

Submission on referral information

Equatorial Launch Australia Pty Ltd – Phase 2 Expansion of Arnhem Space Centre

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

NT EPA reference number: EP2023/031

Government authority: Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, Strategic Policy

Summary: The Referral does not include the information required to assess whether the project has potential for significant socio-economic impacts.

Section of referral or terms of reference	Theme / issue	Comment
Referral Report p22, p27-28 Table 11, and p34 Table 12	Theme: People Factor: Community and Economy Issue: social, cultural and economic impacts - identification and engagement	The Referral indicates the project will have a positive impact on the local community and economy, however, does not include sufficient detail to allow for the significance of any potential positive and/or negative social, cultural and economic impacts to be assessed. Stakeholder perspectives listed in the Referral focus on operations rather than on potential social, cultural or economic impacts. Proponent processes to assess operational impacts and stakeholder processes to identify potential impacts need to be concurrent and to inform each other. <i>Recommendation: It is recommended the Referral include information on potential social, cultural and economic impacts, for example on local infrastructure and services, other businesses, community cohesion, traffic, noise, dust, vibration, and recreational and cultural activities. The Referral should also include information on stakeholder perspectives (unsolicited and solicited) of the broader potential positive and negative impacts of the project, and of the process used to identify these perspectives.</i>
Referral Report p34	Theme: People Factor: Culture and Heritage Issue: Authority Certificate	The Referral does not confirm if a heritage assessment has been undertaken or an Authority Certificate obtained for the Phase 2 site. <i>Recommendation: To inform project planning and engagement activities it is strongly recommended the proponent obtain an Authority Certificate from Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority as a priority.</i>
Referral Report p12	Theme: People Factor: Community and Economy Issue: Workforce	The Referral describes site accommodation, however does not include workforce numbers or any potential impacts. <i>Recommendation: To identify potential impacts, it is recommended the Referral includes information about the proposed construction and operation workforce, including numbers, timeframes, source (e.g. local, fly in fly out of Darwin or interstate), composition (e.g. mix of skills needed) and accommodation needs.</i>
Referral Report p44	Theme: People Factor: Community and Economy Issue: Local employment and procurement	Although the Referral indicates the proponent will work with the Gumatj Corporation to provide training and education to support job creation and provide sustainable economic development opportunities in the region, no detail as to how this is intended to be achieved is included. <i>Recommendation: It is recommended that the Referral includes specific information regarding local training, employment and procurement opportunities in order to assess positive project impacts.</i>
Referral Report p24	Theme: People Factor: Community and Economy	Although the Referral indicates the proponent will re-vegetate areas that are not needed, it does not include any information regarding the decommissioning of infrastructure such as fuel storages and water storages at the end of the project.

Environmental impact assessment under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*

	Issue: Legacy planning	<i>Recommendation: To address any potential impacts or residual risks that may be identified at the conclusion of the project, it is recommended that the Referral includes specific information on how project infrastructure will be managed or decommissioned at the conclusion of the project.</i>
--	------------------------	--