

24 December 2025

## **RESPONSE TO DIRECTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THE REFERRAL FOR MUCKATY SOLAR PRECINCT PROPOSAL**

This additional information is provided to clarify the proposed location and extent of the project area and footprints in the Referral for the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal. Importantly, SunCable would like to assure the NT EPA and our stakeholders that the maps provided in the Referral do reflect the true location and extent of the key proposal components. The clarifications and corrections provided in this response do not materially alter the footprints or the assessment of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposal.

The responses below address each item in the Direction to Provide Additional Information received from the NT EPA on 23 December 2025. The information provided here aligns with that presented in the referral made to the Commonwealth Government under the EPBC Act.

### **SIZE OF PROJECT AREA**

#### **Provide the correct area (in hectares) and location of the project area.**

The location of the Project Area is shown in Figure 2-2 of the Referral. This figure contains an error in that it doesn't show the 'proposed access and services corridor' from the Stuart Highway as being part of the project area. This component of the footprint is shown in Figure 2-3 and was considered when assessing potential impacts. An updated version of Figure 2-2 is provided at Attachment 1.

The correct area of the Project Area shown in Figure 2-2 is 135,857 ha. The area stated in Table 2-2 of the Referral (105,000 ha) was incorrectly calculated from the spatial datasets and did not include the 'proposed access and services corridor'. Importantly, this correction does not alter the potential environmental impacts of the proposal because the impact assessment presented in the Referral is based on the Disturbance Footprint, not the Project Area.

The term 'Project Area' is used to describe the broader area of interest within which studies and assessments are being undertaken to inform site selection and design for a large-scale solar project at Muckaty. SunCable is investing in studies across this wider area of interest to ensure the best information is available to inform site selection and design, that is flood resilient, minimises impacts on environmental and cultural values and meets project needs.

#### **Clarify the term used to describe the area of disturbance from the proposed action. Describe what the disturbance comprises e.g. disturbance footprint comprising the proposed solar development area and access and service corridors.**

Figure 2-3 in the Referral shows the preliminary 'Disturbance Footprint'; however, the labelling in the legend is confusing because the 'Access/Services Corridor' is shown separately to the solar 'Preliminary Disturbance Footprint'. Both components are part of the Disturbance Footprint where direct impacts from land clearing and development could occur.

An updated version of Figure 2-3 is provided at Attachment 1, with changes made to the legend to make it clear that the area of disturbance from the proposed action also encompasses the 'Access/Services Corridors'.

The correct area of the Disturbance Footprint shown in Figure 2-3 is 54,437ha.

**Provide updated tables, figures and spatial data (including an update of Table 2-2 of the referral), including the corrected project area and area of disturbance.**

Updated versions of Figure 2-2 and Figure 2-3 are provided as Attachment 1.

An updated version of Table 2-2 is provided as Attachment 2.

Updated spatial datasets are provided as Attachment 3.

**Describe any changes to the assessment of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts resulting from the correction.**

The corrections and clarifications provided here do not change the assessment of potential impacts from the proposal. The Referral considered potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts from disturbance across the whole of the 'Disturbance Footprint' shown in Figure 2-3, including the Access/Services Corridors.

While the stated number of hectares for the Disturbance Footprint has increased by 5,137ha, this increase is mostly (95%) a result of merging the Access/Services Corridors (4,885ha) into that stated Disturbance Footprint. The remaining 5% of the increase (or 252 ha) occurred due to corrections made to the underlying spatial datasets to ensure the boundaries of each component of the footprint meet. As the impact assessment in the Referral considers the entire Disturbance Footprint (including the Access/Services Corridors) there are no changes to the impact ratings.

**Identify any changes to avoidance, mitigation or management measures required to account for any new or altered environmental impacts.**

As stated above, the corrections and clarifications provided here do not result in any new or altered impacts, therefore no changes are proposed to the avoidance, mitigation or management measures.

#### **LOCATION OF NON-PROCESS INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Confirm whether the proposed action includes non-process infrastructure outside of the corrected area of disturbance (and within the corrected project area).**

The precinct concept design does not include non-process infrastructure outside of the Disturbance Footprint shown in Figure 2-3. However, as more detailed site surveys and assessments are progressed, and the precinct design is advanced, it is possible that preferred locations for non-process infrastructure could be outside the preliminary Disturbance Footprint shown in the Referral. As the proposal design is at concept stage with many field studies still to be completed, SunCable would like to retain flexibility to ensure the final locations for non-process infrastructure can be chosen using the best available information and consulting with Traditional Owners.

**If non-process infrastructure will, or may, be located outside of the corrected area of disturbance, address how the mitigation hierarchy will be applied in site selection, and identify mitigation and management actions that will be undertaken**

If preferred locations for non-process infrastructure are identified outside the preliminary Disturbance Footprint shown in the Referral, these footprints would be delineated in consultation with Traditional Owners and would be supported by field surveys to assess environmental and cultural heritage values. Locations for non-process infrastructure are flexible and SunCable commits to ensuring the selected locations avoid significant vegetation, important habitats, waterways and wetlands, sacred sites, heritage sites and any other values identified during field surveys. SunCable does not anticipate changes that would constitute a 'significant variation' to the proposal under the NT EP Act.

### **Closing**

We trust that this additional information meets the needs of the NT EPA for the Referral stage of the proposal. We look forward to continuing our consultation with Traditional Owners and undertaking further studies and assessments to advance the planning and design of the Muckaty Solar Precinct proposal in 2026.

Yours sincerely



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### **Attachments:**

- 1 Updated versions of Figure 2-2 and 2-3**
- 2 Corrected version of Table 2-2**
- 3 Spatial data**

