

## Submission on the proponent initiated EIS referral (including draft terms of reference)

### Southern Cross Agri Pty Ltd – Sweetwater Agricultural Development-Stage 1

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

**Government authority:** Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

**Summary:** The proposed works encroach on Aboriginal sacred sites. The proponent was issued with a draft Authority Certificate (over land nearby) showing Aboriginal sacred sites within the proposed Stage 1. The proponent has not applied for an Authority Certificate for most of the area shown in Stages 1-3.

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Acronyms Pg 9 Attachment C Table 12 Pg 25	Naming of AAPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the acronym AAPA stands for Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority</li> </ul>
Figure 4 Pg 21	Disturbance area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of the disturbance area encroaches on several Aboriginal sacred sites.</li> <li>The proposed works should ensure that there is no damage to, or interference with the sacred sites.</li> </ul>
Figure 6 Pg 24	Stages 2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parts of the proposed stage 2 and 3 areas are within Aboriginal sacred sites.</li> <li>The proposed works should ensure that there is no damage to sacred sites.</li> </ul>
3.1.2 Pg 27	Avoidance of cultural heritage sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report states that '<i>Avoidance of higher environmental risk areas including the Keep River, and of cultural heritage sites, has strongly informed the proposed farm layout and infrastructure plans</i>'.</li> <li>However, part of the proposed disturbance area encroaches on Aboriginal sacred sites.</li> </ul>
3.6 Pg 29	Abstracts of Records obtained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report describes how numerous Abstracts of Records and Authority Certificates have been used to inform the project. Despite this the planned agricultural areas across stages 1 to 3 involve disturbance within Aboriginal sacred sites.</li> <li>The proponent should review the Abstracts of Records to ensure that there is no damage to sacred sites.</li> </ul>

Environmental impact assessment under the Environment Protection Act 2019

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note that an Abstract of Records is a snapshot of the current AAPA record and the Authority Certificate process is recommended to ensure that the project can be undertaken avoiding interference with and damage to Aboriginal sacred sites.</li></ul>
6.1 Pg 53 6.2 Pg 62	Impact on Keep River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note that there are numerous Aboriginal sacred sites within Keep River in the vicinity, and downstream of the proposed development area.</li><li>Captured rainfall and runoff, as well as land clearing and the application of agricultural chemicals, has the potential to affect river flows and water quality which may impact these sacred sites.</li></ul>
9.2 Pg 67	Cultural heritage mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The report refers to 'AAPA certificates reflecting registered cultural heritage mapping'.</li><li>Note that AAPA's research considers Aboriginal sacred sites only, and not other heritage features such as archaeological remains.</li></ul>