

Submission on the referral

Energy North Pty Ltd – Project Ares

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

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

Summary: The Barkly Region can be prone to high mosquito problems during above average rainfall seasons, which may affect the construction camp and other work areas. Mosquito mitigation information should be provided the construction and operations management plans.

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Section 3.2 Legislation – Table 3.1 NT Public Health Act	Work camp - vector control	- It is mentioned that the NT Public Health Act is relevant to the workers camp, with a mention of vector management. Medical Entomology has some comments regarding mosquito mitigation, which may be required around the workers camp during seasons of above average rainfall. - During seasons of prolonged above average rainfall, vector mosquito populations can reach extremely high numbers across the Barkly Region, creating major pest problems and a risk of Murray Valley encephalitis virus and Ross River virus transmission. If this occurs, adult mosquito control is likely to be required around the workers camp to reduce pest problems and disease risk. The use of a residual surface insecticide (barrier spray) is likely to be the most effective method for reducing adult mosquito populations around the camp, as larval mosquito control is not feasible in the Barkly Region. - During periods of high mosquito abundance, personal protection measures will also be required to minimise pest problems and mosquito borne disease risk. Further information available in the Medical Entomology handout Personal Protection from Mosquitoes and Biting Midges. Medical Entomology is available to provide advice if required. - Construction activities should be carried out in a manner that prevents the creation of mosquito breeding sites near the workers camp. Further information can be found in the Medical Entomology guideline Guidelines for preventing mosquito breeding sites associated with mining sites. - Mosquito mitigation information should be provided in the construction and operational management plans - human health section.