

6 October 2021

Response Questions on Notice:

Senate Committee Inquiry - Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill 2021

On 1 Oct 21, Sun Cable appeared before the Senate Committee (Environment and Communication) Public Inquiry into Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill 2021. The Senate Committee Chair, Senator Bragg posed a number of Questions on Notice back to Sun Cable, regarding Traditional Owner/First Nations engagement:

- *Can you please provide the committee with further information about your engagement with Traditional Owners whose land/waters will be traversed by electricity transmission infrastructure for the AA PowerLink project?*
 - Sun Cable continues to work with key First Nations stakeholders, inclusive of Traditional Owners (TOs), recognised native title holders, neighbouring communities, Land Councils and special interest groups, to deliver an industry exemplar legacy for First Peoples of the Northern Territory.
 - The Northern Land Council, as Top End Default Prescribed Body Corporate, is the native title representative body for Powell Creek Native Title Holders, and all TOs for land within the railway corridor north of the solar generation site (with the exception of 17km of transmission line route that may pass through Central Land Council jurisdiction).
 - Consultations with TOs for the solar generation site have been held throughout this year; during both March and May 2021, within ongoing cultural monitor involvement in all site studies.
 - Cultural Monitors have been engaged as Aboriginal Consultants for all works on site. To date this has included: ecology studies, cultural heritage and geotechnical (drilling and survey works) investigations. This has provided an opportunity for TOs and the NLC to have a detailed understanding of preliminary works.
- *Which Traditional Owners and Land Councils have been involved as part of this process?*
 - Sun Cable has been working with the following TOs, Land Councils and representative groups during development of the Project:
 - Powell Creek Native Title Holders and affected estates and people - as identified by the Northern Land Council;
 - Northern Land Council;
 - Central Land Council;
 - Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation;

- Larrakia Development Corporation;
- Tiwi Land Council - written to the TLC and requested briefings; and
- Several clan groups with an interest in the country which the Darwin Converter Site will operate on.
 - This work is ongoing and tens of estate groups have been identified within the project footprint.
- *How does Sun Cable propose to maintain support from Traditional Owners and to drive economic development for these owners over the lifetime of the project?*
 - Through early consultation and project participation, we are focused on meaningful planning and engagement to ensure a fit for purpose strategic framework. Current activities being undertaken to support this include:
 - Preparing the Workforce and Business Package;
 - Capability Mapping through the Industry Capability Network - Northern Territory, and its partnerships with the Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network and Supply Nation, to understand existing capability;
 - Workforce Development Plan with the key focus of achieving maximum First Nation participation;
 - Procurement Strategy;
 - Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) & Benefits Agreement;
 - Community and regional legacy projects; and
 - An Economic Impact Study and a Cost Benefit Analysis are currently being prepared to inform the strategic and planning activities of Sun Cable that will drive sustainable economic development.
 - A Territory Benefits Plan will detail the mechanism to provide benefits to Indigenous Territorians, including specific activities to support and drive economic development.
 - Early participation of Indigenous business from the region. To date, this has included: Triple P Contracting based in Elliott, engaged on a range of civil and contracting works on site; and 4D Baru, an Indigenous owned business for all onsite survey works. Image below is of Triple P and 4D Baru on site
 - Working with the Northern Land Council, local organisations and community groups to understand community desires, opportunities and gaps to support participation and sustainable economic development in a culturally appropriate, fit for purpose manner.



Triple P Contracting and 4DBaru surveying for Sun Cable near Elliott - future site of solar farm

Photo: Paul Hobbs, Sun Cable

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