

Memorandum

To: NT EPA

TRM No: HCD2023/00236

Through: N/A

Date: 8 December 2023

From: Heritage Branch

Re: Australia-Asia Power Link Project

Background

The Heritage Branch have received an invitation to comment for the AAPowerLink Australia Assets Pty Ltd – Australia Asia PowerLink Project.

Current situation

As the Australia-Asia PowerLink Project is an ongoing project our agency has provided responses at various stages. It is the expectation that previous advice provided to the proponent and NT EPA be considered relevant in current/ future states of this project.

Previous commitments/ acknowledgements from the proponent include:

- Further archaeological surveys (Acknowledged in Stage 1: Referral, and committed to in Stage 2 Assessment document: Comments relating to the Notice of Significant Variation). Heritage Branch expects a copy of the archaeological survey report.
- There is a need for ongoing monitoring and reporting throughout the project for all heritage matters (Stage 1: Referral, HB response 25 November 2020).
- ‘Cultural Heritage Risk Areas’ have been identified and will require further definition and surveys (Stage 2: Assessment: Public Consultation on the Draft EIS).
- Maritime Surveys were to commence June/ July 2022 (Stage 2: Assessment: Public Consultation on the Draft EIS). Heritage Branch is awaiting these reports/ results.

The Heritage Branch was not mentioned in the NT EPA Direction to Provide Additional Information. There are however outstanding items for Heritage.

Recommendation

Ensure commitments regarding cultural heritage are referenced and fulfilled in future stages of this project.

Dr Fiona Earl

Heritage Officer