Koongarra Rehabilitation Project

Application Number: **03227** Commencement Date: **20/11/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Koongarra Rehabilitation Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Commonwealth

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

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1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/05/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2027

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Office of the Supervising Scientist (OSS), propose to remediate the Koongarra site (Koongarra Rehabilitation Project – the proposed action), a legacy uranium exploration site in Kakadu National Park (KNP) in the Northern Territory (NT) (Att. 1, Figure 1). The proposal area was subject to uranium exploration between 1980 and 1995; however, uranium mining or milling never occurred due to opposition by the Traditional Owner.

The proposed action will decommission and remove legacy mining infrastructure from within the former Koongarra exploration lease (the lease) and Koongarra project extension area as requested by the Traditional Owner. This includes removal of the Koongarra Source (the Source) material, which consists of uranium core samples, core trays and crushed samples from legacy exploration activities. As the five sea containers storing this Source have deteriorated, the material will be repackaged into 205 L drums, stored in new containers, then transported to the OSS-managed Jabiru Field Station (JFS) for secure storage prior to disposal in Ranger Pit 3, subject to approvals.

The lease and project extension area is 1,863 hectares (ha); however, legacy infrastructure has only been identified within a 550 ha area (proposal area). The majority of activities will be limited to the northern part of the proposal area (comprising the camp, the Source and bores), as well as an approximately 0.5 ha temporary laydown area just off the Kubara (Gubara) Road (Att. 1, Figure 1). The estimated temporary disturbance footprint is 6.55 ha, which is detailed further in Att. 2, pp. 5, Section 2.4.

All locations are within NT Portion 1662 within the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust, Aboriginal freehold land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*; however, the JFS is outside of KNP, within the area designated for the Ranger Mine under the mining Authority issued under section 41 of the Atomic Energy Act (Cth) (1953). The lease and project extension area (and within it the proposal area) is about 250 km east of Darwin, 30 km south of the Ranger Uranium Mine and 3 km east of Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) Rock in the Alligator Rivers Region of the NT. The temporary laydown area is located 100 m off the Kubara (Gubara) Road, approximately 3.2 km north-west of the Kubara (Gubara) Pools carpark (Att. 1, Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3). The JFS is a field office facility for the OSS and Parks Australia located south of the Jabiru Aerodrome, approximately 6.5 km north-east of Jabiru and 3 km north-west of Ranger Uranium Mine (Att. 1, Figure 1 and Figure 4).

Access will use the Kakadu Highway (sealed highway) to Nourlangie Road (sealed), then Kubara (Gubara) Road (unsealed) and the 4.6 km Koongarra access track (unsealed 4WD). At completion, the track will be reinstated as per Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) Certificate C2024/51 (Att. 2, pp. 3) and public access restricted. This AAPA Certificate is not publically available as it is considered culturally confidential.

Components of the proposed action:

Access track works

Rehabilitation of the existing 4.6 kilometres (km) access track from Kubara (Gubara) Pools carpark to the proposal area (in accordance with AAPA Certificate C2024/51) (Att. 6) is required to allow for safe vehicle movement to and from the proposal area. These works will include creek crossing improvements, rock armouring or suitable causeway works, minor grading and widening, temporary removal of erosion controls, limited overhead vegetation clearing, verge works and sheeting of hardened surfaces. A qualified contractor will complete these works. The track will remain for Traditional Owner access only. (Att. 2, Section 2.1).

Further detail regarding works to the access track is available in Att. 2, pp. 3, Section 2.1.

Removal of the radioactive material currently stored within the proposal area (the Koongarra Source)

There are five 20-foot shipping containers containing the Source (currently licenced by ARPANSA – licence S0340), core samples and crushed samples consisting of natural uranium (U-nat) (that is, U-238 in secular equilibrium with all progeny in its decay series). Each shipping container is estimated to be 53,600 kg (Att 4); hence the containers collectively are estimated to be 268,000 kg (~268 tonnes (t)).

The following activities will be undertaken to prepare the Source material for transport off site:

- Repackaging the samples and loose material into 205 L sealed steel drums.
- Breaking down, washing out and undertaking a radiation clearance survey of the old shipping containers for disposal to an appropriately licensed facility.
- Undertaking a radiation survey at the site to detect residual radioactive contamination of soils, which if required, will be removed for disposal with the Source.

Further detail regarding repackaging and removal of the Source is available in Att. 2, pp. 4, Section 2.2.1.

After repackaging, the Source will be transported offsite. The following process applies to transport:

- Due to access track conditions, the 205 L drums housing the Source will be transported from the proposal area to the temporary laydown area by a 4-wheel drive (4WD) and trailer or small truck.
- The Source will be loaded into sea containers then onto larger trucks at the temporary laydown area and transport via the Kakadu Highway to the JFS.
- Minor vegetation pruning works at the temporary laydown area are required to allow truck access.

Further detail regarding transport of the Source is available in Att. 2, pp. 4-5, Section 2.2.2.

The Source, in new sea containers, will be stored at the JFS (Att. 1, Figure 1) until disposed in Pit 3 at the Ranger uranium mine. The storage area at the JFS is at the southern boundary of the property – see Att. 1, Figure 4 - with a footprint of approximately 0.03 ha. The soil at the storage area is highly compacted laterite, with loose gravel throughout. This site is clear and holds very low vegetation and habitat values. The Source will be stored in accordance with a Plans and Arrangements for Managing Safety that details the secure storage requirements including reference to the relevant standards.

Further detail regarding storage of the Source is available in Att. 2, pp. 5, Section 2.2.3.

Permanent disposal of the Source will occur in Ranger Pit 3. Pit 3 already contains 42 million tonnes of uranium tailings and will be the disposal location for the Ranger mill and all drill core from Ranger and Jabiluka. The source would be transported along the Ranger Mine access road to Pit 3, following ARPANSA's Radiation Protection Series C-2 Code for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (ARPANSA, 2019). The disposal of the Source in Pit 3 will have no impact on the surrounding environment and will not change environmental outcomes for Ranger rehabilitation.

Removal of legacy exploration infrastructure

The proposal area contains groundwater bores, exploration drill holes and legacy exploration camp infrastructure such as old sheds, pickets and concrete slabs (Att. 1, Figure 5). An inventory of infrastructure identified within the camp area in 2013 is in Att 3.

Activities related to removal of legacy infrastructure includes the following:

- Breaking up of concrete slabs onsite with a digger. The concrete slabs have been sampled for contaminants and have been confirmed as suitable for disposal into landfill.
- Removal of asbestos containing material (ACM).
- Levelling off and filling of a small turkey's nest dam.
- Removal of inert waste such as star pickets, electrical wiring and piping.
- Transport of materials by 4WD and trailer to the temporary laydown area before loading onto a larger truck for disposal at an appropriate licenced facility.

There are approximately 97 groundwater bores and exploration drill holes that will be capped and decommissioned. Activities related to decommissioning of bores and drill holes include:

- Cut and remove the bore casing to 0.5 m below existing surface level (each bore has either a steel casing or concrete footing and inner polyvinylchloride pipe).
- Transport of the bore infrastructure offsite in a 4WD and trailer for disposal at an appropriate licensed facility.
- Access to each bore and drill hole with a 3 t excavator that will be walked in from the main access track and will articulate through the existing vegetation without clearing and disturbing the soil. A 4WD and trailer are the only other vehicles required on site.
- Temporary disturbance through movement of the abovementioned vehicles around each bore casing and drill hole and a 1.5-metre turning circle for the 4WD vehicle and trailer.

In compliance with the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* (WMPC Act), all transport and disposal listed wastes (such as ACM), will be undertaken by a licensed contractor.

Further detail regarding removal of legacy exploration infrastructure is available in Att. 2, pp. 5-7, Section 2.3.

Additional to the above, environmental management activities will be undertaken, including the following:

- Erosion and sediment control in accordance with the AAPA Certificate C2024/51 and best practice industry standards.
- Weed management in accordance with obligations under the *Weed Management Act 2001.*
- Storage and handling of any fuels and hazardous materials identified on site in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines.

Post-rehabilitation regeneration

No permanent clearing of vegetation will occur, with the entire site being rehabilitated and incorporated back into the surrounding natural environment in the long term. Vegetation will be flattened, not cleared, to allow movement of vehicles between legacy features. At the completion of rehabilitation activities, the site will undergo natural revegetation and monitoring, as requested by the Traditional Owner and in line with the Kakadu National Park Management Plan 2016-26.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)

Assists in the preservation and protection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.

The proposed action objective is for the restoration of the heritage of the KNP.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 **(Commonwealth)**

The proposal area is within the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust Aboriginal, Aboriginal freehold land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976.* This proposed action was specifically requested by the Traditional Owner and formal consultation by the Northern Land Council has been completed.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998 **(Commonwealth)**

Establishes a licensing framework for Commonwealth entities that deal with controlled sources of radiation and ARPANSA as the Commonwealth radiation protection regulator. The Koongarra Source is licenced under this Act.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 2018 **(Commonwealth)**

Establishes general licence conditions for Commonwealth entities dealing with controlled sources of radiation, including the need to obtain approval from ARPANSA before making certain changes to licensed activities. The repackaging, transport and storage at JFS of the Koongarra Source will require approval from ARPANSA under the regulations.

Completion of Kakadu National Park (Koongarra Project Area Repeal) Bill 2013 (Commonwealth)

This bill repealed the *Koongarra Project Area Act 1981* as part of the process to incorporate the Koongarra area (including the proposal area) into KNP.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 **(EPBC Act) (Commonwealth)**

The EPBC Act is the principal piece of national legislation for environmental protections. Under the EPBC Act and subsequent regulations, ‘matters of national environmental significance’ are defined, with the proposed action within this referral relating to the following EPBC Act sections:

- *section 12 - World Heritage Area* – Kakadu National Park is a listed World Heritage area.
- *section 15B - National Heritage* – Kakadu National Park is listed on the National Heritage Register.
- *section 16 - Ramsar wetland* – Kakadu National Park in its entirety, is classified as a Ramsar wetland.
- *section 21 - Nuclear action* – the proposed action includes establishing, significantly modifying, decommissioning or rehabilitating a facility where radioactive materials at or above the activity level mentioned in regulation 2.02 are, were, or are proposed to be used or stored.
- *section 26 - Commonwealth land* – part of the proposed action is being undertaken on Commonwealth land (Kakadu National Park).
- *section 28 - Commonwealth action* – the proposed action is being undertaken by a Commonwealth entity.

Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978 **(Commonwealth)**

The legislation that establishes the position and duties of the Supervising Scientist to provide independent oversight of uranium mining activities in the Alligator Rivers Region. This includes oversight of the environmental rehabilitation of uranium mining legacies in the region to ensure adequate environmental protection from previous mining operations.

Kakadu National Park Management Plan 2016 - 2026

Articulates the goal of remediating previously disturbed areas as they are incorporated into Kakadu National Park. The Management Plan states a vision that “disturbed areas are rehabilitated and reintegrated into the park”.

***National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999* (Commonwealth)**

If potential hydrocarbon contamination is identified in soil (such as, staining, odours, visible waste), the soil will be removed tested and disposed of off-site in a licensed disposal facility. Validation sampling beneath potential contamination sites will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999.*

***National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975* (Commonwealth)**

The KNP is proclaimed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975* and is managed through a joint management arrangement between the Aboriginal traditional owners and the Federal Government's Director of National Parks and Wildlife.

***Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT)**

The EP Act and associated *Environment Protection Regulations 2020* set out referral triggers, which, if met, require the proponent of a project to refer the project to the NT EPA for assessment.

The proposed action has been referred to the NT EPA in accordance with Section 48 of the NT *Environmental Protection Act 2019* to determine whether formal assessment under the Act is required.

***Heritage Act 2011* (NT)**

This Act provides for the conservation of the NT's cultural and natural heritage. The Act protects all Aboriginal archaeological heritage places and objects, and other declared heritage places and objects.

The Heritage Branch of the NT Government confirmed that archaeology assessment is not required due to the containment of activities. If there are any changes to the planned scope, OSS will need to re-engage with the Heritage Branch.

***Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (NT)**

There are a number of identified sacred sites within the proposal area. An AAPA Certificate (C2024/051) has been issued for the rehabilitation works.

An Authority Certificate is issued under section 22 when AAPA is satisfied that the work or use of the land could proceed or be made without there being a substantive risk of damage to, or interference with, a sacred site on or in the vicinity of the land; or an agreement has been reached between the custodians and the applicant.

An amendment to the AAPA certificate is being sought, to include bores and rubbish south of the Koongarra Creek.

***Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* (WMPC Act) (NT)**

In accordance with the WMPC Act, all transport and disposal listed wastes (such as ACM), will be undertaken by a licensed contractor and disposed of at an appropriately licensed facility.

***Weeds Management Act 2001* (NT)**

This Act protects the Territory's economy, community, industry, and environment from the adverse impacts of weeds. To comply with the Act, OSS is required to manage its activities to ensure that declared weeds and potential weeds are not introduced or spread. OSS will manage the works in accordance with the Kakadu National Park Management Plan 2016-2026, with weed inspections on vehicles and plant and washdown performed off site for any equipment determined to be a risk.

***Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* (NT)**
The *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* (WHS Act) and *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011* (WHS Regulations) regulate health and safety in the workplace. Will be applicable for all works associated with the proposed action.

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation with the Traditional Owner and relevant stakeholders has been ongoing since 2022, in various forms. This consultation has included in person meetings, site visits, electronic communication and formal consultation by statutory agencies including Northern Land Council (NLC) and AAPA. Stakeholders consulted by OSS to inform the proposed action include:

- The sole Traditional Owner of the Koongarra area
- Other Traditional Owner groups – neighbouring clans – Murrumburr and Mirarr
- Northern Land Council
- Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
- Parks Australia
- Commonwealth Government
- Northern Territory Government
- General public/users of the KNP.

A full list of recent consultation activities undertaken is provided at Att. 5.

The rehabilitation of the proposal area was requested by the Traditional Owner at a Kakadu Board of Management (KBOM) Meeting (specific date unavailable). As such, OSS have been actively engaged with the Traditional Owner of the Koongarra site (proposal area) directly and through the NLC as part of this proposed action to ensure the rehabilitation objectives will be met in a manner that is consistent with stakeholder expectations.

In determining the proposed action requirements, the NLC undertook consultation with the Traditional Owner on 8 August 2024 and on 9 September 2025 to inform OSS of the formal requirements for conducting works onsite.

OSS conducted further site visits with the traditional owner representatives from Kakadu National Park on country on the 21 July 2025 to advise that the proposed use of the old fire break on the southern side on the outlier (Nourlangie rock) to the Burrungkuy carpark as the access route to the proposal area was not viable from an environmental, economic, public safety and possible cultural perspective

OSS has undertaken numerous site visits with key stakeholders including the Traditional Owner, NLC, representatives from Parks Australia, KNP and OSS. The visits were undertaken to discuss the matters associated with the sacred sites along the access track, and other proposed works on site. The Proposal considered alternative access routes to avoid the sacred sites between the Kubara Pools carpark and the proposal area. Based on further site investigations and site visits and consultation with the Traditional Owner, there was a consensus reached that the Kubara Pools access route was the feasible route to use for the Proposal.

Future Engagement

OSS will continue to actively engage with the Traditional Owner, Parks Australia and KNP management throughout the life of the Proposal. OSS will engage with any additional Traditional Owner groups, as identified by the NLC.

OSS, Parks Australia and KNP currently meet monthly to discuss the project, provide status reports and identify any issues and address any concerns.

The Traditional Owner of the area is in regularly contact with OSS staff and will be engaged as a Cultural Advisor for the duration of works.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	63573932849
Organisation name	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Organisation address	2600 ACT

Referring party details

Name	Brayden Miller
Job title	Assistant Director Supervision and Assessment
Phone	0415205554
Email	brayden.miller@dcceew.gov.au
Address	3 Pederson Road, Darwin, Northern Territory, 0820

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	63573932849
Organisation name	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Organisation address	2600 ACT

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Keith Tayler
Job title	Supervising Scientist
Phone	0438454974
Email	keith.tayler@dcceew.gov.au
Address	3 Pederson Road, Darwin, Northern Territory 0820

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

The OSS is a statutory office established in 1978 under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978*. The OSS, in which Keith Tayler (the Supervising Scientist) is the statutory officer-holder who directs the OSS, ensures the protection of the Alligator Rivers Region and the local communities from the effects of uranium mining by undertaking environmental research and monitoring, participating in and overseeing the regulatory process and developing standards and practices for environmental protection.

The OSS are recognised as international leaders in the regulation of uranium mining and its rehabilitation, the management of radioactive legacy sites, assessing the impact of radiation on the environment and the development of leading-edge environmental monitoring tools. OSS' deep expertise, 47-year history in the Alligator Rivers Region and strong relationship with the Traditional Owner make them the ideal entity to manage the rehabilitation of a former uranium exploration site in KNP.

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

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1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	63573932849
Organisation name	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Organisation address	2600 ACT

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Keith Tayler
Job title	Supervising Scientist
Phone	0438454974
Email	keith.tayler@dcceew.gov.au
Address	3 Pederson Road, Darwin, Northern Territory 0820

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	63573932849
Organisation name	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Organisation address	2600 ACT
Representative's name	Brayden Miller
Representative's job title	Assistant Director Supervision and Assessment
Phone	0415205554
Email	brayden.miller@dcceew.gov.au
Address	3 Pederson Road, Darwin, Northern Territory, 0820

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	63573932849
Organisation name	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Organisation address	2600 ACT
Representative's name	Keith Tayler
Representative's job title	Supervising Scientist
Phone	0438454974
Email	keith.tayler@dcceew.gov.au
Address	3 Pederson Road, Darwin, Northern Territory 0820

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

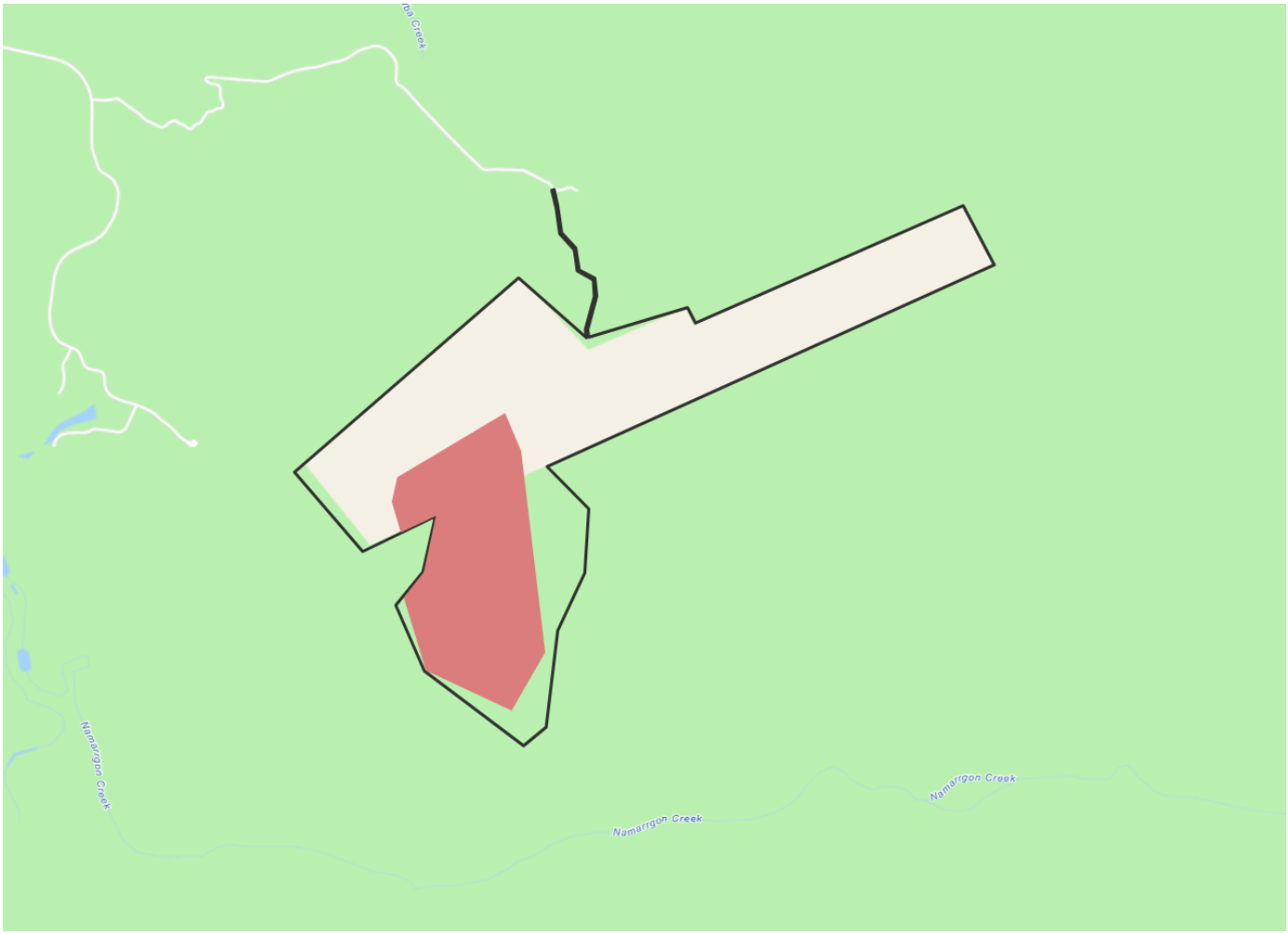
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Referring party

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 1883.30 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 523.00 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Kubara (Gubara) Road, Kakadu, Northern Territory, 0822

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Northern Territory

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

The proposal area – including the storage location at the JFS and all other points of interest – is NT Portion 1662 within the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust, Aboriginal freehold land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. The JFS is within the Ranger Project Area which is a s41 Authority under the *Atomic Energy Act* 1953, and is managed leasing, governance and service arrangements.

Jeffery Lee, Diok Clan member is the sole Traditional Owner of the former Koongarra lease area, which is leased to the DNP as part of the KNP. KNP is Proclaimed under the EPBC Act and is administered under a joint management principle. These arrangements are detailed in the Kakadu National Park Management Plan 2016 – 2026.

In 2011, the World Heritage Committee approved the inclusion of Koongarra into the Kakadu National Park World Heritage listing. Koongarra was incorporated into KNP in 2013, with the passage of the *Completion of Kakadu National Park (Koongarra Project Area Repeal) Bill 2013*. The location is now under the management control of the DNP as the Australian Government entity responsible for KNP.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area's environment.

As noted previously, all locations relevant to the proposed action are within NT Portion 1662 within the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust, Aboriginal freehold land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*; however, the JFS is outside of KNP, within the Ranger Project Area (RPA).

The lease and project extension area (and within it the proposal area) is about 250 km east of Darwin, 30 km south of the Ranger Uranium Mine and 3 km east of Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) Rock in the Alligator Rivers Region of the NT. The temporary laydown area, that will be used for temporary holding of the Source and other waste material, is located 100 m off the Kubara (Gubara) Road, approximately 3.2 km north-west of the Kubara (Gubara) Pools carpark (Att. 1, pp. 1-2, Figure 1 and Figure 2). The JFS is a field office facility for the OSS and Parks Australia. It is located to the south of the Jabiru Aerodrome, approximately 6.5 km north-east of Jabiru and 3 km north-west of Ranger Uranium Mine (Att. 1, pp. 1, Figure 1).

The proposal area is within the World Heritage listed KNP. It lies in a valley bounded by the Mount Brockman outlier and the Arnhem Land plateau (Att. 1, Figure 6). The land is not zoned under town planning zoning. There will be no changes to zoning for this activity.

The surrounding environment is of high value and quality. KNP is recognised through the World Heritage Listing as holding exceptional natural and cultural values, including a huge diversity of flora and fauna and is one of the least impacted areas of the northern part of the Australian continent. The current disturbed condition within the proposal area contrasts with the broader KNP environment, a strong driver for completing the proposed action to rehabilitate and reintegrate the proposal area.

The proposal area has been subject to historic disturbance and uranium exploration legacy infrastructure, including the Source material, remains within the proposal area (Att. 1, Figure 5). A full inventory of the proposal area can be found in Att. 3.

In 2021 and 2022, soil samples were collected from sites adjacent to the shipping containers holding the Source and analysed by gamma spectrometry for their soil radionuclide activity concentrations. The results indicated that uranium decay series radionuclides (including radium-226 and lead-210) are present at typical environmental levels, with no indication of soil contamination from the material in the shipping containers.

The existing gravel access track is 4.6 km long running from the Kubara (Gubara) Pools car park that traverses over the Koongarra Saddle. There is some existing erosion along the access track identified within the AAPA Certificate (Att. 6, pp. 7, Image 1) which has specific licence conditions to address this.

The temporary laydown area is an existing gravel pit, cleared of trees and shrubs and no disturbance outside of the existing disturbance footprint will occur. A secure lockable compound will be established at the temporary laydown area, constructed from temporary fencing panels, appropriate signage as per the requirements of a Radiation Management Plan, to house the sea containers for storage of the 205L drums of the Source material.

The storage location at JFS is cleared of trees and shrubs and within the fenced boundary of the office complex. The site is secure and not accessible by the public.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

The former Koongarra lease area contains a high-grade uranium deposit. The deposit was discovered in the 1970s by Noranda, who applied for a Special Mining Lease (SML) and the area was excluded from the KNP when it was established. Ownership of the SML changed hands several times between 1980-1995, and while exploration and drilling continued throughout this time, the site was never mined due to opposition from the Traditional Owner.

In 1995, Areva acquired the Koongarra Project through its subsidiary Koongarra Pty Ltd, who resumed discussions with the Traditional Owner but was unable to acquire permission to mine the site. In 2013, the *Completion of Kakadu National Park (Koongarra Project Repeal) Bill 2013* incorporated the Koongarra Project Area into KNP, removing the possibility of any future mining.

The exploration licences and lease applications held by the now-dissolved Koongarra Pty Ltd have ceased as of 23 January 2019, leaving the area under the management of the DNP. Legacy infrastructure from historical exploration remains throughout the proposal area. The site is currently not in use, and no activity has occurred since 1995.

Although the proposal area lies within the KNP, it is locked with a gate and inaccessible to the public. Site access is currently restricted to the following:

- Traditional Owner for land use and cultural purposes.
- OSS staff to manage the Source and conduct works associated with the development of this referral.
- KNP staff to conduct park management activities such as fire and feral animal management.

At the completion of the proposed action, the proposal area will be managed as part of KNP.

The temporary laydown area will remain as a cleared gravel pit, with all materials removed from the site when the Source is moved to the JFS.

The storage location, the JFS, is a field office facility for the OSS and Parks Australia. It is located to the south of the Jabiru Aerodrome, approximately 6.5 km north-east of Jabiru and 3 km north-west of Ranger Uranium Mine (Att. 1, Figure 1). The site will continue being used as a field office for the foreseeable future.

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

The proposal area is situated in and has been part of KNP since February 2013. KNP covers an area of 19,810 km2 within the Alligator Rivers Region of the NT of Australia. It extends over 150 km from the northern coastline to the southern hills and basins. KNP is both a World Heritage and a National Heritage listed national park, known for its unique cultural and environmental values. KNP has been home to Aboriginal people for more than 60,000 years, with historic rock art detailing the hunting and gathering practices, ritual ceremonies and social structure of Indigenous societies from the Pleistocene Epoch to the current day (UNESCO World Heritage Convention 2024).

KNP is the second largest national park within Australia. It contains a range of unique and complex ecosystems, including savanna woodlands, open forest, floodplains, mangroves, tidal mudflats, and monsoon forests. KNP contains areas which provide critical high-quality habitat for a wide range of rare, migratory and endemic species of both plants and animals. These cultural and environmental attributes make it one of the most important tourism areas in Australia (UNESCO World Heritage Convention 2024).

The entirety of the KNP is listed under the Ramsar Convention's Wetlands of International Importance – as an internationally recognised wetland hosting significant value to not only Australia, but the international community.

While the KNP provides outstanding natural values and features, none of these are considered to be within the proposal area except for savannah woodland. As noted previously in this referral, the proposal area is degraded because it contains legacy, dilapidated and radioactive exploration infrastructure. At completion of the proposed action, the savannah woodland ecosystem within the proposal area is expected to improve in quality and value.

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The proposal area lies in a valley bounded by the Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) Rock, an outlier of the Mount Brockman Massif to the north, and the Arnhem Land Plateau approximately 7 km to the south-east. The proposal area is approximately 25 m above sea level (Australian Height Datum [AHD]), increasing gradually to 45 mAHD to the north before the Mount Brockman Massif rises to an elevation of between 200 – 300 mAHD (Att. 1, Figure 6).

The proposal area, holding yard on Kubara (Gubara) Road and storage location at the JFS all have relatively flat topography. The access track from the Kubara (Gubara) Pools over the saddle has varied topography, reaching an elevation of almost 100 mAHD at its peak.

The bore casing will be cut and removed to 0.5 m below existing surface level.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

A desktop likelihood of occurrence (LOO) assessment was undertaken to inform the likelihood of threatened flora and fauna and migratory species occurring within and relying on habitat within the proposal area. The full LOO is provided at Att 7.

Due to the small size and highly restricted area of disturbance, the proposal area is not considered to contain critical habitat that supports any threatened flora or fauna species. There are no savanna woodland threatened species with restricted ranges that have a high vulnerability to disturbance that are relevant to this region.

One species was assessed in the LOO to have a high likelihood of occurrence within the proposal area – the Partridge Pigeon (*Geophaps smithii smithii*). However, this species is a habitat-generalist and is expected to use the extensive savannah woodland habitat in the surrounding area as it would use the proposal area. This species also has a relatively large home range and would likely use the surrounding habitat frequently.

The following species were assessed to have a medium likelihood of occurrence within the proposal area:

- Northern Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*)
- Arnhem Rock-rat (*Zyzomys maini*)
- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*)
- White-throated Grasswren (*Amytornis woodwardi*)
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*).

The Northern Brushtail Possum, Northern Quoll and White-throated Grasswren, like the Partridge Pigeon, would not rely on any critical habitat within the proposal area and are expected to use the extensive savannah woodland habitat in the surrounding area.

Unlike the Partridge Pigeon, the Arnhem Rock-rat and Ghost Bat require specific habitats within the West Arnhem Plateau – specifically the Mt Brockman massif proximate to the proposal area. Access is via an existing access track that traverses the Koongarra Saddle and does present a potential impact for escarpment species.

The LOO also identified the possibility of migratory species protected under international agreements occurring within the region. Again, due to its small size and high level of disturbance, the proposed action area is highly unlikely to provide habitat that supports any migratory species. Moreover, most of these migratory species have a low likelihood of occurring in the habitat surrounding the proposal area. Many of the birds listed within the report are wetland species and/or occur almost exclusively in coastal and estuarine environments. For these species – and marine species – the habitat surrounding the proposal area does not contain suitable habitat. The remaining migratory species can occur within savanna woodland. However, even if individual members of some migratory species were to seasonally utilise the habitat surrounding the proposal area, this occurrence is expected to be for a short period and in low abundances. Additionally, any migratory species utilising the habitat surrounding the proposal area could reasonably be expected to utilise the areas of similar habitat in the region. As such, the habitat surrounding the proposal area is not considered to be important habitat for any migratory species.

Finally, the PMST report notes that the Arnhem Plateau Sandstone Shrubland Complex – a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) – is known to occur in the region. That TEC is found on sandstone plateaux; the proposal area is at the base of a massif. Therefore, the Arnhem Plateau Sandstone Shrubland Complex is not relevant to this proposed action.

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

The proposal area is a disturbed site populated mainly by grasses with sparse tree cover. Barnyard Grass (*Echinochloa colona*) and Mission Grass (*Cenchrus pedicellatus*) have been previously recorded in the area (DLPE 2003[AN1]). The habitat surrounding the proposal area is intact, Eucalypt-dominated savanna woodland – the most widespread habitat in the Top End.

The access track passes over the Koongarra Saddle within the West Arnhem Land Plateau. This area is surrounded by intact Corymbia low woodland with a hummock grassland ground cover on a rugged sandstone plateau.

Soils within the proposal are predominantly shallow, gravelly, earthy sands and sandy earths with substantial areas of deep gravel-free siliceous sands (White & McLeod 1986[AN2]). Soils generally have massive structures and textures range from sands to sandy clay loams and have acid character. Profiles consistently have medium to rapid internal drainage, with slow site runoff (White & McLeod 1986). The sandy nature of the soils in the proposal area makes them susceptible to erosion where vegetation cover has been removed,and run-off is concentrated or channelled into a specific location.

The soil at the JFS storage area is highly compacted laterite, with loose gravel throughout. This site is already cleared and holds very low vegetation and habitat values.

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

This proposed action will take place exclusively within the bounds of mainland Australia. As a result, no Commonwealth heritage places overseas, or other places recognised as having heritage values overseas, are impacted by the proposed action.

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

The proposed action is within KNP and on Aboriginal freehold land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976.* More broadly, Aboriginal people have occupied the area within and around KNP continuously for at least 60,000 years. Evidence of occupation is found throughout KNP, particularly in the rich heritage of Aboriginal art and archaeological sites.

Within the proposal area specifically, AAPA Authority Certificate (C2024/051) (Att. 6) was granted on 14 November 2024 for works to be conducted in the proposal area. The AAPA Authority Certificate identifies three Restricted Works Areas and outlines specific conditions for each work area such as requirements for erosion and dust mitigation, the protection of sacred sites, and for Senior custodians to be present during the works. An amendment to the AAPA certificate has been submitted by OSS, which includes the area south of the Koongarra Creek (Att. 1, Figure 2). No works will be undertaken in this area until an amendment to AAPA certificate (C2024/051) has been granted.

Known values within proposal area: multiple registered/recorded Sacred Sites – locations have not been described to maintain confidentiality.

Known values in surrounding area: Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) Rock (Att. 1, Figure 2).

To ensure the protection of sites identified an archaeological survey is being completed from the Kubara carpark turnoff to the Koongarra exploration site. A cultural heritage management plan (CHMP) and Rock Art Protection Plan, with specific methodology and details regarding protection measures will be developed by a subject matter expert. The CHMP and Rock Art Protection Plan and will be implemented as part of the works.

There are no known archaeological features within the proposal area. The NT Heritage Branch confirmed that the further archaeological survey for the proposed action is not required due to the containment of activities within the former Koongarra lease area and existing access tracks; however, as noted above an archaeological survey will be undertaken in support of the prescribed conditions of the AAPA certificate.

The site has been subject to disturbance through historic exploration activities, and the proposed action activities present an inherently low risk of potential impact to Aboriginal archaeological features. OSS will be integrating the ‘unexpected finds protocol’ previously provided to the Heritage Branch within the rehabilitation work plan, as recommended by the Heritage Branch. Works will be undertaken in accordance with the CHMP and Rock Art Protection Plan.

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

Surface water drainage, and major and minor flood areas are shown within Att. 1, Figure 6.

There are four streams that intersect the access track from Kubara (Gubara) Pools to the proposal area. These are minor, non-perennial streams. As the maintenance works will be undertaken in the dry season, it is not expected that there will be large amounts of water present during works. Further, only minor refurbishments are required to the access tracks.

There are two minor, ephemeral streams in the proposal area. Surface water within the proposal area flows west into Nourlangie Creek via the Umbungbung Billabong. The Koongarra camp infrastructure (excluding bores) is approximately 200 m away from the nearest stream.

The nearest waterways to the JFS – a steam that flows into Magela Creek, and Magela Creek itself - are over 1 km to the east.

There is no large-scale land clearing as a part of this proposed action that may alter the flows of ground or surface water.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	No	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	No	Yes
S21	Nuclear	Yes	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	Yes	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	Yes	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	World heritage
Yes	Yes	Kakadu National Park

4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

KNP received World Heritage listing under the following 5 criterion:

1. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
2. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
3. to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
4. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
5. to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

This proposed action is taking place on a legacy uranium mine exploration lease which has been part of KNP since 2013. Management of this site to reduce and eliminate potential impacts to the National Park is, therefore, a requirement of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) listing. The proposed action will not impact the protected matter of the KNP World Heritage listing, as the proposed action is partly a result of, and in full accordance with, the protection and management requirements of its World Heritage listing.

The management of uranium mining/exploration legacies in KNP is specifically noted by UNESCO under the “Protection and Management Requirements” heading of Kakadu National Park’s World Heritage listing on the UNESCO website:

“*Mining* – management of abandoned small-scale uranium mining sites and monitoring the existing Ranger mine lease. A rehabilitation program has been completed to reduce the physical and radiological hazards of old mine sites. The future potential effects on the park of current uranium mining will require ongoing scrutiny”

This proposed action is not likely to have an impact, or significant impact, on the World Heritage values of Kakadu National Park because:

- the outcome of the proposed action is an improvement of the disturbed and dilapidated condition of the proposal area and reintegration of the proposal area into the surrounding KNP
- one or more of the World Heritage values will not be lost
- one or more of the World Heritage values will not be degraded or damaged, or
- one or more of the World Heritage values will not be notably altered, modified, obscured or diminished.

As noted previously in this referral, the proposal area is degraded because it contains legacy, dilapidated and radioactive exploration infrastructure. At completion of the proposed action, the environment within the proposal area is expected to improve in quality and value.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	National heritage
Yes		Kakadu National Park

4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The National Heritage criteria against which the heritage values of a place are assessed are:

a. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history

b. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history

c. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history

d. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or

ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments;

e. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

f. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

g. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

h. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history

i. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

Kakadu National Park is included in the National Heritage List as it meets 8 of the 9 listed criteria for National Heritage listing. Koongarra was added to the Kakadu World Heritage area on 27 June 2011 to enhance the protection of Indigenous history and culture of the site and prevent potential future mining activities. Due to the rehabilitative nature of this proposed action, it is unlikely that any of the heritage criteria will be negatively impacted during, or because of this proposed action. Activities associated with the proposed action have been designed to avoid or minimise any impacts to the natural environment which may indirectly impact on the heritage aspects of the site. The project will adhere to the conditions imposed through the AAPA Certificate and agreements with the TO to avoid any impacts to the cultural heritage of the site. In addition, advice from the Northern Territory Department of Lands, Planning and Environment's Heritage Branch identified that the proposed work plan had satisfied the requirements of the Northern Territory Heritage Act (2011). The outcome of the proposed action will contribute to an improvement of the heritage values within the KNP by removing legacy infrastructure and radioactive material and increasing the aesthetic characteristics and the natural environment within the proposal area.

The adherence to AAPA certificate C2024/051, consultation with the Northern Land Council and confirmation of compliance with the Heritage Act confirms that the proposed project is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact on National heritage.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
Yes		Kakadu National Park

4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

An action is likely to have a significant impact on the ecological character of a declared Ramsar wetland if there is a real chance or possibility that it will result in:

- areas of the wetland being destroyed or substantially modified
- a substantial and measurable change in the hydrological regime of the wetland, for example, a substantial change to the volume, timing, duration and frequency of ground and surface water flows to and within the wetland
- the habitat or lifecycle of native species, including invertebrate fauna and fish species, dependant upon the wetland being seriously affected
- a substantial and measurable change in the water quality of the wetland – for example, a substantial change in the level of salinity, pollutants, or nutrients in the wetland, or water temperature which may adversely impact on biodiversity, ecological integrity, social amenity or human health, or
- an invasive species that is harmful to the ecological character of the wetland being established (or an existing invasive species being spread) in the wetland.

The proposed action includes the deconstruction and removal of legacy infrastructure on site and the repackaging and removal of radioactive uranium drill core. The proposed action will not have direct and/or indirect impacts on the Ramsar listed wetland because:

- The entirety of the KNP is a declared Ramsar wetland. The proposal area has a highly restricted area of temporary disturbance that does not include areas of wetland habitat.
- The works within the proposal area will be conducted in the dry season to reduce the amount of topsoil disturbance and erosion caused by vehicle movement throughout the site.

Vehicle inspections will be conducted on all machinery entering the site, to minimise the risk of invasive fauna and vegetation being introduced to the proposal area.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		Acanthophis hawkei	Plains Death Adder
Yes		Amytornis woodwardi	White-throated Grasswren, Yirlinkirrkirr
Yes		Antechinus bellus	Fawn Antechinus
Yes		Bellatorias obiri	Arnhem Land Egernia
Yes		Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes		Carettochelys insculpta	Pig-nosed Turtle, Pitted Shell Turtle
Yes		Chloebia gouldiae	Gouldian Finch
Yes		Conilurus penicillatus	Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat, Brush-tailed Tree-rat, Pakooma
Yes		Dasyurus hallucatus	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
Yes		Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
Yes		Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
Yes		Falcunculus frontatus whitei	Crested Shrike-tit (northern), Northern Shrike-tit
Yes		Geophaps smithii smithii	Partridge Pigeon (eastern)
Yes		Hibiscus brennanii	a shrub
Yes		Hipposideros inornatus	Arnhem Leaf-nosed Bat
Yes		Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat
Yes		Mesembriomys gouldii gouldii	Black-footed Tree-rat (Kimberley and mainland Northern Territory), Djintamoonga, Manbul
Yes		Petrogale concinna canescens	Nabarlek (Top End)

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		Phascogale pirata	Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale
Yes		Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover
Yes		Pristis pristis	Largetooth Sawfish, Freshwater Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish
Yes		Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
Yes		Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus	Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat, Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat
Yes		Tiliqua scincoides intermedia	Northern Blue-tongued Skink
Yes		Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis	Northern Brushtail Possum
Yes		Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli	Masked Owl (northern)
Yes		Varanus mertensi	Mertens' Water Monitor
Yes		Varanus mitchelli	Mitchell's Water Monitor
Yes		Xenus cinereus	Terek Sandpiper
Yes		Xeromys myoides	Water Mouse, False Water Rat, Yirrkoo
Yes		Zyzomys maini	Arnhem Rock-rat, Arnhem Land Rock-rat, Kodjperr

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes		Arnhem Plateau Sandstone Shrubland Complex

4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.4.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No areas will be subject to permanent clearing of vegetation, with the entire site being rehabilitated and integrated into the surrounding natural environment in the long term. Vegetation will be flattened, not cleared completely to facilitate movement of vehicles between legacy features.

The proposal area does not include any areas of important habitat for any threatened species or migratory species, and any species within the proposal area could be reasonably expected to utilise the surrounding habitat while works are being undertaken.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		Acrocephalus orientalis	Oriental Reed-Warbler
Yes		Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
Yes		Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
Yes		Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
Yes		Cecropis daurica	Red-rumped Swallow
Yes		Charadrius veredus	Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel
Yes		Crocodylus porosus	Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile
Yes		Cuculus optatus	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
Yes		Glareola maldivarum	Oriental Pratincole
Yes		Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow
Yes		Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail
Yes		Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
Yes		Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel
Yes		Pandion haliaetus	Osprey
Yes		Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover
Yes		Pristis pristis	Largetooth Sawfish, Freshwater Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish
Yes		Tringa stagnatilis	Marsh Sandpiper, Little Greenshank

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		Xenus cinereus	Terek Sandpiper

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.5.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

Due to its small size and high level of existing disturbance, the proposal area is highly unlikely to provide habitat that supports any migratory species. Moreover, most of these migratory species have a low likelihood of occurring in the habitat surrounding the proposal area. Many of the birds listed within the report are wetland species and/or occur almost exclusively in coastal and estuarine environments. For these species – and marine species – the habitat surrounding the proposal area does not contain suitable habitat. The remaining migratory species can occur within savanna woodland. However, even if individual members of some migratory species were to seasonally utilise the habitat surrounding the proposal area, this occurrence is expected to be for a short period and in low abundances. Additionally, any migratory species utilising the habitat surrounding the proposal area could reasonably be expected to utilise the areas of similar habitat in the region. As such, the habitat surrounding the proposal area is not considered to be important habitat for any migratory species.

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

Yes

4.1.6.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter. *

The following aspects of the proposed action trigger as a nuclear action under the EPBC Act:

- Decommissioning the old shipping containers holding the Koongarra Source within the proposal area (which includes repackaging the Source material) and rehabilitating the area where the old shipping containers were located.
- Establishing a new compound at JFS and storing the radioactive material in the compound.

The specific section of the EPBC Act that it triggers is 22(1)(g): *"Any other actions prescribed by the regulations."*

EPBC regulation 2.01 prescribes the following: *"For paragraph (g) of the definition of nuclear action in subsection 22(1) of the Act, a nuclear action includes establishing, significantly modifying, decommissioning or rehabilitating a facility where radioactive materials at or above the activity level mentioned in regulation 2.02 are, were, or are proposed to be used or stored."*

A self-assessment against the activity levels prescribed in regulation 2.02 has been made using information from ARPANSA's Koongarra site survey report, which is the best information available for the radioactivity of the material in the sea containers.

Using the uranium decay series activity concentrations (Att. 4, pp. 19, Table 10) and activities (Att. 4, pp. 20, Table 11) together with their reported uncertainties, the self-assessment indicates that:

- the unsealed source activity concentration value is 3.05, which exceeds the EPBC trigger of 1; and

the unsealed source activity value is 1.03×10^6, which exceeds the EPBC trigger of 10^6.

4.1.6.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.6.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

Despite exceeding the activity level specified in regulation 2.02 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (EPBC Regulations), no environmental effects from radiation are likely to result from the proposed action for the following reasons:

- No public access to Koongarra, therefore no radiation exposure to the public from repackaging.
- Repackaging to occur within a designated area which will be surveyed for radiation before and after repackaging activities to ensure no release of radioactive material. Therefore, no radiation exposure to the environment from repackaging.
- Implementation of a radiation management plan and radiation monitoring during repackaging. Therefore, radiation exposure to workers will be below statutory limits and kept to a level that is as low as reasonably achievable.
- Repackaged material will be sealed in 205 L drums for transport and storage within a fenced and locked compound at JFS. There is also no public access to JFS. Therefore, no radiation exposure to the public or the environment from transport and storage.

Licensing and regulatory oversight from ARPANSA which will ensure no significant radiation impacts to people or the environment.

4.1.6.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.6.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The proposed action is not a controlled action because there are no significant radiation impacts to the environment or human health from the nuclear aspects of the action.

4.1.6.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

The DNP holds the Koongarra Source Licence (S0340), issued by the ARPANSA on the 7 February 2022, under the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998*, authorising DNP to deal with (store) the Koongarra source material at the Koongarra site subject to certain conditions. The proposed action (i.e. repackaging, transport and storage at JFS) represents a change to the licensed dealing and will require regulatory approval from ARPANSA before it can be undertaken.

Transport

The Koongarra source material will be repackaged and sealed in 205 L drums and transported in accordance with the relevant requirements of ARPANSA's Radiation Protection Series C-2 Code for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (ARPANSA, 2019). A Radiation Management Plan and Monitoring Program will be developed and implemented to provide management requirements and guidelines for repackaging and transportation of the Koongarra source material to the JFS.

Storage

The repackaged and drummed Koongarra source material will be stored at the JFS in an appropriate number of sea containers within a fenced and locked compound. The JFS has been selected as the storage location to minimise transport distance and because it is a secure location separated from the general public and close to the final disposal location in Ranger Pit 3. Once the Koongarra source material has been transported to the JFS, it will be administratively transferred from the Koongarra source licence (S0340) to the OSS source licence (S0015) for ongoing regulation by ARPANSA. In transferring control of the material between the source licences, plans and arrangements for the safe storage of the Koongarra source material at the JFS will be developed and submitted to ARPANSA as part of the approval process. The plans and arrangements will align with the relevant requirements of AS/NZS 2243.4:2018 Safety in laboratories Part 4: Ionizing radiations which is applied as a licence condition by ARPANSA.

4.1.6.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

No offsets are proposed for this proposed action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposal area is located a significant distance inland, some 70 km – 80 km away from the nearest coastal or estuarine marine environments. Moreover, the watercourses that intersect the proposal area cease flowing almost entirely during each dry season. The proposed action is of low intensity, limited duration and restricted special extent, such that it is highly unlikely for any direct or indirect impact to Commonwealth Marine Areas will occur.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

There are no credible pathways of impact to the Great Barrier Reef because of the large distance between the proposal area and the Great Barrier Reef.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

This is not a large coal mining development or coal seam gas development, nor is it taking place in a coal mining or coal seam gas region. This category of protected matter is not applicable to the proposed action.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth land area
Yes	Yes	Commonwealth Land - Kakadu National Park

4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.10.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

The proposed action is to be undertaken within KNP which is Commonwealth land. While the overall objective of the proposed action is to remediate a legacy exploration site within KNP, activities associated with the proposed action have potential to impact on the environment.

Key potential pathways of impact include:

- minor disturbance of soils through movement of vehicles and decommissioning of existing infrastructure
- contamination of soils through accidental spill or leak of the hazardous or radioactive material
- temporary disturbance of adjacent fauna habitat through vehicle movement and decommissioning activities
- contamination of soils due to improper movement, handling and storage of the Source material
- impacts to vegetation through pruning and removing of tree limbs, where required
- temporary disturbance of shrubs and grasses through vehicle movement to/from and within the site
- degradation of sacred sites from refurbishment works and movement of vehicles along the access track
- human health impacts from exposure to radioactive materials during transport from the proposal area to the JFS.

Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 describe the components of the environment to be considered where there are potential impacts to the environment on Commonwealth land. The components of the environment relevant to the proposed action are:

- Landscapes and soils
- Pollutants, chemicals, and toxic substances
- Flora and fauna
- People and communities
- Heritage.

Two components - coastal landscapes and processes, ocean forms, ocean processes and ocean life – are not considered further in this assessment because the proposal area is over 80 km from the ocean and will not impact the coastal environment. A third component – water resources – is not considered further because the works will be undertaken in the dry season so will not impact the perennial streams within and in proximity to the proposal area. There are no other credible pathways of impact to water resources from the proposed action.

4.1.10.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.10.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

Considering the scale, duration and magnitude of the potential impacts and sensitivity of the receiving environment, it is not considered that any potential impacts are likely to be significant. Impacts to the broader environment were assessed as part of a referral under the Northern Territory *Environment Protection Act 2019,* a summary of which is provided below against the relevant environmental features from the *Significant impact guidelines 1.2 - Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies* (DSEWPC 2013).

Landscapes and soils, pollutants, chemicals, and toxic substances

While there is potential for contamination of soils to occur because of activities associated with the proposed action, this is unlikely to be significant because there are no existing sources of significant contamination within the proposal area and the proposed action does not involve activities which would result in significant contamination. There is a risk of spills of the radioactive Source material during handling, transport and storage; however, the volumes of materials required would not pose a significant impact on soils, and handling and storage procedures will be implemented to manage any accidental spills, including incident response measures. Following the removal of the Source material, a radiation clearance survey will be completed at the site to detect any residual radioactive contamination of soil, which if required, will be removed for disposal with the Source.

Erosion and soil loss was also identified as a potential impact due to land clearing and soil disturbance; however, accounting for implementation of avoidance and mitigation measures, the residual impact on terrestrial environmental quality through erosion and soil loss is considered to be minor.

Flora and fauna

Section 4.1.4 and 4.1.5 of this referral detail potential impacts to threatened and migratory species. There may be some minor degradation of fauna habitats and significant vegetation directly surrounding the proposal area during deconstruction activities from indirect impacts such as noise and dust emissions. These will occur in the short-term and can be managed through standard environmental management measures. This would also be restricted to areas directly surrounding the boundary of the proposal area. The nature of the proposed action poses an inherently low risk of habitat degradation during operations because there will be little noise, dust, odour or activity. Based on this, the residual impact has been assessed as minor.

People and communities

While there is potential for people and communities impacts from exposure to radioactive materials during transport from the proposal area to the JFS, this is unlikely to be significant because of the low activity of the materials and that it will be securely contained within appropriately sealed containers to ensure safe transport and storage. The risk of public exposure during transport is further reduced by adherence to the safety precautions to repackage the material for safe transport.

4.1.10.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.10.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The proposed action is unlikely to have a significant on the environment. The overall objective of the proposed action is to rehabilitate a legacy uranium exploration site within Kakadu National Park. Potential impacts to the environment as described in Section 4.10.1.6 of this referral will occur in the short term in a limited area directly surrounding rehabilitation activities.

4.1.10.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

The following headings detail relevant avoidance and mitigation measures for the proposed action.

Landscapes and soils, pollutants, chemicals, and toxic substances

- Ground disturbance works will only be undertaken in the dry season to avoid any runoff occurring during the wet season.
- The route taken by vehicles on site to the bores and drill holes will be selected to avoid temporary disturbance to vegetation where feasible.
- The excavator will lay flat the understory vegetation (not clear completely or disturb soils) to avoid land clearing and associated exposed soils.
- Best practice erosion and sediment controls will be implemented during dry season works. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) will be developed by a suitably qualified person and implemented where works are scheduled in the wet season.
- Dust suppression will be implemented on the access track and the temporary laydown area as required to minimise dust generation.
- The proposed action does not include the use or production of any hazardous materials that cannot be managed through standard best practice measures.
- Minor volumes of fuel and chemicals may be stored onsite during rehabilitation activities, but standard controls will avoid these storages being a source of soil contamination.
- The handling of the low activity radioactive material is regulated by the ARPANSA and subject to specific licence conditions to ensure effective management.
- The crushed core samples will be repackaged into appropriately sealed containers to provide for safe and secure transport and storage.
- The following plans will be implemented to ensure the radioactive material is secure:
- Radiation Management Plan
- Radiation Monitoring Plan
- Storage Management Plan
- These plans will include the following mitigations:
- Suitably qualified radiation safety officer to oversee activities to ensure effective control of radioactive material.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment will be used when handling radioactive material, including respiratory protection.
- Radiation dose meter will be used for hygiene inspections and checking radiation dose rates from samples.
- Personal dosimeters will be provided to staff handling radioactive material.
- A spill kit (e.g. empty drum, shovel, gloves, dust mask) will be available for any spill incidents.
- Pre and post radiation surveys. will be conducted by experienced staff from OSS with any contaminated soil removed and disposed of with the Source.

Flora and fauna

- Limit clearing for track upgrades to within the existing track footprint, and no more than 3 m from the current track centreline.
- Avoid introducing new weeds into proposal area by implementing weed hygiene in accordance with a weed management plan to be prepared for the proposed action.
- Flattening of vegetation for access to bores instead of clearing.
- The route taken by vehicles on site to the bores and drill holes will be selected to avoid temporary disturbance to vegetation where feasible.

People and communities

- There is no public access to the proposal area, temporary laydown facility or JFS storage facility.
- The storage facility will have security measures for safe storage in accordance with the *AS/NZS 2243.4:2018 Safety in laboratories Part 4: Ionizing radiations*. These include appropriate signage and

locks to ensure that access is restricted.
- There will be fencing constructed around the container at the temporary laydown area to restrict public access while the Source material is on site.
- The radioactive material will be in securely stored in new shipping containers and transported by licenced contractors in accordance with ARPANS Act regulations.

Heritage

- A laydown area is being used to avoid any major works to the access track required to facilitate larger trucks to access the site.
- Relevant approvals have been obtained through the provision of an AAPA certificate (C2024/051) to provide specific conditions for works to be undertaken.
- The proposed action will adhere to the AAPA certificate conditions to protect sacred sites measures.
- A CHMP and Rock Art Protection Management Plan will be prepared by a suitably qualified person and implemented during proposed action activities. Preparation of these plans include an archaeological survey.
- Works to be limited to areas previously disturbed through legacy exploration activities.

An unexpected heritage finds protocol will be included in the CHMP.

4.1.10.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

No offsets are proposed.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposed action is within mainland Australia, not overseas, this section is not applicable to the action.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

Yes

4.1.12.2 Briefly describe the nature and extent of the likely impact on the whole of the environment. *

The proposed action is to be undertaken within KNP which is Commonwealth land. While the overall objective of the proposed action is to remediate a legacy exploration site within KNP, activities associated with the proposed action will impact on the environment.

Components of the environment relevant to the proposed action are:

- Landscapes and soils
- Pollutants, chemicals, and toxic substances
- Flora and fauna
- People and communities
- Heritage.

The key potential pathways of impact are described in Section 4.1.10.2.

The impacts on these components and the applicable avoidance and mitigation measures are described in detail in Section 4.1.10.6 and Section 4.1.10.10. These descriptions are relevant to the assessment of impacts on the whole environment due to the action being undertaken by a Commonwealth agency.

Considering the scale, duration and magnitude of the potential impacts and sensitivity of the receiving environment, it is not considered that any potential impacts are likely to be significant.

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

The proposed action has been in consultation and development for several years, with the objective to reintegrate the proposal area into KNP as soon as reasonably practicable. It has been scheduled to occur as soon as possible, while ensuring all relevant approvals are in place.

Works will occur during the dry season to avoid interaction with surface water features and minimise erosion of soils. It is not practical to undertake the works during the wet season.

Due to the nature of this proposed action (rehabilitation), the only alternative action is to ‘do nothing’. The timeline, location, and actions cannot be altered in a way that would accommodate the same positive outcomes for the area. Within this context, the proposed action is the preferred option.

Impacts and Mitigation Differences (do nothing alternative)

The alternative to the proposed action is to do nothing. This does not represent a ‘no additional risk’ scenario. The shipping containers currently housing the Source are corroded and in poor condition. In several places, they have corroded through. This has compromised both their ability to provide protection from the elements, and their structural integrity. In at least one place, sediments derived from the exploration drill core are beginning to exit the containers, presumably in association with wet season rain events. This means they are no longer able to perform their primary function of isolating the Source from the environment to prevent further site contamination. As a result, the longer the drill core is left housed in these containers the greater the risk and potential degree of contamination to the site over time. This may constitute a breach of the Protection and Management requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage Listing KNP as it pertains to the Australia Government’s role in managing uranium mining legacies.

The bore casings still extant on site are made of steel. The other bores have deteriorated and collapsed to the point where they are indistinguishable from the surrounding ground surface. As far as can be ascertained, the remaining steel bores present an environmental risk to small fauna as ‘pit fall traps’.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Supporting Figures (ID 253732).pdf Supporting figures (maps) for the referral.	23/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2 - Project description (ID 255479).pdf Detailed description of the project.	24/11/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 3 - 2013 Inventory Report.pdf Inventory report from field investigation conducting in 2013.	24/11/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att 4 - ARPANSA Field Trip Report.pdf ARPANSA report on the field trip investigation conducted in 2023.	24/11/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Att 6 - AAPA Certificate.pdf Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Certificate. This document is not publically available as it is considered culturally confidential due to descriptive details and locations of sacred sites within the priximity of the proposal.	24/11/2025	Yes	High
#6.	Document	Att 8 - Asbestos Report and Register.pdf Asbestos report and register.	24/11/2025	No	High
#7.	Document	Att 9 - References.pdf Reference list for in-text references.	24/11/2025	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 5 - Consultation Table.pdf Brief summary of consultation and outcomes.	24/11/2025	No	High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1 - Supporting Figures (ID 253732).pdf Supporting figures (maps) for the referral.	24/11/2025	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	Att 1 - Supporting Figures (ID 253732).pdf Supporting figures (maps) for the referral.	23/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 6 - AAPA Certificate.pdf Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Certificate. This document is not publically available as it is considered culturally confidential due to descriptive details and locations of sacred sites within the priximity of the proposal.	23/11/2025	Yes	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 7 - Likelihood of Occurrence Assessment.pdf Likelihood of occurence assessment report.	24/11/2025	No	High

4.1.2.3 (National Heritage) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 6 - AAPA Certificate.pdf Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Certificate. This document is not publically available as it is considered culturally confidential due to descriptive details and locations of sacred sites within the priximity of the proposal.	23/11/2025	Yes	High

4.1.6.2 (Nuclear) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 4 - ARPANSA Field Trip Report.pdf ARPANSA report on the field trip investigation conducted in 2023.	23/11/2025	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	63573932849
Organisation name	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Organisation address	2600 ACT
Representative's name	Brayden Miller
Representative's job title	Assistant Director Supervision and Assessment
Phone	0415205554
Email	brayden.miller@dcceew.gov.au
Address	3 Pederson Road, Darwin, Northern Territory, 0820

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ By checking this box, I, **Brayden Miller of Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	63573932849
Organisation name	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Organisation address	2600 ACT
Representative's name	Keith Tayler

Representative's job title	Supervising Scientist
Phone	0438454974
Email	keith.tayler@dcceew.gov.au
Address	3 Pederson Road, Darwin, Northern Territory 0820

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ I, **Keith Tayler of Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ I, **Keith Tayler of Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.