

#56



13/10/2008
Rowan Vinson
Lot 101 Goorangoola Rd
Greenlands
2330
Home Ph. 02 65 773061
Work 02 65 711577

Property Identifier
Your map reference #:
HQ1463
On or about point 739

Application Reference Number : 06-0286

Please accept this as my submission regarding the Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline Project.

Statement:

As a landholder identified as being directly affected by this project should it proceed along the proposed route I hereby strongly object to the proposal and outline the reasons for my objection:

- 1) Within the E.A. and other supporting media releases and documents the proponents have continually said that they have conducted continual, ongoing, transparent communication with landholders and stakeholders including easement negotiations, pipeline route options, impacts etc.

This is a claim that they have failed to achieve and therefore undermines any confidence I might otherwise have had in their claims within the E.A. about all other issues such as possible impacts, pollution, subsidence, restoration, privacy and the rest. To demonstrate evidence of this I highlight these points.

The first we were aware of the project was from a newspaper article dated 07/12/07 giving a very generalised map and citing some very misleading comments. We received a letter a week later advising us that we were within the 200 meter corridor. Information was and has been until this E.A. rather vague, and at this point we were unsure as to whether that meant our house was in the corridor or just some part of our 100 acres. The letter gave an e-mail address to contact for more information to which I promptly despatched a plea for more accurate and precise information. After several weeks I had not received a reply and so called the attached phone number and was put onto Mr Bob Otjen. His comment to me was "where did you send the e-mail to, it must have gotten lost!"

He organised Mr Dan Joyce to contact me late in December 2007 who advised me somewhat dismissively that shortly after Australia Day 2008 they would have Field Officers calling in on us to give us more details and accepting comment and feedback to help further define the possible path of the pipe.

On the 29th of March 2008 these Field Officers called in to my neighbour without any prior arrangement or appointment, much to their surprise. I sent Mr Otjen another e-mail informing him that I was not prepared to have people call in "On the Hop", but rather expected a more professional approach whereby these Field Officers would make a phone call and organise an appropriate time to visit. His reply to this e-mail was that he would call me during that week. From the 29/03/08 to this present day I have not received that call.

The first week in April, a Field Officer did phone and make an appointment, the only contact initiated by the company since the letter received 5 months previous. Upon his visit, the Field Officer showed us the proposed corridor, which would impact directly on two neighbours on our northern boundary and three on our southern boundary, cutting a path diagonally across the middle of our 100 acres. We made our objections clear and offered what we consider to be a more appropriate route in a similar valley just to the west, yet with no houses or buildings to be affected. This Field Officer indicated agreement with our suggestion and upon leaving told us that we would receive feedback from our comments and updates on route development.

We did expect that this would be sooner than 6 months later when we received the next letter on 19/09/08, informing us of the E.A and an opportunity to make comment. At this point what were we to make comment on as we had received no indication as to whether the route was still the same or if it had changed and where the route was now directed? Discussions with all our neighbours after receiving this last letter now indicated that the ones to our south that were previously to be affected were now not to be! Asking other neighbours if they had received letters indicating if they would now be affected drew a blank, they had received nothing!!

Taking the opportunity to attend the information session at Singleton Civic Centre on the 8th of October I spoke with Tom Lingard from QHGP and asked for more specifics as to the current proposed route as I was now confused about its intended path. He was able to produce the most detailed map of our particular area showing the properties that will be affected. Interestingly, one of the neighbours I had spoken to just the day before, Penny Nagle, was of the opinion they were not affected and had also received no notification from the company, yet was highlighted on this map as now having the pipe line travel a considerable distance through their property. Needless to say that to date they have had no cause to consider it necessary to seek pertinent information or attend the information session as we did because they have not been informed or given a reasonable opportunity.

They will not have had the opportunity to voice their opinion on the E.A. due to its time constraints and volume and certainly have been excluded from involvement in any consultation process as limited as that has been, yet the claims of the company suggest otherwise. They have failed dismally in this claim, which as I have stated before leaves me suspicious and dubious about the further claims they make within this E.A.

2) The E.A.

This is a substantial document written in such a way that the ordinary person finds difficult to comprehend. The Technical terms and such are quite foreign to most of us. The time frame, which is given to obtain, read, decipher, consider and formulate this submission, is not reasonable given the enormity of it. In order to obtain the most informed view more time should have been afforded particularly those impacted by the proposal. I was given the understanding at the Information Day that it has to be written this way to accommodate government requirements, however, time and money are not so flush that we can afford to seek the services of a professional person to read through this document on our behalf and translate the detail to us in a way we can fully understand and do so within the allotted time frame.

Again, given that the time frame is 30 days beginning on the 19th of September and closing on the 20th of October, it was not until the 8th of October before we could find out exactly where the current pathway lies and consequently the different impacts on our property to consider with the change in path to that we had understood. That is effectively 12 days to review and consider a document and process that the company has had in progress for 2 years!!

3) "Human Amenity Aspects"

Refer to Map page 17/40 Figure 11.14

Human Receptors of the E.A. DVD.

Several concerns I have with this section are the misinformation given by the indicators and the possible conclusion any person vested with approving this project may take from it.

This section lists "Homesteads" as Isolated and a "Populated Area" as a Named Place with 200 or more people. Homesteads are illustrated on this map by Yellow squares and I note that at my particular location there are only 2 squares suggesting just 2 isolated Homesteads. In fact there are some 26 houses within less than a 2-kilometre radius of my house, 10 of which are direct neighbours and some of them within 500 meters (refer to attached copies of map and photo). No less than this there is Mount Pleasant School and more houses within 5 kilometres. Our area is named Greenlands. It is relatively well populated in a small area and I have asked the question about the criteria for "Populated Area" as in what proximity to one another or over what area is it that they consider those 200 people to be for this tag of "Populated Area" to apply.

Referring to my previous comment on the suggested path to the west of our valley, Mr Lingard acknowledged it would be a more direct route possibly saving them approximately 1 million dollars in pipe costs and avoiding our populated area. Asked the question of why they could not direct the pipeline into this uninhabited valley he could provide me with no answer other than the Government would not allow them to.

In consideration of "Human Amenity", I formally ask you why it is that given the opportunity to avoid disturbance to us, it has been deemed more appropriate to take a longer route and affect a valley with a fairly close and reasonable population rather than one with no population?

4) Noise and Vibration Levels

Within this assessment Greenlands is listed as likely to be "Moderately Impacted" by noise and vibration! It nominates a distance of 480 meters off the Plan. Given the noise that we pick up from Mines several kilometres away and vibration from the blasting that they carry out I find it farcical that the company can suggest that we will be only "Moderately Impacted" by D10 and D11 Bulldozers, 14G graders, Rock Saws and Drills and, bearing in mind that this new path takes the Pipeline closer than 480 meters to a number of residences in our proximity. There will be houses both uphill and downhill from the construction at our point and each may suffer differently, however, I would suggest the impact will certainly be greater than "moderate". I qualify this with 15 years as a mechanic in the Mining Industry and 30 years as a Plant Mechanic working on the kind of equipment they intend to use!

5) Risk Assessment

It is noted in this section that "Effects of noise and vibration – Unlikely".

"Adverse Impact on current or potential future use of Land – Unlikely"

"Surface and Groundwater, adverse impacts on quality – Unlikely"

" Interruption to natural flow – Unlikely"

Convenient use of the word "Unlikely"

I have covered my concerns regarding noise and vibration however; future use of the land at present need generally only consider sustainable farming principles. If the pipeline were to proceed through my property I am immediately affected by numerous factors concerning activities within the corridor across my property, digging, ploughing, fencing etc. Activities such as these then become restricted and necessitate consultation with a company who doesn't own the property.

Surface and Ground Water – the section of my property that the proposed path takes has a watercourse within it on the north end and a watershed to the south. The watercourse catches a large volume of water during periods of rain and becomes a torrent. This feeds 4 dams in the relatively short distance from its origins till its entry in to Goorangoola creek, the largest, approximately 1 acre in area and up to 35 feet deep at a point, is on my property and contains edible fish stocks of Golden and Silver Perch which supplements our household diet. The soil depth and type in our area is noted as fragile and highly erodible in the Glennies Creek Catchment Strategy Plan and is evidenced by our continual battle against erosion. Given the minimal soil depth and poor quality, despite seeding and fertilizing over the years, when hot, dry weather hits, the ground doesn't retain moisture and grasses quickly dry off and die, consequently requiring constant maintenance when the cooler moister seasons return.

My concerns regarding this water course is that disturbance to its surface will initiate and enhance erosion despite any efforts by the company, leading to an inflow of pollution and sediment into dams on my property ultimately affecting water quality within them which may also have adverse effects on my fish. It is also recognised that settling around the pipe and

subsidence Will occur and this will not only increase the likelihood of erosion but may also lead to a deviation of the current natural flow.

Areas to the south of this watercourse have a natural shedding to the south and north. The pipeline will travel along this line, which again, when it rains will shed water along the pipeline corridor. The fact that the ground will be disturbed will mean that either a hump or a depression will exist due to the pipeline and thus the water will not be inclined to dissipate in its natural way but rather along the Pipe Track. Experience from some 10 years ago when Telstra ran an Optic Fibre Cable across my property gives me an ideal insight as to the problems this will cause. In this case, due to a lack of soil depth and in any event its poor quality, the disturbed ground was seeded and fertilized. When it rained the water coursed down the path of the cable as the ground had settled creating a channel, which caught and funnelled the water down it. The seed, which had been planted, washed away with it and a fair degree of the soil too. 10 years of seeding, fertilizing, adding soils, and yet the scars are still quite visible. When we have the dry spells such as we have had over the last number of years, this strip is the first to suffer. This was despite advice provided by the Department of Soil and Water Conservation.

In general, once the surface is damaged or interfered with in this region its recovery is poor, risk of erosion high and rehabilitation a lengthy and expensive process. Substantial studies have been done in relation to the Glennies Creek Catchment area of which we are a part giving clear indications as to the soil vulnerability.

This also encompasses concerns over soil erosion and yes, the company tell me they can fix it, but given their credibility so far on what they say and what they do and what I know and see, my fears have not been calmed.

6) "Contamination of Land and Water from Fuels and Chemicals – Very Unlikely".

When I questioned this with Mr Lingard his response was that the equipment would all be new and wouldn't have leaks, also that a spill of just 1 litre would be reportable to the EPA.

My view to that is that it is an absurd nonsense. Remember I have been a Plant Mechanic for 30 years and spent 15 years in the Mining Industry and I cant believe that they are going to operate all the machinery they are, to put in nearly 1,000 kilometres of pipeline and not blow hydraulic hoses, coolant hoses, turbo lines, have fuel spills or even possibly roll a machine on its side despite all care taken. In my experience I have seen brand new machines work for less than a day and suffer catastrophic failures, fuel, oil and coolant leaks, oil leaks that have covered hot engines and thus caught fire burning the unit to the ground. I may have missed it in the E.A. but it seems to me that by saying that this is "unlikely" it has been skimmed over without adequately addressing how they would tackle such occasions should they arise.

I would have felt more comfortable had they been honest enough to say "Possible – and will be managed so".

7) Current Infrastructure

As I have stated before, if the suggestion to run the pipe through the next valley were adopted there would be no interference with infrastructure over the same distance, however the current proposal would cause interference with our phone lines cutting across them as it enters my property and again as it leaves my property, shortly after which it would again cross my neighbours line as it progresses across his property. It will also affect our access road in several places.

8) Socio-Economic Impacts (12.4-1)

This part suggests Land Holders would benefit from Compensation for the creation of the R.O.W. This may be so in limited cases, however, given my concerns over impacts to my property, the restrictions it will place on that portion of land, ongoing concerns over loss of privacy due to the proximity to my house and the proposed continual maintenance programme, safety concerns over possible future leaks and disturbance of repairing those possible leaks, for all the life of the pipeline which is expected to be greater than my remaining life time, I doubt that any compensation offered by the company would be of any significant benefit to me. If it were several thousand acres that was only grazing country and had a good likelihood of rehabilitation and was such a distance from my house that the proposed on-going maintenance would have no effect on my privacy, perhaps, but this is not the case!

9) Pipe Line Life

I understand that the expected contract life for this project is 50 years. My question to Mr Lingard was that if the contract was terminated prior to that or if indeed lasted the term, what would become of the pipe at the end of its serviceable life. What would become of the maintenance of the R.O.W., on-going erosion problems, subsidence as the pipe deteriorates and collapses?

I may be long dead by then but what of future property owners. This company is embarking on a significant commercial venture for the main purpose of making profits, it may be classed as Critical Infrastructure, but it will undoubtedly be profit driven and yet there appears to be no consideration of "After the Event". It seems that property owners along the length of the pipeline who have made not one cent from the project will be left with the expense and problem of the fatiguing pipeline as it then collapses creating subsidence trenches, diverting water flows from their natural paths, creating concentrations of various metals and other pollutants leaching into the soil, ground and surface water!

The reply from Mr Lingard was "no-one has asked me that before!"
Hardly satisfactory!

In summary,

There may be an abject need for this gas pipeline however I don't believe the Company has been honest, open or transparent in its approach to the public or those affected that I have been in contact with. Issues such as not keeping people informed, omitting to inform people that have since become affected due to changes in the plan that were not previously affected, not providing feed back to suggestions affected people have made, producing media reports such as I have included that give misleading information about the number of people within the 200 meter corridor and talking of the village of Glendon Brook. What is the village of Glendon Brook, no school, no shop, no active church, not considered a Village under the Rural Fire Service Standards of Fire Cover, no more a village than Greenlands or neighbouring Mount Olive with collections of houses close together, a school and Community hall between them.

Despite claims to the contrary, I'm not convinced that the choice to come through our property and this small community is not purely commercially based as a more convenient option. No satisfactory answer was provided as to the reason not to use the avenue through the neighbouring valley, which only enhances suspicions added to my concerns about the company's ability to achieve its environmental and minimal impact goals.

Key Issues:

- Lack of Communication, Feedback and Consultation

- Dissemination of misleading or inaccurate information

- Concerns over Water and Soil Pollution

- Soil Erosion and rehabilitation

- Changes to surface water flows

- On-going maintenance and disturbance

- Loss of Privacy

- Construction noise and vibration impacts

- Effects on current infrastructure

- Inadequacy of Compensation versus Abstention

- Doubts as to the Company's ability to meet its' Environmental Commitments and Promises

Attachments:

I have included these attachments to support comments and suggestions I have made in this submission.

Copy of Newspaper Article dated 07/12/2007

Copy of Satellite photo provided at Field Officer Visit
April 2008

Copy of Map supplied 08/10/2008 showing current proposed
Route

Copy of map showing suggested alternative route through
neighbouring valley

Thankyou for providing me this opportunity to comment on the project. I
would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of this submission.

Yours sincerely
Rowan Vinson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rowan Vinson', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

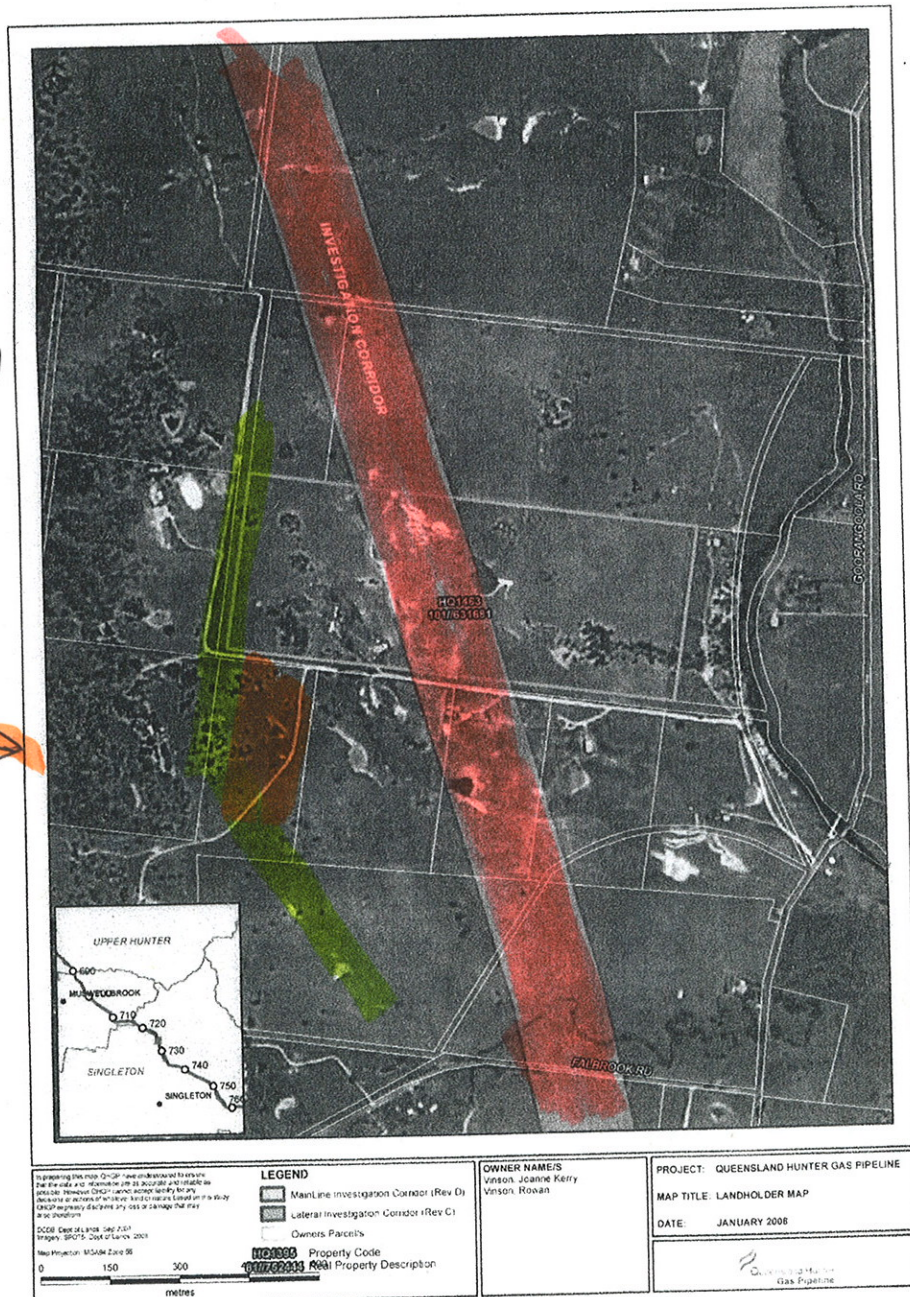
Note - SIMON & PENNY NAGLE'S
PROPERTY NOW AFFECTED
NO NOTICE RECEIVED
AS 8/10/2008

NORTH
↑

Original Pathway suggested
to us April 2008

Pathway now indicated
on other photo copy that was
received 08/10/08

#56

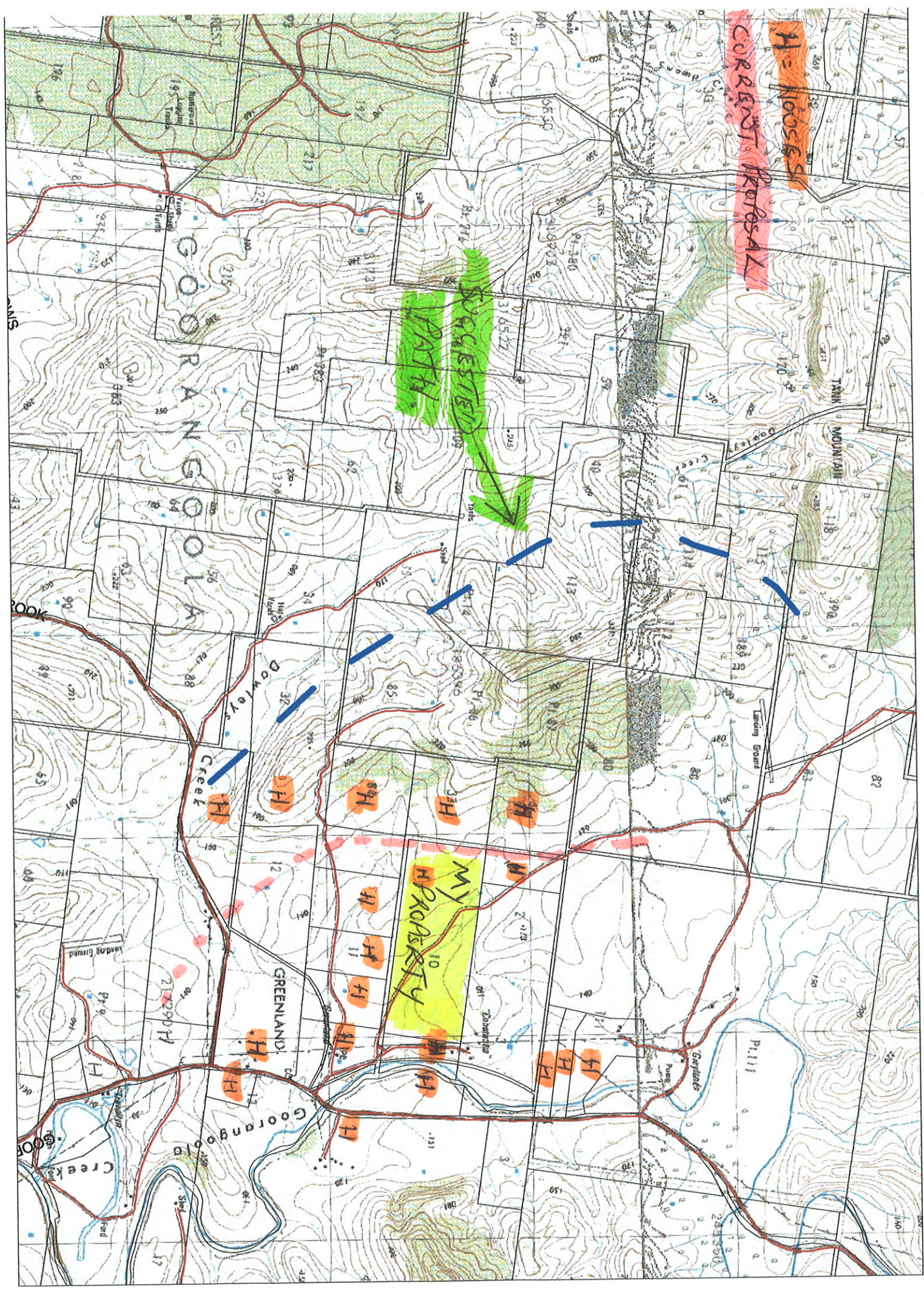


H = Hooses

CURRENT PROSAL

SUGGESTED PATH

MY PROPERTY



More wet weather

THE Bureau of Meteorology has forecast another weekend of wet weather.

According to the bureau, today will see scattered showers and thunderstorms with light north to northeast winds. The maximum temperature is predicted to be 33 degrees.

Saturday will see scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms, south to southeast winds and a top temperature of 30 degrees.

Sunday will see scattered showers with north-west to northeast winds. The temperature is expected to reach a maximum of 30 degrees.

Levels on the rise

SOME consistent rainfall has seen the water levels in the Upper Hunter's two dams continue to rise through the middle of the week.

The water level in Singleton's Glennies Creek Dam rose 0.4 per cent since Monday, up to 37.1 per cent of capacity.

It received 10 millimetres of rainfall in its catchment area in the 24 hours to 9am Tuesday, and one millimetre to 9am Wednesday.

Glenbawn Dam's water level rose from 40.2 per cent on Monday to 40.8 per cent of capacity yesterday.

It received a total of 11 millimetres of rainfall in its catchment area during this period.

Lyons appointed

DR Nigel Lyons has been appointed Hunter New England Area Health Service chief executive officer.

The appointment was made by the director-general of health, Professor Debora Picone yesterday.

Dr Lyons has been in the position in an acting role since July.

He was previously the director, clinical operations for the Hunter New England Health Service.

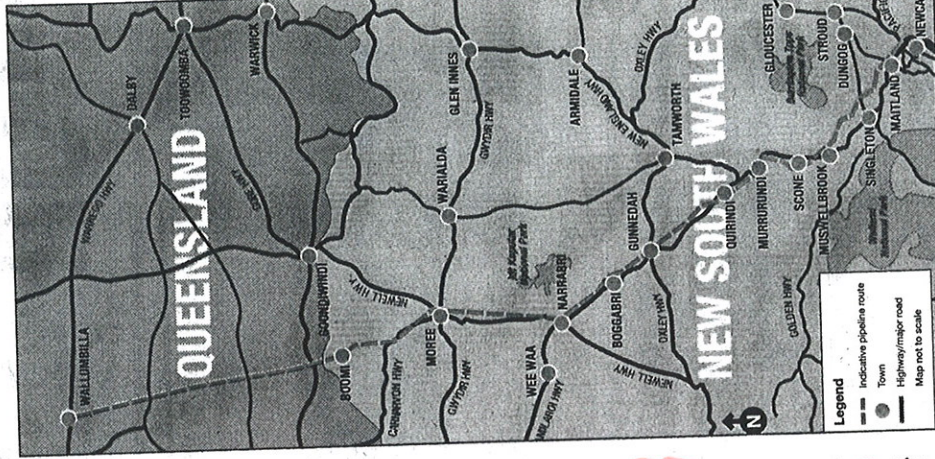
Dr Lyons remains active on a range of boards of councils associated with improving the health outcomes for the people of New South Wales and specifically for people living within the Hunter New England Area Health Service.

In an emergency
dial 000

2008 NEW YEAR WISH

ALL CHILDREN

Gas is on its way



Newcastle pipeline at Hexham.

The pipeline would connect the gas from coal seams in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales with the Hunter industrial region.

It will provide a greater security of natural gas supplies to the Hunter, with the possibility the pipeline could supply future gas-fired power stations in the Hunter.

The project is regarded as the missing link in the East Coast Gas network from Queensland through to Victoria.

The Queensland Government has approved an environmental management plan for the project and a similar one has been lodged with the Department of Planning in NSW.

Ms Campany said if approval was granted by the DoP, the pipeline could be constructed in two and a half years, with the possibility of gas travelling down the pipes in 2011.

There would be up to 600 jobs created during the construction phase and a further 25 direct jobs when the pipeline becomes operational.

Project director Bob Otjen said that the gas supply would be available to residents and businesses in Singleton, but he said he was unable to give any further details as he is responsible for the transport of the gas, not the distribution.

When asked by Cr Paul Nichols why the pipeline was essentially by-passing the largest coal producing area in NSW, with the potential to harvest the gas from the coal seams, Mr Otjen said "some things just don't make sense".

PROPOSED ROUTE: The red line marks out the proposed route for the Queensland to Hunter gas pipeline.

infrastructure project by NSW Planning Minister Frank Sartor.

The proposed 850 kilometre pipeline would run from South Central Queensland to the Hunter, where it will feed into the existing Sydney to

Boundary Street ready for action

WORK along Boundary Street between Queen and Patrick Streets began this

Singleton Argus December 7 2007.

Map supplied
8/10/2008

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