

Swati Sharma - Gas line submission

From: "Phil Spark" <pdspark@activ8.net.au>
To: <swati.sharma@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 20/10/2008 22:35
Subject: Gas line submission
Attachments: Gas Pipeline Issues Oct 08.doc

#43

Dear Swati

Attached is a document that lists my concerns with regard to the proposed gas pipe line. Sorry I didn't have time to read all of the EIS, some or all of my concerns may have been dealt with, but I was unable to find them in the time I had available to review it.

Regards
Phil

Philip Spark
North West Ecological Services
Woolomin
Tamworth NSW 2340
Ph 02-67642245
Mob 0427642245

It is no exaggeration to say that human influence on natural systems is increasingly supplanting the process of natural selection, so much so, as Sir Otto Frankel has said, "We have acquired evolutionary responsibility, and it behoves us to exercise it wisely"

Gas Pipeline Issues

In this hectic age people don't have time to spend looking through such a large document to find what how particular issues are dealt with. I found it difficult to quickly find in the EIS what I was looking for, there appears to be copious quantities of fill that has little relevance. If there is concise detailed information about the following could please direct me to it.

Issues that I would like see more detail about are;

The scale of the maps do not allow the exact location to be comprehended.
How much (% and distance) of the pipeline passes through good quality native vegetation including all TSR's and Crown land areas?
Where does it pass through such areas? the locations
Noting that the alignment was supposed to avoid and minimise the impact to such locations, why was it essential to pass through those areas?
Any disturbance to areas never before cultivated will result in weed germination, and the degradation of endangered ecological communities.

Construction

Monitoring the open trench is crucial to saving fauna caught in the trench.
Can you please detail how much trench will be open at any given time?.
How many people will be employed to remove and release fauna trapped in the trench?.
What experience and expertise in the identification of all the fauna likely to be trapped will be required of those people?.
How will that information about all the species removed and released be documented and made available to the scientific community?

From a scientific point of view such information is of very high value, as it provides a unique opportunity to conduct research across such a vast transect.
I am aware that unique species were found during the Dubbo to Tamworth pipeline construction, none of that information was made available to the scientific community or museums. It appears that highly significant species were not identified properly and the information about those species was not recorded properly.

Post construction

What measures are proposed to eliminate exotic plants that germinate following the pipe laying?

Are all exotic plants to be eliminated post construction in the impact zone? (all exotics require elimination not just those listed as weeds of national significance and noxious, the

combined impact of numerous common exotic plants can be just as damaging as the exotics that are listed as significant).

For how many years will the impact zone be monitored to identify exotic plants?

The descriptions of significant species and vegetation communities has been presented in such a way that shows little understanding of the actual route, and there are species which should have been considered that haven't been mentioned. Those that were not mentioned were supposed to have been recorded during the Dubbo to Tamworth pipeline on the Liverpool plains, those were a *Planigale* like *maculata* and a *Tympanocryptis* dragon considered to be *pinguicollis*. If correct they would be extremely significant. What assurances will be given that will prevent a repeat of the Dubbo to Tamworth experience.