



OUT12/22403

11 SEP 2012

Mr Jahangir Alam
Energy Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Mr Alam,

Response by Department of Primary Industries to the Environmental Assessment for Young-Wagga Wagga gas pipeline (MP10_0163)

Reference is made to your letter dated 2 August 2012 regarding the above matter.

Comment from Fisheries NSW

Fisheries NSW advises that the conclusions of the environmental assessment with respect to waterways impacted by the pipeline construction and to the proposed construction methods for waterway crossings are acceptable, with the most significant risks associated with waterway crossing construction works being:

- the stranding of fish when the area between coffer dams is dewatered, and
- erosion of the pipeline corridor and discharge of sediment and turbid water into the waterway.

As such, the proposed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) needs to include a section on capturing and relocating any fish that may be stranded between coffer dams when waterway crossing sites are dewatered. The CEMP also needs to include details of arrangements for ensuring that erosion along the pipeline corridor is minimised and erosion and sediment controls are regularly checked and maintained until the corridor has revegetated and the risk of erosion and sedimentation is minimal.

Fisheries NSW recommends the following conditions of approval be included on any approval of the project:

1. Construction of waterway crossings is not to be undertaken during high or moderate flow conditions. Waterway crossings may only be constructed when waterways are under low-flow or no-flow condition. Work on waterway crossings must be suspended if water levels rise during the construction period until flows subside.
2. Work on waterway crossings must be suspended during rainfall events.

3. The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is to include an outline of procedures to cater for capture and relocation of any fish that may become stranded as a result of pipeline construction operations in waterway crossings.
4. The CEMP is to include details of Best Management Practice erosion and sediment control methods to be implemented in proximity to waterway crossings.
5. Erosion and sediment controls are to be continually maintained in good working order until the pipeline right-of-way has revegetated and stabilised and the risk of erosion is minimal. Erosion and sediment controls are to be in good working order when workers vacate the site at the end of each working day.
6. A compliance audit of waterway crossings works and erosion and sediment controls is to be undertaken by a suitably qualified person independent of the proponent within 3 and 6 months of the commencement of on ground works and again at the completion of pipeline laying. A copy of each audit report is to be provided to Fisheries NSW.

For further information, please contact Allan Lugg, Senior Fisheries Conservation Manager (Huskinson office) on 02 4428 3401 or at: Allan.Lugg@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Comment from NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water advises that the project can be supported on the basis of the following comments, and inclusion of the following recommended conditions of consent on any proposed approval. The comments comprise:

- The proposed works include a number of watercourse crossings for the pipeline itself in addition to an unspecified number of vehicular road crossings. Cofferdams and flow diversion structures are also proposed to enable works to occur within the channel. The Office of Water recommends all activities within 40m of a watercourse be carried out consistently with the "*Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land*". These are available at the following link: <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-Licensing/Approvals/Controlled-activities/default.aspx>.
- The environmental assessment has indicated the potential requirement to intercept groundwater through excavation for the pipeline trench and the potential requirement to extract water for construction and testing purposes. Continued consultation between the proponent and the Office of Water is recommended to ensure appropriate licensing is obtained for these activities.
- The preparation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan is supported on the basis that this plan provides the detailed mitigating and management measures to address activities near and within watercourses and general surface and groundwater management issues.

The recommended conditions of approval are:

1. The proponent shall prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan in consultation with and to the satisfaction of the NSW Office of Water prior to commencement of activities.
2. The proponent must obtain relevant licensing under the *Water Act 1912* or *Water Management Act 2000* from the NSW Office of Water before commencing any works which intercept or extract groundwater or surface water.

For further information please contact Tim Baker, Planning and Assessment Coordinator (Dubbo office) on 02 6841 7403 or at: Tim.Baker@water.nsw.gov.au.

Comment from Crown Lands

Use of any Crown land for the pipeline itself or for the construction phase will need to be subject to an appropriate tenure under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*. Further, a status check will need to be undertaken over any such land to determine if there are any Aboriginal Land Claims. The proponent should make early enquiry with the local Crown Lands office in this regard. For further information, please contact Shona Cowley, Group Leader Natural Resources & Property Services (Wagga Wagga office) on 02 6937 2713 or at: shona.cowley@lands.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Phil Anquetil
Executive Director Business Services