

Referral Form

Refer proposed action or strategic proposal under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*

Before you fill in the form

Guiding notes

- This form must be read in conjunction with environmental impact assessment guidance for proponents on the [NT EPA website](#) including Referring a proposal to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).
- This form contains five (5) parts:
 - Part A – Proponent details
 - Part B – Proposal details
 - Part C – Referral details
 - Part D – Referrer declaration
 - Part E – Nominated contact.
- This form contains two checklists:
 - Cross reference of matters addressed in the referral report
 - Proponent’s general duty.
- This form will be published.
- Further guidance or example responses are provided below in light grey text.

These guiding notes may be deleted before submitting the referral form and report.

PART A – Proponent details	
Name of the proponent <i>(legal entity)</i>	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI)
Proponent details	<i>Name: Louise McCormick Position/responsibility: Chief Executive Office, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure Physical address: Floor 3, Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin NT 0800 Postal address: GPO Box 2520, Darwin, NT 0801 Phone: 08 8999 5106 Email: WaterInfrastructure.DLI@nt.gov.au</i>
Proponent Trading Name if relevant	<i>Not applicable</i>
Australian Business Number/s Australian Company Number/s	ABN 84 085 734 992

Provide a description of the organisational structure with respect to responsibility of the proposed action, environmental approvals and implementation.	<p>DLI (NT) is a public sector agency of the Northern Territory Government which was established in 2024 under an Administrative Arrangements Order issued by the Administrator of the NT. The department aims to drive the sustainable economic, and social advancement of the NT through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use and transport planning • Infrastructure investment and delivery • Effective logistics supply chains <p>DLI is responsible for the overarching delivery of the DRWSP, including progressing AROWS planning and approvals activities. DLI is ultimately responsible for the completion of the AROWS environmental impact assessment (EIA) (and the project more broadly).</p>
Joint-venture partners (if applicable)	<i>Not applicable</i>
PART B - Outline of the proposal and location	
Outline of the proposed action or strategic proposal (proposal)	
Name of proposal	Adelaide River Off-stream Water Storage (AROWS)
Provide a brief summary (one or two paragraphs) of the proposal including the activity type/ industry/ duration.	<p>The AROWS project is proposed to be the next major public water supply asset for the Darwin region. AROWS is proposed to be operated as part of the existing water supply network (Darwin River Dam, McMinns and Howard East Borefield and Manton Dam). The AROWS project aims to nearly double the current water supply to meet the projected long-term forecasted urban, industrial, and agricultural demand by delivering up to 60 GL annually to the Darwin Regional Water Supply system.</p> <p>Since AROWS will become one of three reservoirs that supply surface water to the Darwin water supply network (Darwin River Dam, Manton Dam, and AROWS), it makes it possible to optimise the supply contributions from each source dependent on the current conditions within each catchment.</p> <p>AROWS is anticipated to operate for 100 years.</p>
Location	
Provide location details as: a) street address, suburb	Not applicable

<p>b) tenement, lot/section numbers, town/hundred, NT Portion or pastoral lease numbers, as applicable</p>	<p>The AROWS basin is predominantly on part Section 1582, Hundred of Colton (part of Koolpinyah Station, Perpetual Pastoral Lease 1147) and Section 113 and 117 Hundred of Howard.</p> <p>The AROWS intake, outlet and delivery and supporting infrastructure corridors transverse multiple land tenures including freehold lots (NT Portion 3836 and Sections 3837, 2301, 3281, Hundred of Howard, Sections 113 and 117, Hundred of Colton, Sections 1582 and 1708), Crown Lease Term (NT Portion, Section 4002) and Crown Lease Perpetual (NT Portion 3281).</p> <p>The connecting infrastructure corridor (including water delivery pipeline) transverse generally alongside Stuart Highway from the AROWS basin to the future proposed Strauss Water Treatment Plant (located within existing utilities easement corridor, through multiple freehold lots, Vacant Crown Land and NTG road reserves).</p> <p>Refer to Section 2.2.5 of the Referral Report for additional parcel information.</p>
<p>c) the nearest town, recognisable feature, and distance and direction from that town/feature to the site of the proposed action.</p> <p>If the proposal includes several locations, provide location details for each location. For example, a mine at location 1 and a processing site at location 2.</p>	<p>The AROWS basin is approximately 55 km southeast from Darwin and approximately 5 km north of Lake Bennett, adjacent to the Adelaide River and within both the Coomalie and Litchfield shires.</p> <p>The nearest residential community is Acacia Larrakia (Acacia Gap), an Indigenous community located approximately 2.2 km northwest from the AROWS basin within the Manton suburb and locality.</p>
<p>Name of the Local Government Area/s in which the proposal is located.</p>	<p>Litchfield Shire Council Coomalie Shire</p>
<p>What is the land tenure type, and proposed land tenure type?</p>	<p>The AROWS project area spans across a number of land tenure types including Perpetual Pastoral Lease, Freehold, vacant Crown Land, Crown lease term and Crown lease perpetual, and NTG and Litchfield Council road reserves.</p>
<p>Does the proponent have the legal (land) access required for the implementation of all aspects of the proposal?</p>	<p>✓ No</p> <p>DLI is in negotiations with relevant landowners in relation to the acquisition of properties required for the AROWS project. DLI is also working with relevant agencies to progress regulatory approvals for the project including a Sacred Sites clearance certificate,</p>

	<p>resolution of native title, environmental approvals, and a water extraction licence.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>If yes, provide an indication of legal access authorisations / agreement / tenure.</p>
<p>Is the land zoned under the NT Planning Scheme?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>The AROWS basin area is predominantly unzoned. The northern half of part Section 1582 is zoned A (Agriculture) and the southern portion of the AROWS Basin Catchment is zoned SLB (a specific use zone for properties surrounding Lake Bennett).</p>
<p>What is the current land use of the proposal site/s?</p>	<p>The AROWS basin is predominantly on a Perpetual Pastoral Lease, however, the land is currently not used for pastoral purposes. The two freehold properties within the project footprint, being Sections 113 and 117, are used for residential and cattle grazing purposes.</p>
<p>What is the approximate distance (direct line) and direction to the closest human sensitive receptor?</p> <p>For example, residence, accommodation, hospital, school, homeland from the proposal.</p>	<p>The nearest receptors to the AROWS basin (and its various infrastructure components) are the residential community of Acacia Larrakia (Acacia Gap), located approximately 2.2 km to the northwest, and Lake Bennett, situated about 5 km to the south.</p> <p>The closest receptors to the connecting infrastructure's existing easement are various rural residences (< 100m away from the existing easement).</p>
<p>What is the proposed end land use of the proposal site/s</p>	<p>Water storage facility</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	
<p>Provide an overview of consultation undertaken specific to the proposal and potential environmental impacts.</p>	<p>Planning for the AROWS project started in 2011, when the feasibility assessment of the Project commenced. Since this time, there has been a number of consultation activities undertaken by Power and Water Corporation (Power and Water) (previous project lead) and the NT Government (current project lead). Commencement of the AROWS environmental assessment process in early 2023, has resulted in a</p>

	<p>significant increase in consultation activities to build community understanding of the AROWS project and undertake targeted consultation with key stakeholder groups, including the establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG) for the broader Darwin Region Water Supply Program (DRWSP). Since 2023, the proponent published relevant information in the NT News, Territory Q, social media and at relevant local venues/events.</p> <p>Identification of Aboriginal stakeholders to date has been limited to advice from the Northern Land Council (NLC), and a review of claims under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1976)</i>, and applications and determinations under the <i>Native Title Act (1993)</i>. During initial engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders, it was noted that further engagement is required with the other community leaders and the wider community. Additional stakeholders may continue to become known following the commencement of the EIS engagement program. This engagement will align with other relevant NT Government led activities such as the water allocation planning process for the Adelaide River catchment and implementation of the Territory Water Plan.</p>
<p>List the matters raised in consultation and identify how the proposal has been modified to respond to stakeholder feedback.</p>	<p>Social and economic opportunities providing lasting benefits for Traditional Owners and future generation for their children and grandchildren. The NT Government are working collaboratively with the Northern Land Council as the responsible Land Council to ensure participation and opportunities for First Nations people are maximised and leverage economic opportunities arising from AROWS for First Nations communities and enterprises. A social and economic impact assessment study will be undertaken to inform the EIS.</p> <p>Compensation for Native Title holders. The NT Government is committed to good faith negotiations for the collaborative development of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) required for the AROWS project and the provision of fair compensation to be provided in a form or forms that best suits the aspirations of native title holders.</p> <p>Concerns around land/property acquisition. The NT Government appreciates that land tenure and land use is a matter of important to landowners and is aiming to be in a position to provide further information in relation to potential impacts to properties by early</p>

	<p>2025. Concept design, EIS and catchment investigations will inform options for minimising impacts to properties.</p> <p>Health and safety concerns resulting in potential increase in mosquitos and crocodile movement (i.e., moving into Lake Bennett via AROWS). A biting insects and a crocodile population increase assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIS. Vector management will also be considered in the design of the project and discussed in the EIS. Human interaction with crocodiles during the construction, commissioning and operation of the project will be considered through workplace health and safety planning.</p> <p>Environmental impacts to aquatic ecosystems (fish, creeks, floodplains etc). Desktop and field surveys of aquatic ecology in the Adelaide River and the AROWS basin were undertaken during the referral. Further targeted surveys are recommended for the EIS to inform impact avoidance strategies.</p> <p>The project engineering concept design will involve a thorough multi-criteria assessment to evaluate various infrastructure options. This process will systematically consider alternatives, stakeholder perspectives, and environmental principles. Further studies will focus on potential impacts related to river flow hydrology, human health, roads, and social, cultural, and economic values.</p>
<p>PART C – Referral type</p>	
<p>What type of proposal is being referred?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> proposed action</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strategic proposal</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> proponent initiated EIS referral</p>
<p>Provide a brief justification including the reasons why you consider the action may have a significant impact on the environment and is referred to the NT EPA.</p> <p>Refer to section 11 of the EP Act and the NT EPA's environmental factors and objectives.</p>	<p>The self-assessment determined that the Project has potential to significantly impact 10 of the 14 environmental factors. These are listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landforms – presence of distinctive landforms (Daly Range, Adelaide River and Adelaide River coastal floodplain) in the project footprint and changes to the amenity landscape as result of project infrastructure. • Terrestrial environmental quality – potential impacts to soil quality and integrity from ground disturbance and oxidation of potential acid sulfate soils (PASS)

or acid forming material (AFM)) within the project footprint.

- Terrestrial ecosystems – presence of threatened flora and fauna species within the project’s direct disturbance footprint (i.e., AROWS basin).
- Hydrological processes – alteration of surface water flow regime and inundation extent upstream and downstream of intake point during operation; alteration of surface water and groundwater interactions during construction dewatering and operation (groundwater mounding downstream of AROWS basin as a result of basin inundation/seepage).
- Inland water environmental quality – potential change to surface water quality of the Adelaide River (e.g., salinity, turbidity, nutrients) (indirect impact downstream of intake) from extraction operations and/or controlled basin releases (e.g., spillway operation); potential alteration of groundwater quality in underlying aquifer units as a result of basin seepage.
- Aquatic ecosystems – presence of threatened fauna species within the project’s direct disturbance footprint and area of influence (downstream of intake point).
- Atmospheric processes – greenhouse gas emissions from construction activities, land use change, AROWS basin (methane emissions), and electricity usage during operation.
- Community and economy - land use changes as result of partial and/or complete property acquisition of some properties within the project direct disturbance footprint, population change in local or regional area as result of employment opportunities or relocation as a result of land acquisition, direct and indirect employment opportunities for skilled workers and businesses supplying goods and services in the local / regional study area and in the NT, change in access to Country by Traditional Owners/Custodians, traffic impacts, and perceived impacts.
- Culture and heritage – potential impacts to heritage values (tangible and intangible).
- Human health - increased risk of mosquito borne diseases and attack from crocodile on existing sensitive receptors, traffic impacts from

	construction works on main and local road networks, safety risks from upset events (e.g., dam break).
Does the proposal involve an action that may be or is a controlled action under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No The AROWS project is considered likely to be a controlled action and require an EIS under the EPBC Act due to impacts to Commonwealth listed threatened species, in particular Listed threatened species and communities (section 18 and 18A).
Has the proposed action been referred?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the date referred and reference number (EPBC number)? Date: EPBC number: Although a referral for the AROWS project to the Commonwealth has not yet been submitted, the AROWS project will be referred under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
If referred, has a decision been made on whether the proposed action is a controlled action?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, check the appropriate decision outcome and provide the decision in an attachment. <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – controlled action <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – not a controlled action
PART D – Proponent referrer details and declaration *The referral form must include the declaration signed by the proponent, or where the proponent is an organisation or business, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or duly authorised delegate within the proponent company.	
Who is referring this proposal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proponent <input type="checkbox"/> Authorised representative within proponent entity
Does the proponent request that the NT EPA treat any part of the information in the referral as confidential under section 281(2) of the EP Act?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, provide an application in accordance with regulation 271 of the Environment Protection

Regulations 2020 and submit the confidential information as a **separate** attachment

Referral declaration by proponent:

I, Louise McCormick, declare that I am authorised to refer this proposed action/strategic proposal on behalf of Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, and further declare that:

- the attached environmental impact assessment documents have been prepared in accordance with the EP Act and EP Regulations; and
- the attached environmental impact assessment documents (including attachments) are true; and
- the attached environmental impact assessment documents do not provide false or misleading information and I know it is an offence to provide false and misleading information, noting the penalties under section 260 of the EP Act, and section 119 of the *Criminal Code Act 1983*; and
- the proponent fully understands that referral under the EP Act does not limit, in any way, the requirements of the proponent to ensure approvals under any other regulatory regime are applied for, and adhered to; and
- the proponent has fulfilled its general duty in accordance with section 43 of the EP Act.

Note: if the NT EPA determine that an environmental approval is required, the proponent will be requested to provide supporting documents during the assessment process such as details to support that the person is a fit and proper person to hold an environmental approval in accordance with section 62 of the EP Act

Name: (print)

Louise McCormick

Signature:*Louise McCormick***Date:***3/11/2024***Position:**

Chief Executive Officer

Organisation (if a business or organisation):

Department of Logistics and Infrastructure

Email:

Louise.Mccormick@nt.gov.au

Address:

Level 3, Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin, NT 0801

PART E - Nominated contact

Contact details for proponent contact (provide the details for the person who will be corresponding with the NT EPA on the proposal)	<p><i>Business name: Department of Logistics & Infrastructure</i></p> <p><i>Name of primary contact: Catherine Turyn</i></p> <p><i>Physical address: Level 3 Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin NT 0800</i></p> <p><i>Postal address: GPO Box 2520, Darwin, NT 0801</i></p> <p><i>Phone: 08 8999 7901</i></p> <p><i>Email: Catherine.turyn@nt.gov.au</i></p>
Contact details of consultant (if relevant, provide the details for the person who will be corresponding with the NT EPA on the proposal on behalf of the proponent)	<p><i>Business name: GHD Pty Ltd</i></p> <p><i>Name of primary contact: Natalie Fries</i></p> <p><i>Physical address: L7, 24 Mitchell Street, Darwin</i></p> <p><i>Postal address: NT 0800</i></p> <p><i>Phone: 08 8982 0102</i></p> <p><i>Email: natalie.fries@ghd.com</i></p>

CHECKLIST 1 - Cross reference of matters addressed in the referral report (for more detail refer to the Referring a proposal to the NT EPA guidance)

Item	See Referral guidance for further detail on information requirements	Report section / page
<i>Publication statement</i>	Provide name and qualifications of relevant contributors to the referral.	Appendix A
<i>Executive summary</i>	Overview of the proposal, its potential for significant impact and key conclusions.	Page iv
<i>Introduction</i>	Include a brief introduction to the proposal and the proponent (noting proponent details are also to be included in the referral form / environmental approval application form).	Section 1
<i>Proposal description - Key components</i>	<p>Provide a clear and detailed description of the proposal, referencing maps and spatial information.</p> <p>Provide a key components summary table.</p> <p>Identify uncertainty / likely changes if particular elements of a proposal require further design at the time of referral.</p> <p>Provide an account of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future development, operations, or industries that are related the current proposal.</p>	Section 2 (Sections 2.3, 2.4)
<i>Proposal description - Location and regional context</i>	Location and regional context.	Section 2 (Sections 2.1, 2.2)

<p><i>Proposal description – Alternatives (options)</i></p>	<p>Describe any alternatives (location, timeframes, activities) considered or are under consideration in scoping and developing the proposal.</p> <p>Describe how the analysis of alternatives accounted for the <i>principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act).</p> <p>Justification for the preferred/selected option.</p> <p>Describe any assumptions critical to your assessment.</p>	<p>Section 2 (Section 2.5)</p>
<p><i>Proposal description – Application of the:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2) – <i>General duty of proponents</i> (s43) 	<p>Discuss how the proposal accounts for the <i>principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act) and the general duty of proponents provided for under section 43 of the EP Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of ecologically sustainable development • Environmental decision-making hierarchy • Waste management hierarchy. 	<p>Section 2 (Section 2.6)</p>
<p><i>Consultation</i></p> <p>Refer to NT EPA Stakeholder Engagement guidance 2020</p>	<p>The EP Act (section 3 and section 43) puts an obligation on the proponent to consult with stakeholders and the community in the development of the proposal.</p> <p>As an example, the referral should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of stakeholder engagement and community consultation undertaken • an outline of the method and process of consultation with stakeholders • a summary of the key matters raised during consultation • any changes made as a result of consultation • the ongoing consultation, and options for feedback • whether the consultation has or has not been undertaken in accordance with NT EPA guidance on Stakeholder Engagement • whether the consultation has or hasn't been undertaken in accordance with the section 43 (EP Act) general duty of proponents (see Checklist 2). 	<p>Section 3</p>
<p><i>Strategic and statutory context</i></p>	<p>Table discussing proposal specific legislation, policies, and guidelines that are and may be applicable to the proposal and the sequencing and status of those, is provided.</p>	<p>Section 4</p>
<p><i>Environmental Factors</i></p>	<p>The sections below relate to information that describes the potential impacts of the proposal on the NT EPA's Environmental factors.</p> <p>Information requirements for each environmental factor identified by the pre-referral screening tool are provided (any technical studies and surveys included).</p>	<p>Section 5 Section 5.1 Section 5.2 Section 5.3 Section 5.4</p>

		<p>Section 5.5 Section 5.6 Section 5.7 Section 5.8 Section 5.9 Section 5.10 Appendix C Appendix D Appendix E</p>
<p><i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i> Presence/absence of environmental values</p>	<p><i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i></p> <p>The presence or absence of relevant environmental values and sensitivities are verified.</p> <p>Specify the source and currency of information (e.g. desktop assessments, and/or field surveys, the methods used, dates, sources, and whether the approach is conducted in accordance with relevant regulatory and industry guideline.</p>	<p>Section 5 Section 5.1 Section 5.2 Section 5.3 Section 5.4 Section 5.5 Section 5.6 Section 5.7 Section 5.8 Section 5.9 Section 5.10 Appendix C Appendix D Appendix E</p>
<p><i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i> Potential impacts and consistency with relevant policy/guidance</p>	<p><i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i></p> <p>Assessment of potential impacts (negative, direct, indirect, cumulative, short and long-term) of the proposal.</p> <p>Relevant policy and guidance described.</p> <p>Residual / remaining impact to the environmental factor described.</p>	<p>Section 5 Section 5.1 Section 5.2 Section 5.3 Section 5.4 Section 5.5 Section 5.6 Section 5.7 Section 5.8 Section 5.9 Section 5.10</p>

		Appendix C Appendix D Appendix E
<p><i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i></p> <p>Environment protection and management</p>	<p><i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i></p> <p>Describe in terms of management hierarchies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> measures proposed to avoid, mitigate or offset (if appropriate) effectiveness of proposed measures and the level of confidence of implementation whether the NT EPA's objective for the environmental factor is likely to be met. 	<p>Section 5</p> <p>Section 5.1</p> <p>Section 5.2</p> <p>Section 5.3</p> <p>Section 5.4</p> <p>Section 5.5</p> <p>Section 5.6</p> <p>Section 5.7</p> <p>Section 5.8</p> <p>Section 5.9</p> <p>Section 5.10</p> <p>Appendix C</p> <p>Appendix D</p> <p>Appendix E</p>
<p><i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i></p> <p>Cumulative impacts</p>	<p><i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i></p> <p>Describe potential cumulative impacts.</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the EIS process for the AROWS project</p>

CHECKLIST 2 - Consideration of the Proponent's general duty (in accordance with section 43 of the EP Act)

Section 43 General duty of proponents	Done	Comment
The following principles of ecologically sustainable development must be taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action.		Provide comment here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision-making principle 	✓	<p>The Project has considered both short- and long-term impacts and benefits – including impacts during construction, commissioning and operation of the Project.</p> <p>Significant planning was undertaken as part of the DBC in 2020-2021 to identify potential</p>

		<p>water supply projects and select the preferred solution for securing the supply of water for Darwin's existing and future residents. The DBC was supported by a preliminary assessment undertaken to examine the environmental constraints of each of the potential options and the environmental approvals processes required for each option to be realised.</p> <p>Further to this, the AROWS project allows for flexibility and continuous improvement in the extraction regime throughout the</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precautionary principle 	✓	<p>As a precaution, feasibility studies and staged field investigations were undertaken early in the planning process over a period of 12 years to provide the necessary confidence to make an assessment of potential risks and impacts for the Reference Project.</p> <p>The AROWS project design, operation and construction will be based on the findings of detailed studies including, but not limited to, hydraulic modelling and monitoring, ecological and Aboriginal heritage surveys, to minimise and manage impacts. This has included a conservative approach at the Referral stage to consider a larger than anticipated extraction scenario allowing potential impacts to be identified and measures to avoid, mitigate and manage being incorporated through the remaining planning and design phases of the project.</p> <p>Consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders and community including Indigenous communities, Traditional Owner groups and Custodians to identify potential environmental impacts and appropriate management for the preliminary Proposal</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle of evidence-based decision-making 	✓	<p>This assessment is based on both existing information and field studies undertaken specifically for the AROWS project and by suitably qualified professionals. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches have been adopted to assess potential impacts from the Project on environmental values. Inputs from stakeholders and community groups have been used to inform decision-making process on infrastructure planning, design and siting.</p> <p>Further evidence-based assessment and studies and stakeholder engagement are underway to support the concept design of the AROWS project.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle of intergenerational and intergenerational equity 	✓	<p>The AROWS project aims to benefit and improve access to water supply for current and future generations of Territorians, providing increased water security in line with projected population growth to meet domestic, agricultural and industry demands. Alternative project designs would permanently change the upstream and downstream environments. This Project design allows for the extraction of river flows during periods of high wet season flows whilst maintaining the natural flow regimes of the river to continue for future generations of environmental, cultural and social factors.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle of sustainable use 	✓	<p>The AROWS project will operate within its extraction licence and in line with the Adelaide River water allocation plan currently being developed by the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE). Extraction under these regulations will be designed to meet forecast demand with all water source contributions to be optimised under a multi-source operating philosophy, implemented under a future Operational Manual.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity 	✓	<p>Terrestrial and aquatic ecological assessments are undertaken for the AROWS project to inform design and development considerations as well as future potential biodiversity offset requirements. These assessments are carried out in line with requirements under the <i>Northern Territory Environment Protection Act 2019</i> (EP Act) and <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act). DLI will be working with DLPE and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to prepare an offset management strategy where required</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle of improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms 	✓	<p>Environmental factors were considered during the DBC stage and assisted to inform the selection of the preferred option to develop AROWS. This included monetising the benefits of reduced water restrictions for households noting the impact this would have on the lifestyle and liability for Darwin residents. Benefits of using wet season flows to bring economic and social benefit to the Darwin region through increased industrial and agricultural production were also monetised.</p>

The following management hierarchies must be taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action.		Provide comment here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental decision-making hierarchy 	✓	<p>The AROWS project has applied the environmental decision-making hierarchy through the design and location of the Project to minimise impacts on the environment and achieve increase in public water supply availability.</p> <p>Project design infrastructure will be selected through engineering concept design and will use an MCA process to select the preferred design where possible to avoid environmental impacts. The Project infrastructure will be designed to minimise/mitigate impacts where they cannot be avoided, as demonstrated throughout this referral and future EIS.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management hierarchy 	✓	<p>DLI will explore options to incorporate waste materials into the construction materials provided these meet technical specifications and come from a licenced facility. Construction contractors will then be incentivised to make sustainability commitments, including reuse, recycling and waste management (in line with the waste hierarchy), as part of their respective submissions.</p> <p>Any commitments made by Contractors and the Proponent will form part of their respective contracts, against which their performance will be assessed.</p>
Other section 43 considerations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have communities that may be affected by the proposed action been provided with information and opportunities for consultation? 	✓	<p>DLI has undertaken significant consultation with the community and stakeholders initially as part of the Darwin Region Water Supply Program and then throughout the preparation of the referral. This commenced in 2013 and has continued for over 10 years, and included public events, individual stakeholder meetings, public communications, community events, letters, email and phone calls in line with IAP2. A Community Reference Group (CRG) has been established specifically for the Project.</p> <p>Further consultation will occur through the public exhibition of the referral and throughout the EIS phase. Development of the referral has provided the wider Darwin community, people who live in the area, and key stakeholders with significant opportunities to engage and provide feedback. An engagement strategy has been developed to</p>

		provide numerous avenues for engagement throughout the Referral and EIS phases, including online and in person, supported by a suite of written materials.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has consultation with affected communities, including Aboriginal communities' been undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner? 	✓	A variety of consultation methods have been employed throughout consultations to date, including online, written, face-to face in public settings (pop-up info stalls) and opportunities for small group meetings with the project team. DLI worked closely with the NLC to hold meetings with several Traditional Owner groups. Information presented at these events was designed specifically to be culturally appropriate including a project video animation and made accessible to the audience during and after the events. Information was sought from both the NLC and Traditional Owners on the appropriate approach for future engagement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has community knowledge and understanding (including scientific and traditional knowledge and understanding) of the natural and cultural values of areas that may be impacted by the proposed action been sought and documented? 	✓	Throughout all consultation, records of values shared by stakeholders has been recorded and reported in the referral. Some engagement activities were held on a site selected by Traditional Owners to facilitate this process. A CRG is established for the AROWS project who are representative of key stakeholder groups. Throughout the public exhibition of the referral, DLI will invite stakeholders to review and provide feedback on natural and cultural values identified by the referral. DLI will also meet with representatives of interest groups to discuss recreational and environmental considerations as well as receiving formal submissions on the referral.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have Aboriginal values and the rights and interests of Aboriginal communities' been addressed in relation to areas that may be impacted by the proposed action? 	✓	Aboriginal values have been recognised through adherence and reinforcement of Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) certification processes and compliance with the <i>Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i> . Direct contact with Traditional Owners has been made with the support of the NLC which will be ongoing throughout the EIS phase.

How to submit

Email your completed form to Environmental Assessments, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security at eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au

Further information

For further information, contact Environmental Assessments, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) at eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au or phone 08 8924 4218.

Collection notice

Purpose: The purpose for the collection of information using this form is to provide the NT EPA with the relevant information needed to administer the environmental impact assessment process under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*.

Failure to collect information: If the DEPWS does not collect this information, then correspondence will continue to be with the proponent last notified to the NT EPA/Minister and it may have implications in the Minister's consideration of a fit and proper person under s 62 of the Environment Protection Act and environmental approval holder entity/name.

Who is collecting the information: The information is collected by the DEPWS, who provide services to the NT EPA/Minister.

Who to contact for more information: The [DEPWS Privacy Policy](#) sets out how you can access and/or correct your personal information and how you can make a complaint if you feel we have not complied with the [Privacy Act 1988](#).

All enquiries about access, correction or to make a complaint should be directed to the Privacy Officer on (08) 8999 4410 business days, 8.00am - 4.21pm or write to PO Box 496, Palmerston, NT 0831 or email StrategicServices.DEPWS@nt.gov.au