

## Submission on the referral

### Fortune Agribusiness Funds Management Pty Ltd – Singleton Horticulture Project

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

**Government authority:** Heritage Branch, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

**Summary:** Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment – archaeological places protected under the *Heritage Act 2011*

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Appendix P, 'Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report'	Lack of consultation with traditional owners and custodians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Heritage Branch notes the narrow scope of the consultancy brief as outlined in 1.1 of the report. This likely defined the scope as understood by the consultant.</li> <li>However, over recent years the Heritage Branch has increased its focus on the importance of consultation, calling for proponents to demonstrate engagement and consultation with Traditional Owners and Custodians in the lead up to cultural heritage surveys, and in relation to heritage impacts, actions and mitigation.</li> <li>The Heritage Branch notes that the report makes no mention of consultation.</li> <li>The Heritage Branch also notes the Social Impact Assessment report produced for this project, dated 28 October 2022 (Appendix I). This report lays out a path of consultation over Aboriginal heritage values. The archaeological survey is now complete and permission had been sought, and provided, for the removal of an archaeological site. However, it is recommended that to bring this work in line with current expectations, Traditional Owners and Custodians are briefed about this report in the social impact consultation plan.</li> </ul>