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Barossa Consultation Coordinator



**Aboriginal Areas  
Protection Authority**  
protecting sacred sites across the territory

Via email: [Offshore.consultations@santos.com](mailto:Offshore.consultations@santos.com)

To whom it may concern,

**Santos Barossa Productions Operations - Environment Plan and Environmental Management Plan - Preliminary Consultation.**

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (the Authority) is a statutory body established under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 (NT)* (Sacred Sites Act) and is responsible for overseeing the protection of Aboriginal sacred sites on land and sea across the Northern Territory.

The protection of Aboriginal sacred sites is an important element in the preservation of the Territory's cultural heritage for the benefit of all Australians. The Authority seeks to strike a balance between the protection of sacred sites and development in the Northern Territory and achieves this through statutory provision of information about sacred sites.

The Authority considers itself an Interested Person under the NOPSEMA guidelines on the basis that the development may affect *the functions or responsibilities of your organisation*. The Authority's interests and activities may be affected by the activity proposed to be carried out under the Environment Plan and Operations Environmental Management Plan.

The Authority protects Aboriginal sacred sites through the issuing of Authority Certificates that state the activities that can occur within or in the vicinity of a sacred site. A spill from your operations has the potential to damage sacred sites along the coastline where your modelling predicts the environment may be affected (EMBA). Figure 5 of your Production Operations Activity Information Booklet factsheet shows the area potentially affected includes the Tiwi islands coast and part of the mainland Northern Territory coastline. Numerous Aboriginal sacred sites are located along these coastlines, which Santos acknowledges in the booklet (page 12).

The Authority has been in consultation with the Territory Emergency Management Council (TEM) on how to manage a spill to the coastline in a culturally sensitive way to protect sacred sites. The APPEA Oil Spill Working Group has met with TEM where Authority Certificates and the certificate process were discussed. We recommend you contact APPEA for an update and details of the meeting. The Authority will be meeting with TEM in future on how best to incorporate culturally sensitive practices into a hydrocarbon spill emergency response.

If you have any queries, please contact Travis Kelly via email [Travis.Kelly@nt.gov.au](mailto:Travis.Kelly@nt.gov.au) or on (08) 8999 4347

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benedict Scambary', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Benedict Scambary  
Chief Executive Officer  
21 March 2024