

Submission on the referral

Pancho Beef - Mathison Station Land Clearing

This submission is made under regulation 53 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020

Government authority: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

Summary:

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Development proposal (page 2)	Location of sacred sites in the area	<p>Report references Abstract of Records provided by AAPA in 2020 and in 2022 with updated subject land. In reference to this, the proponent states that there are 'no record of sensitive sites... within the development proposal area or within close proximity. The closest recorded sites are over 40 kilometres away.'</p> <p>The applicant mentions that the closest 'record of sensitive sites' is over 40 kilometres away. If this is in relation to sacred sites, it is not correct. AAPA data shows a registered site around 3-5 kilometres from the subject land, and another one 10-15 kilometres away, as well as a recorded site 20-30 kilometres away.</p> <p>Knowledge gleaned from an Abstract of Records is not a conclusive statement of the extent of sacred sites in the area and the Authority strongly recommends the proponent apply for an Authority Certificate for the proposed works.</p> <p>The Abstract of Records provided in both 2020 and 2022 do not show any sacred sites within the subject land, however they also state that no Authority Certificates have been issued over the area, meaning that the Authority has not undertaken anthropological research in the area. Consequently, the proponent cannot rely on an Abstract of Records to draw any conclusive determinations about whether there are any sacred sites within the subject land. The only way for the proponent to be certain that they are indemnified for their proposed works is to obtain an Authority Certificate.</p>