

Referral form

Refer proposed action or strategic proposal under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*

Before you fill in the form

Guiding notes

- This form must be read in conjunction with environmental impact assessment guidance for proponents on the [NT EPA website](#) including Referring a proposal to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).
- This form contains five (5) parts:
 - Part A – Proponent details
 - Part B – Proposal details
 - Part C – Referral details
 - Part D – Referrer declaration
 - Part E – Nominated contact.
- This form contains two checklists:
 - Cross reference of matters addressed in the referral report
 - Proponent’s general duty.
- This form will be published.
- Further guidance or example responses are provided below in light grey text.

These guiding notes may be deleted before submitting the referral form and report.

PART A – Proponent details	
Name of the proponent <i>(legal entity)</i>	Energy North Pty Ltd
Proponent details	<i>Name:</i> Scott Criddle <i>Position/responsibility:</i> Executive Chairman, CEO & Founder <i>Physical address:</i> Suite 3, Level 3 (A16), 435 Roberts Road, Subiaco, WA, 6008 <i>Postal address:</i> As above <i>Phone:</i> 08 7918 1999 <i>Email:</i> projectares@energy-north.com
Proponent Trading Name if relevant	N/A
Australian Business Number/s Australian Company Number/s	48 667 570 872

Provide a description of the organisational structure with respect to responsibility of the proposed action, environmental approvals and implementation.	Energy North Pty Ltd is a project development company and the proponent of Project Ares, responsible for all aspects of the proposed action including environmental approvals and implementation.
Joint-venture partners (if applicable)	N/A
PART B – Outline of the proposal and location	
Outline of the proposed action or strategic proposal (proposal)	
Name of proposal	Project Ares
Provide a brief summary (one or two paragraphs) of the proposal including the activity type/ industry/ duration.	The Project comprises a single integrated hyperscale data centre campus with a total information technology (IT) capacity of 1 gigawatt (GW), delivered in two stages. Phase 1 delivers 500 megawatts (MW) of firm power alongside the full 1 GW IT campus, with Phase 2 delivering the remaining generation capacity to achieve full 1 GW firm generation. The Project adopts a behind-the-meter power architecture comprising large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation and battery energy storage systems (BESS), supplemented by gas-fired generation to provide firm power. The energy generation mix at Phase 1 Commercial Operation Date will be confirmed during front-end engineering design (FEED), with Energy North committed to a transition toward renewable-powered operations over the life of the facility. Key Project components include: • A hyperscale data centre campus, including data halls, cooling infrastructure, operations and administration facilities. • Solar PV generation and BESS infrastructure. • Gas-fired generation and supporting gas infrastructure within the Project boundary. • Non-process infrastructure including access roads, internal roads, rail siding to the Tarcoola–Darwin Railway, sealed airstrip, construction and operational workforce accommodation village, borefield and water supply infrastructure. • Associated water supply, treatment, storage and reticulation infrastructure. The Project has an anticipated operational life of at least 25 years for the data centre facility, with an overall Project life exceeding 30 years. The Preliminary Disturbance Envelope for Project Ares is approximately 19,150 ha, representing the maximum

	area of ground disturbance assessed for the purposes of this Referral and the Draft EIS Terms of Reference. This figure represents the maximum disturbance envelope for assessment purposes. The ultimate project disturbance footprint is expected to be materially reduced through progressive optimisation during FEED and refinement of the infrastructure layout through the EIS process, including outcomes of heritage surveys, targeted ecological surveys, and detailed engineering design.
Location	
Provide location details as: a) street address, suburb	18698A Stuart Highway, Daly Waters, NT 0852
b) tenement, lot/section numbers, town/hundred, NT Portion or pastoral lease numbers, as applicable	NT Portion 851, Murrarji Station perpetual pastoral lease (PPL) 1074 NT Portion 2093 (buffer around access road Option A and gas pipeline only) – Newcastle Waters Pastoral Station
c) the nearest town, recognisable feature, and distance and direction from that town/feature to the site of the proposed action.	Elliott (52 km south-east) - provides essential services including health, education, fuel, and accommodation for the Barkly Region. Daly Waters (100 km north) - a small roadhouse community on the Stuart Highway. Tennant Creek (305 km south) - the principal regional service centre for the Barkly Region.
Name of the Local Government Area/s in which the proposal is located.	Barkly Regional Local Government Area
What is the land tenure type, and proposed land tenure type?	Current tenure: Murrarji Station (PPL under the <i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i>); Crown land. Proposed tenure: A Non-Pastoral Use Permit (NPUP) under the <i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i> (NT) will be obtained to authorise non-pastoral use of the Project Disturbance Footprint during pre-construction activities. Full tenure conversion will require surrender of the relevant portion of the pastoral lease under section 61 of the <i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i> (NT) and grant of a Crown Lease over the Project Disturbance Footprint under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1992</i> (NT). The tenure conversion pathway will be progressed in consultation with the Northern Territory (NT) Government Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE) during FEED.

Does the proponent have the legal (land) access required for the implementation of all aspects of the proposal?	✓ No If no, provide details of legal access authorisations /agreements / tenure is required and from whom. Energy North holds an option to purchase approximately 895 km² of Murrnaji Station and has been granted permitted access by the current pastoral leaseholder to undertake pre-Final Investment Decision field studies, including, but not limited to, ecological surveys, groundwater drilling, and heritage investigations. A NPUP under the <i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i> (NT) will be obtained to authorise non-pastoral use of the Project Disturbance Footprint during pre-construction activities. Full legal access for the Project Disturbance Footprint will require: (1) surrender of the relevant portion of the pastoral lease under section 61 of the <i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i> (NT) and grant of a Crown Lease over the Project Disturbance Footprint under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1992</i> (NT), subject to negotiation with the landholder and DLPE; (2) negotiation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with Traditional Owners through the Northern Land Council to address Native Title rights and interests under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth); and (3) an Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) Authority Certificate under the <i>Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i> (NT). Energy North is actively progressing each of these requirements.
Is the land zoned under the NT Planning Scheme?	✓ No ☐ Yes If yes, what is/are the zoning/s?
What is the current land use of the proposal site/s?	Murrnaji Station and the surrounding Barkly Region have been used and cared for by Aboriginal peoples since time immemorial. The Project Area is subject to a non-exclusive native title determination (DCD2007/002, Federal Court, 26 September 2007) confirming the ongoing connection of Traditional Custodians to the country. In addition to its Aboriginal land use history, Murrnaji Station has been operated as a cattle grazing property under a perpetual pastoral lease since the late nineteenth century. The station covers approximately 4,475 km² and has historically supported cattle grazing operations across Mitchell Grass and tropical savanna grassland. Historically, the station was crossed by the

	Murrnaji Stock Route, one of the most significant droving routes in Northern Australia, which was used extensively from the early twentieth century until the 1960s. The Project Area (186,000 ha) has no history of industrial land use, mining, or intensive agricultural development.
What is the approximate distance (direct line) and direction to the closest human sensitive receptor? For example, residence, accommodation, hospital, school, homeland from the proposal.	Murrnaji Homestead is approximately 8 km east (as the crow flies) of the Preliminary Disturbance Envelope. Elliott (52 km south-east) is the closest town.
What is the proposed end land use of the proposal site/s	The proposed land use comprises a large-scale digital infrastructure and energy precinct, including a hyperscale data centre campus, solar photovoltaic generation, battery energy storage, gas-fired generation for firm power, and associated supporting infrastructure including access roads, rail infrastructure, airstrip, borefield, and workforce accommodation. The balance of land not used for the proposed action within Murrnaji Station will continue to be managed for pastoral grazing or retained as undisturbed habitat during and after construction. At the completion of the Project, the site will be rehabilitated or repurposed in accordance with a post-closure plan to be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders including Traditional Owners and relevant NT Government agencies. Rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria will be established through the EIS process and confirmed prior to decommissioning.
Consultation	
Provide an overview of consultation undertaken specific to the proposal and potential environmental impacts.	Prior to lodgement of this Referral, Energy North has undertaken extensive engagement with NT and Commonwealth Government departments and agencies including the NT Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (transitioning to the National Environment Protection Agency), DLPE, AAPA and the Northern Land Council (NLC), to accurately map required approvals, understand regulatory expectations, and confirm the likely assessment pathway for Project Ares. Energy North has also undertaken preliminary engagement with adjacent pastoral landholders to introduce the Project and
List the matters raised in consultation and identify how the proposal has been modified to respond to stakeholder feedback.	

	discuss potential impacts on neighbouring pastoral operations. Broader community and stakeholder engagement, including with Traditional Owners, the Elliott community, and industry and environment groups, has not yet commenced, except for preliminary engagement with the NLC and adjacent pastoral landholders. Energy North plans to commence broader community and stakeholder engagement in 2026, both through and alongside the NT EPA public exhibition process, in accordance with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan at Appendix B. Key matters identified through pre-referral engagement include: the need for field-based ecological surveys to verify desktop findings, particularly for threatened species including the Greater Bilby; confirmation of the groundwater extraction pathway including the Tier 3 hydrogeological assessment requirement under the Georgina-Wiso Water Allocation Plan; the importance of early NLC and Traditional Owner engagement on cultural heritage and land access; and confirmation of the regulatory pathway for land tenure conversion. Key topics anticipated to arise through broader community and stakeholder engagement include groundwater extraction and water security, impacts on Greater Bilby and threatened species habitat, heavy vehicle traffic on local roads, sacred sites and cultural heritage protection, employment and economic participation opportunities for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities, and greenhouse gas emissions and the Project's energy commitments. These matters will be addressed through the EIS process and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan at Appendix B.
PART C – Referral type	
What type of proposal is being referred?	☐ proposed action ☐ strategic proposal ☒ proponent initiated EIS referral
Provide a brief justification including the reasons why you consider the action may have a significant impact on the environment and is referred to the NT EPA. Refer to section 11 of the EP Act and the NT EPA's environmental factors and objectives.	The Project has the potential to result in significant environmental and social impacts due to its large scale and the extent of disturbance proposed, including the clearing of up to 19,150 ha of vegetation. Note, this 19,150 ha Preliminary Disturbance Envelope has been adopted as a conservative, precautionary maximum area of disturbance for the purposes of the

	referral. The ultimate project disturbance footprint is expected to be materially reduced through progressive optimisation during FEED and refinement of the infrastructure layout through the EIS process, including outcomes of heritage surveys, targeted ecological surveys, and detailed engineering design. Key risks include erosion and land degradation, impacts to terrestrial ecosystems and threatened species, alteration of surface water processes, extraction of groundwater, and emissions associated with construction and operation. There is also potential for impacts to cultural heritage values and cumulative social impacts, alongside both positive and negative economic and community outcomes. However, there remain important uncertainties in the assessment of these impacts at this stage. Baseline environmental data is incomplete in several areas, including vegetation condition, threatened species presence, hydrological processes and cultural heritage values, and further field investigations are required to support a robust impact assessment. In addition, aspects of Project design, including water demand, cooling configuration and infrastructure layout, are yet to be finalised. As such, the current assessment is preliminary, and the magnitude and significance of potential impacts will be refined through the EIS process as additional data and design detail become available.
Does the proposal involve an action that may be or is a controlled action under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Has the proposed action been referred?	☐ Yes ☒ No EPBC Act referral to be submitted after the referral under the EP Act. If yes, provide the date referred and reference number (EPBC number)? Date: EPBC number:
If referred, has a decision been made on whether the proposed action is a controlled action?	☐ Yes ☐ No N/A

	If yes, check the appropriate decision outcome and provide the decision in an attachment. ☐ Decision – controlled action ☐ Decision – not a controlled action
PART D – Proponent referrer details and declaration *The referral form must include the declaration signed by the proponent, or where the proponent is an organisation or business, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or duly authorised delegate within the proponent company.	
Who is referring this proposal?	☒ Proponent ☐ Authorised representative within proponent entity
Does the proponent request that the NT EPA treat any part of the information in the referral as confidential under section 281(2) of the EP Act?	☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, provide an application in accordance with regulation 271 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020 and submit the confidential information as a separate attachment
Referral declaration <u>by proponent</u>: I, Scott Criddle, declare that I am authorised to refer this proposed action/strategic proposal on behalf of Energy North Pty Ltd, and further declare that: - the attached environmental impact assessment documents have been prepared in accordance with the EP Act and EP Regulations; and - the attached environmental impact assessment documents (including attachments) are true; and - the attached environmental impact assessment documents do not provide false or misleading information, and I know it is an offence to provide false and misleading information, noting the penalties under section 260 of the EP Act, and section 119 of the <i>Criminal Code Act 1983</i>; and - the proponent fully understands that referral under the EP Act does not limit, in any way, the requirements of the proponent to ensure approvals under any other regulatory regime are applied for, and adhered to; and - the proponent has fulfilled its general duty in accordance with section 43 of the EP Act. <i>Note: if the NT EPA determine that an environmental approval is required, the proponent will be requested to provide supporting documents during the assessment process such as details to support that the person is a fit and proper person to hold an environmental approval in accordance with section 62 of the EP Act</i>	
Name: Scott Criddle	

Signature:



Date: 17/06/2026

Position: Executive Chairman, CEO & Founder

Organisation (if a business or organisation): Energy North Pty Ltd

Email: projectares@energy-north.com

Address: Suite 3, Level 3 (A16), 435 Roberts Road, Subiaco, WA, 6008

PART E – Nominated contact

Contact details for proponent contact (provide the details for the person who will be corresponding with the NT EPA on the proposal)

Business name: Energy North Pty Ltd
Name of primary contact: Daniel Hunter
Physical address: Suite 3, Level 3 (A16), 435 Roberts Road, Subiaco, WA, 6008
Postal address: As above
Phone: 08 7918 1999
Email: daniel.hunter@energy-north.com

Contact details of consultant (if relevant, provide the details for the person who will be corresponding with the NT EPA on the proposal on behalf of the proponent)

Business name: EcOz Environmental Consultants
Name of primary contact: Alice Nicholl
Physical address: Level 1, 70 Cavenagh St, Darwin NT
Postal address: GPO Box 381, Darwin NT 0800
Phone: 08 8981 1100
Email: alice.nicholl@eco.com.au

CHECKLIST 1 - Cross reference of matters addressed in the referral report (for more detail refer to the Referring a proposal to the NT EPA guidance)

Item	See Referral guidance for further detail on information requirements	Report section / page
<i>Publication statement</i>	Provide name and qualifications of relevant contributors to the referral.	xi

<i>Executive summary</i>	Overview of the proposal, its potential for significant impact and key conclusions.	ii
<i>Introduction</i>	Include a brief introduction to the proposal and the proponent (noting proponent details are also to be included in the referral form / environmental approval application form).	Section 1
<i>Proposal description - Key components</i>	Provide a clear and detailed description of the proposal, referencing maps and spatial information. Provide a key components summary table. Identify uncertainty / likely changes if elements of a proposal require further design at the time of referral. Provide an account of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future development, operations, or industries that are related to the current proposal.	Section 2.4
<i>Proposal description - Location and regional context</i>	Location and regional context.	Section 2.1
<i>Proposal description – Alternatives (options)</i>	Describe any alternatives (location, timeframes, activities) considered or are under consideration in scoping and developing the proposal. Describe how the analysis of alternatives accounted for the <i>principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act). Justification for the preferred/selected option. Describe any assumptions critical to your assessment.	Section 2.6
<i>Proposal description – Application of the:</i> <i>Principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2) <i>General duty of proponents</i> (s43)	Discuss how the proposal accounts for the <i>principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act) and the general duty of proponents provided for under section 43 of the EP Act: - Principles of ecologically sustainable development - Environmental decision-making hierarchy - Waste management hierarchy.	Section 3.3

<i>Consultation</i> <u>Refer to NT EPA Stakeholder Engagement guidance 2020</u>	The EP Act (section 3 and section 43) puts an obligation on the proponent to consult with stakeholders and the community in the development of the proposal. As an example, the referral should include: • a description of stakeholder engagement and community consultation undertaken • an outline of the method and process of consultation with stakeholders • a summary of the key matters raised during consultation • any changes made as a result of consultation • the ongoing consultation, and options for feedback • whether the consultation has or has not been undertaken in accordance with NT EPA guidance on Stakeholder Engagement • whether the consultation has or hasn't been undertaken in accordance with the section 43 (EP Act) general duty of proponents (see Checklist 2).	Section 4
<i>Strategic and statutory context</i>	Table discussing proposal specific legislation, policies, and guidelines that are and may be applicable to the proposal and the sequencing and status of those, is provided.	Section 3.1
<i>Environmental Factors</i>	The sections below relate to information that describes the potential impacts of the proposal on the NT EPA's Environmental factors. Information requirements for each environmental factor identified by the pre-referral screening tool are provided (any technical studies and surveys included).	
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i> Presence/absence of environmental values	<i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i> The presence or absence of relevant environmental values and sensitivities are verified. Specify the source and currency of information (e.g. desktop assessments, and/or field surveys, the methods used, dates, sources, and whether the approach is conducted in accordance with relevant regulatory and industry guideline.	Section 5.1.1 Section 5.2.1 Section 5.3.1 Section 5.4.1 Section 5.5.1 Section 5.6.1
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i> Potential impacts and consistency with relevant policy/guidance	<i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i> Assessment of potential impacts (negative, direct, indirect, cumulative, short and long-term) of the proposal. Relevant policy and guidance described. Residual / remaining impact to the environmental factor described.	Section 5.1.2 Section 5.2.2 Section 5.3.2 Section 5.4.2 Section 5.5.2 Section 5.6.2

Environmental Factors and objectives Environment protection and management	<i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i> Describe in terms of management hierarchies: - measures proposed to avoid, mitigate or offset (if appropriate) - effectiveness of proposed measures and the level of confidence of implementation - whether the NT EPA's objective for the environmental factor is likely to be met.	Section 5.1.2 Section 5.2.2 Section 5.3.2 Section 5.4.2 Section 5.5.2 Section 5.6.2
Environmental Factors and objectives Cumulative impacts	<i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i> Describe potential cumulative impacts.	Section 6

CHECKLIST 2 - Consideration of the Proponent's general duty (in accordance with section 43 of the EP Act)

Section 43 General duty of proponents	Done	Comment
The following principles of ecologically sustainable development must be taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action.		Provide comment here
Decision-making principle	✓	The decision-making principle requires that environmental, economic, and social impacts, both short and long-term, are considered in decisions relating to the Project. Key considerations for Project Ares include the protection of significant and sensitive habitats and biodiversity values within the Preliminary Disturbance Envelope; avoidance of and impacts to sacred sites and Aboriginal cultural heritage; long-term management of groundwater resources and dependent ecosystems; the Project's greenhouse gas emissions profile and energy transition trajectory; socioeconomic outcomes for the Barkly Region and Aboriginal communities; impacts on adjacent pastoral operations; and the interests of Traditional Owners and adjacent landholders. These considerations will be assessed in detail through the EIS process.
Precautionary principle	✓	Project Ares is supported by an extensive baseline dataset including the 2020-2022 SREBA surveys, which has informed Project siting and design to date. Consistent with the precautionary principle, further targeted surveys and technical studies will be undertaken as part of the EIS process to confirm the presence,

		distribution, and habitat requirements of threatened species and ecological communities across the full Preliminary Disturbance Envelope - including the Greater Bilby as the primary species of concern. A precautionary approach will also be applied to other potential impacts including large-scale vegetation clearing, groundwater extraction, impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage, and cumulative impacts on biodiversity values in the Barkly Region. The outcomes of these assessments will inform detailed impact assessment in the EIS and management measures.
Principle of evidence-based decision-making	✓	Project Ares is supported by a comprehensive baseline dataset including the 2020-2022 SREBA datasets, desktop groundwater assessments, and other technical studies, which collectively provide a strong evidentiary foundation for this Referral. Additional targeted surveys and technical studies across all relevant environmental factors will be undertaken as part of the EIS process so that detailed impact assessment and management measures are informed by robust evidence.
Principle of intergenerational and intragenerational equity	✓	The principle of intergenerational equity requires that the needs of present generations are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Key considerations for Project Ares include the long-term management and rehabilitation of the Project Disturbance Footprint as confirmed through FEED and the EIS process; the permanence of any habitat disturbance and the need for and scope of any biodiversity offsets; the sustainability of groundwater extraction over the Project's operational life; the long-term management of end-of-life infrastructure and waste streams; and the long-term economic and cultural outcomes for the Barkly Region and Aboriginal communities. These considerations will be assessed through the EIS process.
Principle of sustainable use	✓	Key sustainable use considerations for Project Ares include the long-term sustainability of groundwater extraction from the Wiso Basin relative to aquifer recharge rates; the sustainable management of land resources given the scale of the proposed project disturbance footprint including large-scale clearing of native vegetation; the sustainable use of energy resources, including any non-renewable energy sources forming part of the Project's generation mix as confirmed through FEED; and the

		extraction of construction materials from temporary borrow pits. Water use efficiency and minimisation will be a key focus of FEED design and the EIS assessment.
Principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity	✓	Key considerations for Project Ares include the potential impact of the ultimate project disturbance footprint on threatened species, including the Greater Bilby as the primary species of concern and their habitat; the effect of large-scale land clearing on native vegetation communities and ecological processes; the effect of infrastructure on habitat connectivity and dispersal; and the need for and scope of any biodiversity offsets for residual habitat disturbance. These matters will be assessed in detail through the EIS process, including through targeted flora and fauna surveys.
Principle of improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms	✓	Key considerations for Project Ares include the appropriate valuation of any required biodiversity offsets for residual habitat disturbance; provision for long-term rehabilitation and decommissioning costs; and the management of waste streams, including construction waste, operational waste-streams including spent coolant from closed-loop cooling systems, and end-of-life equipment, in accordance with the waste management hierarchy. The costs of environmental management, pollution containment, and waste abatement associated with the Project will be addressed through the Project's environmental management framework. The Project's behind-the-meter energy architecture, with a commitment to maximising the renewable energy fraction over the life of the facility, reflects the broader intent of this principle by internalising energy costs through purpose-built generation infrastructure. These considerations will be addressed through the EIS process and confirmed through FEED.
The following management hierarchies must be taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action.		Provide comment here
Environmental decision-making hierarchy	✓	The environmental decision-making hierarchy will inform the design of Project Ares: Avoidance: Infrastructure siting will be developed to avoid areas of identified conservation value, sacred sites, and other sensitive receptors to the extent practicable. Avoidance options will be further refined through targeted surveys

		and assessment undertaken as part of the EIS process. • Mitigation: Key mitigation measures will be developed during FEED and assessed through the EIS process to manage residual impacts that cannot be avoided. • Offset: The need for and scope of any biodiversity offsets will be determined through the EIS process in accordance with NT and Commonwealth offset requirements.
• Waste management hierarchy	✓	Key waste streams for Project Ares include construction waste, operational waste streams including spent coolant from closed-loop cooling systems, hazardous materials associated with energy storage and backup generation infrastructure, and end-of-life equipment. Waste management measures will be developed in accordance with the hierarchy through FEED and the EIS process and addressed in a site-specific Waste Management Plan prior to construction commencement.
Other section 43 considerations		
• Have communities that may be affected by the proposed action been provided with information and opportunities for consultation?	✓	Energy North has undertaken extensive engagement with NT and Commonwealth Government agencies prior to lodgement of this Referral and has also commenced preliminary engagement with the Northern Land Council and adjacent pastoral landholders. Formal engagement with Traditional Owners and the wider community has not yet been undertaken. A comprehensive community engagement program will be developed and implemented to inform the EIS process, in accordance with the NT EPA's stakeholder engagement guidance. Refer to Section 4 of the referral report for details of consultation undertaken to date.
• Has consultation with affected communities, including Aboriginal communities' been undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner?	✓	Energy North have engaged in preliminary consultation with the NLC as the representative body for Traditional Owners. Energy North will work with Traditional Owner groups associated with the Project Area and surrounding land in a culturally appropriate manner, guided by the NLC. Formal Traditional Owner consultation will be undertaken as part of the EIS process, facilitated by the NLC and subject to Traditional Owner availability and cultural protocols. Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth) and

		the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i> (NT).
Has community knowledge and understanding (including scientific and traditional knowledge and understanding) of the natural and cultural values of areas that may be impacted by the proposed action been sought and documented?	✓	Energy North will seek and document Traditional Owner knowledge of natural and cultural values through ongoing engagement and through Cultural Heritage Assessment and Social Impact Assessment processes to be undertaken as part of the EIS. The 2020-2022 SREBA datasets, detailed desktop-based assessments, and prior environmental and heritage surveys and datasets at Murrniji Station have informed the preparation of this Referral. Energy North will work with Traditional Owner groups so that natural and cultural values that may potentially be impacted are considered and addressed appropriately throughout the assessment and development process.
Have Aboriginal values and the rights and interests of Aboriginal communities' been addressed in relation to areas that may be impacted by the proposed action?	✓	The Project Area is located on Crown land held under pastoral lease (PPL 1074). Non-exclusive native title has been determined over the Newcastle Waters-Murrniji area (DCD2007/002). Energy North recognises the rights, interests, and values of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities associated with the Project Area, including connection to country, cultural heritage, and spiritual values. Energy North will negotiate an ILUA with Traditional Owner groups through the NLC to address Native Title rights and interests in relation to the Project Area. Energy North will apply for and comply with an AAPA Authority Certificate under the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i> (NT). Energy North will engage Traditional Owner groups to identify cultural heritage values and siting constraints that will inform the Project layout. The potential impacts of the Project on Aboriginal values, rights and interests will be assessed through the EIS process, including through a Cultural Heritage Assessment and Social Impact Assessment.

How to submit

Email your completed form to Environmental Assessments, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security at eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au

Further information

For further information, contact Environmental Assessments, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) at eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au or phone 08 8924 4218.

Collection notice

Purpose: The purpose for the collection of information using this form is to provide the NT EPA with the relevant information needed to administer the environmental impact assessment process under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*.

Failure to collect information: If the DEPWS does not collect this information, then correspondence will continue to be with the proponent last notified to the NT EPA/Minister and it may have implications in the Minister's consideration of a fit and proper person under s 62 of the Environment Protection Act and environmental approval holder entity/name.

Who is collecting the information: The information is collected by the DEPWS, who provide services to the NT EPA/Minister.

Who to contact for more information: The [DEPWS Privacy Policy](#) sets out how you can access and/or correct your personal information and how you can make a complaint if you feel we have not complied with the [Privacy Act 1988](#).

All enquiries about access, correction or to make a complaint should be directed to the Privacy Officer on (08) 8999 4410 business days, 8.00am - 4.21pm or write to PO Box 496, Palmerston, NT 0831 or email StrategicServices.DEPWS@nt.gov.au