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**Title of Proposal** - Tjukururu Road Intersection Realignment and Road Sealing - Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park

## **Section 1 - Summary of your proposed action**

Provide a summary of your proposed action, including any consultations undertaken.

### **1.1 Project Industry Type**

Transport - Land

### **1.2 Provide a detailed description of the proposed action, including all proposed activities.**

Tjukururu Road is of low to moderate use, and is located off the Kata-Tjuta (Olgas) Road approximately 30 km west of Yulara. The road commences on the western edge of the Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park (UKTNP) and forms part of the popular attraction, the Outback Way. It also provides access to the Olgas and the Sunset Viewing Platform for tourists. The road services a number of Aboriginal communities, and is an important route for hauling cattle, fuel and supplies to Western Australia.

The road is currently mostly unsealed, with minimal drainage and a loose sandy surface. The current intersection alignment has also been identified as being unsafe due to a skewed approach (observation angle), and trees are a physical obstruction close to the road surface restricting sight distance. Works aim to realign the intersection and upgrade and seal the Tjukururu Road within the UKTNP (chainages 0 km to 3.5 km) to:

- Reduce observation angle of intersection and improve sight distances;
- Improve overall road safety and ride quality;
- Improve access to the Park and Indigenous communities;
- Improve drainage;
- Minimise vehicle weight and type restrictions;
- Formalise access to side roads; and
- Support current and future demand from the mining, cattle and tourism industries.

Works include:

- Realigning the existing intersection approximately 40 m south of the current alignment;
- Clearing of vegetation within the clear-zone (5 m either side of the verge and windrows);
- Reforming and lifting the road above natural surface level;
- Excavation, importation and installation of gravel base course pavement;
- 7 m wide seal;
- Reinstate drainage and installation of relief culverts;
- Rehabilitation of existing intersection alignment; and
- Floodway upgrades.

Clearing will be kept to a minimum within the UKTNP, with works to be constructed under traffic management without a detour and all resource extraction (mineral and water) and camping to



be undertaken outside of the park.

Refer to the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) and the Planning Report for further details on detailed design, construction methodology and construction requirements.

**1.3 What is the extent and location of your proposed action? Use the polygon tool on the map below to mark the location of your proposed action.**

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Tjukururu Road - UKTNP	1	-25.303699202502	130.70137843452
Tjukururu Road - UKTNP	2	-25.299780558357	130.68335398994
Tjukururu Road - UKTNP	3	-25.303699202502	130.70137843452

**1.5 Provide a brief physical description of the property on which the proposed action will take place and the location of the proposed action (e.g. proximity to major towns, or for off-shore actions, shortest distance to mainland).**

Works will be conducted on Tjukururu Road and its intersection with Kata-Tjuta Road, within Northern Territory Portion 1798, UKTNP. Approximately 3.5 km of the road is within the Park, with all resource extraction (mineral and water), site camping, and laydown to occur outside the Park in Aboriginal Land with the consent of the CLC. Clearing of areas for turn arounds for construction traffic will be required within the Park.

**1.6 What is the size of the development footprint or work area?**

250 m of realignment (200m x 16 m = 4,000 square metres), 3.25 km of sealing works on existing road alignment

**1.7 Is the proposed action a street address or lot?**

Street Address

Tjukururu Road  
Petermann NT 0872  
Australia

**1.8 Primary Jurisdiction.**



Northern Territory

**1.9 Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project?**

Yes

**1.9.1 Please provide details.**

Proposed works have received \$7 million in funding, with a 50/50 split of Australian Government and Northern Territory Government (NTG) funding.

**1.10 Is the proposed action subject to local government planning approval?**

No

**1.11 Provide an estimated start and estimated end date for the proposed action.**

Start date 05/2017

End date 12/2017

**1.12 Provide details of the context, planning framework and State and/or Local government requirements.**

N/A

**1.13 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders.**

Consultation with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) and CLC has been undertaken. It is both Agencies roles to consult and communicate with all interested Aboriginal custodians and Traditional Owners with an interest in the Land. Certificates are issued to the Department that provide indemnity and protection under the Sacred Sites Act (NT) and the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA) (NT), and indicate any restricted works or sacred/recorded sites within a provided Subject Land.

AAPA Certificate C2016/045 has been issued to the Department, with no restricted work areas or sacred sites identified in the vicinity of works.

CLC Sacred Site Clearance and approval under Section 68 of the ALRA has also been issued to the Department, with no identified restrictions or sacred sites within the vicinity of works.

The Director of Parks Australia, and key stakeholders from the UKTNP have also been in close consultation with the Department regarding works. As a result, it was determined referral was



required for works under the Environmental Protection and Biodiveristy Conservation (EPBC) Act due to potential risk to Matters of Environmental Significance. The ERA will also be forwarded to the NT Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for comment and circulation to all interested government stakeholders.

Community and pubic consultation will be undertaken once all approvals for works have been received prior to the commencement of any works.

**1.14 Describe any environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation including relevant impacts of the project.**

An ERA has been conducted for works (please see attached). The ERA will be provided to the NT EPA for comment and circulation to all interested government stakeholders.

**1.15 Is this action part of a staged development (or a component of a larger project)?**

Yes

**1.15.1 Provide information about the larger action and details of any interdependency between the stages/components and the larger action.**

The Outback Way links Laverton in WA through to Winton in Qld through the middle of Australia, providing a trans-national link from Perth to Cairns. The Outback Way, 2,800 kilometres in length from Laverton to Winton, is currently a combination of 1700km of unsealed gravel road and 1100km of bitumen. This project is in partnership with Local, State and Federal jurisdictions to provide the third strategic road link. This strategic link provides access and creates opportunities for the mining, tourism, pastoral sectors, linking transport hubs, reducing the east and west connection by 1600km. In addition, the Outback Way offers unprecedented access and continuity of education, health and policing services for our indigenous, remote and rural communities.

The Outback Highway Development Council Inc (OHDC Inc) has been in existence since 1997, working on the development of the Outback Way. In this time, the OHDC Inc. has finalised the expenditure of \$20million provided by Roads to Recovery strategic component, which has been matched by state and local governments. The upgrade that has been started with these funds includes, taking sections of road well below ground level to a grade 3 formed road, and lifting and sealing flood prone areas in the channel country in western Queensland- a total of 170km.

In 2014, the Australian Government provided matching funding from NT, Qld & WA totalling \$75 million to seal and upgarde the Outback Way. 220km will be sealed with this funding. Currently 1500km needs sealing. The Main Roads/ Infrastructure departments in each state and Territory have jointly identified the next priority sections, based on what section, if improved, would enhance connectivity.



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**1.16 Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region?**

Yes

**1.16.1 Identify the nature/scope and location of the related action (Including under the relevant legislation).**

Ongoing Outback Way upgrades to the Plenty Highway and Tjukururu Road.



## Section 2 - Matters of National Environmental Significance

Describe the affected area and the likely impacts of the proposal, emphasising the relevant matters protected by the EPBC Act. Refer to relevant maps as appropriate. The [interactive map tool](#) can help determine whether matters of national environmental significance or other matters protected by the EPBC Act are likely to occur in your area of interest. Consideration of likely impacts should include both direct and indirect impacts.

Your assessment of likely impacts should consider whether a bioregional plan is relevant to your proposal. The following resources can assist you in your assessment of likely impacts:

- [Profiles of relevant species/communities](#) (where available), that will assist in the identification of whether there is likely to be a significant impact on them if the proposal proceeds;
- [Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance](#);
- [Significant Impact Guideline 1.2 – Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies](#).

### 2.1 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the values of any World Heritage properties?

Yes

#### 2.1.1 Impact table

Properties	Impact
Please see attached ERA	Please see attached ERA

### 2.1.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

No

### 2.2 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the values of any National Heritage places?

Yes

#### 2.2.1 Impact table

Place	Impact
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Please see attached ERA

Please see attached ERA

### 2.2.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

No

### 2.3 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the ecological character of a Ramsar wetland?

No

### 2.4 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the members of any listed threatened species (except a conservation dependent species) or any threatened ecological community, or their habitat?

Yes

#### 2.4.1 Impact table

Species	Impact
Please see attached ERA	Please see attached ERA

### 2.4.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

No

### 2.5 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the members of any listed migratory species, or their habitat?

No

### 2.6 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a marine environment (outside Commonwealth marine areas)?

No

### 2.7 Is the proposed action likely to impact on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth land?

No



**2.8 Is the proposed action taking place in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?**

No

**2.9 Will there be any impact on a water resource related to coal / gas / mining?**

No

**2.10 Is the proposed action a nuclear action?**

No

**2.11 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth agency?**

No

**2.12 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas?**

No

**2.13 Is the proposed action likely to impact on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth marine area?**

No





## **Section 3 - Description of the project area**

Provide a description of the project area and the affected area, including information about the following features (where relevant to the project area and/or affected area, and to the extent not otherwise addressed in Section 2).

### **3.1 Describe the flora and fauna relevant to the project area.**

Please see attached ERA

### **3.2 Describe the hydrology relevant to the project area (including water flows).**

Please see attached ERA

### **3.3 Describe the soil and vegetation characteristics relevant to the project area.**

Please see attached ERA

### **3.4 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values relevant to the project area.**

Please see attached ERA

### **3.5 Describe the status of native vegetation relevant to the project area.**

Please see attached ERA

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

Please see attached ERA

### **3.7 Describe the current condition of the environment relevant to the project area.**

Please see attached ERA

### **3.8 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having**



**heritage values relevant to the project area.**

Please see attached ERA

**3.9 Describe any Indigenous heritage values relevant to the project area.**

Please see attached ERA

**3.10 Describe the tenure of the action area (e.g. freehold, leasehold) relevant to the project area.**

Please see attached ERA

**3.11 Describe any existing or any proposed uses relevant to the project area.**

Please see attached ERA



## **Section 4 - Measures to avoid or reduce impacts**

Provide a description of measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce, manage or offset any relevant impacts of the action. Include, if appropriate, any relevant reports or technical advice relating to the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed measures.

Examples of relevant measures to avoid or reduce impacts may include the timing of works, avoidance of important habitat, specific design measures, or adoption of specific work practices.

### **4.1 Describe the measures you will undertake to avoid or reduce impact from your proposed action.**

Please see attached ERA

### **4.2 For matters protected by the EPBC Act that may be affected by the proposed action, describe the proposed environmental outcomes to be achieved.**

Please see attached ERA



## **Section 5 – Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts**

A checkbox tick identifies each of the matters of National Environmental Significance you identified in section 2 of this application as likely to be a significant impact.

Review the matters you have identified below. If a matter ticked below has been incorrectly identified you will need to return to Section 2 to edit.

### **5.1.1 World Heritage Properties**

No

### **5.1.2 National Heritage Places**

No

### **5.1.3 Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar Wetlands)**

No

### **5.1.4 Listed threatened species or any threatened ecological community**

No

### **5.1.5 Listed migratory species**

No

### **5.1.6 Commonwealth marine environment**

No

### **5.1.7 Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land**

No

### **5.1.8 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

No

### **5.1.9 A water resource, in relation to coal/gas/mining**

No



#### **5.1.10 Protection of the environment from nuclear actions**

No

#### **5.1.11 Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions**

No

#### **5.1.12 Commonwealth Heritage places overseas**

No

**5.2 If no significant matters are identified, provide the key reasons why you think the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act and therefore not a controlled action.**

Please see attached ERA



## **Section 6 – Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action**

Provide details of any proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law against the person proposing to take the action that pertain to the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

### **6.1 Does the person taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management? Please explain in further detail.**

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) have their own Environment Services delivery team that provides assistance to staff and clients on all matters regarding environmental management. The primary functions include:

- The preparation of applications to receive environmental and cultural heritage approvals for projects, including undertaking site studies and management of technical consultants;
- Ecologically sustainable design input into the concept design of buildings, infrastructure and road projects;
- Review and verification of environmental specifications for all DIPL projects and tender documentation;
- Environmental auditing throughout the life of DIPL projects to monitor compliance with legislation and environmental/cultural approvals;
- Undertaking site inspections during projects to provide advice on all environmental matters such as erosion and sediment control, vegetation clearing, protection of sacred sites etc.; and
- Provision of technical training to staff and contractors.

Each member of the Environment Services team has suitable graduate and/or postgraduate qualifications in Environmental Management and/or Science.

### **6.2 Provide details of any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against either (a) the person proposing to take the action or, (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action – the person making the application.**

N/A

### **6.3 Will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework?**

Yes



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**6.3.1 If the person taking the action is a corporation, please provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework.**

DIPL's Quality, Safety and Environmental (QSE) Policy outlines a commitment to undertaking all of its activities in an environmentally responsible manner and effectively managing risks that may lead to an impact on the environment. The QSE Policy is currently under review.

Planning and delivery of all DIPL projects must adhere to the Standard Specifications for Environmental Management (which is also currently under review - see attached), and site/project specific requirements outlined in the project ERA and Request for Tender. It is also a requirement for all successful contractors to have and adhere to a Construction Environmental Management Plan, which is reviewed and endorsed by DIPL Environment Services.

**6.4 Has the person taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?**

Yes

**6.4.1 EPBC Act No and/or Name of Proposal.**

DIPL have applied for a number of referrals in the past under different names, including:

- Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development/Transport - Air and Space/Darwin International Airport/Northern Territory/Darwin Airport MDP - Air Traffic Control Tower Upgrade (2016/7749);
- DARWIN PORT CORPORATION/Transport - Water/Outer part of Darwin Harbour/Northern Territory/Dredging the outer shipping channels of Darwin Harbour (2013/6988);
- DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT/Transport - Land/185 Kilometres south east of Darwin/Northern Territory/Construction of Overtaking Lanes on the Stewart Highway in Area of Accica Praet (2010/5362);
- DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE - MAJOR PROJECTS UNIT/Manufacturing/Darwin Harbour/Northern Territory/East Arm Wharf Expansion Works (2010/5304);
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government/Transport - air and space/Darwin Airport/NT/Exposure Draft MDP for Darwin Airport Home and Lifestyle Super Centre (2008/4294);
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government/Transport - air and space/Darwin Airport/NT/Exposure draft MDP for passenger terminal expansion at Darwin Airport (2008/4280);
- DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING INFRASTRUCTURE/Transport - Land/Daly River to Palumpa/Northern Territory/Upgrade of Port Keats Road (2007/3708);
- NT DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE/Transport - Land/Victoria River/Northern Territory/Victoria Hwy Upgrade (2005/2307); and
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment/Urban and commercial new development/Gunn Point Peninsula/NT/Glyde Point Industrial Estate and Associated



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment and Energy**

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Infrastructure (2004/1506).





## Section 7 – Information sources

You are required to provide the references used in preparing the referral including the reliability of the source.

### 7.1 List references used in preparing the referral (please provide the reference source reliability and any uncertainties of source).

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
Please see ERA	The majority of referenced sources are State/Territory Government, Commonwealth Government or professional associations (e.g. the Australian Asphalt and Pavement Association) publications. As such, the reliability of each is very high	There are minimal uncertainties with the references due to their reliability



## Section 8 – Proposed alternatives

You are required to complete this section if you have any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) that were considered but not proposed.

### 8.0 Provide a description of the feasible alternative?

The horizontal alignment keeps to and follows the existing road formation. There is more vegetation and shrub clearance and cutting required for this option, but less earthworks filling required. This option is not recommended or feasible due to safety reasons. A new intersection alignment improves visibility for both Kata-Tjuta and Tjukururu Roads, and ensures the intersection is separated from an opposing private access road.

Refer to Table 7 of the Design Report for comparison of horizontal alignment/intersection options.

### 8.1 Select the relevant alternatives related to your proposed action.

#### 8.27 Do you have another alternative?

No



## Section 9 – Contacts, signatures and declarations

Where applicable, you must provide the contact details of each of the following entities: Person Proposing the Action; Proposed Designated Proponent and; Person Preparing the Referral. You will also be required to provide signed declarations from each of the identified entities.

### 9.0 Is the person proposing to take the action an Organisation or an Individual?

Organisation

#### 9.2 Organisation

##### 9.2.1 Job Title

Senior Project Manager

##### 9.2.2 First Name

Sarah

##### 9.2.3 Last Name

Hillis

##### 9.2.4 E-mail

environment.dipl@nt.gov.au

##### 9.2.5 Postal Address

PO Box 61  
Palmerston NT 0831  
Australia

##### 9.2.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

45473478156 - CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

##### 9.2.7 Organisation Telephone

0889994550



## 9.2.8 Organisation E-mail

environment.dipl@nt.gov.au

## 9.2.9 I qualify for exemption from fees under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act because I am:

Not applicable

## Small Business Declaration

I have read the Department of the Environment and Energy's guidance in the online form concerning the definition of a small a business entity and confirm that I qualify for a small business exemption.

Signature:..... Date: .....

## 9.2.9.2 I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations

Yes

## 9.2.9.3 Under sub regulation 5.21A(5), you must include information about the applicant (if not you) the grounds on which the waiver is sought and the reasons why it should be made

As a Government entity funded by the tax payer, it is in the best interest of the public not to pay fees for referral.

The Development is also in the best interest for the public and indigenous communities, as it improves safety and access to the Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park, communities, and increases connectivity to Western Australia.

## Declaration

I, SARAH HILLIS, 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 of or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature: Sarah Hillis Date: 30/03/17

I, SARAH HILLIS, the person proposing the action, consent to the



designation of DIPL as the proponent of the purposes of  
the action describe in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature: Sarah Helle Date: 30/03/17

### **9.3 Is the Proposed Designated Proponent an Organisation or Individual?**

Organisation

### **9.5 Organisation**

#### **9.5.1 Job Title**

Manager Environment Services

#### **9.5.2 First Name**

Craig

#### **9.5.3 Last Name**

Smith

#### **9.5.4 E-mail**

environment.dipl@nt.gov.au

#### **9.5.5 Postal Address**

PO Box 61  
Palmerston NT 0831  
Australia

#### **9.5.6 ABN/ACN**

ABN

45473478156 - CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

#### **9.5.7 Organisation Telephone**

0889994550

#### **9.5.8 Organisation E-mail**



environment.dipl@nt.gov.au

## Declaration

I, Daryl Browne, the proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 30/3/17  
A/Manager.

## 9.6 Is the Referring Party an Organisation or Individual?

Organisation

## 9.8 Organisation

### 9.8.1 Job Title

Senior Project Manager

### 9.8.2 First Name

Jarrold

### 9.8.3 Last Name

Trogenza

### 9.8.4 E-mail

jarrod.trogenza@nt.gov.au

### 9.8.5 Postal Address

PO Box 2130  
Alice Springs NT 0871  
Australia

### 9.8.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

45473478156 - CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

### 9.8.7 Organisation Telephone



0889994550

#### 9.8.8 Organisation E-mail

environment.dipl@nt.gov.au

#### Declaration

I, JARROD TREGENZA, I 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.

Signature: J. Tregenza Date: 30/03/17



## Appendix A - Attachments

The following attachments have been supplied with this EPBC Act Referral:

1. 20151013\_tjukururu\_works.zip
2. drawings.pdf
3. 20170112\_tjukururu.jpg
4. c16045.pdf
5. c2016-179\_ltr\_-\_dipl\_-\_section\_68\_consent\_tjukururu\_road.pdf
6. c2016-179\_map\_tjukururu\_road.pdf
7. c2016-179\_sccc\_tjukururu\_road.pdf
8. report\_v6.pdf
9. 20170324\_era\_tjukururu\_road\_upgrade\_and\_seal\_-\_uktnp.pdf
10. stdspecenvmgmt.pdf