

Submission on Referral

Provaris Energy Ltd – Tiwi H2 Project

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

Government authority: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Executive Summary	Culture & Heritage factor	<p>The table on page v states that “early engagement with the AAPA, TLC and Munupi people has not identified any Aboriginal sacred sites within the project footprint, noting that Provaris will submit applications for Authority Certificate/s under the <i>Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act</i>.”</p> <p>AAPA clarifies that in regards to sacred sites not identified within the project footprint:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One registered sacred site occurs within 10 metres of the project footprint boundary (as defined in Appendix A of the referral) in the western portion of the H2 production precinct. 2. The absence of sacred site records in the majority of the project footprint does not mean no sacred sites are present. AAPA has not previously issued Authority Certificates, and therefore not consulted with custodians in relation to sacred sites, over the majority of the project footprint. Sacred sites not yet recorded by AAPA could occur in this area. <p>AAPA recommends Provaris submit applications for Authority Certificate/s as soon as possible. AAPA recommends all ground and/or vegetation disturbing works be covered by an Authority Certificate, including pre-construction survey work.</p>
Section 9.1	Culture & Heritage factor	<p>Table 9-1 acknowledges that there is potential for significant impact to culture heritage values and states that “an Authority Certificate will be sought from AAPA to ensure any sacred sites relevant to the Project footprint are identified and avoidance/mitigation measures are implemented in accordance with the conditions of the certificate.” AAPA agrees that an Authority Certificate is the appropriate mechanism for avoiding potentially significant impacts to sacred sites.</p> <p>See above comment in relation to the statement that “there are no registered sacred sites relevant [to] the Project footprint”.</p>
Appendix C	Heritage Assessment	<p>The Heritage Assessment states that “the consultants have been advised that Provaris Energy Ltd have applied to the AAPA for an Authority Certificate covering their Project Areas”. AAPA would like to clarify that it has not yet received an application for an Authority Certificate for this proposal, and encourages Provaris to submit such an application/s as soon as possible.</p> <p>AAPA requests the applicant include the full Heritage Assessment Report (including Figure 3) as supporting information in their application for an Authority Certificate. This will assist AAPA’s consultation with custodians for this proposal. Of note, the Heritage Assessment described a ‘watercourse and swimming hole’ that has high cultural significance (ID: PE-22 CF02).</p>