



SECTION 17
Indigenous Cultural Heritage



17.0 Indigenous Cultural Heritage

17.1 Introduction

Indigenous cultural heritage values and the impacts of the Port Expansion Project (PEP) on these values are described in Chapter B.15 (Indigenous Cultural Heritage) of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Project area is highly modified, however still plays a role in understanding the Indigenous cultural landscape and values of the greater Townsville region.

This section provides information to address submissions received in response to the PEP EIS, relevant to the proposed design refinement and the potential implications on Indigenous cultural heritage.

It was raised by one submission whether adequate consultation with the Palm Island indigenous community had been carried out during the EIS consultation process.

17.2 Response to Submissions

17.2.1 Adequacy of Palm Island community consultation

One submitter questioned whether the Palm Island community was aware of the Project. The Indigenous community of Palm Island are located approximately 64 kilometres north of Townsville and are not recognised as the traditional owners of the Project area or surrounding land. Section B.15.3 of the EIS identified the traditional owners of the Project area and surrounds as being the Bindal and Wulgurukaba People. Cultural heritage investigations for the EIS were undertaken in consultation and cooperation with traditional owners.

A range of consultation activities were undertaken as part of the EIS process. This included advertisements in local, state and national newspapers detailing the Project and submission process. The consultation was undertaken to provide the greater community, including residents of Palm Island, an opportunity to comment on the Project. It is not anticipated that the Project will impact upon the Indigenous community of Palm Island.

17.3 Revised Environmental Impact Assessment

17.3.1 Legislation and policy

Legislation and policy changes that have occurred since the development of the EIS are identified in Section 1.0 of the AEIS. The legislative and policy changes did not impact on the assessment of Indigenous Cultural Heritage values presented in the EIS, or the management of these values.

17.3.2 Design refinement

The project design has been revised as described in Section 2.0 of the AEIS. This revision focusses on amendments to the extent of dredging and reclamation works. The revised design does not impact upon the likelihood of items or places of Indigenous cultural heritage value present, nor impact on items or places of Indigenous cultural heritage values in the Project area.

17.3.3 Supporting studies

No additional studies were required or recommended to assess the revised design, address comments received from public submissions, or to manage impacts associated with the Project on Indigenous cultural heritage values.

17.3.4 Revised assessment

17.3.4.1 Impact assessment

Impacts of the Project on Indigenous cultural heritage values remain consistent with those identified in Section B.15.4 of the EIS.

17.3.4.2 Mitigation measures

Mitigation measures to consider the potential impact of the Project on Indigenous cultural heritage values are outlined in the existing POTL *Cultural Heritage Management Plan* and the updated Construction Environmental Management Plan (Appendix B2). Potential impacts and mitigation measures remain consistent with those identified in Section B.15.5 of the EIS.

17.3.5 Summary

Section B.15.4 of the EIS provided an assessment of potential impacts that may result from construction and operation of the PEP, relevant to Indigenous cultural heritage. The revised design is consistent with the assessment provided in the EIS and the mitigation provided to reduce the impact on Indigenous cultural heritage in Section B.15.5 of the EIS.

Mitigation measures will be outlined and implemented through the *Cultural Heritage Management Plan* and the Construction Environmental Management Plan (Appendix B2).

17.4 Conclusion

The PEP is expected to have a negligible impact upon Indigenous cultural heritage values on site or within the surrounding area. With the implementation of mitigation measures, the potential for discovering items of Indigenous cultural heritage values during construction works will be appropriately managed.