

Submission on the referral

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) – Holtze Development Area

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

Government authority: NT Health – Centre for Disease Control – Medical Entomology section

Summary: A Biting Insect Management Plan has been created for the Holtze Development, in response to baseline biting insect investigations identifying seasonally high populations of pest and potential disease carrying mosquitoes in the area. The BIMP broadly addresses the mosquito mitigation measures required for Holtze, and therefore is suitable to implement to reduce the impact of mosquitoes within Holtze. A trial mosquito control program is likely to be carried out soon in the swamplands affecting Holtze and Greater Holtze, to gather further in-depth information to be added to the BIMP, which would then advise the final aerial mosquito control program required for Greater Holtze.

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Appendix K Biting Insect Management Plan Holtze Development area - Section 5.2 Design and Planning	Table 5.1 Potential impact. 'Creation of new mosquito breeding habitat'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NT Subdivision Development Guidelines should be mentioned as the primary stormwater design guidance document, with the mentioned Medical Entomology guideline a supplementary source of information regarding mosquitoes and stormwater infrastructure. The NT Subdivision Development Guidelines broadly cover the standard anti-mosquito design considerations that are applicable to various types of stormwater infrastructure. As the NT Subdivision Development Guidelines stormwater design criteria is most likely to be accepted by stormwater authorities, this should be the reference guideline. Local Councils may also have their own stormwater design guidelines that may need to be utilised to prevent the creation of new mosquito breeding habitat.
	Table 5.2. Potential impact. 'Proximity of the proposal to existing mosquito breeding habitat'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fifth management action mentions 'Any personnel suspected of suffering from mosquito borne diseases must remain off site until medically declared clear, to prevent the spread of disease'. The words 'mosquito borne diseases' should be replaced with 'malaria'. In the NT, malaria is main mosquito borne disease in which humans could be involved in infecting local mosquitoes and aiding the spread of disease. Humans are not thought to be involved in amplifying endemic mosquito borne diseases in the NT, whilst the mosquito species that transmit dengue and zika viruses are not present in Greater Darwin, therefore there is no risk of humans playing a role in the spread of these viruses in Holtze.

<p>Section 5.4 Occupancy</p>	<p>Table 5.3. Potential impact. 'Proximity of the Proposal to existing mosquito breeding habitat'</p> <p>Table 5.3. Potential Impact. 'Creation of new mosquito breeding habitat'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The owner of the three management actions assigned to this potential impact in Table 5.3 would ultimately be Medical Entomology, DoH. Medical Entomology provides an advisory service across the NT, and currently carries out regular aerial control in Crown and Commonwealth land near northern Darwin. A trial mosquito control program is likely to be carried out soon in the swamplands affecting Holtze and Greater Holtze, to gather further in-depth information to be added to the BIMP, which would then advise the final aerial mosquito control program required for Greater Holtze. • The third management action assigned to this potential impact, with regards to education, would be the responsibility of DoH, as it is part of the general service provided by Medical Entomology. This is generally achieved via region wide media releases during peak mosquito periods. • The fourth management action should be removed. No DoH approvals are required for rainwater tanks in the NT.
<p>General comments</p>		<p>Overall, the referral has addressed any potential Medical Entomology concerns by the creation of a biting insect management plan for Greater Holtze, which includes the Holtze area. The BIMP is considered a rolling document that can be updated as further information is acquired through the proposed trial programs. Therefore, no conditions are requested and no further information is requested.</p>
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