

Submission on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

AA Powerlink Australia Assets Pty Ltd – Australia-Asia Powerlink Project

This submission is made under regulation 134 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020

Government authority: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA / the Authority)

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Chapter 14 14.3.5 14.5	Sacred sites	<p>The Draft EIS states that sacred sites will be assessed in full by the AAPA through the Authority Certificate process that is underway pursuant to the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i>. The Authority confirms that Sun Cable Pty Ltd has been engaging with the Authority in relation to applications for Authority Certificates relating to this proposal since 2020.</p> <p>The Authority is currently processing nine Authority Certificate applications. Combined, these cover the Powell Creek area, the railway corridor, the transmission line corridor near Darwin, and the infrastructure at Murrumujuk. One further draft Authority Certificate application is underway for the Subsea Cable in NT waters and will be processed after it is finalised by the applicant.</p> <p>The Authority expects to receive further Authority Certificate applications for proposed electrodes and potentially for some areas near the railway line where the overhead cable is likely to divert away from the railway corridor. The Authority has ongoing regular engagement with Sun Cable Pty Ltd in regards to proposed activities and Authority Certificate applications.</p> <p>The Draft EIS implies that the mitigation measure for direct impacts to sacred sites is to comply with conditions of Authority Certificates. The Authority concurs with this, assuming that all activities associated with the proposal are addressed in Authority Certificates. If adequate supporting information is provided with the Authority Certificate applications, indirect impacts to sacred sites will also be accounted for in Authority Certificates.</p>