


DIRECTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This direction is given under regulation 119(2) of the Environment Protection Regulation 2020

Name of proposed action	Paru Road Upgrade
Proponent	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
NT EPA reference	EP2021/007
Description of proposed action	<p>To upgrade Paru Road (within NT Portion 1644) on Melville Island. The existing gravel road is the main road from the ferry terminal for transport between Melville and Bathurst Islands to townships on Melville Island. The proposal area would cover 383.8 ha, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new bridge or major culvert crossing of a permanent (unnamed) creek • four road realignments to smooth existing bends along Paru Road over a total length of about 3.1 km • two areas for gravel pits • a maximum clearing footprint of 74.4 ha for the gravel pits and road realignment
Nature of proposed action	Infrastructure (roads and transport)
Method of environmental impact assessment type	Assessment by Supplementary Environmental Report (SER)
Direction	<p>The proponent is directed to provide the additional information in the SER as detailed in Attachment 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to address the submissions received in relation to the referral information • to ensure that the NT EPA has sufficient information to complete the environmental impact assessment process.
Submission period for SER	The SER must be submitted to the NT EPA within 12 months of the date of this Direction.
Person authorised to give direction	<p>Dr Paul Vogel AM – Chairperson, Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority</p> <p>Delegate of the NT EPA under section 36 of the <i>Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012</i></p>
Signature	
Date of direction	26 July 2021

Attachment 1 – Additional information requirements for the Supplementary Environmental Report Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics – Paru Road Upgrade, Melville Island

Additional information required to address potential significant environmental impacts to environmental objectives		
Environmental Factor	Referral Reference	Additional Information Required
Terrestrial ecosystems	Submission from the Department of Environment Parks and Water Security Referral section 3 and 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide additional survey details to demonstrate confidence about the absence of significant monsoon and riparian rainforest species from the riverine forest associated with the creek crossing on the Paru Road, and/or demonstrate that the habitat is not suitable for the species with potential to occur in this area. Configure gravel pits to avoid areas in GP1-2 that have not been completely surveyed for <i>Typhonium</i> spp. If this is not possible, clarification of <i>Typhonium</i> spp. presence/absence and abundance within GP1-2 through additional survey is required to ensure there is no significant impact on these species. Undertake sufficient additional survey within the proposal footprint to ensure that gravel pits can be located within areas where Pale Field-rat and Butler's Dunnart are known to be absent. If this is not possible, additional regional survey would be required to clarify the significance of the local occurrence of these species. Undertake additional sampling to assess the density of large (DBH>40cm) and very large (DBH>50cm) trees with the potential to support tree hollows within the areas proposed for clearing, and provide a comparison with densities in surrounding areas of similar habitat to contextualise the potential impacts of loss of large trees on habitat availability for relevant threatened species (Masked Owl, Brush-tailed Phascogale and Black-footed Tree-rat). Areas with relatively high densities of large hollow-bearing trees should be avoided where possible. Provide further detail on the duration and content of the proposed weed management program to clearly demonstrate that the measures put in place to monitor the establishment, spread and control of weeds will minimise any risk to threatened species and their habitat. Provide Rehabilitation Plans for the gravel pits and the sections of Paru Rd to be replaced by the realignment works
Hydrological processes, Inland water environmental quality, and Aquatic ecosystem	Submission from the Department of Environment Parks and Water Security Referral section 3 and 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide details about the amount of water that the proposal is expected to use and water source that will be used. If water is to be sourced from local aquifers, a groundwater resource assessment should also be undertaken in relation to water availability and suitability

Additional information required to address potential significant environmental impacts to environmental objectives

Environmental Factor	Referral Reference	Additional Information Required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide details to demonstrate construction of the road would be designed to maintain natural flow regimes upstream and downstream of the road crossing the drainage lines and drainage of water from the road itself • Provide details about the proposed creek crossing and measures to avoid any significant impacts to the creek hydrology, water quality and morphology of the aquatic habitat • Provide details about the proposed North Road Realignment at Ch5300 – Ch6300 and the gravel pits to be developed within the Gravel Pit 1 Area and how impact to the drainage lines and 1st order ephemeral streams adjacent to these works will be avoided. • Clarify the presence and extent of any aquatic habitats within or adjacent to the proposed works and outline specific measures to be put in place to ensure potential impacts on sensitive receiving habitats are minimised through environmental management and erosion/sediment control systems
Community and economy	<p>Submission from the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet</p> <p>Referral section 5.13, 5.15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information about consultation undertaken and planned with the local community, and how matters raised related to potential significant impacts have been and/or will be considered and addressed • Provide details about the proposed workforce including whether there will be opportunities to train and employ members of the local community. Information on remote town job profiles, including at Pirlangimpi, Milikapiti, and Wurrumiyanga in the Tiwi Islands, can be found at https://nt.gov.au/employ/for-employers-in-nt/skills-existing-and-needed/remote-town-job-profiles • Describe the potential adverse impacts to road users during construction, and how such impacts will be minimised • Describe the logistics of accommodating the project workforce, and demonstrate measures to minimise any potential adverse impact on the wellbeing of the community • Provide an assessment of the potential economic impact of the construction/works on local communities • Provide an assessment of the flow-on social and economic benefits for local businesses and communities as a result of the proposal