

██████████
Environmental Assessment
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
Floor 1, Arnhem House, 16 Parap Road, Parap
PO Box 3675, Parap, NT 0801

Medical Entomology
Bld 19 RDH
Rocklands Dve
Tiwi NT 0810

Postal Address
PO Box 41326
Casuarina NT 0811

T: ██████████
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File Ref: EFILE2020/26930

Dear ██████████

Re: Invite to Comment - Referral (Proponent Initiated EIS) - Sun Cable Australia-ASEAN Power Link

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above proposal. Medical Entomology comments are as follows.

1. Draft Terms of Reference – NT EPA Factor 5.3 Human Health, and Referral Main Report – Table 11 Human Health

Biting insects are likely to be seasonally prevalent in the project areas, most likely at Middle Arm but potentially at the solar farm site if appreciable wet season rains occur, and along the powerline corridor. Mosquitoes would be the most important insect, due to their potential to transmit several mosquito borne diseases in the NT. Mangrove biting midges can cause irritating bites that can lead to secondary infection if scratched, with the entire Middle Arm peninsular subject to very high mangrove biting midge populations.

Other insects that could cause issues include itchy caterpillars, rove beetles, wasps, bees, stinging ants and March flies, whilst Arachnids (spiders, ticks, scorpions and mites) could also be encountered. In particular, some parts of the Top End are also affected by scrub typhus mites, generally escarpment type country such as that found in Litchfield National Park, although cases have occurred close to Middle Arm.

Project infrastructure, such as sewage ponds and associated wastewater dispersal, artificial containers, sediment ponds and borrow pits, could also create new mosquito breeding sites, which could then lead to increased mosquito populations affecting workers. Any artificial containers and machinery equipment sourced from North Queensland could also potentially import the dengue mosquito *Aedes aegypti* into the Northern Territory. Currently, the NT is free from mosquito species that can transmit dengue.

It is therefore recommended that a biting and stinging insect (and arachnid) section be provided in the Human Health section of the EIS, outlining potential issues, and mitigation measures that would be utilised to limit the impact on workers, limit the project creating new mosquito breeding sites, and limit the potential for the dengue mosquito to be imported into the NT from North Queensland. There is no

recommendation for biting insect investigations, information can be found in the below links, and also by directly contacting Medical Entomology.

Mosquitoes -

https://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjspui/bitstream/10137/1237/3/Mosquito_borne%20diseases%20September%202016.pdf

Scrub typhus - <https://nt.gov.au/wellbeing/health-conditions-treatments/bacterial/scrub-typhus>

Personal protection - <https://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjspui/handle/10137/741>

Biting midges - <https://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjspui/handle/10137/205>

Bites and stings and how to avoid - <https://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjspui/handle/10137/187>

Guidelines for preventing mosquito breeding associated with mine sites -

<https://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjspui/bitstream/10137/2683/1/Guidelines%20Mine%20Site.pdf>

Please contact me if there are any queries with this letter.

Yours sincerely



Advice and Control Officer

27 October 2020