

14 June 2024

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Chair
The Senate Environment and Communications References Committee

RE: Inquiry into the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct

Madam Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to outline SunCable's role in relation to the Middle Arm Precinct.

We are an Australian-founded, world-leading renewable energy company.

Our flagship project offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity: the Australia-Asia Power Link. It is a nation-building project.

It will be the world's largest solar energy infrastructure project, harnessing the Northern Territory's phenomenal natural resources.

This big, bold project will invest deeply in communities in the Northern Territory – as we create many thousands of local jobs, skilling up Australian workers, and offer a host of opportunities for local businesses and suppliers.

We have been awarded Major Project status by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments, and Infrastructure Australia has assessed our project as Investment Ready on its Priority Initiative List.

The onshore element encompasses three key infrastructure components:

1. A renewable energy precinct in Powell Creek, south of Elliott in the Barkly region, where the electricity will be collected and stored;
2. An approximately 800km High Voltage Direct Current overhead transmission line to convey the electricity from Powell Creek to Darwin;
3. And the Darwin converter site, which will convert electricity back to Alternating Current for use in the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.

Over two stages of development, we intend to deliver approximately 6GW of 24/7 renewable electricity, sending 1.75GW to customers in Singapore via a subsea cable, and providing up to 4GW to green industry customers at Middle Arm.

Our priority is to underpin a new wave of green industrial development in northern Australia, and will support the development of a range of new export industries for Australia.

Key opportunities include export-scale hydrogen and hydrogen-derivative projects, as well as the manufacturing and processing of critical minerals, and other future-facing green industries.

It is a very exciting opportunity not just for Australia but for the Asia-Pacific region, as the world moves to decarbonise and to address climate change.

A key part of this vision is the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.

SunCable is founded with the belief that Australia can lead the world's energy transition.

That's in line with the Commonwealth Government's stated goal of transforming this country into a global renewable energy superpower.

The AAPowerLink can be a key enabler of Middle Arm, which will help the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments meet several major economic and climate policies.

That includes the commitment to Net Zero emissions by 2050 and Australia's signatory status to the Paris Agreement; The Powering Australia and Rewiring the Nation plans; and the Future Made in Australia agenda to support green manufacturing announced this Budget, among others.

SunCable is the only proponent currently developing industrial-scale renewable energy in the NT for sale to third-party customers.

Leveraging off the world-class renewable resources in the NT, the scale of the project allows electricity to be produced at a globally competitive price. This is attractive to prospective forward-facing green industries seeking to establish their operations at Middle Arm.

SunCable has identified a prospective demand for our green electrons that outstrips our ability to supply and will support the development of a range of green industries and new export markets for Australia.

We have entered into a number of non-binding agreements with proponents to supply industrial-scale, firmed green electricity from the early 2030s onwards.



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SunCable alone will create almost 7,000 direct and indirect jobs each year of the construction phase of our project, with about 350 ongoing jobs in the Territory for the 70-year life of the project. There is significant scope for Australian, Territorian, and Aboriginal participation.

We are serious about investing in remote and regional communities and ensuring that project benefits flow fairly.

Yours sincerely,

Cameron Garnsworthy
Managing Director
Sun Cable Services Australia Pty Ltd