

Submission on the referral

Groote Eylandt Mining Company Ltd – Southern Lease Exploration Project

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

Government authority: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Executive Summary	Sacred sites assessment	<p>A sacred sites assessment has been undertaken with traditional owners and the Anandilyakwa Land Council (ALC), and an exploration agreement was made under ALRA in May 2016. The proponent intends to obtain an Authority Certificate once reporting of the ALC survey of sacred sites is complete.</p> <p>We recommend contacting AAPA regarding an Authority Certificate to ensure all sacred sites are identified and protected. GEMCO obtained an Authority Certificate (C2016/145) in 2016 for the eastern leases comprising Part of NT Portion 1632, Part of NT Portion 1653, and Part of NT Portion 1654.</p>
Chapter 3 Table 3-1	Protect culture and heritage	Potential for impacts are categorised as 'no'. Prediction of potential impacts should be categorised as 'uncertain' until an Authority Certificate has been obtained.
Chapter 5 5.2	Sacred sites assessment	We encourage the proponent to engage with AAPA to obtain an Authority Certificate following finalisation of the reporting of the ALC survey of sacred sites.
Chapter 6 6.2.6	Training	Training should include the sensitivities of sacred sites and other cultural values and working requirements in or near restricted work areas.
Chapter 6 6.4.4 to 6.4.8	Hazard monitoring	The monitoring of the identified hazards should include along the boundaries of restricted work areas where these are in the vicinity of the exploration works.