

Submission on referral information

APA SPP Pty Ltd – Sturt Plateau Pipeline

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

NT EPA reference number: EP2024/040

Government authority: Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, Strategic Policy and Delivery

Summary:

Theme / issue	Comment
Theme: People Factor: Community and Economy Local employment and Community and Social Performance Management Plan	We note the proponent's commitments to maximise opportunities for local workers and businesses (Referral p40, 64). More specifically, App F refers to 38 local workers (p21) and to increasing Indigenous and local employment in the engineering construction sector and administrative and professional services, with an aim of 4% Indigenous participation (App F p7). These potentially significant local positive impacts are inconsistent with other parts of the Referral documents. For instance, the Referral report (p62) and App H (p16-17) indicate that the project's six-month timeframe and specialist skills requirements mean that local employment and training is impractical. Recommendation: The referral would benefit from: • clarifying the potential positive local employment and training impacts and committing to source a portion of the ~130 construction workers from the region or the NT, including for Aboriginal employment. • including information on the scope of the Community and Social Performance Management Plan, and commit to its timely implementation, to ensure potentially significant positive impacts are maximised and any negative impacts are managed. Consultation feedback provided by the former Department of Industry Tourism and Trade (App H p10) may be helpful in this regard.
Cumulative Impacts	The referral assesses 'People' related cumulative impacts in some detail (Referral report p67-70, App H p23-24) with the potential exception of traffic (App J p12) but stops short of committing to action. Recommendation: We acknowledge that the need for collaboration to manage cumulative impacts extends beyond this project, but suggest the referral would benefit from a clearer commitment from the proponent to work with government and other industry stakeholders to drive and coordinate training, local employment activities and other initiatives to better manage potentially significant cumulative impacts.