

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: Medical Entomology and Environmental Health, Public Health Unit, NT Health.

Summary: The Middle Arm area is subject to seasonally high to very high biting insect issues, as found during various baseline trapping programs in the area. The results from these investigations can be applied to most, if not all of the proposed precinct. Therefore, a desktop assessment is recommended to combine the information from past biting insect trapping programs into a single document relevant to the proposed Middle Arm Development Precinct.

Section of Referral/Draft Terms of Reference	Theme or issue	Comment
Referral report – Table 1.	Human Health	Biting insect are widespread in the Middle Arm Development Precinct in seasonally high to very high numbers, particularly biting midges, with pest and disease carrying mosquitoes also prevalent in the precinct. The potential biting insect impact on unaware personnel is considered high for most months of the year.
Referral report - Table 6.1	Human Health	In addition to the guidelines mentioned in this section of the document, there are several baseline biting insect studies and ad-hoc mosquito investigations that have been carried out adjacent to the Middle Arm Development Precinct. Some of the studies also included biting insect traps within parts of the project area. The results from these investigations can be applied to most, if not all of the proposed precinct, particularly with regards to biting insect seasonality and peak season numbers, and potential breeding grounds. It is recommended that a desktop biting insect investigation be carried out that brings all of the information into one document relevant to this area. This document should provide a general set of recommendations based on the past investigations. This would include outlining peak risk seasons for mosquitoes and biting midges, personal protection measures, adult biting insect control, potential larval mosquito control, remediation of prior site disturbance such as borrow pits, and standard measures to prevent the creation of new mosquito breeding sites. Future proponents can then choose relevant information from the desktop biting insect report to create their own site specific biting insect management plan.
Referral report - Table 6.1	Human Health	EIS needs to consider how waste water will be managed in an area assumed to be unsewered. NT Health first preference is to have connection to sewer, prior to looking at options which meet the Code of Practice for wastewater management .