



**Aboriginal Areas  
Protection Authority**  
protecting sacred sites across the territory

**Our File:** RI2022/292  
**In Reply Please Quote:** 202207072

Global Energy Ventures  
40 St Quentin  
CLAREMONT, WA, 6010

**ATTENTION:** Garry Triglavcanin

**RE:** Abstract of Records - A small part of Melville Island - 202207072

On 13th April 2022 the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (the **Authority**) received your application for an abstract of records under regulation 7 of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Regulations 2004* (NT) (the **Regulations**).

The contents of this letter and the enclosed map comprise the abstract which is hereby provided to you for the purposes of regulation 7(3). I advise, in accordance with regulation 7(3)(a), that for the parcel of land the subject of this abstract:

- i. there are currently no registered sacred sites located on the parcel of land;
- ii. there are currently no recorded sacred sites located on the parcel of land;
- iii. there are currently no restricted work areas in the parcel of land which are provided for in Authority Certificate;

The map enclosed provides an overview of any registered or recorded sacred sites and restricted work areas described above. The information provided to you in this abstract is for information purposes only and cannot be relied upon as an exhaustive list of sacred sites in the area. There may be other sacred sites in the parcel of land of which the Authority is not yet aware.

A person is only permitted to enter and remain on a sacred site, carry out works on a sacred site, or make use of a sacred site in accordance with an Authority Certificate granted by the Authority (refer ss22 and 25 of the Act, also see ss34 and 35). Should you desire to do any of these things please make an application for an Authority Certificate. Further information about this process can be found here – <https://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/aapa-online/auth/login>. Undertaking any of these acts without an Authority Certificate puts you at risk of prosecution under the Act (refer ss33-35). This abstract does not protect you in any way for your acts and is not an Authority Certificate.

The current Act and Regulations can be found online here - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/>. Please ensure you are familiar with the legislation, particularly the offences in relation to sacred sites and the processes involved for obtaining an Authority Certificate if and when you require one.

Further information concerning abstracts and requests for information from the Authority can be found in the frequently asked questions (FAQs) which can be found online here – <https://www.aapant.org.au/our-services/request-information-0#faq1>.

The cost of providing the information set out in this letter and the attached map is \$56 (GST inclusive if applicable) and an invoice will be issued to you by the Department of Corporate and Digital Development.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Registrar via email through [enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au](mailto:enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au) or (08) 8999 4356.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Forscutt  
ACTING REGISTRAR

13th April 2022

## Frequently Asked Questions

In these FAQs, a reference to:

- “the Act” is a reference to the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (NT); and
  - “the Regulations” is a reference to the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Regulations 2004* (NT).
- The Act and Regulations can be found here - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/>.

Question	Answer
<p><b>What is a sacred site?</b></p>	<p>The term “sacred site” is defined in s3 of the Act by reference to its meaning in the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth) which provides a sacred site is “a site that is sacred to Aboriginals or is otherwise of significance according to Aboriginal tradition, and includes any land that, under a law of the Northern Territory, is declared to be sacred to Aboriginals or of significance according to Aboriginal tradition”.</p>
<p><b>What is a registered sacred site?</b></p>	<p>A registered sacred site is indicated on the map by this symbol: </p> <p>The site number is indicated on the map by a number in the following format XXXX-XX.</p> <p>A registered sacred site is a site that has been added to the Register of Sacred Sites maintained by the Authority following the process set out in Part III Division 2 of the Act.</p> <p>The effect of registering a sacred site is set out in s45 of the Act.</p> <p>The extent of a registered site is the red hatched area: </p>
<p><b>What is a recorded sacred site?</b></p>	<p>A recorded sacred site is a site that is known to the Authority but has not been registered and includes recorded sacred burial sites. The Authority may hold the information required to register the site should this become the wishes of the custodians. Alternatively, a recorded sacred site may still require further research in order to obtain all necessary information. The recorded coordinate point for a sacred site is a reference point only and does not necessarily indicate the location or extent of any specific site feature.</p> <p>A recorded sacred site point is indicated on the map by this symbol: </p> <p>A recorded sacred burial site is indicated on the map by this symbol: </p> <p>Note that recorded sites have not gone through the registration process set out in s28 of the Act. As such, the full extent of the sacred site may change upon registration. The extent of a recorded sacred site is the green hatched area. </p>
<p><b>The map shows that there are no registered or recorded sites in the area of interest.</b></p> <p><b>Does this mean I can proceed with my works?</b></p>	<p>Whether you proceed with your works is a decision for you however you should carefully consider the area concerned and the provisions of the Act (particularly those that address the protections an Authority Certificate provides and the punishments prescribed for the offences set out in Part IV of the Act).</p> <p>If there is no record of an Authority Certificate being issued over the area concerned, it is possible that there may be sacred sites that are not currently known to the Authority.</p>
<p><b>How long does it take to get an Authority Certificate?</b></p>	<p>The Authority takes an average of three months to produce an Authority Certificate. The timeframe will vary depending on various factors including the complexity of the proposed works, availability of custodians, remoteness, and access to land.</p>

Question	Answer
<p><b>How much does an Authority Certificate cost?</b></p>	<p>Division 1A and Division 1 of Part III of the Act set out the procedures for applications for Authority Certificates.</p> <p>The cost of an Authority Certificate differs depending on whether it is a “standard application” or a “non-standard application”. The classification of an application is determined by the Authority in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by Regulation 3 and set out at Schedule 1 to the Regulations.</p> <p>Standard applications will incur a fee in accordance with Schedule 4 of the Regulations.</p> <p>Non-standard applications are subject to charges which will depend on the nature of the application and the work required by the Authority. These charges are calculated by the Authority in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations. If you submit an application that is determined to be a non-standard application, the Authority will provide you with an estimate of charges for your consideration and approval.</p>
<p><b>What information is on the Register of Sacred Sites?</b></p>	<p>The information on the Register of Sacred Sites differs due to the information available and the information permitted by the custodians of the sacred site to be recorded. Please refer to section 29 of the Act for further information. However, generally the Register of Sacred Sites may include the following types of information in relation to a sacred site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the coordinate point of the site (NB: the coordinate point for a sacred site is a reference point only and does not necessarily indicate the location or extent of any specific site feature);</li> <li>• features of the site;</li> <li>• geographic description;</li> <li>• custodian group details; and</li> <li>• Aboriginal traditions associated with the site.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do I inspect the Register of Sacred Sites?</b></p>	<p>Section 48 of the Act allows a person to apply to the Authority to inspect the Register of Sacred Sites.</p> <p>The viewing will take place in the Authority’s offices, which are located in Darwin and Alice Springs. No hard or soft copies of the Register will be provided and photographs of the Register are prohibited.</p> <p>Information that is of a sensitive commercial nature or relates to matters required to be kept secret according to Aboriginal tradition will not be provided.</p> <p>To view the Register of Sacred Sites please apply online. You must specify the sites or certificates that you would like to view (see the map for the relevant numbers). A staff member will then contact you to organise an inspection time in either our Darwin or Alice Springs office.</p> <p>In accordance with regulation 8 and with reference to item 2 of Schedule 4 to the Regulations, the fee payable to inspect the Register of Sacred Sites is 23 revenue units per sacred site.</p>
<p><b>Authority Certificate Records are available for Public Inspection in the area of interest. What does this mean?</b></p>	<p>Areas over which the Authority has previously issued an Authority Certificate are indicated on the map by this hatching: </p> <p>In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, areas over which the Authority has previously issued an Authority Certificate are indicated on the map.</p> <p>For these areas, the Authority has consulted custodians for the area in the past about prior works. There may be conditions in the Authority Certificate. These conditions will relate to the works covered by that certificate only.</p> <p>You cannot rely on an Authority Certificate that was issued to another person.</p> <p>If there is a record of an Authority Certificate being issued over the area concerned, that certificate only applies to those prior works and will not provide any protection for your works.</p>

Question	Answer
<p><b>There are restricted work areas in the area of interest. What does this mean?</b></p>	<p>In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, a  restricted work area will be indicated on the map by this hatching:</p> <p>A restricted work area relates to an area identified in an issued Authority Certificate. It is an area that had restrictions on the kind of activities that were permitted (or not permitted) in the area.</p>
<p><b>Can I see the Authority Certificate records that are available for public inspection over the area of interest?</b></p>	<p>Yes. The Authority will provide access to information on prior Authority Certificates that have been issued in the area of interest. An application may be made pursuant to section 48.</p> <p>You will be provided with a list of Authority Certificates granted or refused over the area of interest, including the conditions for any works that may have been proposed for that area. The conditions listed in a prior Authority Certificate are for the works stated in that particular Certificate. Restrictions on works can vary. Sometimes an Authority Certificate will prohibit any work in the area or will prevent certain activities, such as ground disturbing work, damage to trees, or the removal of sand or gravel. The conditions in a certificate are specific to each application and depend on the works proposed.</p> <p>The viewing will take place in the Authority's offices, which are located in Darwin and Alice Springs. No hard or soft copies of the Register will be provided and photographs of the Register are prohibited.</p> <p>Information that is of a sensitive commercial nature or relates to matters required to be kept secret according to Aboriginal tradition will not be provided.</p> <p>To view Authority Certificates that have been previously issued or refused in your area of interest, please apply online. You must specify the sites or certificates that you would like to view. The map contained in this letter will contain relevant record reference numbers. A staff member will then contact you to organise an inspection time in either our Darwin or Alice Springs office.</p> <p>In accordance with regulation 8 and with reference to item 3 of Schedule 4 to the Regulations, the fee payable to inspect the Register of Sacred Sites is 23 revenue units per inspection of Authority Certificate application and related Certificate or refusal.</p>
<p><b>No Authority Certificates have been issued in the area of interest. What does this mean?</b></p>	<p>Areas where the Authority has not issued an Authority Certificate are indicated on the  map by this shading:</p> <p>In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, areas where the Authority has not issued an Authority Certificate are indicated on the map. These are areas where the Authority has not undertaken anthropological research. The Authority may not have records of the sacred sites in this area. It means that there may be sites in the area and work should only proceed with an Authority Certificate, which will be issued after the Authority has spoken with custodians in the area.</p>
<p><b>There are "other sites" in the area of interest. What does this mean?</b></p>	<p>Other sites are shown on the map by this symbol: </p> <p>In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, other sites (where known) are shown on the map. Other sites include archaeological places or sacred objects. These places and objects are protected under the <i>Heritage Act 2011</i> (NT).</p>
<p><b>There is a burial site in the area of interest. What does this mean?</b></p>	<p>Burial sites are shown on the map by this symbol: </p> <p>In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, burial sites (where known) are shown on the map.</p> <p>Under the <i>Criminal Code Act 1983</i> (NT) it is an offence to interfere with remains of a deceased person. It is also an offence contrary to the <i>Heritage Act 2011</i> to interfere with the remains of a deceased Aboriginal person without authorisation under that Act. In the event that any skeletal remains are unearthed, it is your responsibility to stop works and immediately report such disturbance to the NT Police and the Director Heritage Branch, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities.</p> <p>For further information, please contact the Director Heritage Branch, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities on (08) 8999 5051 or email <a href="mailto:heritage.branch@nt.gov.au">heritage.branch@nt.gov.au</a>.</p>

Question	Answer
<p><b>I know the custodians of the sites in the area of interest. Do I still need an Authority Certificate?</b></p>	<p>Yes. An Authority Certificate provides a defence against prosecution under the Act as long as the conditions of the Certificate are adhered to. The Authority can only issue an Authority Certificate if it is satisfied of the matters set out in s22 of the Act.</p>
<p><b>I own the land that is the area of interest. Do I still need an Authority Certificate?</b></p>	<p>The rights of land owners are preserved under s44(1) of the Act. Ownership of the land, however, will not defend you against a prosecution under the Act in the event a sacred site is damaged. Only an Authority Certificate can do this. Owners of land that may include sacred sites should ensure they consider the Act and whether they may require an Authority Certificate for their use of the land.</p>
<p><b>Can I share my abstract of records with other people?</b></p>	<p>No. It is an offence under s38 of the Act to permit access to, or furnish a document produced for a purpose of the Act without permission of the Authority.</p> <p>The abstract of records has been provided to you by the Authority for the limited purpose of your consideration. Should you wish to share the abstract, you should write to the Authority seeking permission under s38(1) of the Act. You should detail the purpose of sharing the abstract of records.</p>
<p><b>Can I publish the abstract of records?</b></p>	<p>No. It is an offence under s38 of the Act to permit access to, or furnish a document produced for a purpose of the Act without permission of the Authority.</p> <p>The abstract of records has been provided to you by the Authority for the limited purpose of your consideration. Should you wish to publish the abstract, you should write to the Authority seeking permission under s38(1) of the Act. You should detail the purpose of publishing the abstract of records.</p>

**Abstract of Authority's  
Records - Regulation 7(3)(b)  
- 202207072**

Provided to:  
Global Energy Ventures

**ASSESSED AT 13/04/2022**

**This Abstract of Records is not an  
Authority Certificate. It is not for  
works, publication or distribution.**

**It is an offence under s.38 to publish or  
distribute this Abstract of Records  
without permission of the Authority.**

To seek an Authority Certificate from the Authority  
apply online at [www.aapant.org.au/our-services](http://www.aapant.org.au/our-services)

N.B. The Sacred Site point is indicative of the  
general sacred site location and does not necessarily represent the  
location of any specific feature of the sacred site or the site extent and  
is not an exhaustive record as unrecorded site may exist in the area

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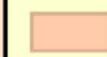
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Scale 1:100,000

**KEY**

 Subject Land

 Authority Certificate  
Records available for  
Public Inspection

 No Records available  
for Public Inspection



**Aboriginal Areas  
Protection Authority**  
*protecting sacred sites across the territory*

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List of Records available for Inspection

Authority Certificates

Cert No	With RWA	Superseded_by
C2018/035	No	
C2018/034	No	
C2018/033	No	
C2018/032	No	
C2017/061	No	
C2017/032	No	
C2016/124	No	
C2015/223	No	
C2015/222	No	
C2015/221	No	
C2015/220	No	
C2013/125	No	
C2009/136	No	C2015/222
C2009/135	No	C2015/220
C2009/134	No	C2015/221
C2008/125	No	