

Submission on the referral

AAPowerLink Australia Assets Pty Ltd – Muckaty Solar Precinct

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

Government authority: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)

Summary: We consider that the Culture and Heritage Factor may be directly impacted by the proposal, and potentially through impacts to the Terrestrial Ecosystems and Hydrological Processes factors. We recommend that the proponent applies for an Authority Certificate.

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Main report 2.2.1 Pg 23 2.2.2 Pg 24	Preliminary design and avoidance areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report describes an area identified as suitable for the solar generation sites, but the proponent has not yet applied for an Authority Certificate and therefore this area may not be suitable. We recommend that the proponent applies for an Authority Certificate as soon as possible so that additional avoidance areas can be identified.
Main report 2.2.4-2.27 Pg 27-29	Additional activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report describes activities ancillary to solar generation including overhead transmission line, rail, roads, airfield, and bore field. Aboriginal custodians should be consulted on all activities through the Authority Certificate process.
Main report Table 2-3 Pg 33	Datasets used to inform constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report states that the avoidance areas have been informed by an AAPA Abstract of Records. Note that there has been limited research in the proposal area and consequently knowledge regarding Aboriginal sacred sites is limited and does not cover the whole of the subject land.
Main report 5.3.1 Pg 51	Location of sacred sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report states that most Aboriginal sacred sites are in lowland areas. This has been informed by an AAPA Abstract of Records. Note that there has been limited research in the proposal area and consequently knowledge regarding Aboriginal sacred sites is limited. Sacred sites may be present across the subject land.

Environmental impact assessment under the Environment Protection Act 2019

Main report 10.2.1 Pg 127 Table 10-1 Pg 129	Authority Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proponent has not yet applied for an Authority Certificate.
Appendix D 3.1 Pg 4 5.2.1 Pg 10	Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The appendix states that AAPA has been consulted on this project.• AAPA has been consulted on the Powell Creek solar generation site and the Overhead Transmission Line corridor. AAPA has not been consulted to date regarding the Muckaty solar generation site.