Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
protecting sacred sites across the territory

Planning NTG
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Dear Development Assessment Services,

PA2025/0495 – NT Portion 06876 - Rezone from Zone RL (Rural Living) and LI (Light Industry) to Zone LI (Light Industry) in its entirety.

We refer to the above application for a development permit.

Recommendation

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) **recommends that Miss Cat Tatum apply for an Authority Certificate** in accordance with section 19B of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (the Sacred Sites Act) prior to undertaking any development activity or other work in NT Portion 06876. There is information on the AAPA homepage on how to apply for an Authority Certificate.

There are recorded sacred sites located approx. 200 metres on either side of the subject land which could be damaged by development activities.

In the absence of an Authority Certificate, a body corporate or an individual who undertakes work on a sacred site will be committing an offence against the Sacred Sites Act and may be subject to penalties of up to 400 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years (or 2000 penalty units in the case of a body corporate). Additional offences under the Sacred Sites Act may also apply.

The applicant may want to apply for an Abstract of Records in the first instance. An Abstract of Records provides information on where sacred sites are known to exist so that they are not inadvertently damaged. However, an Abstract of Records is for general information purposes only and should not be relied upon by persons undertaking development activity as it is not a conclusive statement about the extent of sacred sites in the subject land. There is information on the AAPA homepage on how to apply for an Abstract of Records.

Background Information

AAPA is a statutory authority responsible for overseeing the protection of Aboriginal sacred sites on land and sea across the Northern Territory.

The protection of sacred sites is recognised by the Northern Territory Government and the broader Territory community as an important element in the preservation of the Territory's cultural heritage, for the benefit of all Territorians. AAPA seeks to strike a balance between the protection of sacred sites and development in the Northern Territory.

Yours sincerely,

Jayde Manning
Ministerial and Policy Officer
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