

Chapter 16

Indigenous Cultural Heritage

Oct-2021

Genex Kidston Connection Project - Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Assessment Report

16.0 Indigenous Cultural Heritage

A search of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) database has identified recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage in the vicinity of the Preferred Alignment. None of the identified sites are located on the Preferred Alignment or within the proposed easement.

A search of the DATSIP database identifies three Aboriginal Parties whose Native Title determinations/claims are intersected by the Preferred Alignment, including:

- Gugu Badhum People #3
- Ewamian People #2
- Ewamian People #3.

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, administered by the DATSIP, requires that a person who carries out an activity must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (the Cultural Heritage Duty of Care).

A person is taken to have complied with the Duty of Care if they carry out their activities in accordance with a cultural heritage management plan, Native Title agreement or another agreement with an Aboriginal Party.

Powerlink has established processes for, and significant experience in working closely with Traditional Owners for the management of cultural heritage risks in transmission line and switching station development. Powerlink has negotiated cultural heritage management agreements (CHMAs) with the relevant Native Title parties (the Aboriginal Parties) in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and intends to manage any Aboriginal cultural heritage risks through the implementation of these agreements.

The CHMAs include agreed methodology for the identification and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and values within, and in the vicinity of, the Preferred Alignment. This is expected to include detailed cultural heritage surveys of the Preferred Alignment with the Traditional Owners and agreement on management requirements. The locations and significance of the sites identified from database searches will be confirmed through surveys conducted under the CHMAs.