

Submission on the referral

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics – Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct

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

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

Section of Referral/Draft Terms of Reference	Theme or issue	Comment
Referral report 5.13 and Table 6-1	Culture and heritage	<p>The referral report acknowledges that there is potential for the proposal to significantly impact culture and heritage. The Authority agrees with this and considers that the appropriate mechanism for protecting cultural values associated with sacred sites is through an Authority Certificate issued in accordance with the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i>.</p> <p>The report states that the Authority has been engaged to ‘provide an AAPA certificate’ over the proposal area.</p> <p>The Authority confirms that the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has been engaging with the Authority in relation to an application for a new Authority Certificate for this proposal since October 2021. Once this application is finalised, the Authority will consult with custodians for sacred sites in the vicinity of the proposal with the goal of issuing an Authority Certificate for the proposed works as described in the Referral.</p>
Terms of Reference	Sacred site protection	<p>The Terms of Reference requires that evidence be provided that an Authority Certificate has been obtained or is under application in accordance with the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i>.</p> <p>The Authority suggests that the Authority Certificate should be obtained early in the planning process and prior to the finalisation of any environmental impact assessment and/or approval process.</p>