

4 April 2025

Legislation Scrutiny Committee  
GPO Box 1222  
DARWIN NT 0801

**Re: Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 23)**

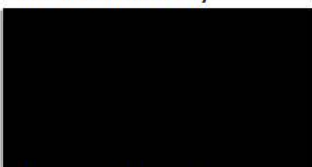
The Department of Tourism and Hospitality provides the following comment in relations to the submission to the Legislation Scrutiny Committee's inquiry into the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

The Department supports legislative reform that provides progressive improvements and notes the proposed amendments.

The amendments proposed do not cover any timeframes associated with assessing an application or with the issuance of an Authority Certificate. While the current Act specifies that the Authority will consult with custodians as soon as practicable (but not later than 60 days or such longer period as the Minister approves), it does not mandate a timeframe for how long consultations should take place. It is the experience of the Department that timeframes for receiving an Authority Certificate can take up to 18 months.

The Department proposes that consideration could be given to strengthening the provisions around timeframes in either the Act or the Regulations to improve the processing interval between application submission, evaluation and issuance.

Yours sincerely



Suzana Bishop  
Chief Executive Officer, Department of Tourism and Hospitality