



Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority



REQUEST FOR INSPECTION OF THE REGISTER

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OFFICE USE ONLY: File: D89/201 Area File: Document#:

Application made by: _____

On behalf of Employer/Company: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Proposed Use of Information: _____

Description of Area of Interest: (address, location, attach map or coordinates & datum if possible)

Comments: _____

General Information:

Registered sites are sites that Aboriginal custodians have asked the Authority to protect and that have been documented and evaluated by the Authority.

Recorded sites are sites that have been made known to the Authority from a variety of sources including requests to have sites entered in the Register maintained by the Authority. In many cases the Authority has not been able to assess the accuracy of its information regarding recorded sites. However, the information regarding all sites should be noted carefully, since the offence provisions of the NT Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 apply to all sacred sites, not only sites registered by the Authority. In some cases a tentative site boundary has also been defined. In other cases, recorded sites are represented by a site centroid only. The actual extent of the site may be much larger.

Inspection of the Authority's Register is not a definitive way of determining the location of all sacred sites in a given area, particularly where use of land may result in disturbance of features. There is a risk that a sacred site previously unknown to the Authority may be identified after the commencement of works, leaving no option but to cease works or possibly breach the offence provisions of the Act. If you wish to determine the constraints imposed by sacred sites on a particular area of land it is necessary to apply for an Authority Certificate. Section 20 of the Act (Clause 1) states that "a person who proposes to use or carry out work on land may apply to the Authority for an Authority Certificate".

Under Section 22 the Authority shall issue a Certificate when it is satisfied that:

The work or use of the land can proceed without there being a substantive risk or damage to a sacred site on or in the vicinity of the land or when an agreement has been reached between the Aboriginal custodians of any affected sites and the applicant for the Certificate, setting out conditions on which work may be carried out or use made.

The holder of an Authority Certificate is indemnified against prosecution under the Act if at any time in the future, it is argued that a sacred site has been damaged or entered and the holder of the Certificate can show that they acted in accordance with the provisions of the Certificate (Sections 25 & 33)

