised along one or more of its margins (Holdaway and Stern 2004:33).



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