


Appendix 3.1 – Stakeholder Consultation Report



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Stakeholder Consultation Report

AAP01-000-GEG-GGEN-00002

Approved Rev	Approver Position	Signature	Date
Rev 00	Stefan Hladenki Head of Territory Affairs		21 Nov 2022



Document revision history and tracking

Document Preparation

Rev	Status	Date	Prepared by	Position	Reviewed by	Position
A	For Review	16-Sept-2022	Leslie Pyne	Community Engagement Manager	Melissa Winfield-Lesk	Development Integration Lead
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00	For Use	18-Nov-2022	Louise Ford	Senior Community Engagement Specialist	Stefan Hladenki	Head of Territory Affairs

Revision history tracking record (Use after Rev 00)

Rev	Date	Description	Prepared by	Approved by

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Executive Summary

The Proponent is committed to transparent dialogue with stakeholders throughout AAPowerLink's project lifecycle from planning through to post-closure. Key to this approach is understanding the complex, multi-faceted and unique social and cultural landscape across the Project footprint and tailoring consultation methods and communication materials to the needs of diverse stakeholders. The Proponent is committed to culturally appropriate engagement methodologies and materials which effectively communicate technical studies to ensure community knowledge and feedback inform balanced decision-making for AAPowerLink design and implementation.

The purpose of the Stakeholder Consultation Report is to present on the Proponent's stakeholder engagement initiatives:

- Leading up to the lodgement of the Draft EIS to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) in March 2022
- During the public exhibition period for the Draft EIS between April and July 2022
- Leading up to the submission of the Supplement to the EIS (SEIS) to the NT EPA in late 2022.

This report examines the key community perceptions, comments and concerns raised by stakeholders during the 2022 EIS and broader consultation campaigns between February and October 2022. It builds upon engagement undertaken in 2021 as part of the baseline Social Impact Assessment (see Appendix I – Draft EIS) and original Stakeholder Consultation Report (Appendix I – Draft EIS) included in the Draft EIS submission. This report outlines the engagement methodologies employed by the Proponent and engagement activities undertaken and provides an analysis of key questions and themes that have emerged across the Project's social areas of influence. Additional technical studies have been commissioned as part of the SEIS process to address stakeholder concerns and inform the refinement of project design such as the areas of landscape and visual amenity, noise and vibration, groundwater impacts, dredging impacts and marine ecology.

The analysis informs a final section that reflects on community sentiment and how The Proponent plans to develop future engagement activities as a result of consultation and stakeholder feedback. The report is to be read in conjunction with the Social Impact Management Plan (Appendix 3.2), which outlines the company's action plans and commitments to manage social impacts of AAPowerLink. Throughout the SEIS chapters, the Proponent has also responded to the formal submissions to the NT EPA, proposed mitigation measures to manage impacts and identified where further technical studies have been commissioned to address stakeholder feedback.

The key stakeholder comments, questions and concerns captured during this reporting period are outlined in Sections 4 and 5 according to the stakeholder's social area of influence. These have been broken down into the major themes summarised below:

Project Description: including proposed infrastructure specifications and locations

Workforce Development: including opportunities for NT industry and businesses, capacity for local employment, the volume of FIFO workers, procurement, skills shortages and training opportunities

Electricity Access and Energy Security: including who will access electricity from the Project and perceived disparities

Environmental Impacts: including the scale of land clearing, and impacts to biodiversity, water, and marine ecosystems

Culture and Heritage: including heritage and sacred site surveys and ensuring that cultural protection protocols are followed in the Project footprint

Engagement: including Sun Cable's strategy for promoting Aboriginal workforce engagement

Community Benefits: including opportunities for local capacity-building and innovation, social investment and innovative energy solutions

Waste Management: including recycling of solar panels and de-commissioning plans

Housing and Accommodation: including plans for on and offsite accommodation.

1 Project Overview

Sun Cable is an Australian, world-leading renewable energy company founded in 2018. Australia-Asia PowerLink (AAPowerLink) is Sun Cable's flagship Project that features a high-capacity transmission system that will store and transmit renewable electricity from the Barkly region of the Northern Territory (NT) to Darwin and Singapore markets.

AAPowerLink comprises six key components:

Six Key Components

1. **Powell Creek Solar Precinct** in the Barkly Region of the NT where electricity will be generated, stored, and transmitted
2. **Overhead Transmission Line (OHTL)** to transmit electricity from the Solar Precinct to Darwin
3. **Darwin Converter Site** including Voltage Source Converters (VSCs), energy storage and network connection to supply electricity to the Darwin region
4. **Cable Transition Facilities** at Murrumujuk and Gunn Point Beach to transition power cables between land and sea
5. **Subsea Cable System** extending from the Cable Transition Facilities to Singapore
6. **Singapore Converter Station** to receive electricity and supply the Singapore electrical network.

Figure 1-1: Key Project components

Refer to Chapter 2 Project Refinements of the SEIS for details of updated Project components and activities.

2 Standards and Statutory Framework

The Project is being assessed at the level of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the NT EPA under the *Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)* (EP Act), and under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)* (EPBC Act) following an accredited assessment process.

This report captures feedback received through consultation, public submissions and Direction from the NT EPA, a requirement of the SEIS.

The primary standards guiding consultation and engagement for AAPowerLink are:

- Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation: Environmental impact assessment guidance for proponents (NT EPA 2021). The guideline adopts as best practice the IAP2 principles for stakeholder engagement. It outlines expected formal feedback processes for projects on public exhibition and encourages proactive approaches to early engagement during preparation of environmental impact statements, starting at the scoping phase. The guideline defines engagement as including ‘communication, dialogue, listening and responding’.
- International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), Social Impact Assessment Principles (Vanclay, 2003) and Guidance (Vanclay et al. 2015), which are regarded as leading practice for social impact assessment and public participation.
- International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values, Spectrum of Participation and Quality Assurance Standard (2015) which are regarded as industry best practice for public participation (or community and stakeholder engagement) (see www.iap2.org.au).
- Under Section 43 of the EP Act, proponents have a responsibility to consult affected communities to promote an understanding of a proposed action and its potential impact and benefits.
- Preparing a Supplementary Environmental Report (NT EPA 2021).

3 Stakeholder Engagement

In this report, stakeholders refer to landowners, communities, the public, government agencies, Indigenous groups, industrial neighbours, partners, local government councils and any other organisation or individual who has an interest in or is potentially impacted by AAPowerLink.

The Proponent acknowledges and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first custodians of Australia, and pays their respects to their cultural beliefs, practices and ways of being. The Proponent will continue to have dialogue with Aboriginal stakeholders and their representative bodies, operate with respect for cultural authority and seek to promote the cooperative use of Aboriginal knowledge of biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Within this report, where reference is made to Traditional Owners, it may include Traditional Owners, Native Title Holders, Custodians or their representatives.

Traditional Owner, in relation to a person or group of people, means:

- A common law holder where an area is subject to a determination of native title, and otherwise a native title holder as defined in section 224 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwth)
- A traditional Aboriginal owner as defined in section 3 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* (Cwth)
- A custodian of a Sacred Site or Sacred Object as defined in the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (NT).

The Proponent follows the best practice principles of engagement as follows:

- Provide for 'broad community involvement during the process of environmental impact assessment and environmental approval' (NT EPA, 2013)
- Recognise 'the role that Aboriginal people have as stewards of their country as conferred under their traditions and recognised in law, and the importance of participation by Aboriginal people and communities in environmental decision-making process' (NT EPA, 2013)
- Engage with stakeholders early in the environmental impact assessment process to communicate the proposal, its risks and potential impacts and mitigation and management measures. (NT EPA, Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Guidance 2021).

The Proponent continues to work with statutory authorities such as Aboriginal land councils, peak bodies and Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) to ensure that engagement with Aboriginal peoples is aligned with expectations set out in applicable legal frameworks across the NT.

3.1 Stakeholder Engagement Objectives

The Proponent is committed to transparent dialogue with stakeholders throughout AAPowerLink's life cycle from planning through to decommissioning. Key to this approach is understanding the complex, multi-faceted and unique social and cultural landscape across the Project footprint and tailoring consultation methods and materials to the needs of diverse stakeholders. The Proponent is committed to culturally appropriate engagement methodologies and materials which effectively communicate technical studies to ensure community knowledge and feedback inform balanced decision-making into Project design and implementation.

The objectives underpinning the Project's engagement approach are:

- To foster and maintain ongoing, transparent dialogue with stakeholders using multi-method and adaptive communication approaches throughout the Project life cycle from planning through to decommissioning
- To deliver timely, accurate and targeted communications to enable stakeholders to provide informed input to decision-making
- To build relationships and dialogue through plain speak, transparency and mutual respect
- To address and manage stakeholders' expectations and concerns early and close feedback loops
- To apply culturally appropriate engagement and place-based communication methods that address the needs of stakeholders across the Project footprint
- To apply a strategic and responsive approach to engagement and communication across the life cycle of the Project.

3.2 Methodology

In 2021, consultants True North Strategic Communication prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and scoping study for the Proponent recommending consultation methods and key stakeholders likely to be impacted by and/or interested in AAPowerLink. This strategy informed the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and planning and implementation of an engagement schedule to support the development of a preliminary Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) and Stakeholder Consultation Report. These documents were submitted to the NT EPA in March 2022 as part of the AAPowerLink Draft EIS package and are publicly available on the NT EPA website.

The Proponent has since established and grown a local Territory presence to achieve the objectives of culturally appropriate, place-based communication, deliver timely information and build relationships and dialogue with stakeholders in the NT. In early 2022, the Proponent's engagement team launched an extensive EIS consultation campaign to implement a robust stakeholder engagement strategy and communications schedule for the next phase of project development. The EIS consultation campaign was informed by proactive mapping of stakeholders in the project footprint and careful consideration of how to effectively engage with each stakeholder group. Targeted communication materials were developed to promote effective stakeholder engagement and education, considering the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The Proponent implemented a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy during this reporting period which sought to proactively address consultation gaps identified and reported on in the Draft EIS.

Previously identified gaps in consultation included the following: a deferral of meetings with Litchfield Council due to the timing of municipal elections; delay in briefings with businesses and other stakeholders due to COVID-19 travel restrictions; and meetings with additional affected communities introduced due to the Project variation of the Darwin Converter Site from Middle Arm to Gunn Point. The Proponent's engagement team sought to use the pre-lodgement period leading up to finalising the Draft EIS and it being published on the NT EPA website to offer pre-briefings to key stakeholders as a means of filling some of these consultation gaps.

From February to April 2022, the Proponent proactively reached out to Northern Territory Government (NTG) agencies, Aboriginal land councils, environmental groups and regional councils to offer a project briefing and notify them of the forthcoming publication of the Draft EIS. This was an effective platform to socialise some project components that stakeholders had less familiarity with, including the proposed Electrode technology and OHTL alternative route options through Katherine,

Pine Creek and Adelaide River. It also provided an opportunity for the Proponent to report on the findings of the SIA and seek feedback on the proposed consultation strategy which included a regional consultation schedule across the affected communities of Elliott, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Darwin and Alice Springs.

The below table (Table 3-1) outlines the stakeholders that were offered a pre-lodgement briefing:

Table 3-1: Pre-lodgement briefing offered to stakeholders

Stakeholder	Pre-lodgement briefing
Litchfield Council	Scheduled for 1 Feb 2022; meeting cancelled by Council due to an over-booked agenda
Barkly Regional Council	24 Feb 2022
Wulna Traditional Owner – Darwin Region	25 Feb 2022
NT Land Corporation	4 Mar 2022
Environment Centre NT	7 Mar 2022
Elliott Local Authority	Scheduled for Mar 2022; meeting re-scheduled as a digital presentation due to COVID-19
NTG agency briefing	7 Mar 2022
Mantiyupwi Traditional Owner	17 Mar 2022
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Big Rivers Reconstruction Committee	29 Mar 2022
Katherine Town Council	29 Mar 2022
Northern Land Council, Central Land Council	6 Apr 2022
NT Chamber of Commerce	11 Apr 2022
NT Indigenous Business Network	12 Apr 2022

The Proponent also offered a pre-lodgement briefing to additional stakeholder entities such as Tiwi Land Council, Arid Lands Environment Centre, Conservation Land Corporation and Protect Country Alliance.



Figure 3-1: NT consultation campaign highlights (February to October 2022)

Figure 3-1 highlights the consultation undertaken from February to October 2022. The Draft EIS was on public exhibition for 60 business days from 20 April to 15 July 2022, which provided an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the Project and submit formal comments to the NT EPA. Leading up to, and during, the public exhibition period, the Proponent reached out to stakeholders to deliver updates and information about the EIS and rolled out a robust consultation campaign schedule with targeted engagement activities for communities in Elliott, Tennant Creek, Greater Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

While general EIS engagement was underway across the NT, the Proponent also met regularly with the Northern Land Council (NLC) and Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) to prioritise information briefings for Traditional Owners at Powell Creek Station and select areas along the OHTL route. Aboriginal engagement initiatives are summarised in Section 3 of this report.

During the public exhibition period, the NT EPA received 20 submissions, which included 8 from Government Authorities and 12 from the public. The Proponent has responded to these submissions in the corresponding SEIS chapters and outlined proposed mitigation measures to identified impacts where relevant. In addition to the formal submissions, the Proponent recorded questions and comments raised during their engagements across the NT, with a summary of these captured in Sections 4 and 5 of this report. Section 6 of the report also provides references to where answers to some of the commonly asked questions can be found within the SEIS.

May- October 2022 | HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Community Engagements

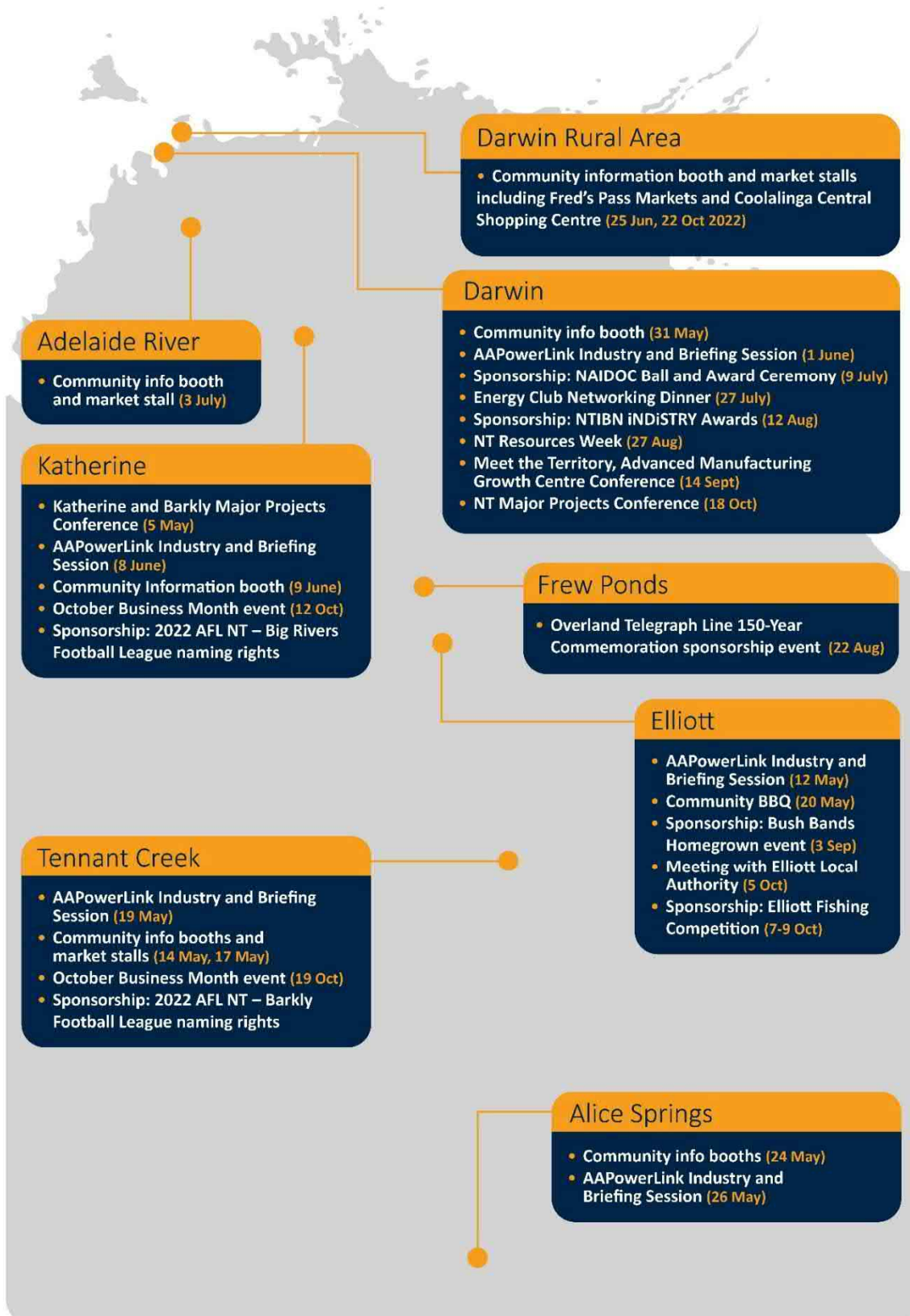


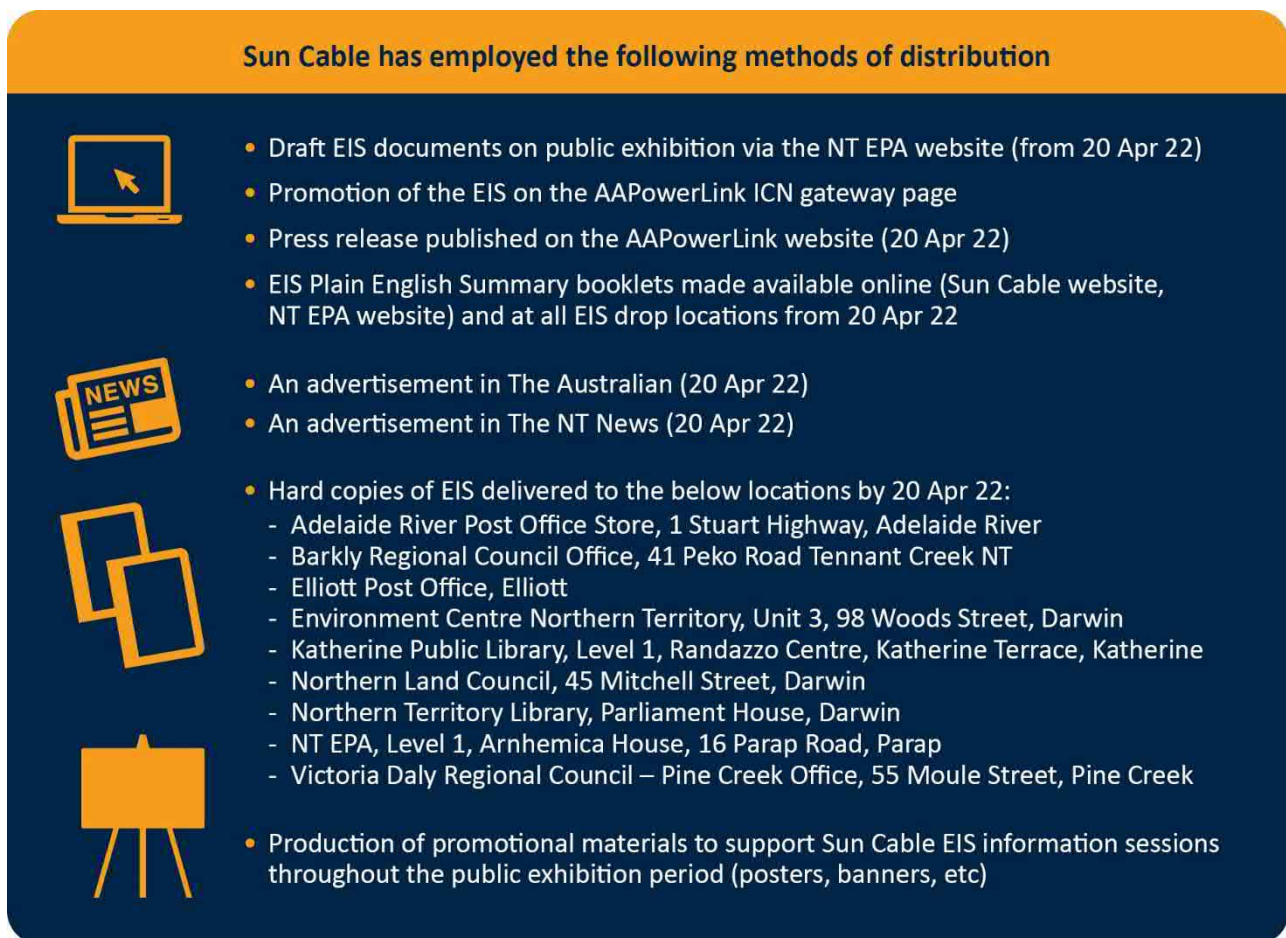
Figure 3-2: Regional engagement highlights (May to October 2022)

Furthermore, extensive engagement is underway across Singapore and Indonesia to support jurisdictional requirements and enhance general community understanding of AAPowerLink. These engagements are not reported on in this report.

3.3 Communication Materials

The Proponent utilised multi-method approaches and developed a suite of communication materials for stakeholders to support the EIS consultation campaign and increase community awareness and understanding of AAPowerLink. These materials were designed to ensure that communication was accessible to the diverse needs of communities in the Project footprint and surrounding areas, including culturally and linguistically diverse stakeholders such as Aboriginal peoples and other communities with limited familiarity with the Project and EIS process.

Sun Cable has employed the following methods of distribution



- Draft EIS documents on public exhibition via the NT EPA website (from 20 Apr 22)
- Promotion of the EIS on the AAPowerLink ICN gateway page
- Press release published on the AAPowerLink website (20 Apr 22)
- EIS Plain English Summary booklets made available online (Sun Cable website, NT EPA website) and at all EIS drop locations from 20 Apr 22
- An advertisement in The Australian (20 Apr 22)
- An advertisement in The NT News (20 Apr 22)
- Hard copies of EIS delivered to the below locations by 20 Apr 22:
 - Adelaide River Post Office Store, 1 Stuart Highway, Adelaide River
 - Barkly Regional Council Office, 41 Peko Road Tennant Creek NT
 - Elliott Post Office, Elliott
 - Environment Centre Northern Territory, Unit 3, 98 Woods Street, Darwin
 - Katherine Public Library, Level 1, Randazzo Centre, Katherine Terrace, Katherine
 - Northern Land Council, 45 Mitchell Street, Darwin
 - Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, Darwin
 - NT EPA, Level 1, Arnhemica House, 16 Parap Road, Parap
 - Victoria Daly Regional Council – Pine Creek Office, 55 Moule Street, Pine Creek
- Production of promotional materials to support Sun Cable EIS information sessions throughout the public exhibition period (posters, banners, etc)

Figure 3-3: Methods of communication materials distribution

The Proponent developed a suite of communication materials to support the various engagement forums across the regional consultation campaign. Resources included a Plain English EIS Summary, a Big Rivers fact sheet, PowerPoint presentations tailored to various audiences, infographics, posters, banners and computer-generated renders of Project components (e.g., OHTL). Meetings were advertised through flyers distributed on public notice boards and local businesses, local community Facebook group pages, via email, distributed through local networks such as local NT Government coordination forums and by word of mouth via engagement staff. Transportation was provided in Elliott to assist stakeholders to attend meetings and community information booths were set up in central areas with high foot traffic to support social inclusion and to improve accessibility.

For culturally and linguistically diverse communities, a summary of the Draft EIS was developed that aimed to distil project impacts and mitigation strategies using accessible language and infographics into a booklet that could be handed out during engagement efforts and left in public locations in communities. Slideshow presentations were also printed for stakeholders at community-based meetings to encourage the easy dissemination of information to interested parties, including those who may not have been able to attend the forum.

Furthermore, the Proponent is in discussion with an Aboriginal language centre to design a suite of culturally appropriate multimedia materials to be rolled out in 2023 to enhance engagement with the Elliott community and Aboriginal people in proximity to the project footprint. The team is also scoping the design of animated videos to foster understanding of topics such as what is solar energy, how batteries and powerlines work, renewable energy and the Project scope and proposal. This work will investigate the use of voiceovers in Aboriginal languages to improve social inclusion with linguistically diverse stakeholders.

3.4 Stakeholder Mapping and Analysis

In preparing an engagement strategy and consultation schedule, the Proponent mapped the key stakeholders for the Project and defined the social areas of influence or regions thought to be either directly or indirectly affected by the Project. The approach prioritised NT-based stakeholders first and foremost, identifying communities, organisations, agencies and other interest groups across the footprint and their perceived level of interest in the Project. Stakeholder mapping assessed who was targeted previously, identified any gaps and considered what specific strategies could be employed to disseminate information most effectively to the identified groups. The Proponent's Engagement team launched an EIS consultation campaign to drive stakeholder mapping and engagement efforts, fill gaps in prior engagement, design targeted communication materials and close feedback loops where possible. The stakeholder mapping will be continuously reviewed as the Project develops and will guide development of the NT Engagement Plan for 2023.

The Proponent made a conscious decision to proactively notify stakeholders ahead of the Draft EIS lodgement to ensure that government agencies, organisations and communities were aware of lodgement so that they could engage fully with Draft EIS materials and give meaningful feedback to the Proponent and the regulator during the public exhibition period. The Proponent's Engagement team sent out a notification to approximately 310 stakeholders when the Draft EIS was published on the NT EPA website. The email gave an overview of the milestone achieved, explained how stakeholders could have a say on the proposal and encouraged stakeholders to reach out if they wished to participate in a formal project briefing to obtain more information. Fifty-eight project briefings were delivered during the 60-business day public exhibition period, with over 115 briefings delivered during the engagement period of February to October 2022.

The Proponent used the following questions to assess which stakeholder groups to engage with and what engagement approaches to take:

- How likely is it the stakeholder will be interested or potentially impacted by the Project?
- How familiar is the stakeholder with the Project?
- What was the stakeholder's previous level of engagement (if any) with the Social Impact Assessment?
- If consulted previously, how can we demonstrate the stakeholder's concerns, comments and/or aspirations have been considered?

- What technical experts do we need to facilitate this engagement?
- What communications materials do we need to enhance the stakeholder's understanding?
- Can we meet in-person or online?

The assessment informed an NT stakeholder map, which the Proponent's Engagement team used to contact organisations to offer a project briefing and EIS update. Key project information from the EIS was distilled into a core PowerPoint presentation and slideshows were further tailored to anticipate the questions a particular stakeholder or group of stakeholders might ask. This was determined by reading previous agency and community submissions to the NT EPA for the Notice of Variation, and by reviewing meeting notes and key issues raised in the previous Stakeholder Consultation Report and SIA. The Proponent recorded each question asked and followed up with technical experts from the Project team as required to ensure all stakeholder queries were adequately responded to. Sections 4 and 5 provide an overview of the stakeholder comments, questions and concerns captured during the reporting period.

At the start of the EIS public exhibition period, the Darwin-based team allocated approximately one week in each of the locations of Elliott, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Alice Springs. Further engagements with stakeholders occurred outside of the public exhibition period and are documented throughout the report. The communities listed were identified as priority locations given the level of impact and interest by community members, local organisations and businesses in the Project and their geographic location in reference to proposed AAPowerLink infrastructure. Although some distance from the proposed Solar Precinct, Alice Springs was added to the consultation schedule due to stakeholders' existing solar expertise within the Desert Knowledge Precinct and recognition of the town as a potential workforce hub. It should be noted that the Draft EIS did not initially assess the workforce capacity of Alice Springs in the Local Workforce Strategy of the Draft EIS (attached to Appendix I - SIA).

3.4.1 Government Engagement

The Proponent regularly engages with NT and Australian government agencies at a strategic level and feedback on the company's engagement approach has been positive. For the purposes of this Stakeholder Consultation Report, reporting focuses primarily on NT-specific engagements.

The NTG and the Proponent have established six working groups to facilitate information sharing, collaborative problem solving and identifying project risks and how these can be mitigated. The Working Groups have their own charters, objectives and work plans and include relevant representatives from NTG agencies and AAPowerLink staff who meet on a fortnightly or monthly basis. The meetings have proven to be a useful forum for analysing and providing advice to decision makers on the Project and working through technical and policy issues. The charter of each Working Group is endorsed by the AAPowerLink Project Control Group (PCG) and sets out the objectives, tasks and milestones for each group.

During the public exhibition period, the NT EPA also facilitated two Environmental Assessment Forums (EAFs) for interested NTG agencies on terrestrial and marine impacts. These forums provided an effective channel for government stakeholders to ask questions directly of The Proponent's technical specialists prior to submitting their formal submissions to the NT EPA and for the Proponent to note down any comments and concerns ahead of the SEIS process. Questions raised during NTG inter-agency forums are reported in Section 4.

Summary of Government Engagement:

- Project briefings and meetings with a variety of NTG agencies, including:
 - Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
 - AustralAsia Railway Corporation
 - Bushfires NT
 - Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet – Investment Territory
 - Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet – Regional Network Group
 - Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security – Rangelands
 - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics – Infrastructure NT
 - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics – Transport
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Industry Development
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Office of Sustainable Energy
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Workforce NT
 - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics – Crown Land Estate
 - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics – Land Development
 - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics – Lands Planning
 - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics – Transport
 - Land Development Corporation
 - NT Heritage Branch
 - NT Land Corporation
 - NT Utilities Commission
 - Power and Water Corporation
 - Regional Harbourmaster.
- Bi-monthly AAPowerLink Project Control Group (PCG) meetings with NTG agencies
- Five meetings with NT EPA (10 Feb 2022, 19 May 2022, 3 Aug 2022, 5 Oct 2022)
- Three meetings with Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (formerly Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) (18 May 2022, 18 Aug 2022 (EPA also present), 5 Oct 22 (EPA also present))
- NTG inter-agency forum and Draft EIS lodgement pre-briefing (7 Mar 2022)
- NT EPA EAF – Terrestrial Impacts session (3 Jun 2022)
- NT EPA EAF – Marine Impacts session (3 Jun 2022)
- Monthly AAPowerLink/NTG Working Group meetingsProject briefing to the Chief Minister by Sun Cable CEO (14 Sep 2022)
- Project briefing to Members and advisors of the NT Opposition Party (27 Jul 2022)

- Project briefings and meetings with a variety of Commonwealth agencies, including:
 - Australian Institute of Marine Science (3 May 2022)
 - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
 - Infrastructure Australia monthly (Feb-Jun 2022) prior to awarding Stage 3 Investment Ready Status
 - Major Projects Facilitation Agency (DISER/DISR - monthly)
 - National Indigenous Australians Agency.
- Joint meetings Sun Cable Chief of Government and Corporate Affairs and NTG Major Projects Commissioner (23-24 Jun 2022):
 - Deputy Secretary Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPM&C)
 - DepSec Regional, Cities and Territories, DepSec Water and Northern Australia and FAS Regions taskforce, Department of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (DITR)
 - Full Assistant Secretary Manufacturing, Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
- Department of Industry, Science and Energy and Resources (pre-23 May 2022) and Department of Industry, Science and Resources (post-23 May 2022)
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), inclusive of Austrade and Export Finance Australia (Federal Export Credit Agency)
- CEO Sun Cable with Minister for Trade (6 Jun 2022)
- CEO Sun Cable with Minister for Climate Change and Energy (20 Jun 2022)
- CEO Sun Cable with Minister for Industry and Innovation (6, 23 Sep 2022).

3.4.2 Business and Industry Engagement

The Proponent has undertaken extensive business and industry engagement across the NT to enhance general project awareness and is working towards enabling opportunities for the procurement of goods and services from local industry. The company is developing a Territory Benefit Plan in accordance with the Territory Benefit Policy and the Australian Industry Participation requirements under the *Australian Jobs Act 2013 (Cwth)*. The Proponent has also been engaging with the Industry Capability Network NT (ICN NT) to undertake capability mapping against the scope of the Project and identify the capability of NT and Aboriginal enterprises (see Appendix Y – Draft EIS). Ongoing consultation with industry and local businesses has enabled the Proponent to learn first-hand about the capacity of local business to support the Project and subsequently make refinements to AAPowerLink's Local Workforce Strategy (see Appendix I – Draft EIS) that consider communities' unique regional workforce challenges and social realities.

Summary of Business and Industry engagement

- Project briefings and meetings with a variety of Industry groups, including:
 - Energy Club NT (multiple)
 - ICN NT (multiple)
 - Industry Skills Advisory Council NT (18 Aug 2022, 23 Sep 2022)
 - NT Chamber of Commerce (multiple)
 - NTIBN (multiple)
 - Supply Nation (18 May 2022, 23 Jun 2022).
- Conference presentations at the following NT-based industry forums:
 - Katherine and Barkly Major Projects Conference (5 May 2022)
 - Energy Club networking industry dinner presentation (27 Jul 2022)
 - Meet the Buyer event as part of NT Resources Week (22 Aug 2022)
 - NT Resources Week conference presentation (24 Aug 2022)
 - Meet the Territory conference hosted by Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (14-15 Sep 2022)
 - NT Major Projects Conference (18 Oct 2022).

In May and June 2022, the Proponent partnered with the NT Chamber of Commerce and NT Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN) to facilitate five regional information sessions for industry and business stakeholders. NT Chamber of Commerce is an independent non-government organisation that provides its members in the NT business community numerous services, support, training, industrial relations advice, networking and a platform for advocating for better business outcomes. NTIBN is the peak body representing Indigenous businesses in the NT and offers a strengths-based approach to providing business support and promotional opportunities for emerging and established Indigenous businesses. Through these forums in Elliott, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Darwin and Katherine, the Proponent was able to leverage the wide membership bases of the Chamber and NTIBN and reach over 120 individual stakeholders representing various organisations and communities. The breadth of engagement across the different forums was impressive, with a variety of businesses and community members represented in each location.

The Proponent facilitated regional information briefings to enhance engagement with NT-based business and industry stakeholders, and to socialise components of the Draft EIS that would likely be of interest, such as the Local Workforce Strategy (part of Appendix I - SIA), SIMP (Appendix J), PwC Economic Impact Assessment (Appendix G) and ICN-NT Capability Mapping Report (Appendix Y). The Chamber advertised the AAPowerLink Industry and Business Briefings to their members through their local regional engagement officers, via their social media platforms and on their website. The Proponent also encouraged attendance to non-Chamber of Commerce and NTIBN members by distributing flyers to stakeholders via email. Over 120 individuals representing NT-based organisations and local communities attended across the five sessions held in Elliott, Tennant Creek, Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs in May and June 2022 (see Table 3-2).

Table 3-2: Overview of AAPowerLink industry and business briefings

Location	Dates of Engagement
Elliott	12 May 2022, Elliott Caravan Park
Tennant Creek	19 May 2022, Battery Hill Mining & Heritage Centre
Alice Springs	26 May 2022, NT Chamber of Commerce
Darwin	1 Jun 2022, Adina Vibe Hotel Darwin Waterfront
Katherine	8 Jun 2022, Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts & Culture Centre

3.4.3 Landowners and Affected Communities

Extensive consultation with landowners occurred during the reporting period within the Project footprint, including ongoing dialogue with landholders affected by the Project. The Proponent has identified that alternative route options from the Railway Corridor may be required to address route obstacles and constraints at Katherine, Pine Creek and Adelaide River. The Proponent is committed to proactively identifying landholders who may be affected by the preferred OHTL route and is intent on offering as much information as possible to ensure stakeholders understand the Project and potential impacts and opportunities. Ongoing engagement with landholders directly impacted by AAPowerLink has led to a further refinement of the potential land area under consideration for these OHTL options. Due to the confidential nature of these negotiations, individual consultation efforts with landholders have not been included in the report. The Proponent also consulted with NTG agencies and organisations about the route options via project presentations and engaged with businesses and other community members through AAPowerLink industry and business briefings at the regional sessions outlined in Table 3-3.

To promote engagement with affected communities during the Draft EIS public exhibition period, the Proponent set up a series of community information booths in locations where there was ample foot traffic in the town centres of Katherine, Tennant Creek, Darwin and Alice Springs. These sessions were advertised on flyers at local businesses such as the Tennant Creek IGA, bookshops and cafes in Alice Springs and were provided to NTG, NLC and other organisations to disseminate through their networks. The booths provided an informal opportunity to chat with passers-by about the Project, establish a Sun Cable presence in regional centres and encourage residents to engage with the Draft EIS materials available online and through physical copies at designated locations in the Project footprint. An engagement officer from NTIBN supported the Proponent at the community information sessions in Katherine and Elliott. EIS summaries written in plain English were distributed at each event to share information about the Project and to encourage review of the EIS.

In Elliott, the community session took the form of a BBQ where approximately 50 residents dropped by to ask questions and chat with project staff who used support material such as the summaries, posters, and maps. The Proponent also held a community information booth at the Fred's Pass Markets and Adelaide River Markets on two separate weekends in late June and early July and at Coolalinga Central Shopping Centre in October 2022. The Proponent has reserved pop-up information booths at Fred's Pass Markets and Berry Springs Markets for November 2022. At each stall the team answered questions about the Project and shared information that may be of interest to residents of the Darwin rural area. This targeted engagement approach will be continuously refined to respond to stakeholder queries and comments, and the team will aim to attend regional events throughout the year to listen to stakeholder feedback and provide information about the Project.

Consultation with landowners and affected communities will continue into 2023, with the Proponent’s Engagement team developing a schedule of activities and supporting communications materials to specifically target stakeholders for the next phase of SEIS-related consultation. Engagement will include briefings to stakeholders identified in the Draft EIS submissions who have not previously received a presentation to ensure they are aware of the Project.

Several community and recreational groups who frequent the hunting, fishing and camping areas around Gunn Point, for instance, have been identified through the Draft EIS submissions as likely to have a strong interest in the OHTL and Subsea Cable components of the Project. Furthermore, the team will continue to build on Aboriginal engagement, raise awareness of AAPowerLink and seek input from Traditional Owners who have a direct relationship to the project footprint or surrounding areas and peak bodies with an interest in the Project to further the development of initiatives such as the Regional (Aboriginal) Engagement Strategy.

Table 3-3: Overview of AAPowerLink community information sessions

Location	Dates of Engagement
Tennant Creek	14 May 2022, Battery Hill Mining & Heritage Centre 14 May 2022, Tennant Creek Markets 17 May 2022, Peko Park
Elliott	20 May 2022, Elliott Basketball Courts
Alice Springs	24 May 2022, Todd Mall
Darwin	31 May 2022, Raintree Park
Katherine	9 Jun 2022, Katherine Town Square
Darwin Rural Area	25 Jun 2022, Fred’s Pass Markets 22 Oct 2022, Coolalinga Central Shopping Centre
Adelaide River	3 Jul 2022, Adelaide River Markets

3.4.4 Aboriginal Consultation

The Proponent acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first custodians of Australia and pays respects to their cultural beliefs, practices and ways of being. The Proponent upholds the value of proactive, respectful and inclusive engagement with Aboriginal peoples connected to the lands and seas on which AAPowerLink will operate. There is extensive consultation with Aboriginal people underway and more still to come to establish the agreements underpinning AAPowerLink. Additional information is likely to come from these engagements that will inform AAPowerLink planning and operations.

During this reporting period, the Proponent prioritised meetings with Aboriginal peak bodies that protect country, cultural heritage and sacred sites. Project briefings were also provided to several Indigenous and non-Indigenous led organisations across industry, education and local government to build relationships with stakeholder groups and to discuss Aboriginal engagement and workforce development strategies. Regular meetings occurred with the Proponent, NLC and AAPA staff to ensure transparent communication and facilitate the scheduling of AAPA sacred site clearances and NLC-led consultations. A comprehensive summary of Sun Cable’s engagement is provided in Table 3-4.

The Proponent acknowledges the native title rights held by estate groups across AAPowerLink's footprint and will continue to work in collaboration with the NLC to consult with appropriate groups. The Proponent has also applied to AAPA to secure Sacred Site Authority Certificate for the entire project footprint. These will be used as the primary tool for ensuring protection of sacred sites under the *Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*. Moreover, the Proponent has committed to working with Traditional Owners to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in the near future that will prescribe the site protection and management measures required for declared heritage places, Aboriginal archaeological sites and Aboriginal sacred sites.

The Proponent participated in six NLC-coordinated meetings with Traditional Owners between mid-June to mid-September 2022. These meetings provided an opportunity for the Proponent to promote greater project understanding and answer any questions, big or small. Meetings were arranged by region and broken into two components, with the first session creating an opportunity for the Proponent to provide a general project overview and then a follow-up meeting scheduled shortly thereafter to deliver the same presentation and focus on answering any questions that had emerged. AAPA sacred site clearances occurred during the same period, which meant that Traditional Owners had an opportunity to travel out on country and to seek clarification about project components from Sun Cable in follow-up meetings.

The Proponent consulted with NLC, Central Land Council (CLC) and Tiwi Land Council (TLC) during the reporting period. The Larrakia and Tiwi people have significant spiritual and cultural ties to the Shoal Bay marine environment, with the area being interlinked by Dreamings, ancestral traveling routes and resource zones. TLC has invited the Proponent to the Tiwi Islands to present an AAPowerLink briefing in late 2022 to Tiwi clan groups.

The purpose of this engagement will be to raise general project awareness, seek feedback on the proposed route for the Subsea Cable System and report on the desktop Heritage Impact Assessment – Subsea Cable System (Appendix X – Draft EIS) and Heritage Impact Assessment OHTL KP722 to Murrumujuk (Appendix W – Draft EIS) that involved three Tiwi custodians from the Mantiyupwi Clan in September 2021. Further consultation is also planned with different Aboriginal groups who speak for different country within the NT Utilities Corridor and the Gunn Point Peninsula.

Cultural Managers

The project footprint traverses the traditional lands of many Aboriginal groups. The Proponent has engaged Traditional Owners as Cultural Managers to supervise preliminary scoping activities and on-ground surveys at the Solar Precinct and select locations along the OHTL route during the reporting period. Highlights included:

- An estimated 13 days in the field with paid Cultural Managers for EarthSea Cultural Heritage Surveys within the proposed OHTL easement between Powell Creek Solar Precinct area to Lakefield Pastoral Lease area
- An estimated 28 days in the field with Traditional Owners for sacred site clearances at the proposed Solar Precinct and within the proposed OHTL Corridor between Powell Creek Solar Precinct area to Lakefield Pastoral Lease area.

The Sacred Sites clearances reported on above were led by AAPA and NLC in compliance with the *Sacred Sites Act* and *Native Title Act*. The Proponent's Rail Protection Officers supported activities in the Railway Corridor, allowing direct engagement between the Proponent and Traditional Owners.

Table 3-4 captures an overview of activities supporting Indigenous engagement from mid-February to October 2022.

Table 3-4: Summary of Aboriginal engagement activities

Date	Location	Activity Type	Stakeholder
16 Feb 2022	Katherine	Project briefing	Jawoyn Aboriginal Corporation
24 Feb 2022	Video	Project briefing, discussion about Indigenous engagement and workforce development	Barkly Regional Council
25 Feb 2022	Darwin Rural Area	Project briefing, staff introductions	Wulna Traditional Owner
7 Mar 2022	Darwin	Project briefing to NTG agencies	AAPA
15 Mar 2022	Darwin	Project briefing, staff introductions	AAPA
6 Apr 2022	Darwin/Video	Project briefing	NLC, CLC
7 Apr 2022	Tennant Creek	Project briefing, staff introductions	Warumungu Traditional Owner
12 Apr 2022	Darwin	Project briefing	NTIBN
9 May 2022	Darwin	Project briefing	NLC
10-12 May 2022	Elliott	Informal and formal briefings	Elliott residents and businesses
16 May 2022	Tennant Creek	Project briefing	Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation (JCAC)
17 May 2022	Tennant Creek	Project briefing, guided bush foods tour	Karguru Nursery (part of JCAC)
18 May 2022	Tennant Creek	Project briefing, discussion about Indigenous engagement and workforce development	Barkly Regional Deal Backbone Team
18 May 2022	Video	Introduction, discussion about Aboriginal business engagement	Supply Nation
19 May 2022	Tennant Creek	Project briefing, discussion about Indigenous engagement and workforce development	Barkly Regional Council
20 May 2022	Elliott	Community BBQ, project briefing	Elliott residents and businesses
26 May 2022	Alice Springs	Project briefing, discussion about Indigenous engagement and workforce development	NTIBN
27 May 2022	Alice Springs	Project briefing, discussion about engagement with Indigenous Rangers	Indigenous Desert Alliance
2 June 2022	Darwin	Project update, discussion about sponsorship opportunities	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC)
9 Jun 2022	Darwin	Project briefing	AAPA Board

Date	Location	Activity Type	Stakeholder
9 Jun 2022	Katherine	Project briefing, discussion about Indigenous workforce engagement	Roper Gulf Regional Council
15 Jun 2022	Elliott	Consultations	Traditional Owners, NLC
23 Jun 2022	Darwin	Introductions, discussion about Indigenous engagement and workforce development	Supply Nation, NTIBN
9 Jul 2022	Darwin	Darwin NAIDOC Ball and Awards Ceremony (sponsorship event)	Hosted by LNAC
11 Jul 2022	Bathurst Island, Tiwi Islands	Project briefing, discussion of Cultural Heritage Surveys	Mantiyupwi Association Directors representing Murrumujuk (Gunn Point)
12 Jul 2022	Elliott	Consultations	Traditional Owners, NLC
14 Jul 2022	Katherine	Project briefing	NLC Executive Committee
15 Jul 2022	Video	Project briefing	Original Power, First Nations Clean Energy Network
20 Jul 2022	Darwin	Discussion about Indigenous business engagement	NTIBN
21-22 Jul 2022	Melbourne	First Nations Clean Energy Symposium	Multiple stakeholder groups
9 Aug 2022	Mataranka	Consultations	Traditional Owners, NLC
11 Aug 2022	Elliott	Consultations	Traditional Owners, NLC
12 Aug 2022	Darwin	NTIBN iNDiSTRY Awards (sponsorship event)	Hosted by NTIBN
22 Aug 2022	Tennant Creek	Project briefing, discussion about Indigenous engagement and cultural learning	Papulu Apparr-Kari Aboriginal Corporation
22 Aug 2022	Tennant Creek	Project briefing, discussion about partnerships and Indigenous engagement	Saltbush Social Enterprises
26 Aug 2022	Mataranka	Consultations	Traditional Owners, NLC
13 Sep 2022	Elliott	Consultations	Traditional Owners, NLC
23 Sep 2022	Darwin	Industry event, discussion about partnerships and Indigenous engagement	Clontarf Foundation
4 Oct 2022	Darwin	Project briefing, discussion of Cultural Heritage Surveys	TLC CEO and Management

Date	Location	Activity Type	Stakeholder
5 Oct 2022	Elliott	Project briefing	Barkly Regional Council (Elliott Local Authority)
5 Oct 2022	Elliott	Project briefing, staff introductions	Kulumindini Aboriginal Corporation
5-6 Oct 2022	Marlinja	Formal and informal stakeholder discussions	Marlinja residents and businesses
5-6 Oct 2022	Elliott	Formal and informal stakeholder discussions	Elliott residents and businesses
13 Oct 2022	Katherine	Project briefing, staff introductions	Jawoyn Aboriginal Corporation
14 Oct 2022	Katherine	Staff introductions, discussion about Indigenous workforce development	Stars Foundation

Summary of Indigenous Engagement:

- A community BBQ for Elliott community to learn about the Draft EIS and general project updates attended by approximately 50 residents (20 May 2022)
- Stakeholder engagement with residents and businesses in Elliott and Marlinja communities
- Participation as six meetings with Traditional Owners organised by the NLC
- Twelve applications for AAPA Authority Certificates and Requests for Information lodged
- Fortnightly meetings with the Proponent, NLC and AAPA staff to facilitate information-sharing
- Sponsorship of NAIDOC Ball and Awards Ceremony in Darwin (9 Jul 2022)
- Sponsorship of NTIBN iNDiSTRY Awards in Darwin (12 Aug 2022)
- Attendance at the First Nations Clean Energy Symposium in Melbourne (21-22 Jul 2022).

3.5 Limitations

The Draft EIS reported on barriers to stakeholder engagement in 2020 and 2021 in the Stakeholder Consultation Report (see Appendix F). These barriers and constraints included travel restrictions due to COVID-19 and a death of a respected Traditional Owner. Along with the planning for a signification variation to the Project which relocated a substantial part of the proposal from Middle Arm to Gunn Point Peninsula and subsequently required revised stakeholder mapping and an expanded project footprint.

The NT Government eased interstate travel restrictions to the NT in December 2021, with travel to NT remote communities lifting in early 2022. Although this meant that the Proponent’s staff could in theory move about more freely from the start of the year, two years of delayed consultation and meetings facilitated by key representative bodies such as Land Councils, Barkly Regional Council and Elliott Local Authority had created bottlenecks for dissemination of critical project information and a backlog of meetings to be held before AAPowerLink consultations could be added to meeting agendas.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Proponent attempted to remain in frequent email, phone and video communication with stakeholders and leverage technology where possible to connect with interest groups in the absence of being able to physically meet. For instance, the Proponent accepted an invitation to present to the Barkly Regional Council by video link in February 2022, providing an opportunity to deliver project updates, answer questions and inform Councillors about the forthcoming lodgement of the Draft EIS. Although an in-person meeting would have been preferred, it meant that the Proponent could meet safely with stakeholders and mitigate against the risk of bringing COVID-19 into remote regions.

As a further COVID-19 safety precaution, the Proponent also procured a large supply of Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) kits for the NLC to ensure that COVID-19 safety remained a priority at all AAPowerLink meetings and related fieldwork in remote regions. NLC has implemented a process whereby the Proponent's staff submit a negative RAT result to the NLC prior to attending all regional meetings. Furthermore, Traditional Owners are offered testing kits before meetings to mitigate against further COVID-19 risks. Understandably, the toll of the pandemic is still being felt across the regions and has likely impacted on the attendance of community members, stakeholders and the Proponent's staff at various project forums in 2022.

In response to the low turn-out at the community information stall at Battery Hill Mining Centre in Tennant Creek on a Saturday morning, the team set up an additional information booth at the Saturday Markets in the centre of town and at popular gathering place Peko Park during a weekday to engage with community members, including those visiting from nearby Aboriginal communities. Team members were at times restricted in their ability to mobilise stalls at popular community events due to scheduling conflicts (e.g., regional Show Days).

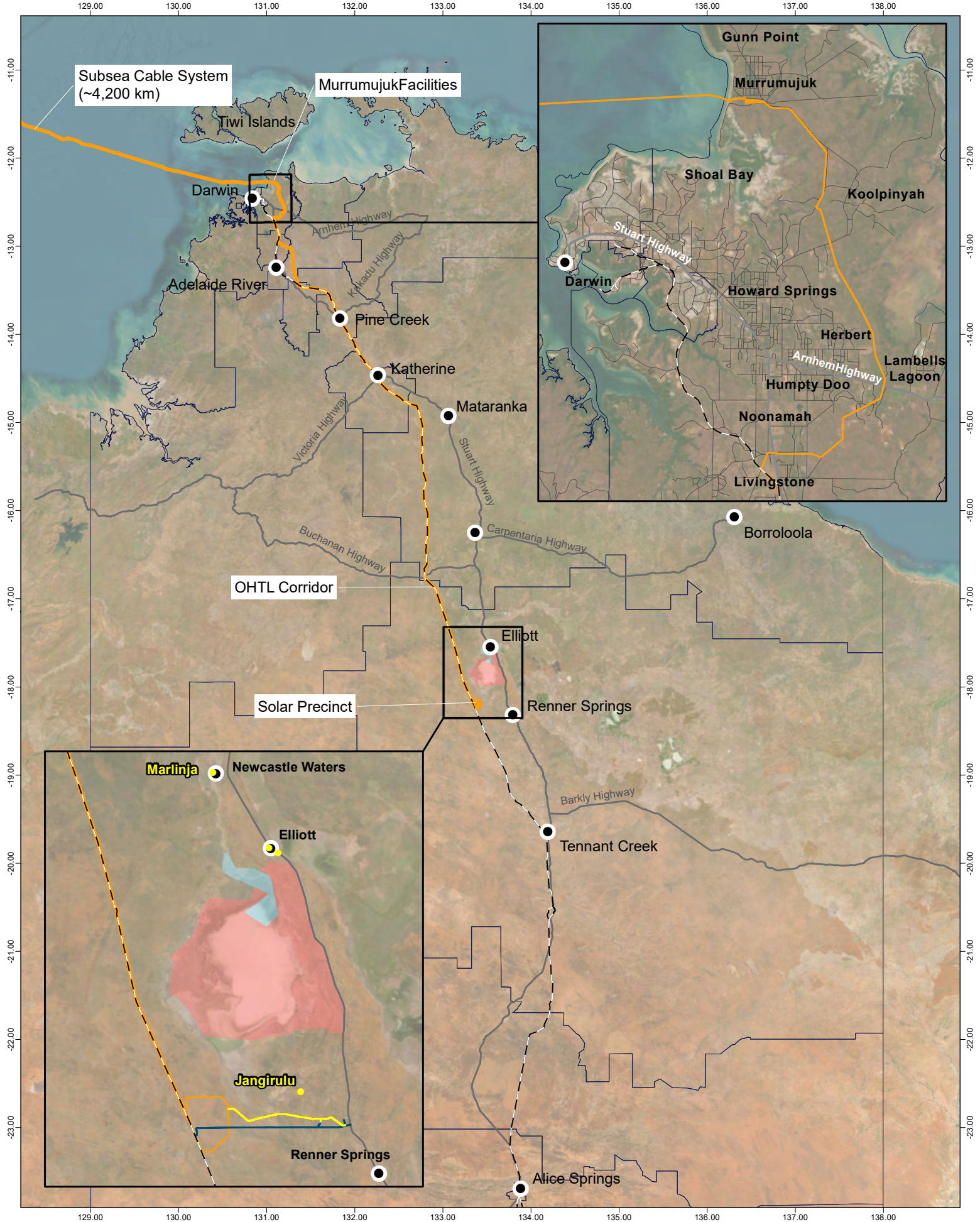
Further engagement planning will identify and leverage existing local events that may be suitable for disseminating project information. A 2023 Stakeholder Management plan is being developed to plan continued engagement with communities and stakeholders. The Proponent has grown its Communications team in the last few months and is ramping up its social media presence, which will include the development of a Facebook page to support regional engagement efforts.

Lastly, the transient nature of staff within organisations and agencies in the project footprint has posed a challenge to achieving continuity in stakeholder engagement during this reporting period. Consequently, there was demand for repeat briefings and dissemination of critical information was sometimes delayed. When attempting to schedule follow-up briefings in 2022 for the EIS consultation campaign, on several occasions, key contacts had resigned and their replacements had limited to no familiarity with the Project, so relationships had to be re-built. Despite attempts to ensure the Proponent's stakeholder distribution list remained up-to-date, staff transience within close proximity to the project footprint also meant that several email updates bounced back, and phone calls were not delivered to some intended contacts within organisations.

4 Key Findings from NT-Wide Engagement

4.1 Key Themes and Issues Summary

Throughout the reporting period from February to October 2022, the Proponent delivered presentations to stakeholders from government, peak bodies and organisations that represent the whole of the NT and broader geographic regions such as the Top End. These consultation efforts included meetings with NTG and some Australian Government agencies, Environment Centre NT, Members of the NT Opposition Party, NLC, Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, Original Power and First Nations Clean Energy Network. The NT Engagement team also presented to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT), the peak body representing the local government sector in the NT. In attendance were CEOs and Mayors from different regional councils, including Katherine Town Council, Barkly Regional Council, Litchfield Council, Alice Springs Town Council and Roper Gulf Regional Council. The map below reflects our stakeholder engagement locations.



Legend

- Aboriginal Community
- Highway
- Existing Railway Line
- Gravel Access Road
- Main Access Road
- AAPowerLink Infrastructure
- Lake Woods Conservation Area
- Longreach Waterhole Protected Area
- NT Local Government Boundary



Figure 4-1- Stakeholder Mapping: Project Overview

Project: **Australia-Asia PowerLink**

0 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

Reference #: AAPL_GNR_CTA_GEN_MAP_0400

Date: 11/11/2022 Figure: 1 of 4 Revision: A

Scale: 1:6,000,000 Datum: GDA2020

Coordinate System: GDA 2020 A4

Source: NTG data - Parks and reserves, Australian Government data - Railway, roads, coastal waters and marine parks

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This section summarises the key questions, comments and concerns raised by these stakeholders, which will inform project planning, design and further engagement strategies. Section 6 of this report provides links to where responses to the most commonly asked questions can be found within the SEIS.

4.1.1 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

The key themes that were highlighted from the engagements above are summarised in Table 4-1 and include the following:

- **Project Description:** stakeholders were interested in the OHTL and electrode infrastructure, construction, and understanding any potential interactions with nearby infrastructure, communities and assets
- **Environmental Impacts:** stakeholders were interested in cable laying methodology and potential marine impacts and fire management
- **Workforce Development:** stakeholders were interested in job numbers and workforce modelling, and employment opportunities for local Aboriginal groups
- **Electricity Access and Energy Security:** stakeholders were interested in the distribution of electricity and whether household electricity prices are expected to decrease for consumers.

Further consultation notes and themes are highlighted in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1: Summary of NT-wide consultation

Theme	Description of Issues
Project Description	<p>OHTL. Stakeholders were interested in understanding the proposed OHTL route and deviations, and how neighbouring communities may be impacted from a visual amenity perspective. Noting the height of the proposed OHTL infrastructure within the landscape, stakeholders commonly asked if it was possible to underground the powerlines.</p> <p>Impacts of electrodes. NTG agencies and environmental groups were interested in understanding the potential impacts of the proposed electrodes and potential safety risks. It was clear that stakeholders had limited familiarity with the electrode technology and requested further information at project briefings. One agency raised concern that the electrode could potentially corrode neighbouring assets and asked how these impacts would be managed.</p> <p>Several NTG agencies and an environmental group enquired about the level of uncertainty of proposed components in the Draft EIS, enquiring about how likely it was that project components may still change.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the power lines go underground? • Is it possible to put the powerlines underground near Darwin? • What are the safety risks to people and country from the OHTL? • When will the OHTL route deviations be confirmed? • What is planned to be built at the electrode site? • Will ground electrodes be used? • Why did the project move from Middle Arm to Gunn Point? • Why was Powell Creek Station selected for the Solar PrecinctSolar Precinct?

Theme	Description of Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where exactly will the OHTL leave the railway corridor at Livingstone? • How far are cables from the INPEX spoil ground? • Where will the cable terminate? • What will be located at the Land Sea Joint? • Do the cables have to be trenched? • Has Sun Cable considered how cable laying could affect fishing and other vessels? • When will construction start? • How long is the construction phase? • Where will roads be built at the Solar Precinct? • What's the average lifespan of a solar panel and will they be recycled? • What types of batteries will be used?
<p>Workforce Development</p>	<p>Aboriginal engagement. Stakeholders spoke about potential fee for service work for Aboriginal Ranger groups to assist with land clearing and seed collection. It was noted as an opportunity that there are four different ranger groups in the northern section of the OHTL that could potentially contribute to the workforce. There was excitement for the development of an NLC Ranger program in Elliott and a comment that the Elliott Rangers could potentially assist with weed management at the Solar Precinct.</p> <p>Local businesses first. Stakeholders spoke about the opportunity for NT businesses to benefit from AAPowerLink through contracts during the construction and operations phases. They noted the need for the Proponent to put local businesses first above hiring interstate labour. A peak Aboriginal body noted that procedures should be in place to ensure that definitions of local businesses are vetted so that companies that open a PO box in the NT do not get a competitive advantage compared to a genuinely local business. This stakeholder identified an opportunity for Aboriginal businesses to win tenders and gain experience through AAPowerLink to be able to compete for work on other major projects in the future.</p> <p>In general, stakeholders perceived the reported jobs figures in the Draft EIS as promising and see direct and indirect opportunities for the NT workforce. Questions were asked about the different roles that may be required on the Project and how the Proponent will embed a genuine commitment to building the capacity of the local workforce. An NTG stakeholder asked about the modelling behind the figures presented in the PriceWaterhouseCooper's Economic Impact Assessment (see Appendix G – Draft EIS).</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Sun Cable's commitment to hiring local workers? • What modelling techniques/assumptions have been used to produce the output and jobs numbers? • What does 14 000 'peak additional jobs' refer to? Are these full-time-equivalent? • How many workers will Sun Cable have to recruit from overseas? • Will there be fee-for-service opportunities for Elliott Rangers to support the Project? • Who will clean the solar panels?

Theme	Description of Issues
Engagement	<p>Stakeholders were interested in how the Proponent is engaging with local communities and wanted to understand the strategy to promote Aboriginal engagement across the project footprint. An environmental group was keen to understand how the Proponent would approach engagement for the SEIS, noting the change in NT legislation that creates an additional public consultation period for stakeholders to have their say on a proposal. The organisation advised that there needs to be consideration as to how stakeholders can engage with project components.</p> <p>An environmental group flagged that residents of the Darwin rural area and recreational groups value the Gunn Point area and recommended a proactive engagement approach be taken to ensure stakeholders understand the proposed infrastructure. It was noted that initial consultation by NTG for the NTG Future Utilities Corridor may not have reached all affected communities and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders will be required.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is Sun Cable engaging communities to let them know about the EIS? • Does Sun Cable have an Aboriginal engagement strategy?
Electricity Access and Energy Security	<p>Community and environmental groups were interested in how AAPowerLink will benefit Aboriginal communities in the project footprint. One stakeholder acknowledged the challenge that the Proponent has in ensuring proper consultation with Aboriginal custodians who may feel excluded from the statutory process. It was noted that some families in the project footprint may choose to not be represented by the land council and need to be engaged through alternative means. The stakeholder highlighted that the project footprint is very large, and the Proponent will be required to employ a strategic engagement approach to ensure that the best outcomes for Aboriginal custodians are realised.</p> <p>Energy security. Stakeholders spoke about the high cost of electricity across the NT and noted that remote Aboriginal communities often run off expensive diesel generators. In general, while solar energy is perceived as a viable and more affordable renewable energy source compared to diesel, it was noted that most communities do not currently have access to solar solutions. It was considered a disparity that cities such as Darwin and Singapore stand to access solar electricity from the Project. Several discussions with stakeholder groups highlighted that communities expect to access renewable energy from AAPowerLink. There is a stakeholder expectation that the Proponent will deliver real energy solutions to Aboriginal communities in the footprint and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Stakeholders asked questions about the distribution of electricity and whether solar energy will be delivered to Elliott, Tennant Creek, Barkly communities, Darwin, Katherine and the NEM. Stakeholders noted that commodity prices are increasing and queried whether the Project would make household prices for electricity cheaper.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will electricity be delivered to Australia or just to Singapore? • How much electricity will be sent to Darwin? • Will electricity be provided to Elliott, neighbouring outstations or Tennant Creek? • What does the 800 MW of electricity available to the Darwin region translate to in terms of household usage? • Will electricity be delivered to Katherine?

Theme	Description of Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have there been discussions about connecting to the east coast market rather than sending power to Singapore? • Will the Project make electricity cheaper for households?
Environmental Impacts	<p>Biodiversity. Several stakeholders asked questions about the Proponent’s approach to protecting biodiversity, primarily at the Solar Precinct. The extent of land clearing was raised as a concern and specific questions were asked pertaining to how the Proponent plans to manage erosion at the proposed Solar Precinct and Darwin Converter Site.</p> <p>Marine impacts. Government stakeholders asked questions about cable laying methodologies particularly near the beach and nearshore areas and how the Proponent will navigate shallow, rocky reefs. At an NTG agency forum, several questions arose about dredging and concern about the potential impacts of dredging. Stakeholders also noted that good communication will be required to ensure understanding of construction timeframes particularly in busy areas such as Darwin Harbour. An environmental group asked about potential conflicts between the subsea cable and gas pipelines operating on the seafloor.</p> <p>An NTG agency commented that underwater cultural heritage surveys should be completed and asked if SONAR would be used to scan for artefacts. The stakeholder noted the risk that engineers may conduct subsea surveys from an engineering perspective without seeing potential cultural heritage values submerged under water. The Proponent advised that a desktop maritime assessment with new survey data is being prepared.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will Sun Cable manage erosion from land clearing? • Can you describe the land clearing methodology? Will it require the clearing of trees only or small vegetation as well? • How will shallow rocky reefs be navigated when cable laying? • Has Sun Cable considered how cable laying will affect fishing and other vessels? • Is trenching recommended in laying the subsea cable? • How will Sun Cable manage fire within the railway corridor? • What are the water extraction requirements for the Project? • What is the environmental disturbance required for installing an electrode? • Are there any risks from the subsea cables interacting with gas pipelines?
Community Benefits	<p>Stakeholders strongly believe that Territorians should be the primary beneficiary of the Project. NTG stakeholders are optimistic about the contribution that the Project could make in terms of delivering jobs, economic opportunities, and community investment to regional areas.</p> <p>A peak Aboriginal organisation commented that the Proponent’s proposed community benefits framework needs to ensure that stakeholders closest to the Solar Precinct derive the most benefit from the Project through community grants and other opportunities. This organisation also asked whether the Proponent is considering offering equity for Native Title Holders.</p> <p>Several stakeholders asked if the Proponent would contribute to local housing stock in Elliott and Tennant Creek to support local employment outcomes. A lack</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>of available and adequate housing was identified as a concern across the footprint, which was noted as a deterrent to regional growth.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will Sun Cable's community benefit fund look like? • Will there be sponsorship opportunities? • Will Native Title Holders get equity from the Project? • What are Sun Cable's concrete commitments in the Aboriginal Legacy Strategy? • What are the timelines for Sun Cable delivering on its social commitments as outlined in the EIS?
Other	<p>Stakeholders were interested to learn more about Sun Cable as a company, the company's presence in Darwin and future commitments to opening regional offices across the NT.</p> <p>At an NTG agency forum, stakeholders noted future development plans, including the proposed township of Murrumujuk at Gunn Point. Questions were asked about how future land use conflicts would be mitigated.</p> <p>Several stakeholders asked questions about the tenure that the Proponent must secure and what agreements are required across the project footprint.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is Sun Cable an Australian company? • Does Sun Cable have any other projects? • Is there a Darwin office? • Will Sun Cable open an office in Elliott, Tennant Creek, Katherine or Alice Springs? • What is the approvals process for the offshore areas? • Will Sun Cable be listed on the stock market? • Who are Sun Cable's investors?

5 Key Findings from Regional Engagement

5.1 Elliott Engagement

The town of Elliott, located approximately 70 km northeast of Powell Creek Station, is the closest and largest permanent community in proximity to the proposed Solar Precinct.

The Proponent's Engagement team organised stakeholder activities during the EIS consultation campaign in Elliott in May and early October and participated in NLC-led consultations with Traditional Owners in June, July, August and September 2022. Residents in Marlinja Community (an outstation located 25 km north of Elliott) were also consulted (5-6 Oct 2022), with more engagement planned in late 2022 and early 2023.

5.1.1 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

- Formal and informal meetings, conversations with Elliott and Marlinja residents, distribution of flyers to advertise community information meetings, distribution of EIS information booklets (May to Oct 2022)
- AAPowerLink and EIS Briefing for Industry and Business at Elliott Caravan Park (12 May 2022); attendees included Elliott residents and representatives of the below organisations:
 - Elliott School
 - Elliott Service Station
 - NLC
 - NT Chamber of Commerce
 - NTIBN
 - Saltbush Social Enterprises.
- Community BBQ at Elliott Basketball Courts (20 May 2022)
- NLC-led consultation meetings with Traditional Owners (14 Jun 2022, 12 Jul 2022, 11 Aug 2022, 13 Sep 2022)
- Project briefings with a variety of organisations across government, community groups, Indigenous groups, and industry including:
 - Elliott Local Authority (5 Oct 2022, provided a PowerPoint for meeting on 15 Mar 2022)
 - Elliott School (11 May 2022)
 - Elliott Post Office (11 May 2022)
 - Elliott Workshop (12 May 2022)
 - Elliott Police (11 May 2022, 5 Oct 2022)
 - Kulumindini Aboriginal Corporation (5 Oct 2022)
 - NLC (multiple)
 - RN Employment Services (20 May 2022)
 - Sport and Recreation (11 May 2022)
 - Triple P Contracting (multiple).

- Sponsorship of community events, including:
 - Bush Bands Bash, sponsorship of BBQ (hosted by MusicNT, 3 Sep 2022)
 - Elliott Fishing Competition, Gold sponsorship (7-9 Oct 2022).

5.1.2 Summary of Key Themes and Issues Highlighted in Elliott Community

- **Workforce Development:** stakeholders were interested in prospective job opportunities for Elliott and how local Aboriginal workers and businesses can obtain training and construction jobs. The multi-generational span of the Project has created optimism about the opportunity to create strong pathways for young people into good jobs and good futures.
- **Culture and Heritage:** stakeholders perceived sacred site protection as a top priority. The community asked questions about how sacred sites will be protected at the Solar Precinct and how the Proponent will ensure cultural protocols are respected while working on country.
- **Electricity Access and Energy Security:** stakeholders expect to receive electricity from the Project and spoke about the expense of relying on diesel generators and challenges in navigating frequent blackouts.
- **Project Description:** stakeholders wanted to understand what infrastructure is proposed at the Solar Precinct, how close infrastructure will be located to Elliott and Lake Woods and whether new roads will be built and/or old ones maintained that could improve access to hunting and recreational areas.
- **Human Health:** stakeholders were interested in potential safety risks within the OHTL, including impacts from EMF.

Further consultation notes and themes are highlighted in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: Summary of key themes and issues highlighted in Elliott community

Theme	Description of Issues
Project Description	<p>Proposed locations. Elliott residents and Traditional Owners were interested in learning about the locations of proposed infrastructure and understanding distances of the Solar Precinct from Elliott Community and Lake Woods. These questions were answered by the Proponent using maps of the project footprint at community meetings. Residents spoke about frequenting the nearby site of conservation significance at Lake Woods for hunting and cultural purposes.</p> <p>Roads. Community members had a keen interest in the proposed development of roads within the Solar Precinct and asked questions about the Proponent’s appetite to upgrade access tracks to facilitate families to get out on-country. Many Traditional Owners discussed their frequent use of bush tracks to access hunting spots in the general vicinity of the Solar Precinct. Initially, there was some confusion about the locations of the proposed Access Roads, which the Proponent presented additional information for at a follow-up consultation meeting by distributing maps.</p> <p>Solar Precinct infrastructure. Traditional Owners were eager to know if any infrastructure had already been built and keen to learn about what types of buildings and services will be required at the Solar Precinct. The Proponent and NLC exchanged detailed maps and information about the Solar Precinct footprint ahead of on-country consultation meetings in order to provide Traditional Owners with the necessary information.</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has Sun Cable started building anything yet? • What will be built at the Solar Precinct and where will it be located? • How far will the Solar Precinct be from Elliott and Lake Woods? • Is the Solar Precinct near the railway line? • Will the powerlines or Solar Precinct be fenced? • How will waste be managed at the Solar Precinct? • Where does Sun Cable want to build roads at the Solar Precinct? Are these existing roads or new ones? • Will any hunting tracks or old tracks in the area be upgraded? • Will the road to the Powell Creek Telegraph Station be upgraded? • Will birds be electrocuted on the OHTL? • How will the subsea cables be laid?
Workforce Development	<p>Economic opportunities. Traditional Owners and other Elliott stakeholders demonstrated a keen interest in learning about the potential economic opportunities of AAPowerLink. In consultation forums and at the community BBQ, many people asked about construction jobs and training opportunities and seemed optimistic about the potential to develop local Aboriginal businesses.</p> <p>Elliott residents noted the importance of creating local jobs particularly in the context of getting young people interested and working on the Project. Residents spoke about their aspirations for building the capacity of the next generation of leaders and targeting young people while they are still in school as a way to rejuvenate the Elliott community. Organisations discussed some of the challenges in retaining young people in the region, noting that Elliott School does not currently accommodate high school aged students. Several organisations commented that partnerships with Elliott and Marlinja Schools could create strong pathways for young people into good jobs and good futures.</p> <p>Accommodation for workers. Elliott residents and organisations alike seemed optimistic that the 70-year life cycle of the Project could provide multi-generational opportunities for regional workforce development. Logistical questions were asked about how Elliott residents would be transported to the Solar Precinct and whether accommodation would be provided to workers. The interest in worker-provided accommodation highlights a key theme about the perceived importance of employers providing local workers with housing to reduce overcrowded housing, incentivise jobs and promote the retention of Aboriginal workers.</p> <p>Job advertisement. Questions about construction timeframes dominated engagement forums, with stakeholders curious to learn about how jobs would be advertised and whether Elliott residents would be prioritised for recruitment.</p> <p>For some in the business community, optimism about the prospect of job creation in Elliott was tempered by the current challenges of filling local job vacancies. Some expressed concern that there are currently more job vacancies than active jobseekers.</p> <p>Innovative training initiatives. At the Elliott industry engagement session, a robust discussion ensued about the potential to unlock Aboriginal labour participation through innovative training initiatives that make people excited to turn up to work. The Proponent spoke about the opportunity to foster a new renewable energy industry in the Barkly, a message that seemed to resonate with some stakeholders in Elliott. In general, long-term residents of the business community who have lived in the area for</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>a while can see the value in AAPowerLink and hope that it attracts further social investment and fosters community pride.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be jobs for Elliott community? • Will there be training for locals so we can get jobs during construction? • When will training start? • Will job opportunities be advertised locally and where can people find these ads? • Will any of the construction jobs be Aboriginal identified? • Will any of the jobs require working night shifts? • What kinds of businesses can Traditional Owners start up to support the project? • How will Sun Cable work with local businesses in Elliott to provide services to the project? • Will buses transport workers from Elliott to the Solar Precinct?
Engagement	<p>Speaking on behalf of country. Traditional Owners were keen to discuss with the Proponent which family groups can speak for country at the proposed Solar Precinct and who should be engaged through the NLC-led consultation process.</p> <p>One government stakeholder talked about how fracking had divided the community into pro and anti-development factions, which he perceived as an unfortunate legacy that the Proponent could inherit. This stakeholder attributed some of the family fighting in Elliott to what he called irresponsible media coverage and blamed proponents for pitting families against one another.</p> <p>Social licence to operate. Stakeholders spoke about the need to invest time in Elliott to achieve a social licence to operate. One business stakeholder noted that if the Proponent wants to find local people to fill jobs, the company must be committed to spending time in the community. Another stakeholder mentioned the disparity of gas executives flying into community on charter planes to attend a meeting while families were left behind to argue about royalty distributions.</p> <p>Marlinja residents are keen to be engaged in workforce development and planning initiatives and are excited by the prospect of Aboriginal people being up skilled through AAPowerLink.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Sun Cable open an office in Elliott? • Will Sun Cable hold general community info sessions to talk to Elliott residents about the Project?
Culture and Heritage	<p>Sacred site protection, cultural protocols. In one-on-one discussions with Traditional Owners and residents at the community BBQ, people spoke about the importance of sacred site protection and respecting cultural protocols on country. Stakeholders expressed that it is integral that the Proponent respect the cultural authority of site custodians and engage with the right people who are authorised to make decisions for country. In small groups, there was a lot of discussion generated about which family groups speak for country and some discontentment raised with how the statutory framework and native title process has recognised some families as Native Title Holders, but not others. When asked specific questions about the native</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>title recognition process, the Proponent deferred to the NLC and steered conversation back to answering specific questions about the Project.</p> <p>Sacred site protection. In general, Traditional Owners seemed familiar with the sacred site clearance process undertaken by AAPA and pleased with the process of inviting the Proponent to present information at consultation meetings. Many Traditional Owners noted they have been included in the AAPA sacred site clearance work and have participated as Cultural Managers on AAPowerLink cultural heritage surveys.</p> <p>Several Marlinja residents raised concerns regarding the inadequacy of consultations with Traditional Owners years ago when the Railway Corridor was being developed. These concerns have been raised with NLC and AAPA, and there is hope that any prior misunderstanding will be rectified through consultations and sacred site clearances for AAPowerLink. TOs and members of the community spoke candidly that sacred sites could become damaged if proper consultations are not done with the right groups.</p> <p>In consultation meetings, the Proponent explained how the NLC had nominated Cultural Managers for site investigations to inform the Project's early site selection process for the Solar Precinct. Photographs of these early works included in the Proponent's presentation to Traditional Owners helped remind people of a site visit on-country in March 2021 that included multiple family groups.</p> <p>Preserving cultural knowledge. Traditional Owners expressed there is an urgent need to map sacred sites in the Solar Precinct because the old people are dying and not passing this critical information on to young people. There is an opportunity through the AAPA and NLC site protection process for AAPowerLink to contribute to the mapping of valuable sacred site and cultural heritage information in the project footprint. In consultation forums, the Proponent spoke with Traditional Owners about the company's commitment to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan outlining how sacred sites will be protected and managed across the entire footprint.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will Sun Cable protect sacred sites? • When is Sun Cable doing sacred sites surveys? • What will Sun Cable do if they come across a sacred site? • How can my family get involved with surveys?
Human Health	<p>Health and safety risks from the OHTL. During consultation with Traditional Owners, several questions were raised pertaining to health and safety risks of residents from the OHTL, including EMF concerns. Ensuring that community members can move about freely and safely within the OHTL is a key priority for stakeholders. Traditional Owners were pleased to hear that the OHTL will not be fenced, as fencing could potentially impact on recreational uses of the area such as hunting.</p> <p>At a consultation meeting, one Traditional Owner talked about the need for the Proponent to spread awareness of the potential health and safety risks associated with the OHTL. She stated that Aboriginal decision-makers should consider the health and safety of future generations before families make an informed decision about supporting the Project or not. This sentiment about the importance of looking forward to the future was shared by other Aboriginal custodians in Elliott, with some stakeholders discussing economic opportunities like jobs as integral to leaving behind a good future for younger generations.</p> <p>In response to questions about health risks from EMF raised by Traditional Owners during consultations, the Proponent's Engagement team embedded information about human health into PowerPoint presentations and distributed printouts of</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>presentations to attendees and NLC staff. The information provided in the printouts and articulated verbally during presentations seemed to address safety questions raised during consultations. The Proponent has remained in frequent communication with NLC to ensure requests for information by Traditional Owners are actioned in a timely manner and communications materials such as computer-generated images are produced to enhance project understanding.</p> <p>One Traditional Owner mentioned that dry lightning is a frequent occurrence in the region and suggested that the Proponent look into managing potential fire risks from lightning strikes.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will the impacts be of the OHTL? • Is there any risk of radiation from the powerlines? • Will it be safe to walk on country underneath the powerlines? • Will birds be electrocuted if they fly into the powerlines? • What happens if lightning strikes the OHTL?
<p>Housing and Accommodation</p>	<p>Businesses and community members asked whether the Proponent is committed to building houses in Elliott for local employees to work on the Project. Residents spoke about a critical housing shortage in Elliott and noted that new houses urgently need to be built in community. Residents believe that providing housing in Elliott is a tangible way to improve local job retention and create goodwill, as it shows that a company is willing to invest in Elliott in the long-term. Several community members noted the importance of being able to commute back and forth from the Solar Precinct to Elliott in order to maintain connections to family and culture back in community.</p> <p>A Traditional Owner from Marlinja noted that there is adequate space at his outstation to potentially setup a workers' camp and suggested scheduling a further meeting with the Proponent to discuss the opportunity and shared benefits possible regarding the future development of the outstation.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will workers live in Elliott or in a workers' camp? • Could a workers' camp be built at Marlinja? • Will Sun Cable build houses in Elliott to support the participation of local workers? • How many houses will Sun Cable build in Elliott and Tennant Creek?
<p>Environmental Impacts</p>	<p>The community is interested in how the Project may impact on plants and animals particularly around the Solar Precinct. Protecting the environment near Lake Woods and ensuring continued access to the area for hunting and cultural purposes is a priority for Traditional Owners and Elliott residents. Some Traditional Owners spoke about the importance of ensuring that sacred trees are not damaged by land clearing. Questions were also asked about whether there would be jobs on-country for Rangers to collect seeds during the initial construction phase. A peak Aboriginal body spoke about the positive opportunity for Rangers to assist at the Solar Precinct with ongoing weed management.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be any impacts on Lake Woods? • How much water will the Project require? • What are the impacts for plants and animals around the Solar Precinct?

Theme	Description of Issues
<p>Electricity Access and Energy Security</p>	<p>Energy security. Elliott residents, Traditional Owners and business stakeholders are acutely aware of how expensive and unreliable electricity supply can be from diesel generators that power Elliott community. During consultations, it was made apparent to the Proponent that many residents of Elliott and neighbouring outstations assume they will receive free electricity from the Project. The Proponent tried to dispel this misconception by explaining the utility-scale of AAPowerLink and stating that it would not be feasible to connect small communities to the Project’s electricity grid. Stakeholders spoke about the need for a more reliable electricity supply to keep their power on to operate essential fridges and air conditioning units.</p> <p>In general, Elliott community members are very supportive of the concept of solar electricity and generating energy on country. However, there was a misconception that residents and businesses will receive electricity generated from the Project. In various engagement forums, community, environmental and advocacy groups speaking on behalf of Elliott residents also noted the topic of energy security as a primary concern and were interested in the Proponent’s ability and interest to deliver solar solutions in the region.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will power be made available for North and South Camp in Elliott? • Will electricity be provided to outstations? • Will Elliott residents get free electricity?
<p>Community Benefits</p>	<p>Community Support Elliott residents and Traditional Owners are excited about the prospect of the Proponent investing in the community by sponsoring community-run events and talked about various initiatives that require external investment across the arts, sport and recreation, and community infrastructure. At consultations and briefings with business stakeholders, lots of ideas were tabled about initiatives that the Proponent could support. The Proponent has made several contributions to local events during the reporting period and looks forward to working closely with the Elliott community to better understand community aspirations</p> <p>During consultation, community, environmental and advocacy groups speaking on behalf of Elliott residents facilitated discussions about energy poverty and the perceived economic disparity between a company serving to profit from a mega-scale renewable energy project whilst neighbouring Aboriginal communities struggle to afford power cards to run electricity to service their basic needs. Although some of these organisations are offering their in-principal support for the Project and excited about the contribution of AAPowerLink from a global climate change perspective, they have firm expectations that the Proponent will deliver equitable energy solutions to local communities in the project footprint.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Elliott residents get free electricity from the AAPowerLink? • Is Sun Cable considering sponsorship opportunities in Elliott? • How can an organisation apply for Sun Cable to fund a community event?
<p>Other</p>	<p>During consultation, several community members and businesses expressed their uncertainty with where the Project was at and whether approval had been granted. It was apparent that COVID-19 travel restrictions had created a bottleneck in terms of distributing key project information through stakeholder organisations to local residents. The EIS consultation campaign and targeted NLC-led consultations provided an opportunity for the Proponent to engage with community about the Draft EIS process and deliver information about the proposal to Traditional Owners, residents, businesses and organisations.</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>An NTG stakeholder raised concerns about population growth that may result from the Project and how local police would allocate additional resources to manage potential impacts from social issues and/or anti-social behaviours.</p> <p>Key question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Project still going ahead?

5.2 Tennant Creek

Tennant Creek is the fifth largest town in the NT and the main service centre in the Barkly region, which extends along the Barkly Highway to the Queensland border. Tennant Creek is located approximately 200 km away from the proposed Solar Precinct and represents a potential workforce hub for the Project. Historically, the Tennant Creek business community has been proactive in seeking out contracts in the Barkly and maximising economic participation opportunities for Tennant Creek residents.

The Proponent’s engagement team organised stakeholder activities during the EIS consultation campaign in Tennant Creek primarily in May 2022, with several follow-up engagements occurring in late August and early October 2022.

5.2.1 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

- Formal and informal meetings, conversations with Tennant Creek residents, distribution of flyers to advertise community information meetings, distribution of EIS information booklets
- AAPowerLink and EIS Briefing for Industry and Business at Battery Hill Mining & Heritage Centre (19 May 2022); attendees included Tennant Creek residents and representatives of the following organisations:
 - AFL NT
 - Battery Hill Mining & Heritage Centre
 - Barkly Regional Council
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
 - Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts
 - National Indigenous Australians Agency
 - ICCG Indigenous Contracting
 - Leading Edge
 - NLC
 - NT Chamber of Commerce
 - NTIBN
 - Outback Caravan Park
 - Phillips Earthmoving Contractors Pty Ltd

- Remote Industries NT
- T&J (NT) Contractors
- Thrifty Rentals.
- Community information booths at Battery Hill Mining Centre (14 May 2022), Tennant Creek Markets (14 May 2022) and Peko Park (17 May 2022)
- Project briefings with a variety of organisations across government, community groups, Indigenous groups, and industry including:
 - AFL NT (19 May 2022)
 - Barkly Regional Council (24 Feb 2022, 19 May 2022, provided FAQ for a June meeting)
 - Barkly Regional Deal Backbone Team (8 April 2022)
 - Barkly Regional Deal Aboriginal Alliance (18 May 2022)
 - Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet – Tennant Creek (16 May 2022, 22 Aug 2022)
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Tennant Creek (multiple)
 - Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation (16 May 2022)
 - Karguru Nursery (17 May 2022)
 - Member for Barkly (9 May 2022, NT Opposition Briefing 27 Jul 2022)
 - NLC – Tennant Creek Office (multiple)
 - Papulu Apparr-Kari Aboriginal Corporation (22 Aug 2022)
 - Saltbush Social Enterprises (22 Aug 2022)
 - Tennant Creek High School & Juno Training Centre (19 Oct 2022).
- Project briefing to Barkly Regional Council Mayor and Manager of Infrastructure Services as part of LGANT meeting (2 Jun 2022)
- Attendance at October Business Month NT Chamber of Commerce, Business at Sunset event.

5.2.2 Summary of Key Themes and Issues Highlighted in Tennant Creek Community

- **Workforce Development:** stakeholders recognised the potential of Tennant Creek as a workforce hub and were excited about the Project's economic opportunities however, some were concerned about the cumulative impacts from other major projects on a constrained local workforce. Businesses are acutely aware of the skills shortages across the region, the need to effectively harness Aboriginal workforce engagement and want to ensure local contractors are provided an opportunity to work on the Project as opposed to an Engineering, Procurement, Construction (EPC) contractor.
- **Electricity Access and Energy Security:** stakeholders were interested in access to electricity for communities in the Project footprint and raised concerns regarding high electricity prices and energy insecurity in the Barkly.
- **Housing and Accommodation:** stakeholders highlighted the importance of ensuring adequate employer-supplied housing for workers, including providing housing for Aboriginal workers from local communities to increase their participation. Overcrowding and a lack of housing were cited as a major reason for poor workforce participation and noted as a barrier to attracting families to the region and therefore sustaining regional growth.

- **Community Benefits:** stakeholders highlighted the need for the Proponent and businesses to invest in regional social infrastructure as a means of attracting workers to Tennant Creek and filling critical skills shortages. There is excitement about the potential tourism opportunities from the Project coupled with the potential to invest in local social infrastructure and community events that are essential to maintaining the distinctive social fabric of the Tennant Creek community.

Further consultation notes and themes are highlighted in Table 5-2.

Table 5-2: Summary of key themes and issues highlighted in Tennant Creek community

Theme	Description of Issues
Project Description	<p>Many stakeholders asked questions about the location of proposed infrastructure in reference to Tennant Creek, Elliott and Renner Springs.</p> <p>One stakeholder representing emergency services raised a concern about how the Proponent will manage medical and emergency incidents at the Solar Precinct and along the OHTL route. He indicated that the Proponent will have to be self-sufficient, as the local ambulance service in Tennant Creek is already servicing a large area and at-capacity.</p> <p>Several stakeholders asked about where solar panels will be sourced from and how infrastructure will be maintained at the Solar Precinct.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How far will the Solar Precinct be from Tennant Creek, Elliott and Renner Springs? • How does Sun Cable plan to manage its reliance on local emergency services and will the workers' camp be self-sufficient in terms of medical needs? • Where will the panels be sourced from?
Workforce Development	<p>Local jobs and business opportunities, overcoming regional skills shortages. The topic of workforce development and opportunities for future businesses was the primary area of interest for the Tennant Creek community. Whilst there was optimism that local businesses can benefit by winning tenders for the Project, there was also a sense of realism about current skills shortages and the need for realistic lead-in times in order for businesses to properly scale up to maximise their participation.</p> <p>A government agency was very supportive of the Project, noting the opportunity to align with training and industry initiatives being driven by local Small Business Champions. Another NTG stakeholder suggested the Proponent should consider utilising labour from the Barkly Work Camp as a means of building local capacity and filling skills shortages.</p> <p>Local businesses first, arrangements with EPC contractors and sub-contractors. Many stakeholders asked questions about the breakdown of the future workforce. In the business briefing, stakeholders noted they want reassurance that local contractors will be provided an opportunity to work on the Project as opposed to an EPC where fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers are relied upon in totality. In general, there seemed to be an understanding that AAPowerLink workforce requirements will necessitate reliance on FIFO labour from outside of the NT project footprint given critical skills shortages and low population numbers. Whilst there seems to be a baseline perception of the need to bring in interstate and international expertise for the Project, Tennant Creek businesses hope that the Proponent will make a genuine commitment to hire locally and support local businesses, and ultimately get the balance of local benefits right.</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>From past experiences with other major projects, the Tennant Creek business community is concerned that sub-contractors may not be as committed as the Proponent to hiring local. Some business owners asked if they would be able to contract to the Proponent on the Project directly. Questions were raised about how the Proponent plans to manage their arrangements with sub-contractors. Businesses want the Proponent to make a genuine commitment that NT businesses will get a foot in the door.</p> <p>Aboriginal employment. Stakeholders asked questions about the Proponent's Aboriginal workforce strategy and how the company plans to recruit and retain Aboriginal workers. Comments were made from businesses about the current challenges they face in recruiting and retaining Aboriginal workers to fill current job vacancies. Overcrowded and sub-standard housing was raised as a major hurdle for employers and prospective employees to overcome. Stakeholders agreed that capacity-building and delivering meaningful employment opportunities for Aboriginal people should be a key priority for the Proponent.</p> <p>Long-term commitment. It was noted that it is critical for the Proponent to maintain a strong on the ground presence in order to build the trust of local residents and businesses. The Tennant community wants to see evidence that the company is genuinely committed to the Barkly Region in the long-term. A government stakeholder noted that the Proponent should seek membership on existing regional working groups to ensure the company is working collaboratively with proponents to provide capacity-building and training opportunities to the Barkly.</p> <p>In the industry forum, stakeholders suggested developing a local reference group to oversee the Project's workforce development strategy. It was noted this could be an effective means of working collaboratively with the community and ensuring that the Proponent is not competing with other projects for labour.</p> <p>Apprenticeship opportunities. Stakeholders discussed the opportunity within the long construction timeframe for the Project to deliver apprenticeships during the four-year construction period, filling a much-needed gap. This is seen by business and government stakeholders as an advantage given that many projects have a shorter construction period.</p> <p>Incentivise training. A business owner commented that the Proponent needs to consider how to properly incentivise training initiatives to encourage participation on the Project. He noted that the responsibility cannot fall solely on businesses to up-skill the workforce to participate in the Project, as it a big time and money commitment on local businesses and the construction timeframes may be uncertain at this stage.</p> <p>Cumulative impacts on workforce, unrealistic workforce expectations. Questions were asked about how the Proponent plans to coordinate with other major projects in the region to ensure there is ample workforce to meet AAPowerLink requirements. Concerns were raised about unrealistic workforce expectations, noting how difficult it is for businesses to recruit certain trades roles at present.</p> <p>A comment was also raised about a lack of accountability in government-mandated workforce participation plans. Embedding accountability to ensure benefits stay local should be a top priority for the Proponent.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What opportunities will there be for local businesses? • Will there be a FIFO workforce coming from Darwin? • Will Sun Cable hire people directly or use EPC contractors and sub-contractors? • How will Sun Cable work with NT businesses to ensure they have the appropriate lead-in times to support the Project?

Theme	Description of Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Sun Cable’s Aboriginal workforce strategy? • Will there be a bus transporting the workforce from Tennant Creek to site? • Who will put in the roads and the rail siding?
Engagement	<p>Establishing a regional office. Several stakeholders discussed the benefits of establishing a regional office in Tennant Creek to assist with improving workforce engagement and Indigenous workforce participation. One stakeholder mentioned that MacArthur River Mine saw their Indigenous workforce participation greatly improve after they opened an office in Borroloola and suggested the Proponent considers a similar strategy when the timing is right.</p> <p>Holistic approach. A comment was made from a stakeholder that the Proponent needs to think holistically about how to ensure economic benefits and opportunities flow to Aboriginal communities. Thinking solely about jobs is too narrow a focus, as Aboriginal people may not just want to see jobs, but perhaps other tangible benefits from AAPowerLink.</p> <p>Jobs for locals. Comments were raised about the need to build the capacity of workers from neighbouring Aboriginal communities such as Elliott and not rely on Aboriginal recruitment from interstate to fill project job quotas. This was highlighted by a business owner as an issue that has frequently occurred with major projects. It was noted that embedding local people into the workforce will create a strong and sustainable workplace culture and demonstrate that the Proponent is genuinely committed to the NT in the long-term.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Sun Cable have an office in Tennant Creek? • What is Sun Cable’s approach to promoting Aboriginal employment?
Electricity Access and Energy Security	<p>Stakeholders were interested to learn who the Project will provide electricity to, why Singapore will be receiving electricity and whether there are plans to connect the Project to the National Electricity Market (NEM). Many stakeholders were unaware that the Project intends to supply electricity to the Darwin Region and perceived this as a real benefit to the NT.</p> <p>Tennant Creek residents frequently commented about energy security and the high cost of electricity in the region. Questions were asked about whether residents and Tennant and Elliott would receive electricity from the Project, noting issues with blackouts and high power bills.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will receive electricity from the Project? • Why is Singapore getting electricity from the Project? • Will the NT be receiving electricity from the project or just Singapore? • Why won’t electricity be provided to communities? • Are there plans to hook the AAPowerLink up to the national power grid? • Will electricity be cheaper for residents? • How closely is Sun Cable working with Power and Water?

Theme	Description of Issues
Environmental Impacts	<p>Land clearing. Residents and businesses in Tennant Creek raised questions about the extent of land clearing required at the Solar Precinct and potential impacts on water, plants and animals in the region.</p> <p>At a business briefing, a comment was made that the NT EPA is ill-equipped to adequately assess the impacts of AAPowerLink given the large scale of the Project and reduced funding to the department.</p> <p>Water usage. Stakeholders are sensitive to the limited availability of water in the Barkly Region and asked questions regarding the amount of water required to construct the Project and ongoing operational requirements. One government stakeholder suggested that the Proponent should consider seeking international water stewardship accreditation.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much land clearing will be required at the Solar Precinct? • What are the impacts of land clearing at the Solar Precinct on flora, fauna and water? • Will all the land clearing raise the temperature at Powell Creek Station and surrounding areas like Elliott and Tennant Creek? • What is the projected water usage for the Project?
Housing and Accommodation	<p>Overcrowded housing. Overcrowded housing in the Barkly was cited as a major hurdle to retaining Aboriginal workers in jobs generally. Several stakeholders mentioned that Tennant Creek has a housing shortage that impacts on the ability to attract families to the region. Residents noted that Tennant Creek has experienced a big decline in recent years due to a lack of government and private investment, and there is a critical need to build more houses in order to sustain regional growth. Stakeholders see skills shortages, a lack of childcare, and a lack of suitable accommodation as inter-related issues that Tennant Creek has been grappling with for many years.</p> <p>One stakeholder noted the importance of ensuring adequate employer-supplied housing for Aboriginal workers from local communities to increase their participation in the Project, citing overcrowding as a major reason for poor workforce participation by Aboriginal people in the region.</p> <p>Accommodation and transport for workers. In general, the Tennant Creek business community is interested in participating in AAPowerLink. Many questions centred on whether workers would be housed on-site at the Solar Precinct and several stakeholders asked about whether there would be a bus service to transport workers from Tennant Creek.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be a worker’s camp at the Solar Precinct? • Will Sun Cable provide housing for workers in Tennant Creek and Elliott?
Other	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is Sun Cable an Australian company? • Do Indonesia and Singapore have their own environmental impact statement processes? • How will the panels be cleaned? • What’s the EPA process for offshore components?

5.3 Alice Springs

Alice Springs is the major economic, business and service hub for the Central Australia Region, servicing a regional population of 41 000 and cross-border regions in South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland. Alice Springs is the second largest town in the NT and likely to be a source of workers and supplies for AAPowerLink. In 2020, Alice Springs had an estimated residential population of 25 912, more than a quarter of whom were Aboriginal. The key industries of mining, tourism and primary industries are underpinned by government funding for regional service delivery and defence (NT Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet 2021). Alice Springs is located approximately 700 km from the proposed Solar Precinct.

The Proponent organised stakeholder activities during the EIS consultation campaign in Alice Springs from 23-27 May 2022.

5.3.1 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

- Formal and informal meetings, conversations with Alice Springs residents, distribution of flyers to advertise community information meetings, distribution of EIS information booklets
- AAPowerLink and EIS Briefing for Industry and Business at NT Chamber of Commerce (26 May 2022); attendees represented the below organisations:
 - Alice Springs Reptile Centre
 - Desert Knowledge Australia
 - GHD Pty Ltd
 - Industry Training Hub
 - Member for Braitling
 - Member for Namatjira
 - NT Chamber of Commerce
 - NTIBN
 - OutbackEV Pty Ltd
 - Rural Business Support
 - Alice Springs residents.
- Community information booth at Todd Mall (24 May 2022)
- Project briefings with a variety of organisations across government, community groups, Indigenous groups, and industry; including:
 - Arid Lands Environment Centre (25 May 2022)
 - Central Land Council (6 Apr 2022)
 - CDU – Alice Springs Campus (26 May 2022)
 - Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet – Alice Springs Office (25 May 2022)
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Alice Springs Office (25 May 2022)
 - Desert Knowledge Australia (26 May 2022, 15 Sep 2022)
 - Indigenous Desert Alliance (27 May 2022)
 - NT Department of Health – Barkly Harm Minimisation Unit (25 May 2022)
 - NTIBN – Alice Springs Engagement Officer (26 May 2022).

- AAPowerLink briefing to Director Corporate Services, Alice Springs Town Council as part of LGANT meeting (2 Jun 2022).

5.3.2 Summary of Key Themes and Issues Highlighted in the Alice Springs Community

- **Waste Management:** stakeholders are interested in how the Proponent will manage waste and recycling. Questions arose about whether the company is willing to advocate for government policy reform in the emerging renewables sector and sponsor opportunities for research and development.
- **Environmental Impacts:** stakeholders are interested in the impacts of land clearing on biodiversity, the survey methodology used in the EIS and how impacts to biodiversity will be monitored and managed over the 70-year Project life cycle.
- **Electricity Access and Energy Security:** stakeholders are keen for Aboriginal communities to access electricity from the Project and interested in future opportunities to connect Alice Springs up to the power grid.
- **Workforce Development:** stakeholders are interested in training and employment opportunities for residents, tendering opportunities for local businesses, and whether Alice Springs could be a FIFO location to the Solar Precinct. Organisations conveyed a strong sense of excitement for the Project and the emerging renewable energy industry and wish to get involved in the Proponent’s proposed Centre for Renewable Excellence.

Further consultation notes and themes are highlighted in Table 5-3.

Table 5-3: Summary of key themes and issues highlighted in the Alice Springs community

Theme	Description of Issues
Project Description	<p>Manufacturing and materials. Stakeholders asked questions about where materials will be manufactured and project specifications, including the dimensions of the OHTL structures, rail siding and grade of fencing to be used at the Solar Precinct.</p> <p>Road maintenance. A business stakeholder made a comment about the extra road maintenance that will be required on the Stuart Highway from the increased trucks and subsequent traffic from the Project.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long will the Solar Precinct be operational? • Where will the solar panels be manufactured? • What is the average life span of a solar panel? • What is the plan for dust management at the Solar Precinct? • What are the dimensions of the OHTL poles? • Will the powerlines be above ground? • Why can't the powerlines be undergrounded? • Can you explain how energy loss works when it goes from HVDC to HVAC? • Have you considered using electric aircraft to transport workers to site? • What grade of fencing will be used at the Solar Precinct? • Would it be worth establishing a manufacturing factory in Australia to support the AAPowerLink?

Theme	Description of Issues
Waste Management	<p>PV waste and recycling. The Alice Springs community has a keen interest in waste management and PV recycling for the Project. Many questions were asked about the life span of a solar panel and the Proponent’s strategies for recycling and waste management, noting that technology is rapidly changing and will become obsolete over time.</p> <p>Advocacy, research and development. Stakeholders noted that waste management solutions are urgently needed in Australia and suggested that the Proponent could advocate for key policy changes at a Commonwealth Government-level. A stakeholder noted that solar waste has not been studied at the utility-scale and highlighted there is an opportunity for the Proponent to contribute to this important area of research by funding future research projects, for instance.</p> <p>Sustainability across the project life cycle. Organisations talked about their support for renewable energy but noted there is a need to make utility-scale renewable projects more sustainable. One educational stakeholder suggested there is an opportunity to look holistically at the project life cycle and consider inter-related issues in waste management such as solar panel recycling, packaging, ancillary waste and look further into how many panels are broken on arrival, how to transport waste, and what happens when existing solar panels become replaced with more efficient technology. Stakeholders revealed an emerging interest in the social acceptability of large-scale renewable energy projects from a sustainability perspective.</p> <p>A stakeholder suggested that the Proponent could fund a research project or PhD on PV recycling. In general, there was excitement about the potential for the Project to invest in critical research in the renewables sector and further solidify solar expertise in the NT.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Sun Cable’s commitments to waste management? • What will happen to the solar panels after Sun Cable is done with them? • Will the solar panels be recycled? • Will Sun Cable operate a recycling facility? • Is Sun Cable considering a product stewardship opportunity with the Commonwealth Government to look at recycling policy for PV waste? • Is Sun Cable committed to advocating for policy changes to support the renewable energy transition?
Workforce Development	<p>Local jobs and business opportunities, overcoming regional skills shortages. The topic of workforce development and opportunities for NT businesses was a major focus for the Alice Springs community. In the industry briefing, many businesses asked questions about tendering opportunities. Skills shortages were also noted as a major challenge for organisations and businesses to overcome, expressing concern for a lack of skilled electricians in Alice Springs, for instance. Government and business stakeholders asked about projected jobs numbers for the construction workforce and whether there would be opportunities to transport FIFO workers from Alice Springs to the Solar Precinct.</p> <p>Opportunities for innovation. Stakeholders were eager to learn about the Proponent’s proposed Centre for Renewable Excellence. Stakeholders working in the solar space shared a sense of excitement about what the Project has to offer in terms of bring world-leading opportunities for the renewable energy transition to the NT. Leveraging and building upon the solar and research partnerships that currently exist at the Desert Knowledge Precinct, for instance, was suggested as a tangible way that the Project can contribute benefits to the region. Discussions with NGOs and research institutions conveyed great optimism about the future of green industries and</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>opportunities for collaboration with the Proponent. These organisations have invited the Proponent back to the region for a follow-up discussion about this potential collaboration.</p> <p>Opportunities for collaboration. In Alice Springs, stakeholders commonly asked how the community-based organisations they represent could support the Project. Questions about training and development opportunities revealed potential synergies between the Proponent and existing regional workforce planning. Alice Springs stakeholders demonstrated examples of inter-agency partnerships in the research and development space and noted an enthusiasm to work collaboratively across the renewable energy sector to avoid duplication of services.</p> <p>Stakeholders were generous in sharing their own experiences working with organisations to build solar networks and describing some of the challenges overcome. They commented on the exciting prospect of bringing further renewable energy expertise to the NT through AAPowerLink. Ideas were shared about how to roll-out practical on-the-job training through AAPowerLink, including an idea by one agency about how to empower Aboriginal women to consider jobs in the historically male-dominated energy sector. A few organisations noted the importance of leveraging private/public partnerships to bring innovation to the region and several discussed capacity-building initiatives to up-skill Aboriginal workers.</p> <p>One business stakeholder noted that a recycling facility is an exciting industry that the Project could bring to the NT. Another stakeholder asked about the potential for agri-solar initiatives and pooling water from solar panels at the Solar Precinct.</p> <p>During consultation, the Proponent spoke about the ICN-NT Capability Mapping and Local Workforce Strategy undertaken as part of the Draft EIS submission, noting that Alice Springs was not initially included in the regional modelling for the workforce strategy. Business stakeholders and NTG agencies indicated that Alice Springs should be considered as a potential FIFO workforce for the Project.</p> <p>Stakeholders are interested in receiving regular project updates into the future and having input into key developments such as the Centre for Renewable Excellence.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the workforce requirements? • Will there be a FIFO workforce from Alice Springs to the Solar Precinct? • Where will FIFO workers come from? • How many jobs will be needed during construction? • Will Sun Cable have an office in Alice Springs? • Will Sun Cable wait until Financial Close before delivering the local workforce strategy and capacity-building initiatives? • Has Sun Cable selected a location yet for the Centre for Renewable Excellence? • Has the airstrip design gone to tender yet?
<p>Housing and Accommodation</p>	<p>Workers' accommodation. There was high stakeholder interest in the proposed Temporary Construction Accommodation at the Solar Precinct and associated coordination in transporting FIFO workers to site. Business, government and residents want Alice Springs to be considered as a FIFO workforce and transported to the Solar Precinct.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where will workers be housed during construction? • How big will the workers' camp be?

Theme	Description of Issues
Community Benefits	<p>Local benefits and capacity-building. Stakeholders repeatedly asked about the benefits of the Project to Central Australia. Several stakeholders from government and the business community lamented that major projects in the NT have historically focused on the Top End and neglected to think about the contribution from Alice Springs and the potential benefits for the Alice community. There were many questions centred on benefits packages, capacity-building and stakeholder engagement, and an interest in how the Proponent is engaging with Aboriginal stakeholders connected to the Project footprint to ensure equitable benefits to communities.</p> <p>Community groups noted the importance of ensuring project benefits flow equitably to communities and Aboriginal peoples in the Project footprint. The issue of energy security was highlighted as a concern by a few of these groups, noting the perceived disparity between communities living off expensive power cards in remote Aboriginal communities and electricity being delivered to the cities of Darwin and Singapore. There was an interest in understanding what community and social investment initiatives the Proponent plans to support across the NT and when people can expect to start accessing these benefits.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the specific Project benefits for Alice Springs residents? • What is the timeline for the roll-out of the community benefit fund? • Will there be any scholarship opportunities driven by renewables? • What is happening now before Sun Cable officially starts delivering benefits through agreements? • Could the Centre for Renewables Excellence be based in Alice Springs since the solar expertise is here? • What community programs is Sun Cable considering delivering in the Barkly?
Electricity Access and Energy Security	<p>Delivering innovative energy solutions. For years, the Alice Springs community has been leading the way in solar innovation and delivering regional energy solutions. In general, stakeholders are keen to work with the Proponent to deliver further innovation to the NT. Stakeholders noted the potential to explore knowledge-sharing opportunities through a Desert Knowledge Precinct/Sun Cable partnership.</p> <p>Stakeholders frequently asked whether the Project could deliver electricity to Alice Springs.</p> <p>A discussion ensued at the Industry and Business briefing about the economic viability of the Project, which included some stakeholder concern about Singapore's climate targets and what would happen to the Project if Singapore decided to meet its energy targets through Asian suppliers instead of Australia.</p> <p>Energy insecurity. Stakeholders are acutely aware of issues of energy insecurity, particularly for remote Aboriginal communities in the NT. Several discussions centred on issues of energy poverty, noting the perceived socioeconomic disparity between solar abundant regions (e.g., remote Aboriginal communities) and beneficiaries of the electricity (e.g., cities).</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will electricity be supplied to remote communities? • Will there be future capacity for the project to supply electricity to Alice Springs? • Does Sun Cable have any plans to feed electricity into the National Electricity Market?

Theme	Description of Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Project make electricity prices cheaper for residents? • Will the Project still be viable if Singapore decides to get its electricity from its South Asian neighbours?
Environmental Impacts	<p>Land clearing, survey methodology and biodiversity. Community groups and Alice Springs residents are interested in the impacts of land clearing on biodiversity, survey methodology and how impacts to biodiversity will be monitored over the 70-year project life cycle. In the industry briefing, one stakeholder commented that the Solar Precinct could be habitat for lower ground dwelling species that could potentially be impacted by fencing.</p> <p>There was concern from a local environmental group about the NT EPA’s expertise and questioning whether the EPA has the capacity to assess the extent of biodiversity impacts for a project of such a large scale. This same stakeholder noted that there is a risk in only targeting threatened species at the Solar Precinct, as additional species could become threatened into the future. The stakeholder explained that good survey methodology considers the biodiversity of the region and provides a solid baseline understanding of biodiversity in an area prior to construction so that impacts can be adequately monitored over time. It was acknowledged that the surveys undertaken were as directed under the relevant NT and Commonwealth legislation, followed survey guidelines and were performed in direct consultation with DEPWS.</p> <p>During the consultation phase, stakeholders were interested in the clearing of 12 000 hectares of land and how biodiversity will be protected.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much land clearing will there be? • What will the impacts be of clearing 12 000 hectares of land? • What are the key species present at the Solar Precinct? • What is the existing landscape like at Powell Creek Station? • Can you talk about your survey methodology? • How will biodiversity impacts be monitored over time?
Other	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions have been asked by stakeholders? • What is the size of the Darwin office?

5.4 Katherine

Katherine is the fourth largest town in the NT, has about 11 000 residents and provides services to communities from the Western Australia border to the Gulf of Carpentaria. The town is 320 km southeast of Darwin at the junction of the Stuart and Victoria Highways and is regional headquarters for many government departments. Katherine is located approximately 500 km from the proposed Solar Precinct.

The Proponent’s Engagement team organised stakeholder activities during the EIS consultation campaign in Katherine primarily in May, June and October 2022.

5.4.1 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

- Formal and informal meetings, conversations with Katherine residents and organisations, distribution of flyers to advertise community information meetings, distribution of EIS information booklets
- AAPowerLink and EIS Briefing for Industry and Business (8 Jun 2022); attendees included Katherine residents and representatives of the below organisations:
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
 - Hiway Stabilizers
 - Many Rivers
 - Member for Katherine
 - Northern Renewable Group
 - NT Chamber of Commerce
 - NT IBN
 - Rise Ventures
 - RGM Maintenance
 - Savannah Solutions Business Services Pty Ltd
 - Katherine residents and landowners.
- Community information booth at Katherine Town Centre (9 Jun 2022)
- Project briefings with a variety of organisations across government, community groups, Indigenous groups, and industry including:
 - AFL NT Big Rivers (8 Jun 2022)
 - Big Rivers Regional Reconstruction Committee (29 Mar 2022)
 - Charles Darwin University – Katherine Campus (multiple)
 - Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet Regional Network Group (16 Feb 2022)
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Katherine Office (24 Jun 2022)
 - Jawoyn Aboriginal Corporation (16 Feb 2022, 13 Oct 2022)
 - Katherine Town Council (multiple meetings)
 - NTIBN – Katherine Engagement Officer (multiple meetings)
 - Roper Gulf Regional Council (9 Jun 2022)
 - Territory Resources Services Association (8 Jun 2022, 13 Oct 2022)
 - Victoria Daly Regional Council (16 Feb 2022).
- Project briefing to Roper Gulf CEO as part of LGANT meeting (2 Jun 2022)
- Project briefing to Katherine Town Council Mayor as part of LGANT meeting (2 Jun 2022)
- Conference presentation at Katherine and Barkly Major Projects Conference (5 May 2022)
- Attendance at Katherine October Business Month event (12 Oct 2022).

5.4.2 Summary of Key Themes and Issues Highlighted in the Katherine Community

- **Workforce Development:** stakeholders are keenly focused on training, capacity-building, and creating genuine opportunities for Katherine businesses. Stakeholders are sensitive to unfulfilled promises by major projects to local business and note that the key to a successful project is taking a holistic approach to job readiness that supports cultural competency, inclusivity and strong Aboriginal employment outcomes.
- **Environmental impacts:** stakeholders are concerned about environmental impacts from land clearing and water usage. Although stakeholders are keen to combat climate change and support a renewable energy project, there is concern about the scale of proposed land clearing and potential impacts on scarce regional water resources.
- **Community Benefits:** stakeholders want to see real benefits delivered to the Katherine region and are eager for the Proponent to demonstrate its commitment to supporting local businesses and communities.
- **Electricity Access and Energy Security:** stakeholders are interested in who will receive electricity from the Project and whether the Darwin-Katherine Integrated System (DKIS) has the capacity to receive electricity from the Project.

Further consultation notes and themes are highlighted in Table 5.

Table 5-4: Summary of key themes and issues highlighted in the Katherine community

Theme	Description of Issues
Workforce Development	<p>Holistic approach to job readiness. Stakeholders in Katherine have a strong interest in promoting Aboriginal employment outcomes and noted that the key to a successful project is demonstrating a holistic approach to job readiness. Organisations noted that positive employment outcomes, particularly for Aboriginal people can be achieved by working in partnership with local organisations to deliver job readiness ahead of implementing any formal skills training packages to prepare people for the expectations of holding a job.</p> <p>Local businesses and a stakeholder from the education sector spoke about the need to build resilience and confidence in the Aboriginal workforce and noted that being job-ready is not simply about having a White Card or forklift licence, or about ticking a compliance box on paper. They spoke about the importance of building self-confidence and teaching basic life skills like operating a washing machine as examples of what job readiness means in the NT.</p> <p>Katherine residents and organisations also noted the importance of the Project promoting meaningful jobs on country, such as in the field of land management at the Solar Precinct. Ideas proposed include opportunities in seed collection and Rangers to oversee fauna surveys when undertaking land clearing. One organisation mentioned that employing the right people who can speak for country is key to building a positive team dynamic for Aboriginal workers to support the Project.</p> <p>Mentoring and inclusivity for Aboriginal workers. Stakeholders commented on the importance of the Proponent fostering cultural competency and inclusivity and ensuring that workers feel culturally safe in the workplace. One stakeholder in the education sector suggested this could be achieved by embedding mentoring into every worker’s role on the Project to encourage workers to be effective allies to their Aboriginal colleagues. A business stakeholder noted the importance of offering support for Aboriginal mothers before they commence work so that they enter the workforce with an understanding of how to access childcare services. Understanding how to tap into critical services and available support mechanisms was recommended as an effective strategy for encouraging more Aboriginal women into the workforce.</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>One organisation noted that mine sites thrive when workers are encouraged to bring their families to site, as it builds a more inclusive working environment.</p> <p>Cumulative impacts of major projects. In general, Katherine stakeholders seem somewhat de-sensitised to the promises of major projects delivering local jobs and benefits to the region. At the AAPowerLink industry briefing, there was some scepticism conveyed as to how the Proponent will deliver on jobs promises and maintain a competitive advantage over other projects in the pipeline on similar timelines.</p> <p>Government stakeholders reported more optimism in the potential of the Project to deliver much-needed regional growth to the Katherine Region. One stakeholder from local government said the Project could upskill the region in future technologies and lead the way in the energy transition. He suggested that Mataranka be considered as a potential FIFO community.</p> <p>Local recruitment and skills shortages. Most stakeholders noted the skills shortages across the NT and Australia-wide, and asked questions about the Proponent’s workforce development strategy. Katherine stakeholders want to see real benefits for residents and local businesses. Questions were asked about recruitment of interstate and international workers. Several businesses reported past negative experiences with major projects failing to deliver on local jobs promises. One business noted that the cotton industry touted loads of jobs for community, but ultimately recruited all the workers from interstate and NT companies missed out on procurement opportunities. Some Katherine businesses are resigned to thinking that the AAPowerLink will bring in a substantial FIFO workforce out of sheer necessity.</p> <p>A member of the business community commented that the Proponent needs to ensure that businesses registered with a Katherine PO box are indeed based in Katherine. This deception has been flagged as an issue in the past where non-Katherine business were awarded contracts under the false premise of being local.</p> <p>Training needs to deliver tangible job opportunities. Stakeholders are interested in the development and implementation of the Proponent’s Local Workforce Strategy. A few stakeholders commented that people in Aboriginal communities are the most ‘ticketed’ in Australia, meaning there are often numerous training opportunities that do not translate to real jobs and sustained job opportunities. It was noted that the accumulation of tickets is not useful without a direct application for those skills where workers can build up their confidence by using the skillsets, they were trained up to do.</p> <p>At the Katherine and Barkly Major Projects Conference, stakeholders shared their frustration with long wait times for trainers to deliver training in remote regions before projects can commence. It was noted that funding cuts have meant that Registered Training Organisations do not have the same availability as they once had to do regular training across the regions so it can take up to a month to get a White Card to operate heavy machinery.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where will FIFO workers come from? • How will Sun Cable compete with workers from other major projects on similar timelines? • When is Final Investment Decision and what is the timeline for workforce recruitment? • What is the Territory Benefit Plan? • How will you ensure Project sub-contractors take on Sun Cable’s ethics and commitment to employ locals and prioritise local procurement where possible?

Theme	Description of Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percentage of the workforce will Sun Cable recruit from overseas? • When will Sun Cable start working with NT businesses and industries on implementing the local workforce strategy? • Does Sun Cable have a supplier yet to provide services to the workers accommodation camp? • Will Sun Cable be working with Government to open a solar panel recycling facility?
Engagement	<p>Aboriginal workforce engagement was a big focus of stakeholder consultations, with many stakeholders optimistic about the potential for the Project to deliver meaningful job opportunities to Aboriginal people.</p> <p>One organisation spoke optimistically about the potential for the Project to enhance the capacity of Aboriginal businesses and perceived its long-term nature as adding great benefit to the region over several generations. He noted that working to ensure Aboriginal businesses develop and maintain good governance structures is key to the success of the Project.</p> <p>Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs). A few stakeholders asked questions about how the Proponent is advancing ILUAs with Traditional Owners. Comments were made about the relationship between NLC and many Aboriginal people in the Katherine Region and it was noted that many Aboriginal families do not feel represented by the Land Council.</p> <p>Some organisations expressed it is vital to understand the management of social obligations (or ‘humbug’) in Aboriginal communities and how to leverage partnerships with community organisations in order to build a strong workforce and social licence.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Sun Cable’s Aboriginal engagement strategy? • How are the ILUAs progressing?
Electricity Access and Energy Security	<p>Electricity distribution. Many stakeholders were interested in why the Project is proposing to supply electricity to Singapore, with concern that all of the electricity may be exported offshore. Along with an interest in Singapore, some stakeholders reported that they had heard on the news that the Project is not going ahead. Questions were asked about the viability of the Project if Singapore does not buy the electricity. A few stakeholders noted that the subsea cables will reach Singapore through international waters and wonder if there are opportunities for other countries to benefit from electricity offtakes.</p> <p>In general, many Katherine stakeholders seem pleased that electricity will be made available to Darwin, but some remain unconvinced in the viability of the Project and the risks noted above.</p> <p>Energy insecurity. Stakeholders commonly discussed energy insecurity as a major issue in Katherine. Black-outs, high costs of electricity and the unreliability of the DKIS electricity network were cited as big regional challenges. Many stakeholders spoke about frequent blackouts and questioned whether the DKIS would be able to cope with an additional electricity load supplied from the Project.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the Project delivering electricity to Singapore? • What percentage of the electricity will stay in Australia? • Will any electricity be put into the DKIS?

Theme	Description of Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the DKIS cope with an increased supply of electricity from the AAPowerLink? • Will Indonesia get any electricity? • Does Sun Cable have a specific customer identified in Singapore? • What happens if Singapore decides it does not want Australia's power? • What are the risks in the subsea cable traversing international waters given Project largely benefits Singapore? • Is Sun Cable planning to feed electricity to the petro-chemical hub?
<p>Environmental Impacts</p>	<p>Land clearing. Land clearing was raised as a concern by several stakeholders, noting the significant scale of proposing to clear 12 000 hectares at the Solar Precinct. Some residents questioned why the Project scale has to be so large.</p> <p>Climate change. Katherine residents expressed a passion for the environment and spoke about the Project in the context of global climate change. One government stakeholder was optimistic, noting that although there will be some impacts in terms of land clearing, the Project is necessary and will provide a net benefit. Another resident queried how the Project could claim to be carbon positive by year four when factoring in the mining of critical minerals in the materials needed such as cables and solar panels.</p> <p>Water security. Katherine residents are acutely aware of the region's precious water resources and sensitive to the impacts of major projects on the region's scarce water resources. Several stakeholders mentioned that water security from fracking is a major concern. There seems to be a general distrust in proponents who use the common tactic of deflecting residents' water concerns by pointing to diffuse technical reports. Residents expressed a distrust in the NT Government when it comes to approving projects that may provide economic benefits on paper but be perceived as detrimental to communities.</p> <p>One resident commented that water systems in the northern region of AAPowerLink's footprint are already allocated to fracking, so water security is a major concern for her.</p> <p>Vegetation management. Some residents had an interest in vegetation management, including what plants might re-vegetate underneath the solar panels and how fire could be managed in the event of re-growth at the Solar Precinct.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have to clear so much land? • What are the impacts of the Project on the water table? • What kind of water usage will Sun Cable require during construction and operations of the workers' camp? • How will fire be managed at the Solar Precinct? • How will vegetation be managed at the Solar Precinct? • Has Sun Cable considered secondary uses for the Solar Precinct? • How much heat will be generated by the solar panels? • Will the solar panels prevent vegetation from growing underneath? • How much carbon will be abated over the 70-year project life cycle?

Theme	Description of Issues
Housing and Accommodation	<p>Workers' accommodation. Many stakeholders cited a lack of employee housing as a major barrier to filling critical skills shortages and attracting workers to the Katherine Region. Residents described long waitlists for rental properties and waitlists for accessing childcare services, which they said has stifled regional growth.</p> <p>Some stakeholders noted that the government needs to release more land for development and needs to invest in social infrastructure to facilitate regional growth in Katherine.</p> <p>Overcrowding housing. Organisations with large Aboriginal workforces commented that overcrowded housing is a primary concern, with many in remote communities living in substandard housing unfit to inhabit. It was reported that these workers find it difficult to get a good night's sleep and turn up to work because they are living in inadequate dwellings. A critical shortage of builders in the NT has also compounded the issue in Katherine and more remote regions.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the construction workforce be housed at the Solar Precinct? • Has Sun Cable selected a supplier to provide services to the workers' accommodation?
Community Benefits	<p>Social licence. Katherine stakeholders are well-acquainted with the promises of economic and social investment from major projects. They expressed that the Proponent needs to maintain a general presence across the Project footprint to gain a social licence to operate. One stakeholder expressed that opening a shopfront in Katherine could be perceived as a tokenistic gesture if not supported by a genuine investment in other key areas in community.</p> <p>In general, it was expressed that the Proponent needs to do a better job of articulating the potential project benefits to the specific communities across the NT and the Territory as a whole. This includes a need to dispel rumours that the Project will export all the electricity to Singapore. Stakeholders want to see action and genuine commitment to community benefits.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will Katherine specifically benefit from the Project? • How will Darwin and the NT benefit from the Project? • How will Sun Cable partner with local organisations to deliver opportunities for widescale economic participation in the Project?
Other	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Project still going ahead? • Is Sun Cable funded with Chinese money?

5.5 Darwin

Darwin is located approximately 30 km from the proposed Darwin Converter Site and represents a potential workforce hub for AAPowerLink. Sun Cable has an office based in Darwin with 12 full-time staff members. The Darwin rural area, which encompasses the Local Government Area of Litchfield is reported on separately in Section 5.6.

The Proponent's consultation campaign in Darwin targeted a wide range of stakeholders during the reporting period of February to October 2022.

5.5.1 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

- Formal and informal meetings, conversations with Darwin residents and organisations, distribution of flyers to advertise community information meetings, distribution of EIS information booklets
- AAPowerLink EIS Briefing for Industry and Business at Adina Vibe Darwin Waterfront (1 Jun 2022). Representatives from the below Darwin companies RSVPed to the event:
 - ACTEK Business Solutions
 - Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre Ltd
 - AEES Group Pty Ltd
 - AimBig Employment Pty Ltd
 - Airlie Asia Pty Ltd
 - Airport Development Group
 - AusAsia Network Pty Ltd
 - Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
 - Bespoke Territory
 - CareFlight NT
 - Chartair Pty Ltd
 - Cloudstreet Consulting Pty Ltd
 - Corestaff
 - CTL International Pty Ltd
 - Darwin Innovation Hub
 - Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
 - EcOz Environmental Consultants
 - Engineers Australia
 - Fyfe Pty Ltd
 - GHD Pty Ltd
 - Housing Industry Association Ltd
 - Hybrid Systems NT
 - Infrabuild Steel Centre
 - Jacana Energy
 - JMJ Disability Services
 - Land Development Corporation
 - MARCEM Australia Pty Ltd
 - MAX Employment
 - Morgans Financial

- Nexia Edwards Marshall NT Pty Ltd
- Nilsen (NT) Pty Ltd
- NT Chamber of Commerce
- NTIBN
- Oaks Elan Darwin
- Office of the Leader of the Opposition
- Onsite Rental Group
- Peter Styles Consultants
- Practical Safety-Get Real Workwear
- PricewaterhouseCoopers Indigenous Consulting Pty Ltd
- Pritchard Francis Consulting Pty Ltd
- Protech
- RMI Security
- Roussos Legal Advisory
- Specialised Force Pty Ltd
- Territory Instruments
- Territory Rent-a-Car Pty Ltd t/a Thrifty Car Rental
- TSA Management
- Turner & Townsend Thinc Pty Ltd
- Ventia Australia Pty Ltd
- Virta Pty Ltd
- Ward Keller – Darwin
- Yerran Industrial.
- Community information booth at Raintree Park (31 May 2022)
- Project briefings with a variety of organisations across government, community groups, Indigenous groups and industry including:
 - AFL NT (19 Jul 2022)
 - Charles Darwin University (16 Aug 2022, 12 Sep 2022)
 - Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (22 Jun 2022)
 - Environment Centre NT (8 Mar 2022, 5 Jul 2022)
 - Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (2 Jun 2022, 9 Jul 2022)
 - NLC (multiple meetings).
- Sponsorship events in the Darwin area, including:
 - Darwin NAIDOC Ball and Awards Ceremony (9 Jul 2022)
 - NTIBN iNDiSTRY Awards (12 Aug 2022).

- Conference presentations at the following Darwin-based industry forums:
 - Meet the Buyer event as part of NT Resources Week (24 Aug 2022)
 - Meet the Territory conference (14 Sep 2022)
 - NT Major Projects conference (18 Oct 2022).

5.5.2 Summary of Key Themes and Issues Highlighted in the Darwin Community

- **Project Description:** stakeholders are seeking more information about proposed infrastructure, particularly pertaining to the OHTL and Electrodes
- **Environmental Impacts:** stakeholders want to understand the environmental impacts and survey methodology, and have specific questions about marine impacts from the Subsea Cable System
- **Electricity Access and Energy Security:** stakeholders want to ensure that Territorians benefit first and foremost from the electricity generated from the Project and are sensitive to issues of energy insecurity across the regions.

Further consultation notes and themes are highlighted within Table 5-5. Note that further engagement occurred with a sub-section of the Darwin community that represents the Darwin rural area (see Section 5.6).

Table 5-5: Summary of key themes and issues highlighted in the Darwin community

Theme	Description of Issues
Project Description	<p>Infrastructure. Government agencies and community members asked questions about the specifications of infrastructure and what the impacts will be of installing the various cables and materials both on land and at sea. The most common questions centred around the OHTL and Electrodes, with stakeholders in general demonstrating a lack of familiarity with the proposed Electrode technology and seeking more information from the Proponent in the SEIS.</p> <p>Project duration and commitments. An environmental group queried how long the Project will operate for, the Proponent’s waste management plans and if there is a de-commissioning plan. It was acknowledged that the renewable energy policy space is rapidly evolving in Australia and that policies tabled in 2022 will likely be different at the end of the Project. Stakeholders acknowledged that although 70 years is a long time from now, they expect to see the Proponent outline their commitments to de-commissioning and waste management comprehensively in the SEIS.</p> <p>Stakeholders are interested in the proposed OHTL and Electrode infrastructure and potential impacts on visual amenity for residential properties particularly for the Darwin rural area.</p> <p>OHTL, impacts of electrodes. Government stakeholders and community groups are seeking more information to better understand the impacts of electrodes. In general, stakeholders want to understand how Electrodes may impact on the environment and interact with nearby assets. Stakeholders were interested to understand the reasoning behind the Proponent proposing an above ground transmission line, as opposed to undergrounding the powerlines. A common follow-up question was if the OHTL could be undergrounded when it departs from the Railway Corridor at Livingstone in the Darwin rural area.</p> <p>Climate change and resilience. A Darwin community group enquired about the Proponent’s response to climate change and how the infrastructure will withstand large scale weather events that are expected to increase over the project life cycle. Given past experiences, the Darwin community is understandably sensitive to extreme weather events and impacts from cyclones and questioned whether the infrastructure will be built to last, given the Territory’s extreme climate conditions.</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long will the Project operate for? • What is the frequency of the load that will be delivered to Darwin? • Can the transmission line be undergrounded? • Can the OHTL be undergrounded in the NTG utilities corridor? • When will overhead transmission line route deviations be confirmed? • What is an electrode? • How many electrodes are planned? • Why is a 60 m easement planned in the railway corridor? • What is the arm span of the OHTL poles? • Why is it necessary for the OHTL to deviate from the railway corridor at Katherine, Pine Creek and Adelaide River? • Does Sun Cable have a de-commissioning plan? • Has Sun Cable taken into consideration future activities at Gunn Point and the potential impacts on these activities? • What is the ground cover at the Solar Precinct? • Will the infrastructure at the Darwin Converter Site be safe from cyclones?
<p>Workforce Development</p>	<p>Local workforce strategy. Darwin-based NTG agencies are interested in learning more about the Proponent’s workforce strategy. In general, agencies are optimistic about the potential for the Project to bring jobs and economic opportunities to the NT. Agencies responded positively to the job’s figures presented in the Draft EIS.</p> <p>An environmental group also found the jobs modelling promising and was interested in understanding how the Proponent will implement the workforce development strategy. The stakeholder noted that a four-year construction period offers ample opportunity to build local capacity and is optimistic about the prospect of achieving broad workforce participation in the Project. It was noted as a positive that skills learned on AAPowerLink could potentially be applied across other projects in the Territory.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the size of the Darwin office? • How is Sun Cable working to implement the local workforce strategy?
<p>Engagement</p>	<p>Engagement methodology. In general, community groups and government stakeholders were pleased with the engagement approach that the Proponent has taken particularly during the EIS consultation campaign. One environmental group noted that the consultation program had come a long way since the stakeholder was last briefed in 2021. Although the feedback was generally positive, stakeholders are keen to see actions and outputs from the Proponent that demonstrate the company is earning their social licence. Stakeholders want to see more detailed implementation plans as the project scope is better defined and are interested in ensuring there is tangible benefit for Territorians.</p> <p>In a business forum, Darwin stakeholders commented that further consultation is required to understand the Proponent’s proposed infrastructure at Murrumujuk. The Gunn Point area is highly prized to recreational fishermen, Aboriginal site custodians and Darwin residents. Some stakeholders were unaware of the NTG’s Future Utilities Corridor and future land use plans at Gunn Point.</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Sun Cable’s community engagement strategy? • Considering there are elements of project design still being worked out through the SEIS process, what additional opportunities will there be for the public to comment and for Sun Cable to address their concerns? • Now that the public comment period has ended, what’s next for Sun Cable engagement? • Has the NTG consulted with stakeholders about future developments at Gunn Point?
Community Benefits	<p>An environmental group expressed interest in the development of the Regional (Aboriginal) Legacy Strategy and asked questions about the timeline for implementation. The stakeholder was pleased to learn that Traditional Owners are being considered in the Legacy Strategy as well as through formal negotiations, but it was acknowledged that more detail is required so that stakeholders can better understand the opportunities and be a part of shaping the development of the strategy.</p>
Electricity Access and Energy Security	<p>Why Singapore? Several Darwin residents raised concern about electricity being exported to Singapore and many were convinced that the Project is proposing to send all of the electricity offshore. Darwin residents want to be able to access the natural resources that are generated in the Territory and see Territorians first and foremost benefit from the Project. Stakeholders consider it a positive opportunity that AAPowerLink will make renewable energy available to the Darwin region.</p> <p>Energy insecurity. Consultation demonstrated a strong expectation from environmental, community and advocacy groups that the Project should deliver electricity to energy insecure Aboriginal communities within the project footprint. Whilst the environmental movement generally wants to support solar solutions, it was noted that the underlying question for developers is how they will navigate their corporate bottom line whilst meeting the social expectations of addressing regional energy insecurity issues. An environmental group said that the Proponent will be accountable to answer to this movement and asked how the company is fundamentally different from the mining and gas industry. One stakeholder spoke passionately about the need for equitable distribution of benefits from large-scale renewable energy projects and wants to see the Project deliver energy solutions to Aboriginal communities in the footprint who struggle to run their homes off expensive diesel generators and power cards.</p> <p>Supporting the renewable energy transition. An environmental group noted that the electricity offtake opportunity proposed for Darwin represents a significant contribution to the region and will be an important step in the renewable energy transition. The stakeholder was optimistic about what this could mean in terms of the NT supporting emerging green industries, such as through green hydrogen at Middle Arm.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will all the electricity generated from the AAPowerLink be exported to Singapore? • Why is the proposal to send electricity to Singapore when there is energy insecurity here in Australia? • Will Aboriginal communities near the Solar Precinct receive electricity from the AAPowerLink? • Will the Project connect to the DKIS? • Will the Project connect to the national electricity grid?

Theme	Description of Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Indonesia receive any electricity from the Project? • Are there any customers yet for the electricity being made available for Darwin?
Environmental Impacts	<p>Land clearing, surveying methodology. Some environmental groups have concerns with the impacts of clearing 12 000 hectares of land at the proposed Solar Precinct. An environmental group requested more information about the biodiversity surveys undertaken at the Solar Precinct and wanted to better understand the survey methodology deployed.</p> <p>Scale of Project. One environmental group spoke positively about the opportunity for the Project to help combat global climate change. However, there was some reservations raised about the large-scale nature of AAPowerLink. The stakeholder questioned whether the NT EPA has the expertise and resourcing to assess a project of such a scale.</p> <p>Reputational risk for Sun Cable. An environmental group asked if the Project would trigger the large emitters policy and noted the reputational risk for the Proponent if the company decides to offtake electricity to new gas projects that have been flagged as high emitters. The stakeholder contended that this could be a significant risk to the Proponent achieving a social licence to operate in the NT, as Territorians are keenly sensitive to preserving their home’s unique biocultural and social values. Residents are also wanting to know about potential electricity offtakers and whether the Proponent plans to supply electricity to gas companies that are large fossil fuel emitters.</p> <p>Marine impacts. Several NTG agencies, a community group and an environmental group requested more information about the proposed route for the Subsea Cable System. Questions were asked about where the cable will be terminating and joining, what will occur at the Land Sea Joint Station and how construction may impact on existing infrastructure and operations in Darwin Harbour. There were several questions about potential impacts on marine life from the subsea cables.</p> <p>An NTG agency asked about how fishing areas will be protected during planning, construction, and implementation. There were concerns raised about how the shallow rocky reefs will be navigated when cable laying and how the Proponent will communicate effectively with vessels in the busy Darwin Harbour area.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What survey methodology was employed at the proposed Solar Precinct? • Will the Project trigger the large emitters policy? • How much heat will be generated by the subsea cables? Will this have an impact on marine species and their migration pathways? • What happens if the subsea cable crosses a gas pipeline? • Will the subsea cables be laid on the sea floor or buried?
Other	<p>An NTG agency asked about how the Project will interact with and/or potentially inhibit future land use activities at Gunn Point as outlined in the Litchfield Sub-Regional Land Use Plan. A few concerns were raised by NTG stakeholders and an environmental group about potential impacts from Electrode technology, including questions about the nominated exclusion zones from Electrodes and impacts on surrounding assets.</p>

5.6 Darwin Rural Area

The Darwin rural area captures the communities and suburbs that sit outside of the City of Darwin and includes the Local Government Areas of Litchfield and Palmerston. The proposed Darwin Converter Site, Land Sea Joint Station and section of OHTL from Livingstone to Murrumujuk are located within the Darwin rural area. The Litchfield Sub-Regional Land Use Plan (2020) suggests that growth is most likely in the urban and peri-urban areas of Holtze, Weddell, Hughes, Murrumujuk and Noonamah.

The Proponent's Engagement team organised dedicated stakeholder activities during the EIS consultation campaign in Darwin and the Darwin rural area targeting a wide range of stakeholders, including recreational users of Gunn Point, Aboriginal site custodians and community groups. The Amateur Fisherman's Association of the NT were offered a briefing.

5.6.1 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

- Formal and informal meetings, conversations with residents from the Darwin rural area and relevant stakeholder groups
- Community information booth at Fred's Pass Markets (25 Jun 2022) and Coolalinga Central Shopping Centre (22 Oct 2022)
- Project briefings with a variety of organisations across government, community groups, Indigenous groups and industry including:
 - Bushfires NT (11 Oct 2022)
 - Environment Centre NT (8 Mar 2022, 5 Jul 2022)
 - Litchfield Council (5 Jul 2022)
 - Litchfield Mayor as part of LGANT meeting (2 Jun 2022)
 - Tiwi Land Council Management (4 Oct 2022)
 - Mantiyupwi Association Directors (11 Jul 2022) who identify as custodians for parts of Murrumujuk at Gunn Point
 - A Wulna Traditional Owner who identifies as custodians for parts of Gunn Point (25 Feb 2022)
 - NT Field and Game Association (14 Jul 2022)
 - NT Land Corporation (4 Mar 2022, 3 Jun 2022).

5.6.2 Summary of Key Themes and Issues Highlighted in the Darwin Community

- **OHTL:** stakeholders raised concerns regarding the visual amenity and safety of the OHTL, including questions about impacts on the environment and perception that they might de-value properties in the Darwin rural area.
- **Engagement:** stakeholders value recreational access to Gunn Point and the environmental, social and cultural values of the region. The prospect of future development was a particularly raw issue for landowners who appreciate the privacy of their rural blocks and feel resistant to developments in their backyard that may infringe upon their rural lifestyles.
- **Electricity Access and Energy Security:** stakeholders were generally unaware that the NT will be able to access electricity from the Project and are frustrated with the trend of extractives companies exporting NT energy offshore.
- **Environmental impacts:** stakeholders had a particular interest in impacts of the Subsea Cable System on marine wildlife and the impacts of land clearing.

Further consultation notes and themes are highlighted in Table 5-6.

Table 5-6: Summary of key themes and issues highlighted in the Darwin rural area

Theme	Description of Issues
Project Description	<p>Beach access, fishing, and camping. Residents of the Darwin rural area, Traditional Owners, Council members and property owners asked questions about how the Proponent’s proposed infrastructure might impact beach access, recreational fishing and camping at Gunn Point. Maintaining access to recreational areas is a highly sensitive issue for residents and Traditional Owners who have a stake in ensuring the area at Gunn Point maintains its cultural and social value. An environmental group commented that the Proponent needs to consider the deeply held cultural values at Gunn Point when assessing social impacts.</p> <p>A peak Aboriginal body noted that Traditional Owners regularly frequent the waterways and beaches around Gunn Point and the Vernon Islands for hunting of fish, crab, turtle and dugong. It was highlighted that any temporary disturbance to access could impact negatively on custodians.</p> <p>Subsea Cable System. Stakeholder groups asked questions about potential impacts of the Subsea Cable System and the process of laying the cables along the sea floor, noting particular concern for tides and the very shallow areas between Murrumujuk and the neighbouring Vernon Islands. A peak Aboriginal body asked about the process of trenching cables particularly in the nearshore areas off Gunn Point and suggested that information be disseminated to custodians about the process and rate of cable-laying to ensure transparency and communication. Another stakeholder asked about the energy loss via subsea cable from Darwin to Singapore.</p> <p>A government stakeholder asked how the Proponent will manage impacts from operations and construction with vessels in Darwin Harbour.</p> <p>Project lifespan. Stakeholders were interested in understanding how the Project is subject to change over time with advances in technology over the long lifecycle. Questions were asked about the life span of a solar panel and how often technology will have to be replaced at the Solar Precinct.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will beach access at Gunn Point beach be impacted? • Which beach at Gunn Point is closest to the proposed infrastructure? • Will electricity supply to Darwin come from the Darwin Converter Site? • Will there be trenching of the subsea cables in the nearshore areas only? • Will the powerlines follow the Stuart Highway? • Was it always the plan to build the Darwin Converter Site at Gunn Point? • How close is the proposed subsea cable route to Cape Fourcroy (the western tip of Bathurst Island)? • How close is the Solar Precinct to Elliott? • Will the subsea cables be laid on the seabed? • What is the anticipated diameter of the subsea cables? • How will impacts from cyclones be managed at the Darwin Converter Site? • How many steel poles will be used to construct the OHTL? • How much copper will go into constructing the subsea cables?

<p>Engagement</p>	<p>NTG Future Utilities Corridor, land use planning. From a local engagement perspective, many residents in the Darwin rural area are unaware of the NTG's plans for a Future Utilities corridor and unfamiliar with the NTG's consultation about the future development of Gunn Point. During consultation with the local Council, several stakeholders said they were unaware of the corridor and asked questions about how the corridor had been negotiated by government. One stakeholder who owns a rural block was concerned that the proposed OHTL goes past her property and said she was unaware of the zoning of the corridor.</p> <p>Consultation revealed that preserving access to Gunn Point is a primary concern for residents and there is a desire by many to maintain the recreational and intrinsic social values of the area. The prospect of future development was a particularly raw issue for some landowners who value the privacy of their rural blocks and feel resistant to developments in their backyard that may infringe upon their rural lifestyle. Questions pertaining to the construction timelines for building the OHTL and whether there would be lights on the poles were common.</p> <p>A stakeholder meeting held on the Tiwi Islands brought together Traditional Owners for the Murrumujuk area on Gunn Point Peninsula. In general, stakeholders seemed to have an understanding that solar energy is good for country and Traditional Owners welcomed the Proponent's NT Engagement team.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Survey. Traditional Owners asked questions about the Cultural Heritage Survey undertaken at Murrumujuk in September 2021 that involved Larrakia and Tiwi Cultural Managers to map heritage sites and burials. The Proponent presented on some of the findings of the survey and left a copy of the report behind for people to read. A peak Aboriginal body asked if the Proponent intends to employ cultural advisors on the Project.</p> <p>Confusion with other developments. Several Tiwi stakeholders expressed there has been confusion about different developments proposed in the surrounding sea country and anger from Tiwi clan groups about a lack of stakeholder engagement by a gas company that wants to drill near the western coastline of Bathurst Island. The Proponent showed maps of the proposed subsea cable route for the AAPowerLink to increase understanding of the route. Traditional Owners recommended that the Proponent return to present a community update so that any confusion about the disparate developments is dispelled. Similarly, an Aboriginal peak body invited the Proponent to return to the Tiwi Islands to disseminate wider project updates to clan groups later in the year.</p> <p>Agreement-making. Noting that several Aboriginal groups have cultural ties to Gunn Point, a Tiwi Traditional Owner asked if the Proponent was also consulting with other Aboriginal groups around Darwin. There were questions asked about what agreements the Proponent will negotiate with Traditional Owners.</p> <p>Residents at the Fred's Pass Markets asked questions about the Proponent's Aboriginal engagement strategy and were interested to know which Aboriginal groups are being consulted and how the agreement-making process will work.</p> <p>Further consultation. A stakeholder in local government recommended that the Proponent hold market stalls at Fred's Pass Markets, Berry Springs Markets and Coolalinga Shops. A suggestion was also made to advertise the EIS in the Litchfield Council newsletter. The Proponent has actioned this advice and scheduled further engagement in the Darwin rural area in October and November 2022 at the above locations.</p> <p>An NTG agency suggested that the Proponent proactively meet with pastoralists and local fire brigades to communicate early about bushfire management strategies. One recommendation was to look at places where pastoralists are susceptible to people starting fires (e.g., along roads) and implement fire breaks where possible. Good contract management to manage risks around infrastructure and good communication with stakeholders along the OHTL are seen as tangible ways that the Proponent can be a good neighbour and contribute benefits to the Northern Territory.</p>
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Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who has Sun Cable consulted with so far? • Has there been any opposition to the Project? • Has Sun Cable spoken to the Amateur Fishermen’s Association NT? • Have any recreational fishermen gotten upset by the proposal? • Will Sun Cable have different agreements with different Aboriginal groups? • Will there be more surveys undertaken to record important cultural sites? • Has the NTG Utilities corridor been firmly established or is it still open to negotiation? • Has Sun Cable consulted with Wulna people? • Now that the public consultation period has finished, what’s next for Sun Cable’s engagement?
<p>Health and Safety, Visual Amenity</p>	<p>Stakeholders consulted were interested in understanding how the OHTL will operate, and some had concerns from a visual amenity and safety perspective. In stakeholder forums, the Proponent advised the dimensions of the proposed infrastructure and used computer-generated images to showcase diagrams of what the OHTL could look like in the landscape based on current engineering designs. In response to these images, some stakeholders expressed concern for the height of the structures and asked whether they could be undergrounded. Several stakeholders asked if radiation is a concern given the large size of the proposed OHTL.</p> <p>In a public submission to the NT EPA, a stakeholder noted that the Land Sea Joint Station could impact on the visual amenity of the foreshore and beach at Gunn Point. An NTG agency raised concern for offsite noise and vibration impacts from the Darwin Converter Site referenced in the EIS and questioned the future usability of the area. In a public submission, another stakeholder mentioned that the OHTL will stand out in the landscape and queried potential impacts on The Ghan and tourism operations.</p> <p>Bushfire management. Several residents asked how the Proponent plans to manage potential bushfire risks along the OHTL in the Darwin rural area, noting the presence of invasive weed species such as gamba grass that pose an increased fire threat. In public submissions, a few stakeholders asked whether Bushfires NT and NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) have been consulted regarding potential conflicts with their communications devices. In response to these submissions, the Proponent organised an AAPowerLink briefing to Bushfires NT that included senior staff from Darwin and Katherine (11 Oct 22). The stakeholder provided vital bushfire management advice, including a suggestion to consult existing bushfire management plans and meet with local fire brigades from the rural area to enhance communication about mitigation burning and fire breaks. From an emergency response perspective, it was recommended that AAPowerLink infrastructure be built as close to existing powerline infrastructure as possible.</p> <p>One government stakeholder also suggested that if the Proponent wanted to future proof the project site and be a good citizen, water tanks with connections for bomber planes could be installed at the Solar Precinct as a future mitigation measure.</p> <p>Bird strike to OHTL. One resident representing a local community group noted his concern for bird mortality due to potential collision with the OHTL. His areas of concern are for the intersection with Black Jungle Reserve and flight paths from Quambi Lagoon and Melacca Swamp to the coastal floodplain of Shoal Bay Coastal Hunting reserve. He noted that regional power cuts are frequent and urged that the Proponent consider undergrounding the OHTL as a precaution. This stakeholder would like to see more</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>research presented in the SEIS on how the Proponent plans to mitigate risk from bird collisions.</p> <p>One stakeholder asked about the potential impact of having lights on the end of the OHTL at night and whether this will impact cultural activity and asked how the infrastructure might intervene with low-flying aircraft for bushfire management.</p> <p>De-valuing of properties. In an ABC Darwin radio interview, a few residents commented that the OHTL could be a visual nuisance and alter the feel of the Darwin rural area. There was also speculation that the OHTL could de-value properties along the NTG Utilities Corridor and concern about inadequate consultation with property owners by NTG regarding future development plans.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the powerlines go underground? • Would it be safer for the powerlines to go underground? • Is it viable for the powerlines to go underground when the OHTL deviates from the railway corridor at Livingstone? • How will Sun Cable maintain the railway corridor? • What will be the visual, air pollution and noise impacts in area, particularly for residents of the Darwin Rural Area? • Will the OHTL pass through conservation areas? • What is the voltage capacity on the OHTL? • Who will pay for the maintenance for the corridor underneath the OHTL? • Has Sun Cable considered the risks and impacts of bird strike from the OHTL? • Are there concerns about how the electrode will interact with neighbouring assets and infrastructure? • How does the electrode work? • Will the electrode be placed in swampland? • What height trees will be allowed to grow to under the OHTL? • What is the diameter of the metallic earth wires required for the electrode?
<p>Electricity Access and Energy Security</p>	<p>Electricity prices and accessibility. The Proponent’s Engagement team set up an information booth at Fred’s Pass Markets one weekend in June and received numerous comments about individuals’ personal experiences with rooftop solar, some good and some bad. In general, there is widespread community support for solar initiatives. About a dozen interstate and North American tourists also dropped by the booth to ask questions about the Project, with a handful noting that they have been following project updates on the news. International and interstate visitors commented they were excited about Australia leading the way in the global transition to renewable energy.</p> <p>People who dropped by the Fred’s Pass stall frequently talked about the high cost of electricity, blackouts experienced in the southern and eastern states and global energy crisis. Many asked about the viability of connecting the Project up to the national electricity grid to reduce pressures on the NEM, and to also reduce Australia’s reliance on gas and coal. Several comments were made about the need for Commonwealth and state governments to support renewable energy projects. A couple of residents remarked that the Project should be owned by government rather than a private company.</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>Exporting electricity to Singapore. A handful of local residents at the Fred's Pass Markets appeared more sceptical about the Project, asking questions about why the Proponent will export electricity to Singapore given that there is a national energy crisis in Australia. A common theme emerged from locals: frustration that the Territory is once again looking to export its precious resources offshore. AAPowerLink staff spoke about the opportunity from the Project to deliver electricity to the Darwin region and explained why Singapore has been identified as a viable energy offtaker.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the Project proposing to send electricity to Singapore? • Will the NT purchase electricity from the AAPowerLink? • Which communities in the NT will receive electricity from the AAPowerLink? • How much electricity will be sent to Singapore vs Australia? • Will there be an opportunity to connect the Project up to the national power grid? • When will Darwin and Singapore start receiving electricity? • Will electricity from the AAPowerLink be available 24/7? • Will locals get electricity for free? • Can Sun Cable send electricity to the Tiwi Islands? • Will the Project make electricity cheaper for NT residents? • Is solar energy cheaper than gas? • What will the Voltage Source Converter at Gunn Point look like?
<p>Environmental Impacts</p>	<p>Land clearing. Community residents and stakeholders in local government asked questions about the extent and nature of proposed land clearing. A suggestion was made for the Proponent to consider the marine research conducted by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) at Gunn Point. An NTG agency asked about potential impacts that an Electrode may have on the future usability of land surrounding it.</p> <p>One resident asked about what vegetation will grow under the solar panels and whether the Proponent is considering agricultural opportunities.</p> <p>Impacts to marine life. Traditional Owners from the Mantiyupwi Clan who speak for Gunn Point noted the importance of marine life and the interconnectedness of land and sea to Tiwi Islanders. One stakeholder asked if there will be any impacts on marine life such as dugong and turtles, which he noted are important species to Tiwi. In a public submission, a recreational fisherman talked about his encounters with dolphins and dugongs near Gunn Point and raised concerns about the future impacts of developments on marine life in the unique coastal waters.</p> <p>A stakeholder representing a community organisation raised concern that proponents are often not held accountable to enacting their Environmental Management Plans (EMPs). He cited an example of sand mining in the conservation reserve that was done without proper rehabilitation and noted that there needs to be better enforcement and accountability of companies' EMPs.</p>

Theme	Description of Issues
	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the EIS look at threatened species? • What are the impacts of the land clearing and development footprint of the cable transition facilities at Gunn Point? • Will there be disruption to marine life like turtles and dugong? • What sort of clearing is required in the NTG utilities corridor at Gunn Point? • Will the 12 000 hectares at the Solar Precinct be cleared at once or only as the demand for power necessitates it? • Has Sun Cable looked at the impacts of solar panels on migratory birds (i.e., lake effect)?
Other	<p>At the market stall, visitors were eager to learn about Sun Cable as a company and several noted they thought it was a Singaporean company. In general, there was a lack of familiarity with the Proponent as a company and questions pertaining to the relationship between the Proponent and AAPowerLink.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Project still going ahead? • Is there a Darwin office? • Is Sun Cable receiving any government subsidies? • What other development plans are in the pipeline in the NT Government utilities corridor at Gunn Point? • Have you chosen a battery supplier yet? • Will Sun Cable be in competition with Power and Water? • How will Sun Cable manage cultural heritage in the Gunn Point region and manage the sites identified in the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment? • How close is the subsea cable route to the Bonaparte gasfields? • Will the traffic impact assessment be published?

6 Summary of Responses

Stakeholders had many questions and raised several concerns and opportunities during the project team's consultation between February and October 2022. The matters raised by stakeholders are addressed across the following SEIS chapters.

- **Project description:** Chapter 2 of the SEIS – Project Refinements provides details of the project description including the infrastructure specifications and locations.
- **Workforce development:** The Proponent intends to attract an appropriately skilled workforce and to increase opportunities for local employment, resulting in a long-term human capital contribution to the NT's industry. To meet workforce needs and mitigate potential risks, the Proponent is working towards a Local Workforce Strategy, to be implemented between Q1 2023 and Q4 2029. The strategy aims to increase local participation across the Project. Responses to questions relating to workforce development including the Proponent's commitment to local employment, training and business development can be found in Chapter 3 Stakeholder Engagement and Community and in Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan.
- **Electricity access and energy security:** The Proponent aims to leverage its skills, experience and connections to benefit communities in renewable energy research and development. Commitments include the establishment of a Northern Territory Renewable Centre of Excellence to foster world-class collaboration in research and development activities and knowledge transfer across the renewable energy industry. Opportunities to partner with lower scale projects delivering solar energy solutions to support local-led opportunities will also be explored. Refer to Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan for additional information.
- **Environmental impacts:** The Proponent aims to reduce adverse impacts on biodiversity and habitat. Negative effects on the environment can also compromise recreational activities and reduce aesthetic and landscape values. While the Project will have in place an Environmental Management Plan and a detailed system to monitor and protect biodiversity and the environment, it is important that the Project includes mechanisms to capture community views and for these insights to inform communications, biodiversity programs and decision-making. Detailed responses to questions relating to environmental impacts including the scale of land clearing, and impacts to biodiversity, water and marine ecosystems can be found in the following environmental chapters of the SEIS:
 - Chapter 4 Terrestrial Environmental Quality
 - Chapter 5 Terrestrial Ecosystems
 - Chapter 6 Hydrology
 - Chapter 7 Aquatic Ecosystems
 - Chapter 8 Marine Environmental Quality
 - Chapter 9 Marine Ecosystems
 - Chapter 10 Amenity
 - Chapter 11 Atmospheric Processes
 - Chapter 15 Matters of National Environmental Significance
 - Chapter 16 Whole of Environment
 - Chapter 17 Environmental Management
 - Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan

- **Culture and heritage:** The Proponent commits to work with the relevant Traditional Owners, land councils and statutory authorities to ensure all works are carried out responsibly and respectfully in accordance with cultural advice and guidance of the relevant statutory authorities. The Proponent has also applied for AAPA Sacred Sites Authority Certificates to cover the entire project footprint. The authority certificates will denote identified and registered Sacred Sites and may include Restricted Works Areas or conditions to ensure Sacred Sites are protected. To date, cultural heritage surveys and impact assessments have been undertaken and AAPA is leading a sacred site clearance process, which has provided an opportunity to document and protect existing cultural knowledge over culturally significant areas.

Other actions aimed to protect Aboriginal sacred sites and cultural heritage include a Cultural Heritage Management Plan and a Cultural Learning Framework. Informed by cultural heritage surveys and the cultural heritage risk assessment, the Cultural Heritage Management Plan will prescribe site protection and management measures required for each significant site. It will outline detailed procedures for construction and operations, including 'stop work procedures for burials, human remains and sites of significance. The plan will also contain agreed impact avoidance measures to ensure that heritage features and/or sacred sites are not deliberately or inadvertently removed by employees. Employees will also be trained on the requirements of the Cultural Learning Framework and related protocols which will include workshops, information, and resources on local cultural heritage. Refer to Chapter 13 Culture and Heritage and Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan for additional information.

- **Engagement:** The SIA and the engagement conducted to date has found that NT communities across the social areas of influence maintain a strong cultural identity and want to see their values and ways of living respected. One of the Proponent's core values is to respect the communities in which the company operates. Meaningful engagement with Traditional Owners, local communities and stakeholders in the NT will form a critical part of the methodology across the 70-year life of the Project. The Proponent will develop and execute a stakeholder engagement strategy aligned with IFC and IAP2 standards across the whole project life cycle. It will maintain a flexible engagement approach with the ability to continuously adapt its methods to allow stakeholders the opportunity to comment and share their views at different stages of project development and implementation. The Project's Regional (Aboriginal) Engagement Strategy will seek to engage, empower and partner with Aboriginal Peoples to support their development goals and to contribute towards the protection and preservation of cultural identity and values. For additional information and responses to questions on engagement for the project, refer to Chapter 3 Stakeholder and Community Engagement and Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan.
- **Community benefits:** The Project is likely to deliver enduring benefits for local communities in the social areas of influence. These benefits will focus on local procurement, workforce development, energy solutions and security and infrastructure and social investment. Establishment of a Territory Benefit Plan is the Proponent's major commitment to address local procurement opportunities. The plan will seek to increase the contribution of major projects to the NT and document the strategies to be used to increase local content. The Territory Benefit Plan's primary focus is to provide full, fair and reasonable opportunity for local industry involvement. Additionally, the Proponent intends to build industry capability and develop local capability to support workforce for the construction and operation phases and increase and support Aboriginal participation. A Community Investment Strategy will also be developed in consultation with stakeholders through the Project's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. Refer to Chapter 3 Stakeholder and Community Engagement, Chapter 13 Culture and Heritage and Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan for additional information.
- **Waste management:** Responses to questions relating to waste management can be found in Chapter 16, Whole of Environment.

- **Housing and accommodation:** The Proponent seeks to not exacerbate a strained regional housing market and instead, design a more strategic approach to limit the impact on social infrastructure, housing shortages and affordability, potentially intensified by an influx of an external workforce. To complement the Local Workforce Strategy, during the construction phase, FIFO workers will be accommodated in Temporary Construction Accommodation onsite. This approach is designed to minimise the risk of fatigue and assist to mitigate housing pressures. Temporary Construction Accommodation can also enable local employment development by boosting Aboriginal workforce numbers from regional centres and communities. Responses to questions relating to housing and accommodation can be found in Chapter 3 Stakeholder and Community and Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan.
- **Health and safety, visual amenity:** Responses to questions relating to human health, safety and amenity can be found in Chapter 10 Amenity, Chapter 14 Human Health, Appendix 10.1 Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment, Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan and Appendix 10.2 Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment.
- **Human health:** Questions relating to human health are addressed in Chapter 14 Human Health, Appendix 3.2 Social Impact Management Plan and Appendix 10.2 Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment.

7 Conclusion

7.1 Key Learnings

The Stakeholder Consultation Report highlights the key themes, questions, concerns and opportunities that have emerged from the Proponent's consultation efforts during the reporting period of February to October 2022. The consultation campaign delivered over 120 targeted stakeholder briefings, which included 58 project updates during the 60-day public exhibition period for the Draft EIS. Over the reporting period, the team utilised multi-method approaches to engage with stakeholders in Elliott, Marlinja, Tennant Creek, Tiwi Islands, Greater Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs communities which have been identified as the social areas of influence for AAPowerLink.

Community sentiment towards AAPowerLink is generally positive, with stakeholders interested in understanding how Territorians can benefit and how NT businesses and community members alike can maximise their participation. Stakeholders are seeking detailed information pertaining to the Project Description such as the specifications of proposed infrastructure, construction timeframes and planning around waste management. Stakeholders are excited about the potential for the Project to deliver business and economic opportunities to the Territory and what this means in terms of up-skilling communities, providing jobs pathways for young people through education and apprenticeships and working closely with industry, government and Aboriginal businesses to fully realise these opportunities. Moreover, stakeholders value the unique biodiversity and environmental values across the Project footprint and are keen to understand how the Proponent will monitor and mitigate against potential risks from land clearing and minimise impacts to marine and land ecosystems.

Stakeholders drove discussions about the regional challenges they face such as skills shortages, housing shortages, frequent blackouts, high costs of electricity, low worker retention and a lack of government investment in critical social services that is seen as having impeded regional growth.

There are also strong aspirations for stakeholders to integrate solar solutions into their own communities. Engagement revealed that whilst stakeholders are pleased that the AAPowerLink plans to deliver electricity to the Darwin Region, there is a strong expectation for the Proponent to deliver electricity to energy insecure regions in the project footprint as well. Stakeholders believe that the Proponent should deliver project benefits to Territorians and organisations and affected communities are requesting further details around workforce implementation and Aboriginal engagement strategies.

In general, businesses across the project footprint are sensitive to the cumulative impacts of major projects on an already stretched local workforce but remain cautiously optimistic about AAPowerLink. Stakeholders shared their experiences, both good and bad of working with proponents over the years and had insights into ways of working that could improve local participation outcomes for the Project. Over the next couple of years, businesses will be looking closely to see how the Proponent navigates skills shortages whilst delivering on their promise to support local businesses.

Stakeholders are hopeful that strategies will be put in place to ensure that regional economic growth is sustainable. Stakeholders suggested that the Proponent communicates early with other proponents to minimise the potential for negative cumulative impacts across the regions and recommended the company proactively participates in planning forums with government, industry and local business. Early and active engagement is seen as key to building local capacity and realising economic benefits. The Proponent is already achieving this through its regular working group meetings with NTG agencies and will continue to work proactively to brief the business community and industry groups.

From a social and cultural perspective, stakeholders are acutely aware of the potential impacts of development on sites of cultural, heritage and historical significance and feel invested in preserving these values. Stakeholders seem pleased that the Proponent is engaging with Traditional Owners and their peak representative bodies through NLC-led consultations, meetings and project briefings and expect this level of engagement to increase as the approvals process continues. Stakeholders want to see the Proponent demonstrate an ongoing commitment to consulting landowners, residents, community groups, industry, local businesses and Traditional Owners across the project footprint beyond the EIS consultation campaign.

Consultation with communities and stakeholders across the social areas of influence, in regional forums and at a Territory-wide level has presented a consistent view: people seek ongoing and genuine engagement about the Project; for the Proponent to be a good corporate citizen and to manage and monitor social and environmental project impacts; for cultural values, sacred sites and biodiversity to be protected and preserved; and, importantly, for Aboriginal people and local communities to obtain enduring and transformational benefits from the Project. The Proponent has considered this feedback in the development of the mitigations and commitments presented in the Project's Social Impact Management Plan (Appendix 3.2).

The Proponent has an extensive engagement framework in place to guide this important work into 2023 and beyond. With over 115 stakeholder briefings delivered by the Proponent's Engagement Team over the past eight months and hundreds of stakeholders consulted across the Project footprint, Sun Cable is pleased to report on the scope of engagement undertaken and excited to build on this momentum for the next phase of project development. Sun Cable would like to thank all the stakeholders, agency representatives and community members who have provided insightful knowledge, public comments and information highlighting key issues and concerns.

April 2022

Environmental Impact Statement Summary

Australia-Asia PowerLink





Acknowledgement of Country

Sun Cable acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Australia and pays respect to their elders past and present

Who is Sun Cable?

Sun Cable is a world-leading renewable energy company. Our mission is to supply renewable electricity from resource abundant regions to growing load centres, at scale. We are creating a renewable and sustainable energy export industry and reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. Sun Cable has offices in Darwin, Sydney, Brisbane, Indonesia and Singapore.



What is the Australia-Asia PowerLink?

The AAPowerLink will create sustainable opportunities for the Northern Territory's economy and communities. The AAPowerLink will include one of the world's largest solar farms and battery systems in the Barkly Region of the Northern Territory and is set to be in operation for 70 years.

The AAPowerLink has six key parts:



Powell Creek Solar Precinct with 17-20 GW of solar electricity generation and 36-42 GWh battery storage



Overhead Transmission Line (6.4 GW) covering 800 km from Powell Creek to Darwin



Darwin Converter Site at Murrumujuk including energy storage and network connection to supply Darwin



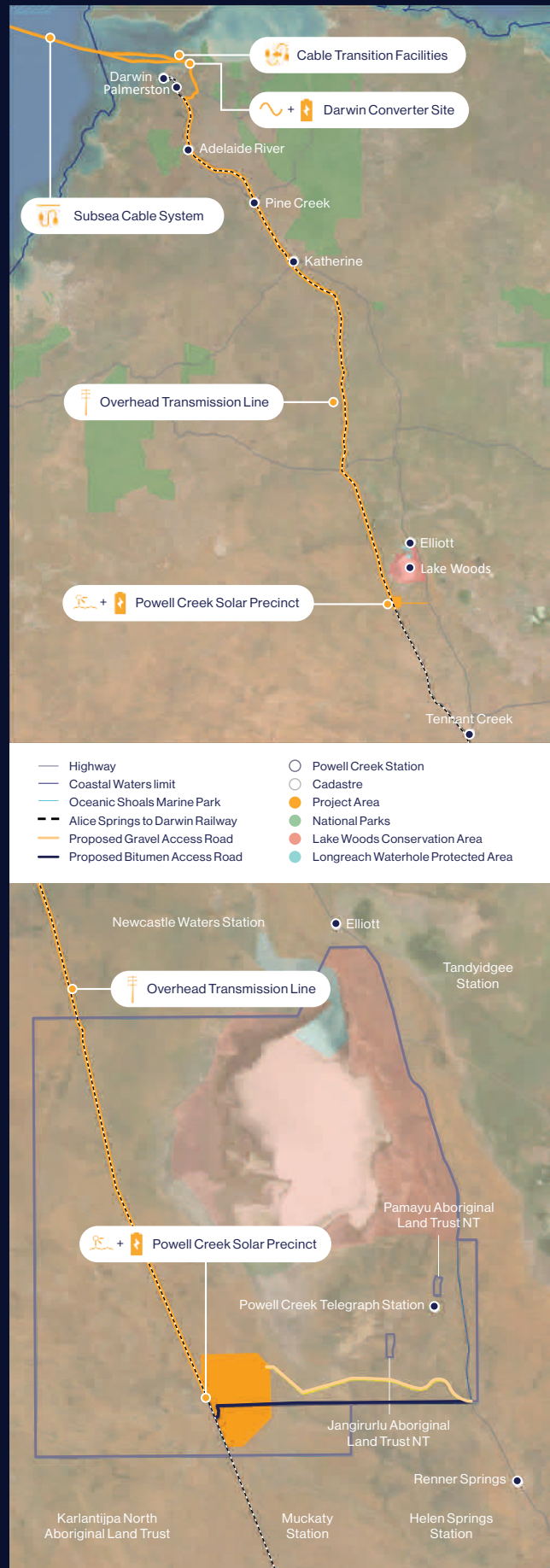
Cable Transition Facilities at Gunn Point Beach to connect cables between land and sea

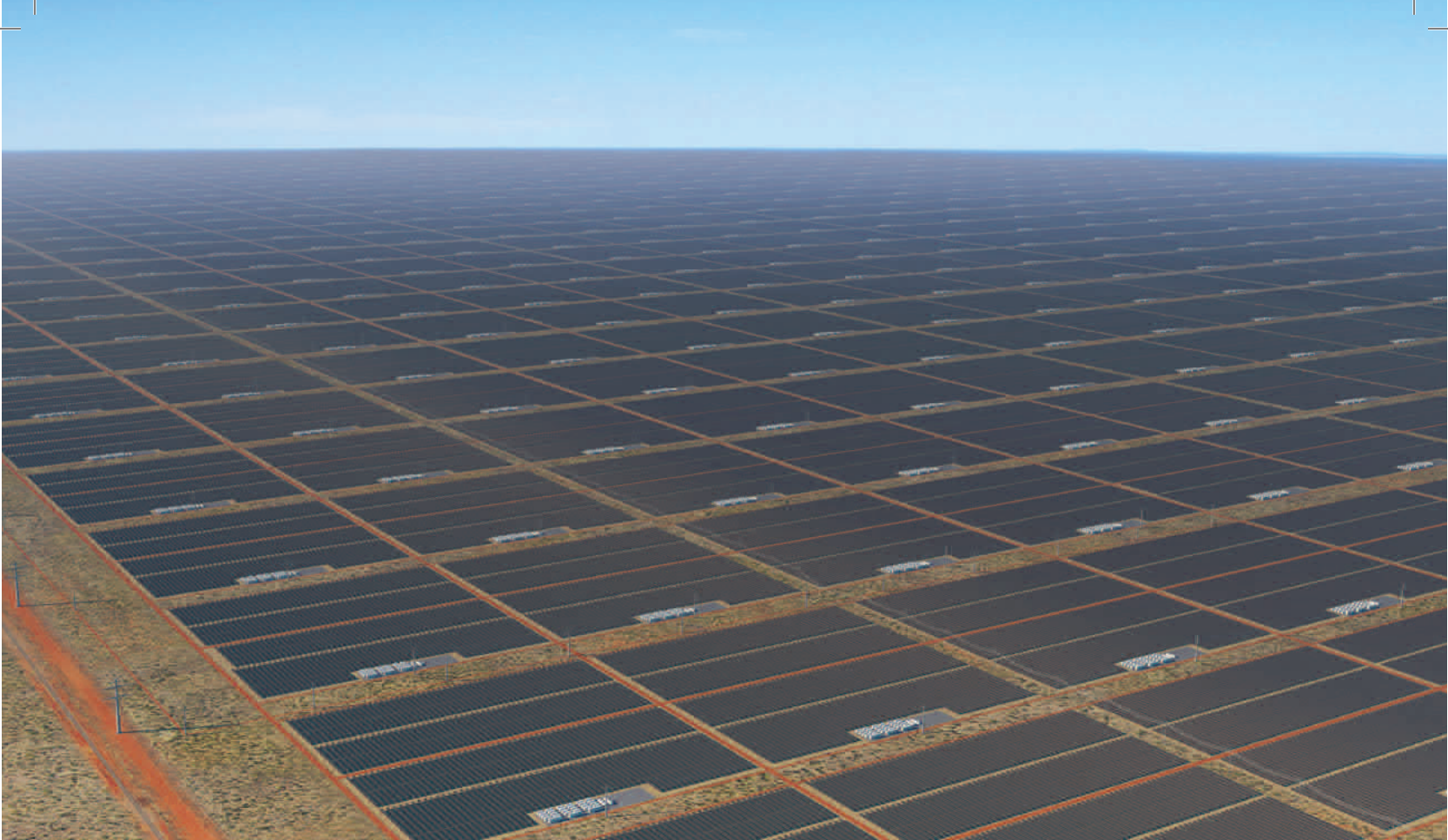


Subsea Cable System to transmit electricity 4,200 km from Darwin to Singapore



Singapore Converter Station to receive electricity and supply Singapore





What are the key project benefits?



Supply renewable electricity to Darwin and Singapore



Reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 480 million tonnes, equivalent to the average electricity used by over 2.5 million Australian homes each year over the project lifespan



1,750 construction jobs in the Northern Territory



350 long-term operational jobs in the Northern Territory



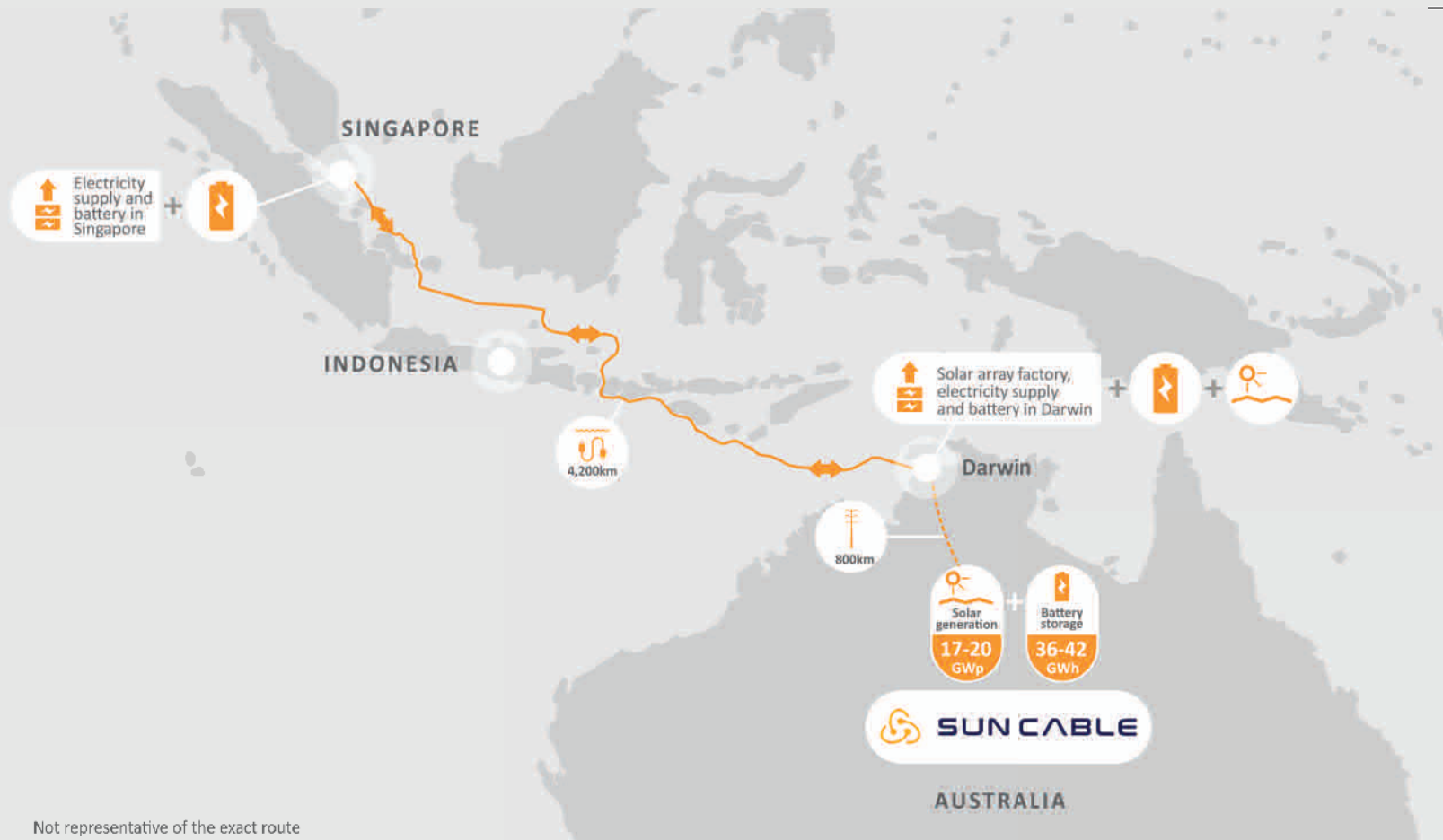
Contracting and industry opportunities for local business in the Northern Territory



Skills training and education support to develop career pathways and multi-generational employment opportunities



Establish a Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy in the NT to facilitate knowledge sharing



Sun Cable is asking the Northern Territory Government for environmental approval for the AAPowerLink. Sun Cable has worked with scientists and consultants to write a report called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It includes lots of scientific studies, cultural heritage assessments, and management plans to protect people, plants and animals and the environment in the proposal footprint. The EIS looks at possible impacts from the AAPowerLink (good and bad) in different ways: environmental, social, cultural, and economic. These are the topics in the report:

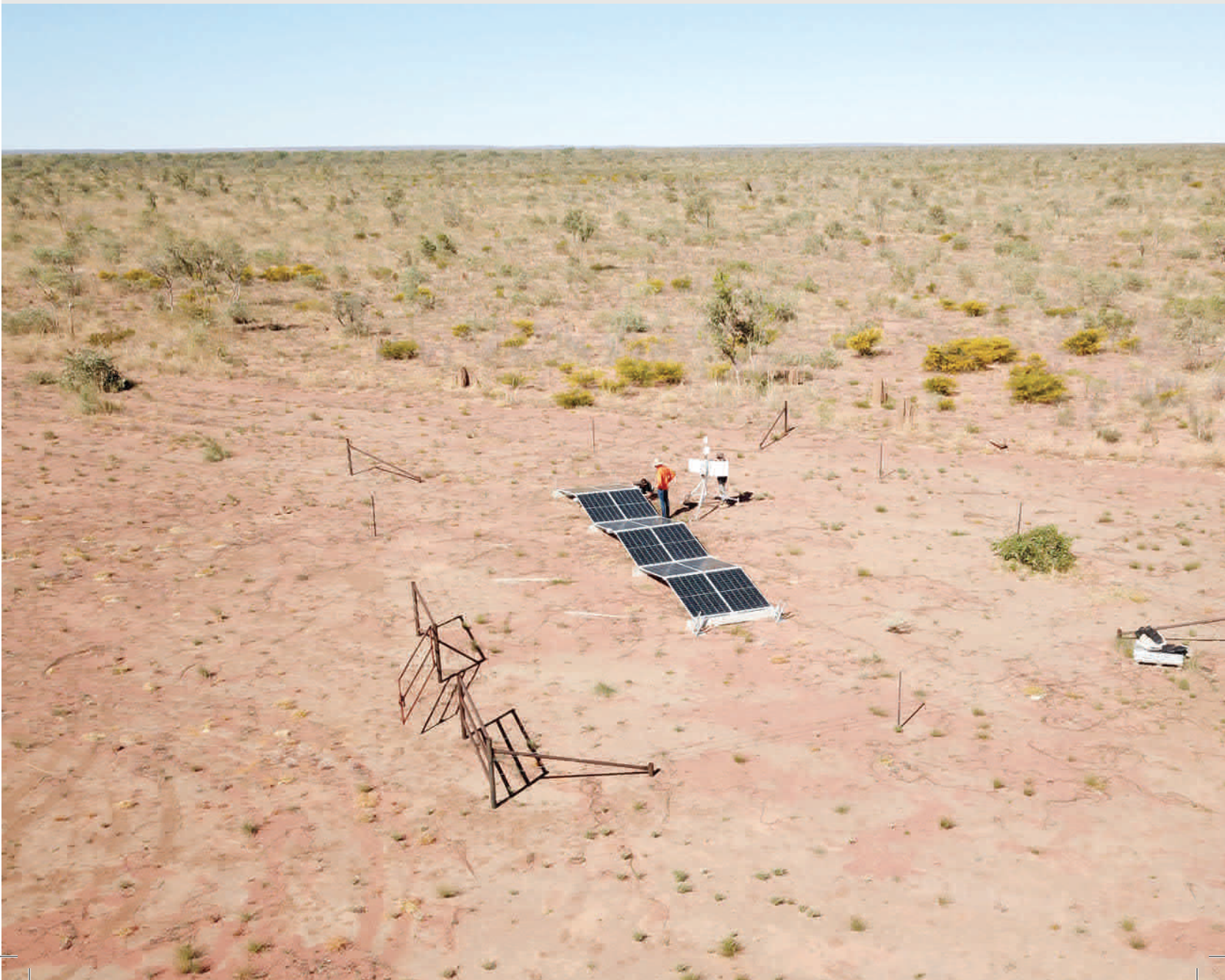
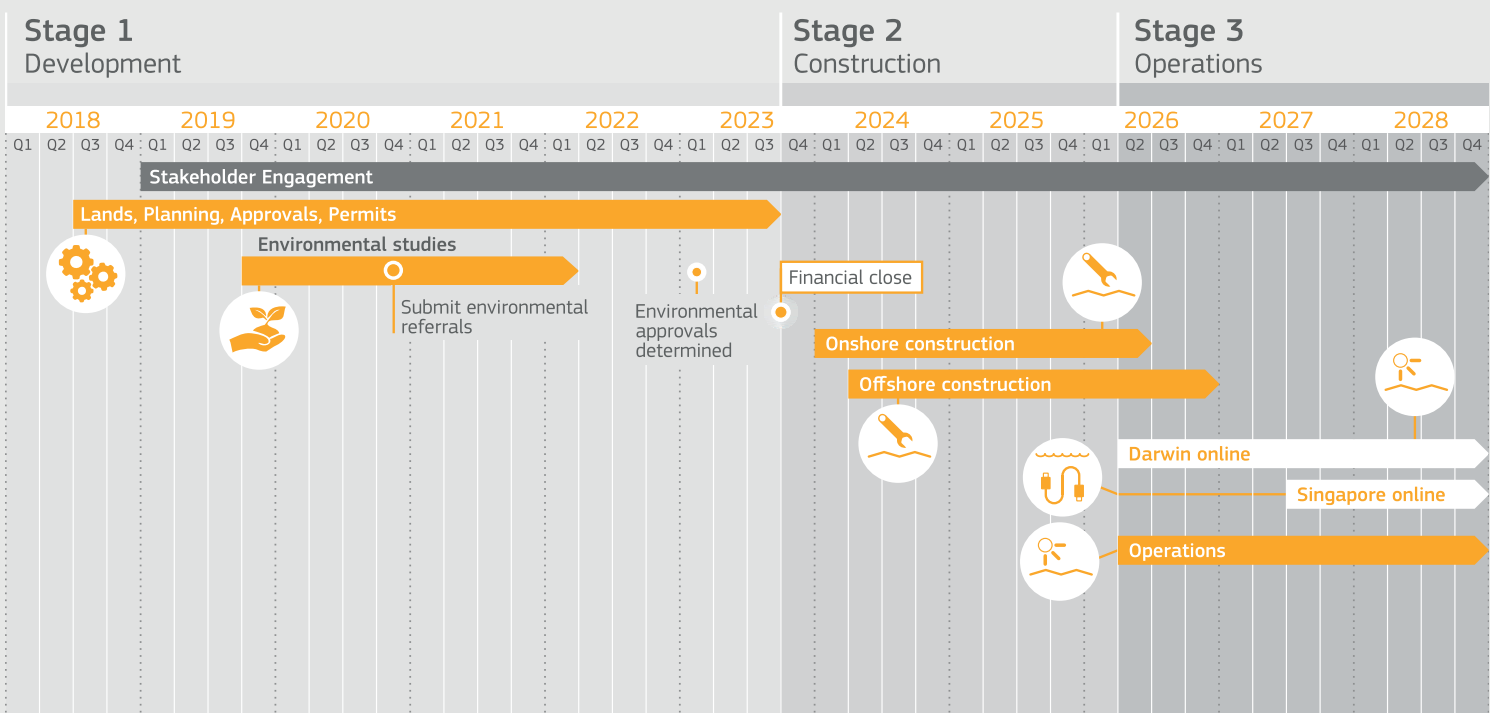
- culture and heritage (cultural values, heritage sites)
- biodiversity (plants and animals, threatened species)
- surface and groundwater (creeks, waterholes, billabongs)
- soils (waste, contamination, erosion)
- people's health and quality of life from traffic, noise, dust, visual impact of the poles
- marine environment
- social and economic impacts (accommodation, housing, community cohesion, jobs, economic benefits)

The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) told Sun Cable to assess all possible impacts and talk to people about the project. Sun Cable has looked at ways to make sure the project provides lots of benefits to people in the Northern Territory, and that the environment and people's way of life are not negatively affected. The EIS report looks closely at how to manage possible issues and strengthen social and economic benefits. The NT EPA will read this report, determine if the possible impacts are significant, and make a decision to approve the project or not.

Sun Cable will make sure we are enhancing the positive benefits and reducing the impacts in three different ways:

1. **Avoid** – Make sure the actions are designed to avoid negative impacts on the environment and community
2. **Mitigate** – Create ways to manage environmental and community impacts if they exist
3. **Offsets** – If needed, provide offsets for residual impacts on the environment that cannot be avoided or mitigated.

The full EIS report is now available for everyone to read. This is a quick summary for you to learn more about the AAPowerLink. We want to hear from you!



Land

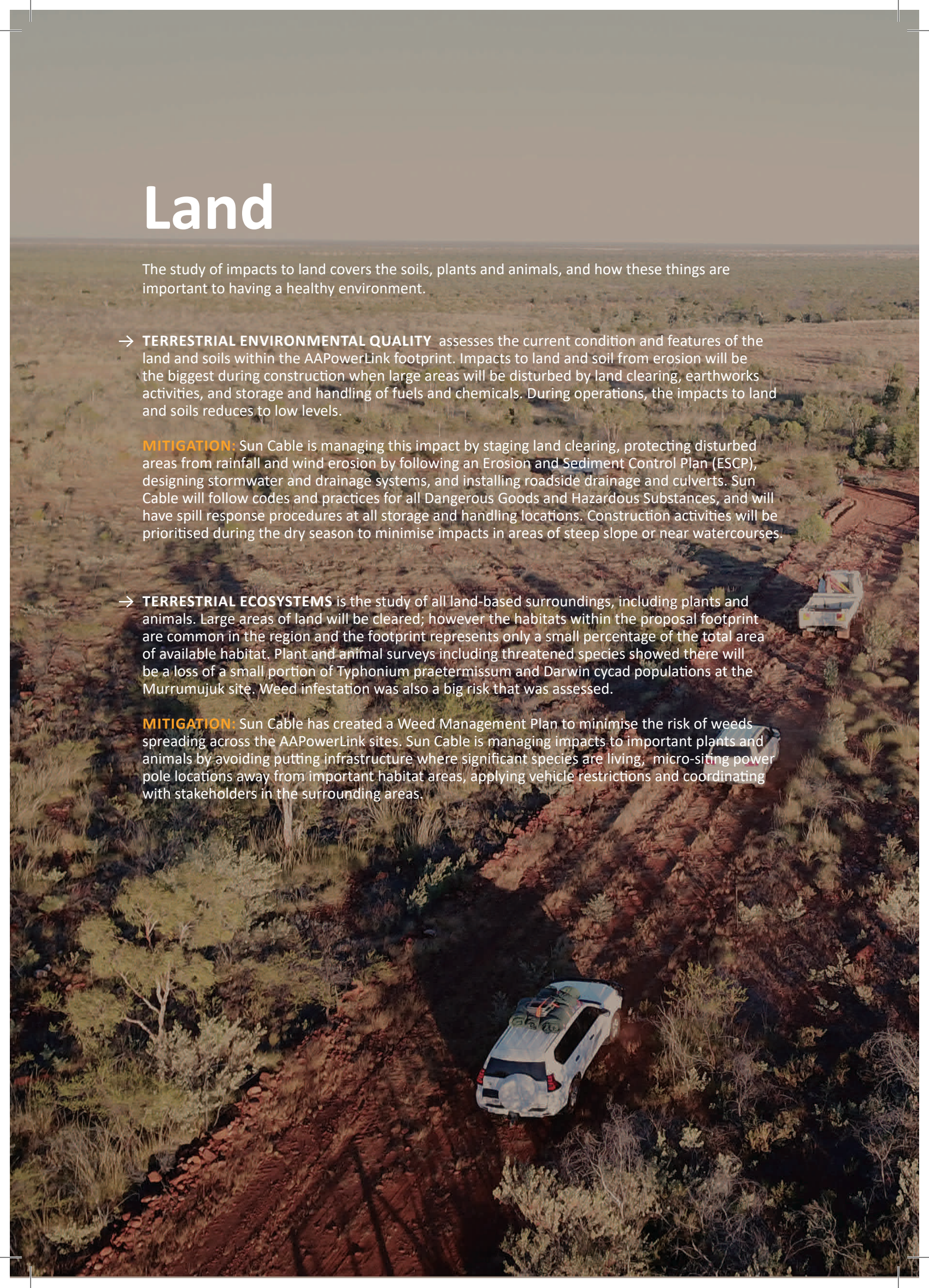
The study of impacts to land covers the soils, plants and animals, and how these things are important to having a healthy environment.

- **TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** assesses the current condition and features of the land and soils within the AAPowerLink footprint. Impacts to land and soil from erosion will be the biggest during construction when large areas will be disturbed by land clearing, earthworks activities, and storage and handling of fuels and chemicals. During operations, the impacts to land and soils reduces to low levels.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable is managing this impact by staging land clearing, protecting disturbed areas from rainfall and wind erosion by following an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP), designing stormwater and drainage systems, and installing roadside drainage and culverts. Sun Cable will follow codes and practices for all Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances, and will have spill response procedures at all storage and handling locations. Construction activities will be prioritised during the dry season to minimise impacts in areas of steep slope or near watercourses.

- **TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS** is the study of all land-based surroundings, including plants and animals. Large areas of land will be cleared; however the habitats within the proposal footprint are common in the region and the footprint represents only a small percentage of the total area of available habitat. Plant and animal surveys including threatened species showed there will be a loss of a small portion of *Typhonium praetermissum* and Darwin cycad populations at the Murrumujuk site. Weed infestation was also a big risk that was assessed.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable has created a Weed Management Plan to minimise the risk of weeds spreading across the AAPowerLink sites. Sun Cable is managing impacts to important plants and animals by avoiding putting infrastructure where significant species are living, micro-siting power pole locations away from important habitat areas, applying vehicle restrictions and coordinating with stakeholders in the surrounding areas.



Water

The study of impacts to water covers surface water flows and groundwater levels (referred to as hydrological processes), water quality, how water is important to people, and how to protect the health of waterholes, creeks and rivers.

- **HYDROLOGICAL PROCESSES** is the understanding earth's water, including surface and groundwater. Sun Cable studied the impact of AAPowerLink on the way surface and groundwater are used by the environment and people. The studies found that the impact will be greatest during construction as the ground may be altered and water run-off could change. Also, the demand for groundwater is the greatest as water is needed for building.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable is managing stormwater and watercourse crossings to avoid impacts. This includes installing drainage, sediment and erosion controls, avoiding building power poles in watercourses, and working with landowners to make sure Sun Cable's groundwater use is not impacting local community use.

- **INLAND WATER ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** is the understanding of the quality of inland surface water and groundwater, and their environmental values. Sun Cable studied the impact of the AAPowerLink on water quality of inland water, and the different ways people and the environment use that water.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable is managing the impacts to inland water by using an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan at each location, staging the land clearing, construction followed by reinstatement of vegetation, and only constructing during the dry season where practicable. Sun Cable is also designing stormwater drainage to manage run-off, and is ensuring that regulatory standards are followed when handling and storing all dangerous goods, including training employees in spill response.

- **AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS** is the study of all freshwater habitats and the wildlife that lives in freshwater (i.e., fish). AAPowerLink's impact on aquatic ecosystems was assessed with a focus on disturbances around watercourses during construction and at the small seasonal swamp next to the Darwin Converter Site.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable is managing the impact by avoiding crossing watercourses at locations that hold water for long periods and have significant riparian vegetation, and installation will happen in the dry season. Sun Cable is reducing impacts to the swamp by managing run-off and erosion, and monitoring water levels.

Sea

The study of impacts to sea covers the seabed and the water, and how these things are important to the animals that live in the sea and to people.

- **MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** is the study of water quality, sediments and seabed impacted by the AAPowerLink. During the construction phase of the Shore Crossing Site and the Subsea Cable System, the seabed will be disturbed in a narrow area around each cable (approximately 12 metres wide), and there will be clouds of sediment in the water for a period of days to weeks as the cables are laid and buried. Cable repairs will cause seabed disturbance, however this is expected to be minimal.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable is managing the impact by avoiding periods of monsoonal conditions to reduce erosion during trenching, avoiding areas of significant marine habitat while selecting the subsea cable route, using the guidelines in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP), soil testing and applying approved measures for disturbing any potential acid sulfate soils.

- **MARINE ECOSYSTEMS** is the study of marine life such as whales, dolphins, and dugongs, marine turtles, sharks, crocodiles, stingrays and marine habitats such as seagrass and coral reefs. Construction and operation of the Subsea Cable System could have a minor impact on these species through temporary loss of habitat or disruption to behaviour because of cable laying activities and possible collision with marine vessels.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable is managing this impact by taking a vessel route that has a low impact on marine habitat, complying with pest management guidelines, enforcing low speeds for cable-laying vessels, enforcing a strict no-approach policy with marine mammals, complying with marine pollution requirements on refueling and spills, and only carrying marine fuel oil on board with no other hazardous materials.

Air

The study of impacts to air covers air emissions like dust or exhaust fumes from lots of equipment operating, that can impact peoples health and be a nuisance, and also greenhouse gas emissions.

- **AIR QUALITY** is the study of air emissions that could affect human health and the environment. There are only specific areas of the AAPowerLink that will experience dust and diesel exhaust emissions at any given time, and these will move as construction progresses. Once the AAPowerLink is operational, the air quality impacts will be significantly reduced.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable is managing air quality impacts by using water spray to reduce the dust on cleared areas, using electric vehicles where possible to reduce fuel exhaust, making sure that all equipment complies with minimum emission standards, and monitoring and responding to any community complaints on air quality through the stakeholder grievance process.

- **ATMOSPHERIC PROCESSES** is the study on greenhouse gas emissions for the AAPowerLink which will positively contribute to the Northern Territory target of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. By the fourth year of operation, the AAPowerLink will be a carbon positive project, meaning it will have no carbon emissions, and the electricity made available to Darwin and Singapore users will be emissions free. This important step in the transition to renewables will reduce carbon emissions globally and help mitigate climate change risk.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable will continue to monitor the positive progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by quantifying lifecycle emissions during the design phase, applying self-generated solar where feasible, adopting zero carbon technology (i.e., electric vehicles), putting a Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan in place, and managing plants and soils to naturally restore carbon for the restoration plan.



People and Community

The study of impacts to people covers communities and the economy, culture and heritage and health, and how these things are important to the Northern Territory community.


→ **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY** is the discovery of potential impacts on the way people live, work, participate in recreation activities, or visit AAPowerLink areas. The capital expenditure from project activities is forecast to be approximately \$30 billion. Approximately 1,750 construction jobs and 350 operational jobs will be created. During engagement with various stakeholders some of the main issues raised included:

- Fair distribution of social and economic benefits needed
- Identifying energy solutions for Northern Territory communities and businesses
- Addressing the Barkly Region's high unemployment and disadvantage
- Skills shortage challenges
- Aboriginal employment
- Successful employment and retention of disengaged young adults
- The pressures of housing affordability and availability
- Opportunities and challenges of local industry participation
- Increased concerns about land clearing and cumulative effects.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable will address housing shortages, cumulative effects, maximise local workforce and business participation, and mandate a culturally inclusive workplace through the development of multiple plans.

Some of these plans will include:

- Territory Benefit Plan: Describing of benefits from the AAPowerLink for the Northern Territory such as investment in infrastructure, training, access to work, and supplier opportunities
- Local Workforce Development Strategy: Finding ways for local people to work on the AAPowerLink
- Regional (Aboriginal) Legacy Strategy: Looking at opportunities and benefits specifically for Aboriginal people
- Traffic Management Plan: Planning the traffic movement around the AAPowerLink
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan: Processes on managing cultural heritage and any objects found during construction or operations
- Social Impact Management Plan: Commitments to manage any AAPowerLink impacts on people and looking at how to maximise benefits

An aerial photograph of a dry, scrubby landscape. A dirt road winds through the terrain, and a dark-colored vehicle is visible in the lower-left corner. The vegetation consists of low-lying, greenish-brown shrubs and grasses. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

→ **CULTURE AND HERITAGE** is the study of potential impacts from the AAPowerLink on areas of cultural and heritage significance, Aboriginal archaeological places or objects, and sacred sites.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable will make sure the cultural and heritage impacts are carefully managed by obtaining Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) sacred site clearance certificates, outline detailed procedures for construction and operation including 'stop works' procedure for burials, human remains and sites of significance, hire cultural monitors and liaison officers to make sure all cultural commitments are met, and mandate cultural awareness training for every Sun Cable contractor and employee.

→ **HUMAN HEALTH** is the study of potential health impacts to people that live or work close to the AAPowerLink. The likelihood for impact to human health is low and may include discomfort from biting insects (mosquitoes, midges, ticks and mites), noise, and air quality. The AAPowerLink low frequency Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) exposure does not pose a risk to human health.

MITIGATION: Sun Cable will conduct insect screening at construction camps, mosquito screening of water tanks, and quarantine inspections and treatment of materials arriving from overseas at the Darwin Port to minimise insect exposure. Sun Cable will also comply with any government related COVID-19 protocols.

Sun Cable engaged multiple stakeholders throughout the EIS to localise mitigation plans and understand issues that are important to locals.



What did communities say?

Housing shortages and affordability are a problem. Will the project make matters worse?

Jobs must be created and welcoming for local community members. How is Sun Cable doing that?

Local suppliers should benefit from the project. Is Sun Cable using local businesses?

Sacred sites and cultural values are important to protect. How is Sun Cable doing that?

Electricity is expensive and unreliable, and communities need solutions to improve energy reliability. How is Sun Cable going to help?



What is Sun Cable doing?

Sun Cable will accommodate their workers at a 1100-person workcamp at Powell Creek during the 4-year construction period, shrinking to 100-200 people during operations. Sun Cable will also have six mobile workcamps along the Overhead Transmission Line

Sun Cable is planning to maximise the workforce through the Territory Benefit Plan and the Local Workforce Strategy. Sun Cable is committed to have an inclusive workplace with strong mentorship and zero tolerance for harassment

Sun Cable is developing a Territory Benefit Plan and Regional (Aboriginal) Legacy Strategy to maximise the use of local and Aboriginal businesses as part of the supply chain for AAPowerLink

Sun Cable is already working to obtain AAPA Authority Certificates and working with Traditional Owners and custodians to develop the Cultural Heritage Management Plan to protect sacred sites and cultural values

Sun Cable will work with communities to understand the energy needs and transfer skills to grow the regional renewable energy sector

Overall Environmental Management

→ **MATTERS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE (MNES)** is the protection for the Commonwealth marine areas, marine and migratory animals, and threatened species and communities. The below-seabed Subsea Cable System and localised footprint means that the AAPowerLink is unlikely to have an impact on the Commonwealth-listed marine area. Also, threatened and migratory species have not been found in the AAPowerLink areas that cover the marine and terrestrial habitat.

MITIGATION: Although the impact is unlikely, if required, the mitigation measures described in the terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems sections will all form part of protecting MNES and are described in previous sections.

→ **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)** is Sun Cable's proposed approach to environmental and social management, and proposed management plans and sub-plans to be developed and implemented for all phases of the AAPowerLink. Sun Cable will be responsible to follow all conditions of approval under the Northern Territory and Commonwealth legislation.

As part of the EMP, the AAPowerLink will be subject to and comply with the following management systems and develop site-specific plans where necessary:

- Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Social Impact Management Plan
- Operations Environmental Management Plan
- Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Incident Management
- Stakeholder Engagement, Management & Tracking
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Compliance Management (Legal Obligations) and Tracking
- Risk Management
- Records Management, Document and Data Control
- Overarching Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan



CONTACT US!

Sun Cable is committed to learning from you and listening to your feedback on the AAPowerLink.

EIS information can be found on the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority website at www.ntepa.nt.gov.au.

Supplier information can be found at the ICN Gateway website at www.gateway.icn.org.au.

We'd like to hear from you, please email us at info@aapowerlink.sg. Please visit our website at www.suncable.energy or follow this QR code.





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Big Rivers Information

Australia-Asia PowerLink (AAPowerLink)

Who is Sun Cable?

Sun Cable's mission is to supply renewable electricity from resource abundant regions to growing load centres, at scale.

Advances in renewable energy generation, energy storage and HVDC cable transmission technologies have made it commercially and technically viable to transmit renewable electricity over long distances.

Sun Cable's energy projects will position Australia, Singapore and other markets in Asia as world leaders in cross border renewable electricity trade. The developed infrastructure will facilitate large-scale industrial development through the electrification of new and existing industries, provide significant supply chain opportunities and support regional decarbonisation.

Overview of the Project

Our marquee project, the Australia-Asia PowerLink (AAPowerLink), is a AUD30+ billion (USD22+ billion) giga scale renewable energy transmission project which will harness and store solar energy from one of the most reliably sunny places on the planet in the Northern Territory of Australia, for 24/7 transmission to Darwin and Singapore, via a high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable transmission system.

The AAPowerLink will be capable of supplying 800 MW of capacity to Darwin and up to 15% of Singapore's total electricity needs.

The AAPowerLink has Major Project status with the Northern Territory Government and Australian Government and the initiative is on Infrastructure Australia's Priority Listing.

Sun Cable formed the Integrated Project Delivery Team (IPDT), a leading global consortium of experts consisting of Bechtel, Hatch, SMEC of the Surbana Jurong Group, Hatch, Marsh and PwC Australia to deliver the AAPowerLink.



Key Locations

The AAPowerLink proposal has six key parts:

- Powell Creek Solar Precinct (Barkly Region)
 - 17-20 GW of electricity production via solar arrays
 - 36-42 GWh battery for storage
- Overhead Transmission Line (6.4 GW) to transmit electricity 800 km from the Solar Precinct to the Darwin Region
- Darwin Converter Site (Murrumujuk, NT) including energy storage and network connection to supply electricity to the Darwin region
- Cable Transition Facilities at Murrumujuk and Gunn Point Beach to connect transmission cables between land and sea
- Subsea Cable System to transfer electricity over 4,200 km from Darwin to Singapore
- Singapore Converter Station to receive electricity and supply the Singapore electrical network.

The proposed location for the solar precinct is approximately 12,000 hectares of land on Powell Creek Station, 70 km south-west of Elliott. Sun Cable selected Powell Creek as the preferred site because it:

- is one of the most consistently sunny places on earth with low cloud cover
- has very flat land suitable for solar panels
- is close to the railway corridor for transmission of electricity and transport of equipment
- is accessible from the Stuart Highway

Prior to selecting the preferred location, Sun Cable engaged with the Northern Land Council (NLC) to meet with native title holders of Powell Creek Station and surrounding Traditional Owners. Two sites were proposed in the meetings and discussions were held with the Traditional Owners including meetings on Country, to explain the proposal in detail and seek feedback on site options.

Overhead Transmission Line (OHTL) in the Big Rivers Region

Approximately 500 km of the OHTL will pass through the Big Rivers Region. Sun Cable is proposing to build the overhead transmission line within the existing railway corridor except in a couple of locations where it may be too narrow. In these locations, Sun Cable will engage with the community to understand the best route for the transmission line to follow in order to re-enter the railway corridor. The Railway Corridor provides an existing developed corridor with reasonable access, minimising the amount of clearing required to build the OHTL.

A small service track will also be retained within the railway corridor to provide access during operations for safety and maintenance purposes.

Construction timeframe

The AAPowerLink is on track to begin construction in 2024. Construction will take up to four years, creating about 1750 jobs across the project footprint. The solar farm and battery at Powell Creek will be built at the same time as the transmission line to Murrumujuk. Solar arrays will be put together in Darwin and transported to Powell Creek by train. The subsea cables will be laid between Darwin and Singapore, using large cable-laying ships. The AAPowerLink will run for 70 years after construction and employ about 350 people during operations.

Respect for the Communities in which we operate

Sun Cable will work with communities across the Big Rivers Region and broader NT to identify and create meaningful opportunities for the region.

Sun Cable acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Australia and pays respect to their elders past and present. We are committed to ongoing engagement with Aboriginal groups and representative agencies, land holders, community groups, government, businesses and the broader community to maximise the opportunities of the AAPowerLink to the communities and people in the NT. We will also work with stakeholders to ensure that impacts to environmental, social and cultural values are avoided and minimised to the greatest extent practicable.





Benefits to the Big Rivers Region

Sun Cable is preparing a **Territory Benefit Plan** and **Social Impact Management Plan** to maximise benefits to Territorians.

Some benefits to the Big Rivers region will include:

- **Jobs:** Much of the construction for the overhead transmission line will take place in the Big Rivers Region. Sun Cable wants to hire local people where possible to do this work. Approximately 25% of all AAPowerLink construction jobs will be in the Big Rivers Region.
- **Training and capacity-building:** Sun Cable is dedicated to identifying and addressing labour force skills and qualification gaps to attract and retain local workers. Our goal is to provide culturally safe and wrap-around support to workers to access further training, education, and upskilling
- **Promoting participation of NT businesses:** Sun Cable is developing plans to maximise local industry participation and strengthen opportunities for Aboriginal enterprises to provide services and supplies to the project
- **Providing affordable, reliable 24/7 renewable energy to Katherine and Darwin:** Up to 800 MW of electricity will be made available to the Darwin and Katherine regions
- **Reducing carbon emissions:** Producing renewable energy means we can help the NT meet its renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide
- Sun Cable is working with the NLC to establish voluntary Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and seek consent from Traditional Owners and custodians, which will provide benefits to Traditional Owners

Key benefits in Australia

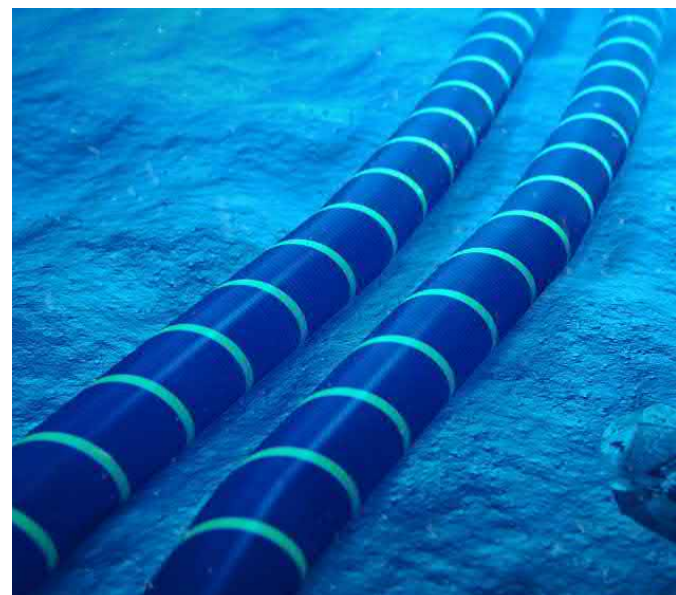
- A\$ 8 billion invested in Australia
- 1,750+ construction jobs
- 350+ operational jobs
- A\$ 2 billion in exports per year
- 800 MV of power delivered to Darwin

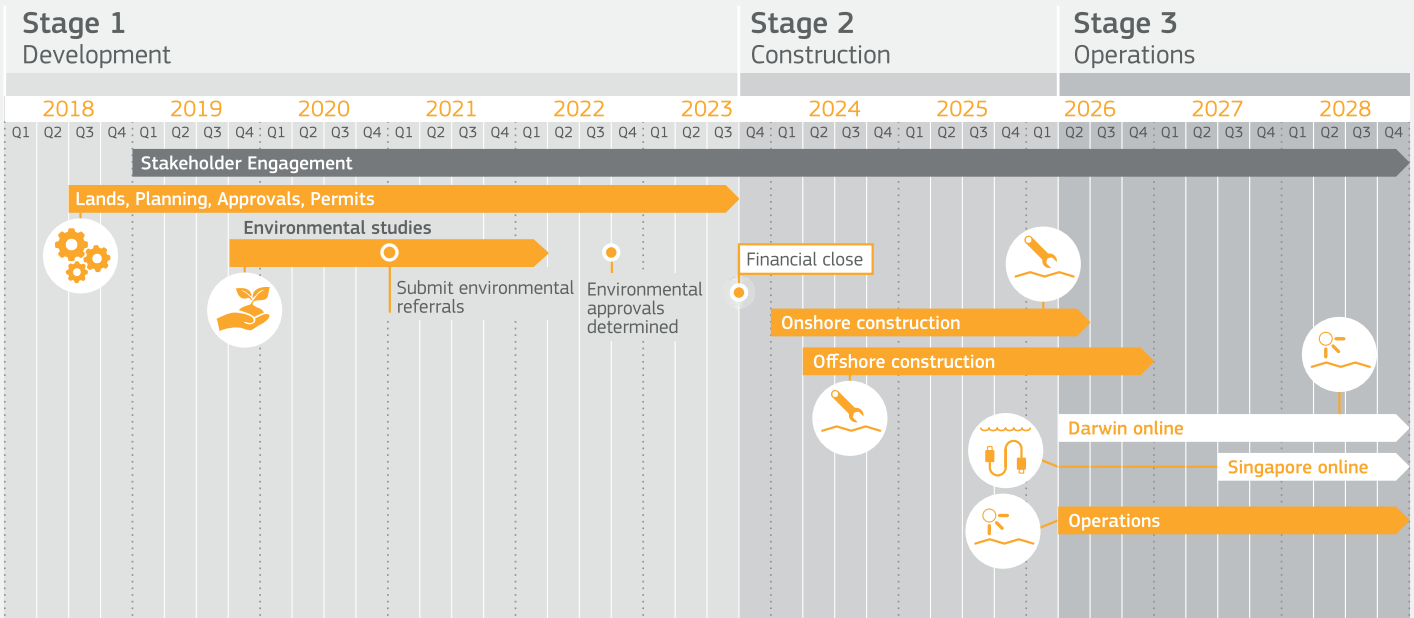
Industrial Development in New Green Industries

- Green hydrogen and ammonia production
- Green manufacturing (green steel, green aluminum, others)
- Data centres
- Minerals processing
- Chemical manufacturing and processing
- Manufacturing in the renewable energy supply chain
- Space
- Defence industries

Benefits to the greater community

- The project will attract large-scale investment and global talent to Australia, elevating Australia's position as a world leader in renewable energy technology
- The AAPowerLink will help Australia achieve its goals to reduce carbon emissions
- The project will build on Australia's ties with Southeast Asian partners
- AAPowerLink will bring \$8 billion into Australia, most of which will be spent in the NT
- Sun Cable is proposing to develop a Solar Array Manufacturing Facility in the NT, which will create jobs, attract investment, and grow local industry
- The AAPowerLink will unlock the growth of low-emissions industries in the NT, such as green hydrogen and data centres
- Sun Cable will continue to work with the NT Government and its agencies to align with policies and targets for mutual benefit such as:
 - Net zero emissions by 2050
 - 50% Renewables by 2030
 - AUD\$40B economy by 2030





Sustainability

The AAPowerLink is expected to abate a total of 8.6 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent. Of that, 2.5 million tonnes will be abated in Darwin or nearly 13 per cent of the Northern Territory's total greenhouse gas emissions (based on 2019 levels). Renewable energy is good for the planet, reducing reliance on fossil fuels for energy production and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This will help reduce the impacts of climate change.

Sun Cable's environmental studies are looking for ways to avoid and minimise impacts to environment and heritage values, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions during construction.

Environmental impacts assessed in the EIS:

- Studies of plants and animals (biodiversity surveys, threatened species)
- Impacts to land, water, sea and air quality
- Impacts to people's health and quality of life from traffic, noise, dust, visual impact of the towers, etc.

Social impacts assessed:

- Addressing housing availability and affordability
- Ensuring that people get their fair share of the social and economic benefits
- Addressing high unemployment and poverty in the Barkly
- Addressing skills shortages and pathways to employment for Aboriginal people
- Social procurement, service and supply and Aboriginal inclusion
- Culture and heritage studies, including a cultural heritage management plan

Sun Cable is submitting an EIS to the NT EPA in March 2022 and then it will go on public exhibition for about three months (April to June 2022).

The NT EPA invites interested persons or organisations to make written submissions: <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/consultation/open-consultations>

Or view it online at: <https://suncable.sg/australia-asia-power-link/>



Contact us

www.suncable.sg and info@aapowerlink.sg

Sun Cable will engage with communities and stakeholders regularly throughout the project. We endeavour to implement solutions necessary to close any feedback loop.



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Sun Cable is seeking environmental approval for the AAPowerLink by submitting an EIS. The EIS will help both the Government and public understand the potential impacts, benefits and opportunities of the proposal.

Information in the EIS:

- how the AAPowerLink may impact the environment and communities
- impact mitigation strategies
- potential community benefits as a result of the project

Pole height	Pole span
56m	450m



Concept design only
Desert landscape simulation used in
consultations with Native Title Holders
Perspective - 1 km from OHTL

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Source: Sun Cable (2022).

Pole height	Pole span
56m	450m



Concept design only
Savannah landscape simulation used in
consultations with Native Title Holders
Perspective - 250 m from OHTL

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Overhead transmission line height comparison

EARLY CONCEPT DESIGNS*

80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0m

Elliot water tower
(27m high)

Overhead transmission line
(44m high)

Overhead transmission line
(56m high)

Radio tower near Powell Creek
(73m high)

*Computer drawings only

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Lenders reject Samarco debt plan

NICK EVANS

A key group of lenders to BHP and Vale's infamous Samarco iron ore mine have rejected the company's latest debt restructuring proposal, setting up a showdown with the two mining companies over the future of the iron-ore operation.

Lenders that claim to represent at least two-thirds of Samarco's \$1.55bn (Bbn) in external debt – Samarco is believed to owe another \$US4.5bn to BHP and Vale – voted against the latest restructuring proposal on Tuesday, saying they are prepared to use Brazil's new corporate laws to try to put their own management team in place.

The plan put to creditors by Samarco would have seen unsecured creditors take a significant haircut on the debts they are owed. An earlier version of the proposal, circulated ahead of a planned meeting on March 10, asked its lenders to take a 75 per cent haircut on the amount they are owed, through the issue of new bonds that mature in 2041.

Samarco has been struggling to find a way to restructure its debts since its restarted operations in late 2020. Debt holders have rejected successive offers from the iron ore miner, complaining their terms favour Samarco's two shareholders ahead of the interests of creditors.

A spokesman for the self-styled Ad Hoc Group of Creditors (AHGC) – which includes asset managers and distressed debt investors York, Calvert, Ashmore, Canyon, Maple Rock and Salomon – said the lender group would now propose a restructuring of the company to the Brazilian courts.

"The plan will create a new corporate structure for Samarco, which will allow Samarco to grow again. Throughout Samarco's judicial reorganisation process, its shareholders, Vale and BHP Billiton, showed no interest in ramping up the company's operations,

presenting assumptions that constantly underestimated its real productive capacity," the spokesman said. "This conflict of interests is at the root of the problems with the plan that is now rejected, and it will only be overcome with the creation of an independent Samarco."

Under the plan the AHGC will seek to seize control of Samarco and install a new board and management team, led by former Vale chief financial officer Tita Martins, that is independent of Vale and BHP.

Samarco's return to production has been relatively slow, with the operation only running at about a quarter of its design capacity. Samarco could be producing up to 28 million tonnes of iron ore a year by 2030, and the lender group believes the appointment of Mr Martins and new management could allow the acceleration of that schedule.

Samarco's debt crisis was triggered by a stamp mill failure and tidal wave of mine tailings that killed 19 people, devastated the environment and shut its iron ore operations in 2015.

Under Brazilian law, creditors now have 30 days to present an alternative plan. A spokesman for BHP and Vale said the two Samarco shareholders were "extremely disappointed" by the decision.

"This was in spite of the overwhelming approval by other creditor classes, including employees and small suppliers, that recognised the relevance of Samarco and its commitment to fulfilling its social purpose," the spokesman said. "BHP Billiton and Vale will challenge any plan that sees Samarco exit judicial reorganisation with an unsustainable balance sheet, or where Samarco is expected to prioritise payments to the distressed debt investors, putting at risk the ability of Samarco to invest in its growth plans or ensure the long term sustainability of its relationships with employees and suppliers."

Boys' club: NAB hit with sexual discrimination claim



Ms Diawara alleges she was 'rarely spoken to' as a consequence of speaking out

Continued from Page 11

allegedly arranged that Ms Diawara be made to report to David Burke, NAB's head of bonds, as he "did not want to deal with the Applicant on administrative matters like holiday approval", but did not tell her despite sitting only 2m away.

She only discovered the change had been made after Mr Bateman told her on a phone call. Ms Diawara alleges "in or about late 2019/early 2020" Mr McCaughey approached her "clubbing" a baseball bat in his hands, telling her he didn't want to hear about a customer "suing about NAB's ability to deal repay" in residential mortgage-backed securities.

Ms Diawara also allegedly humiliated Ms Diawara in January 2021, while she was giving a presentation to senior NAB staff, "by expressing in an aggressive tone, in front of those present, that the presentation was poor".

Ms Diawara alleges she experienced severe depression as a consequence of Mr McCaughey's conduct and NAB's "abhorrent discriminatory treatment towards her".

But she alleges when she told Mr Bateman, her superior at NAB, she was considering making a complaint about Mr McCaughey

she was cautioned not to. "Mr Bateman told the Applicant that making such a complaint could have big consequences for her future given she was a woman with a leadership position in financial services. It would be a business exercise to go after Tim McCaughey and would not look good," Ms Diawara alleges.

"NAB is committed to supporting equality and diversity in the workplace"

NAB spokeswoman

NAB told *The Australian* it was taking "these matters extremely seriously" and would participate in the court process.

"NAB is committed to supporting equality and diversity in the workplace", a spokeswoman for the bank said.

ANZ was hit with claims of wrongful dismissal in 2020 by a former trader who alleged a male-dominated toxic culture within the bank's global markets division.

This saw allegations of trips of strip clubs, level language, and references to sex, drugs and alcohol use.

Sudden exit for Boral CFO in tough times

Continued from Page 11

dividend. Seven took about \$2.1m of that windfall payout, based on its 70 per cent shareholding.

Boral booked a \$45m net profit for the first half of the year, excluding the proceeds of the sale of its US businesses, down 12 per cent on the first half of the previous year.

Like other players in Australia's superheated building and construction industry, Boral has been hit by supply chain constraints and rising fuel and labour costs.

In February the Sydney-based company said it had introduced "out of cycle" national price hikes to offset the impact of rising energy bills, which it expected to remain high in the second half of the financial year.

But in March Boral downgraded expectations for its annual profit, saying heavy rains and flooding in NSW and Queensland had hit sales.

It said its outlook was also undermined by continuing spikes



A Boral truck

in fuel and energy costs. The company said it had begun in place to limit the impact of fuel price rises until April, with Boral also cutting from ongoing supply constraints from rising fuel costs.

At the time Mr Tokoczek said the company now expected to book annual profits of \$145m to \$150m "assuming no further extraordinary rain events".

Boral shares closed down 1c or 0.1 per cent at \$1.49 on Tuesday, against a modest gain in the benchmark ASX 200 index.

Investors, analysts back AMP-Dexus deal

Continued from Page 11

obtained by *The Australian*. "We remain in position to pursue a demerger as well, and I will keep you informed..."

"While I know this may be unsettling, I ask you to continue to deliver for our clients while we work through this process."

AMP shares declined in early trading before rallying 0.9 per cent to close at \$107 on Tuesday, giving it a market capitalisation of \$3.9bn.

Dexus's stock edged up 0.3 per cent to \$10.81. Macquarie Securities analyst Stuart McLeish said if Dexus announced in December, he didn't expect Dexus to assume the premium cost base of Collinette Capital.

AMP "selling the assets provides clarity about a demerger, but you have to sell all of the assets, not some of them", he said.

Allan Gray portfolio manager Simon MacIntyre, an AMP investor, said "Collinette Capital is a people business and will, people businesses, generally speaking, which we view as undervalued by

the market," he added. "After adjusting for net divestments post balance date (about \$1m) and committed development spend (about \$0.5bn), we estimate (Dexus) gearing falls by 29.1 per cent. This provides the group with sufficient debt capacity to fund the transaction."

The negotiations with Dexus also include AMP's co-investment stakes associated with funds which could amount to additional proceeds worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Barrenjoey analyst Andrew Adams said that, as with AMP's sale of its infrastructure debt unit to US firm Arco Management, announced in December, he didn't expect Dexus to assume the premium cost base of Collinette Capital.

AMP "selling the assets provides clarity about a demerger, but you have to sell all of the assets, not some of them", he said. Allan Gray portfolio manager Simon MacIntyre, an AMP investor, said "Collinette Capital is a people business and will, people businesses, generally speaking, which we view as undervalued by

"Some resolution soon would be preferable for everyone." Merit Capital partners also an AMP investor, value the group's property business at \$996m and its local and global infrastructure equity unit at \$895m.

Merit principal Hamish Campbell said that, based on higher operating margins at Dexus compared to AMP, the assets could be worth more to a strategic buyer.

AMP's board, led by chairman Denis Hazelton, said it would continue sale discussions "with a focus on maximising the value for shareholders by getting the best outcome for clients and employees".

"AMP remains in a position to pursue either a sale or demerger of

these businesses," AMP said. Resolution Life Australasia, which bought AMP's life insurance arm – has mandates with Collinette Capital.

Asked about how the sale and demerger process may impact the firm, a spokeswoman said "Collinette is one of a number of external managers that RIA engages. RIA will monitor these developments as part of our standard manager monitoring process."

Sources said the demerger was not to be lumped as AMP pursued a break-up and sale of the real estate and infrastructure unit.

If a deal on the co-investment stakes is struck, Dexus could commit to acquiring AMP's interests in the investment vehicles and assets. MacIntyre's Mr McLeish said AMP's domestic equity investments included a \$106m interest in the AMP Capital Retail Trust and a flagged further \$10m investment in real estate, but the "timing of this commitment is unclear".

He also noted an equity investment for AMP's US funds management platform worth \$17m.

www.theaustralian.com.au

NOTICES

For information only - Residential subdivision, Litherland Road, Upper Caboolture, Queensland (EPBC 2020/8641)

The following notice is published pursuant to section 55(6)(i) of the EPBC Act.

Stockland Corporation Ltd is seeking approval under the EPBC Act to construct a residential subdivision on Lots 2, 4, 15 and 100 Litherland Road, Upper Caboolture, Queensland (EPBC 2020/8641).

The proposed development was determined a Controlled Action under the EPBC Act with assessment by Preliminary Determination. The controlling provisions are Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 19 of the EPBC Act), including the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia ecological community – critically endangered, the Koola (Phascogale orientalis) (threatened species of QLD, NSW and ACT) – vulnerable, the Slender Honeyeater (*Myzobolops phyllosa*) – critically endangered, the Swift Parrot (*Lathyrus obscurus*) – critically endangered and the Red Goshawk (*Eurostocheus ruber*) – vulnerable.

Public comments were sought for a period of 10 business days from Friday 25th March to 7th April 2022. No submissions were received.

Copies of the Preliminary Determination will be available for a period of 10 business days from Thursday 21st April to 4th May 2022 for viewing only at each of the following locations:

Caboolture Library - 4 Hedley Street, Caboolture, QLD 4510
State Library of Queensland - Stanley Place, South Brisbane, QLD 4101
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra (email the Department at epbc.notifications@pse.gov.au).
The documentation can also be downloaded at: www.stockland.com.au/uppercaboolturedevelopment

Persons with special needs (e.g. for whom English is a second language or who have vision impairment) may contact the Bundamba Hanoi Group for assistance on 07 3251 9440.

THE GFA RAFFLE

good Friday appeal
THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Congratulations to the 2022 Raffle winners:

1st: Maria BT 50 Thandi - 1 Daka, Busaya VIC
2nd: Abigail Kagi SLE Corawa - 1 Langford, Cappa Wickiana VIC
3rd: TEMPHI Susan Matress Package - 8 Maa, Niddellun VIC
4th: Beata Family Tech Fund - M Dova, Moorabark VIC

5th-10th: WINN Gift Cards from Woolworths valued at \$1,000 - C Parlo, Appendix VIC, D McLean, Rowville VIC, S King, Cranbourne VIC, B Stevens, Sapperton VIC, C Hill, Highgate VIC, M Bevan, Brunswick East VIC
Multi Ticket Draw Prize: Two Heavy Business Class Flights with Qantas Airways - M Spas, Danden VIC

goodfridayappeal.com.au

Kids with Cancer Foundation Australia Ltd is proud to announce the winners of the **Guest Experience Survey Promotion \$500 Coles Myer Gift Cards** are **Andrew Magee, Nicholas Williams, Geoffrey Burr, and Phoning Pty Ltd, John Warkley and 5 Anonymous Guests**. These winners have been drawn in accordance with Permit Numbers ACT TP 2001369, SA 12011285 and NSW 1909386.

Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Ltd., is proud to announce the winners of the **Fleet Experience Survey Promotion \$500 Coles Myer Gift Cards** are **Nikas Diamond Property Developments, Brett Johnson, Sandra Rhodes, William Stanford and M Tech Electrical Services Pty Ltd.**

AAPowerLink Australia Asset Pty Ltd - Australia-Asia PowerLink Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Open for Public Consultation

AAPowerLink, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sun Cable, a world leading renewables energy company, with a mission to supply renewable electricity from resources abundant regions to growing load centres, at scale. The company is proposing to build the Australia-Asia Power Link (AAPowerLink), a 3,000 km long gas scale renewable energy transmission project which will harness and store solar energy from the largely deserts of the Northern Territory, via a high voltage direct current cable transmission network to Hummulla in Queensland, Port Augusta 13 km north of Darwin, and Subsea Cables through Australian and Indonesian waters to Singapore.

The AASPowerLink project is being assessed at the level of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority (NT EPA) under the Environment Protection Act 2019 and an Accredited Assessment Process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act). The proposal is a controlled action under the EPBC Act. The proposed controlling processes are Listed threatened species and communities (18 & 19A), Listed migratory species (3, 20A, 20C), and Commonwealth marine areas (3, 2A, 20A).

A draft EIS for the proposal has been submitted to the NT EPA and can be viewed on the Sun Cable website (<https://suncable.energy>) and NT EPA website (<https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/consultation/aaopen-consultations>).

Interested persons or organisations may review the draft EIS and make written submissions on or by 15 July 2022. Written submissions can be made via the NT EPA website (<https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/consultation/aaopen-consultations>) or to NT EPA, GPO Box 3075, Darwin NT 0801. Call 08 8924 4238 to discuss receiving a verbal submission or alternative method. All submissions will be treated as public documents unless confidentiality is requested.

Hard copies will be available at: NT EPA, Adelaide River Post Office, Barkly Regional Council Office, Elliott Post Office, Environment Centre NT, Roperstone Public Library, Northern Land Council (Darwin, NT Library, and Victoria Bay Regional Council).

Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Ltd., is proud to announce the winners of the **Guest Experience Survey Promotion \$500 VISA Debit Gift Cards** are **Andrew Magee, Nicholas Williams, Geoffrey Burr, and Phoning Pty Ltd, John Warkley and 5 Anonymous Guests**. These winners have been drawn in accordance with Permit Numbers ACT TP 2001369, SA 12011285 and NSW 1909386.

Toyota Finance Australia Limited is proud to announce the winners of the **Toyota Customer Experience Survey Promotion \$150 VISA Debit Gift Cards** are **Brett Visions, Lisa Hoising, Liam Sackley-atkatch, Carly Allen, Bill Swell, Gregory Jones, Theo Kummert, Natassore Sarks, SCOTT West, SIMON Blacker, Joanne Bewick and Justin Sullivan**. These winners have been drawn in accordance with Permit Numbers ACT TP 2001369, SA 12011285 and NSW 1909386.

AAPowerLink Australia Asset Pty Ltd - Australia-Asia PowerLink Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Open for Public Consultation

AAPowerLink, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sun Cable, a world leading renewables energy company, with a mission to supply renewable electricity from resources abundant regions to growing load centres, at scale. The company is proposing to build the Australia-Asia Power Link (AAPowerLink), a 3,000 km long gas scale renewable energy transmission project which will harness and store solar energy from the largely deserts of the Northern Territory, via a high voltage direct current cable transmission network to Hummulla in Queensland, Port Augusta 13 km north of Darwin, and Subsea Cables through Australian and Indonesian waters to Singapore.

The AASPowerLink project is being assessed at the level of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority (NT EPA) under the Environment Protection Act 2019 and an Accredited Assessment Process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act). The proposal is a controlled action under the EPBC Act. The proposed controlling processes are Listed threatened species and communities (18 & 19A), Listed migratory species (3, 20A, 20C), and Commonwealth marine areas (3, 2A, 20A).

A draft EIS for the proposal has been submitted to the NT EPA and can be viewed on the Sun Cable website (<https://suncable.energy>) and NT EPA website (<https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/consultation/aaopen-consultations>).

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THE AUSTRALIAN

Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Ltd., is proud to announce the winners of the **TCPO Experience Survey Promotion \$500 Coles Myer Gift Cards** are **Rhisa Bernardo, JAKE SHIM, Matthew Tidwell, Melissa Gai Seal and Amanda Kyras**.

DEATH & FUNERAL NOTICES

STEIN, Bernard
21.09.1938 - 13.04.2022
Beloved Husband of Jan (deceased) and loving Partner of Louise McKeering.
Cordoned Father of Tamlyn, Madigan, Matthew, and Kristian. Father-in-law of John, Joe, Allen and Ja. Grandfather of Linda, Emily, Harry, Charlie, Freya, Lucy, Callum, Lily, Gabrielle, and Adrianna.
To view life story visit www.ksm.com.au

KSM SMITH
Funeral Directors
1200-1201 Sturt Street
Darwin NT 0801

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For the informed Australian

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Notices

Public Notices

**AAPowerLink Australia Assets Pty Ltd
Australia-Asia PowerLink
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Open for Public Consultation**

AAPowerLink Australia Assets Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sun Cable, a world-leading renewable energy company, with a mission to supply renewable electricity from resource abundant regions to growing load centres, at scale.

The company is proposing to build the **Australia-Asia PowerLink (AAPowerLink)** is a AUD30+ billion giga scale renewable energy transmission project which is proposing to harness and store solar energy from the Barkly Region of the Northern Territory, via a high voltage direct current cable transmission network to Murrumujuk on Gunn Point Peninsula (31 km northeast of Darwin), and subsea cables through Australian and Indonesian waters to Singapore. With advancements in solar generation, energy storage and high voltage direct current transmission technologies, Sun Cable's mission is now more tangible than ever.

AAPowerLink was awarded NT Major Project Status (June 2019) and Commonwealth Major Project Status (July 2020) in recognition of its national strategic significance. The initiative is listed on the Infrastructure Australia Priority List (initial listing February 2021).

Key AAPowerLink infrastructure:

- Powell Creek Solar Precinct (Barkly Region, NT) including up to 17-20 GW solar electricity production and 36-42-Gigawatt (GWh) hour battery storage
- Overhead Transmission Line to transmit electricity 800 km from the Solar Precinct to the Darwin region
- Darwin Converter Site (Murrumujuk, NT) including energy storage and network connection to supply electricity to the Darwin region
- Cable Transition Facilities at Murrumujuk and Gunn Point Beach to connect transmission cables between land and sea
- Subsea Cable System transmitting the electricity from Australia to Indonesian waters, then on to Singapore
- Singapore Converter Station to receive electricity and supply the Singapore electrical network.

Environmental Impact Statement -

The AAPowerLink proposal is being assessed at the level of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) under the Environment Protection Act 2019 and an Accredited Assessment Process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999. The AAPowerLink proposal is a controlled action under the EPBC Act. The relevant controlling provisions are: Listed threatened species and communities (s.18 & 18A); Listed migratory species (s.20 & 20A), and Commonwealth marine areas (s. 23 & 24A). A draft EIS for the proposal has been submitted to the NT EPA and can be viewed on the Sun Cable website (<https://suncable.energy/>) and NT EPA website (<https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/consultation/open-consultations>).

Public exhibition period is open -

Interested persons or organisations may make written submissions to the NT EPA on or by 15 July 2022. Written submissions can be made via the NT EPA website <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/consultation/open-consultations> or to NT EPA, GPO Box 3675, Darwin NT 0801. Call 08 8924 4218 to discuss recording a verbal submission or alternative method. All submissions will be treated as public documents unless confidentiality is requested.

Hard copies of the draft EIS will be available for viewing at these locations:

- NT EPA, Level 1, Arnhemica House, 16 Parap Road, Parap, NT
- Adelaide River Post Office Store, 1 Stuart Highway, Adelaide River, NT
- Barkly Regional Council Office, 41 Peko Road, Tennant Creek, NT
- Elliott Post Office, Elliott, NT
- Environment Centre Northern Territory, Unit 3, 98 Woods Street, Darwin, NT
- Katherine Public Library, Level 1, Randazzo Centre, Katherine Terrace, Katherine, NT
- Northern Land Council, 45 Mitchell Street, Darwin, NT
- Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, Darwin, NT
- Victoria Daly Regional Council - Pine Creek Office, 55 Moule Street, Pine Creek, NT



Contact us
Visit www.suncable.energy or email info@aapowerlink.sg

NOTICE OF LOST TITLE DEED

Would anyone holding or knowing the whereabouts of duplicate Certificate of Title Volume 254 Folio 058 being Lot 5883 Town of Alice Springs in the name of the owner Edward William Ohlmus and Elizabeth Margaret Ohlmus please contact her solicitors Gardiner and Associates at Suite 2, 2 Gregory Terrace, Alice Springs Northern Territory or telephone Julia Gardiner on 89900500.

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Tributes

Deaths

BILATO, Valerie
01.05.1929 - 16.04.2022
Kind hearted, gracious and devoted matriarch of the Bilato family.
A teacher to the end and loved by all.
Loving wife of Dino (dec)
Cherished mother and mother-in-law of Eva & Tommy (dec), Louise, Robert & Imelda, John & Joanne, Franco & Robyn and Christina
Adored grandmother and great grandmother

The happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything they have.

A private cremation has taken place.

OLDFIELD, Georgina "Georgie" Marjorie Mathilda (Nee Hauth)
Passed away peacefully at Lonridge Aged Care (previously of Alice Springs, NT)
Aged 90 years.
Loved mother of David, John, Craig, Vivian and Helen-Mae.
Beloved mother-in-law of Chris, Deborah and Grant, friend of Deanne and Jan (dec).
Adored Nanna of Trixi, Amy, Shannon, Vivian, Clarke, Scott, Chelsea and families, including 13 great grandchildren.
Rest in Peace
Sincere and special thanks to the doctors and staff at Lonridge Aged Care.

Kind words for a kind soul

mytributes.com.au
13 11 35

WRIGHT, Charles
12 Apr 2022
A true gentleman and NT Construction industry influencer. Our sincere condolences to Robyn and family on the recent passing of Charles Wright. Charles was a treasured work colleague and life long friend who will always be considered a member of SITZLER. We are very saddened by his loss.
From Michael, Steve and Staff at Sitzler Pty Ltd

Funerals

DESMOND KEITH FISHER "DES"
19.10.1946 - 14.4.2022
Family and friends of Des are invited to attend his funeral service in our Resthaven Chapel, 121 Amy Johnson Avenue, Marrara at 9:30am, Thursday 21.4.2022.
A private cremation will follow.
Darwin Funeral Services
8945 2222

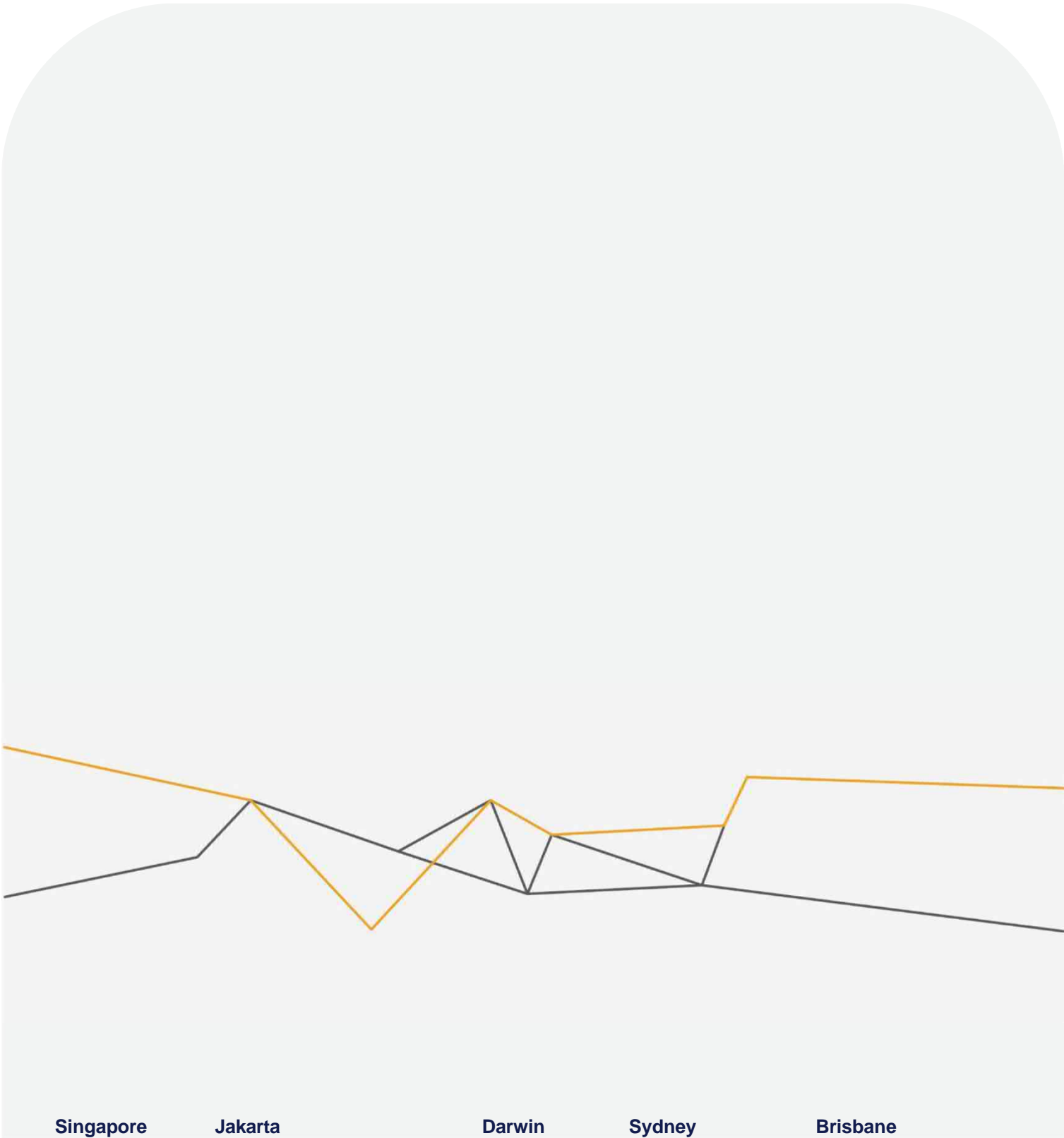
RORY (RUARI) O'TOOLE
A funeral service for Rory will be held in our Resthaven Chapel, 121 Amy Johnson Avenue, Marrara at 1pm, Thursday 21.4.2022.
A private cremation will follow.
Darwin Funeral Services
8945 2222

Remember the dearly departed

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Rejoice in their memory

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13 11 35



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Australia

Sydney

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