



Ms Catherine Skippington
First Assistant Secretary
Heritage Division
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Skippington

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*.

Aboriginal Hostels Limited has no specific comments on the proposals, but wishes to advise that its principles, procedures and practices are consistent with the proposed reforms. In particular, AHL's *Construction Manual* advises that, when sites are being selected for the construction of hostels by the company, consultation should be undertaken with all relevant parties, including local government authorities (councils and planning bodies), the local Aboriginal Land Council, and the Traditional Landowners of the area.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Keith Clarke
2 November 2009