

Port Stephens COUNCIL

... a community partnership

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*Telephone Enquiries:
Wal Mills 4980 0299
Infrastructure Planning
Please Quote File No:
PSC2007-4309*

The Director,
Major Infrastructure Assessments,
Department of Planning,
GPO Box 39,
Sydney NSW 2001

**Re: Queensland-Hunter Gas Pipeline
Your ref MP 06_0286**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above.

As the pipeline crosses the Hunter River into Port Stephens there is an area of Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest and as the pipeline leaves the Port Stephens LGA, again crossing the Hunter River, there is an area of Coastal Saltmarsh. The presence of these EECs will need to be ground truthed however there is presently no mention of them in the Environmental Assessment. If these communities do exist on site the disturbance to these communities should be avoided and the Environmental Assessment should define an appropriate buffer so that these EECs suffer no adverse effects from any adjacent works. The same management measures as listed in the EA for EECs in other LGAs should also be applied. The assessment should also detail the specification, including the location, of any remediation activities to reduce the impact to threatened species.

The proposed route comes in close proximity, or perhaps even crosses, a SEPP 14 wetland as the pipeline leaves the Port Stephens LGA. Disturbance of this wetland should be avoided and the Environmental Assessment should define an appropriate buffer around these wetlands to ensure no adverse effects, especially in relation to changes in hydrology, are experienced.

The Environmental Assessment should determine the need to test for Acid Sulfate Soils and how disturbance of these soils will be addressed.

The pipeline route crosses areas known to be affected by Alligator weed, earth moving practices are known to spread the weed unless appropriate management practices are put in place. The pipeline crosses prime agricultural land the spread of this weed would have severe impacts on that lands profitability. Further south the pipeline goes into a Ramsar site and the spread of this weed into Kooragang wetlands would have severe ecological impacts. It does not appear that this impact has been mentioned in the Environmental Assessment and given the potential ramifications it should be given its due attention.



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Port Stephens C·O·U·N·C·I·L

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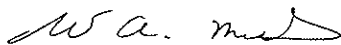
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The issue of Koala Habitat also does not seem to have been addressed in relation to the Port Stephens LGA. The pipeline crosses through areas defined by the Port Stephens Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management as marginal habitat. The Port Stephens Council CKPoM has been prepared in accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection and should be addressed as part of the Environmental Assessment. CKPoM assessment must be carried out in accordance with Appendix 4 of the CKPoM. This considers not only Preferred Koala Habitat, but Supplementary Koala Habitat, Linking areas and Buffer Zones. Offsets may be required for the removal of any Koala Habitat, in this case the EA should define the quantity and also where these offsets will be located.

All sealed public roads in the Port Stephens Local Government area are to be horizontal bored for laying the proposed pipeline.

Council also re-iterates its interest in having take off points for accessing gas for use in the Port Stephens Local Government area, both for industrial and domestic use.

Yours faithfully



W Mills
Strategic Engineer
20 October 2008



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Swati Sharma - Queensland-Hunter Gas Pipeline (MP 06_0286)

From: "Wal Mills" <Wal.Mills@portstephens.nsw.gov.au>
To: <swati.sharma@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 20/10/2008 16:22
Subject: Queensland-Hunter Gas Pipeline (MP 06_0286)
Attachments: Out - DoP comments on Queensland Gas Pipeline.pdf

Dear Swati Sharma,

Please find attached Councils submission on this project.

Regards
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