

Mr Todd Dunn  
Development Manager NSW/NT  
Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd

04/10/2023

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**Subject: Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline (MP06\_0286) – Approval of Staging Request**

Dear Mr Dunn

I refer to your correspondence to the Department of Planning and Environment (Department) dated 19 September 2023, requesting the Planning Secretary's approval to submit required studies, strategies and plans under the Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline project approval on a staged basis.

The following three stages are proposed:

- o **Stage 1:** construction of temporary laydown yards at multiple strategic locations along the proposed Hunter Gas Pipeline alignment.
- o **Stage 2:** Construction of the Narrabri to Newcastle section of pipeline.
- o **Stage 3:** Construction of the Wallumbilla to Narrabri section of the pipeline.

The Department has carefully reviewed your request and considers that it is consistent with Condition 6.1 the project approval. Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve your staging request and the proposed approach to preparation of the relevant plans for Stage 1 as outlined in your correspondence dated 19 September 2023.

Further you are also seeking the Secretary's agreement that some of the project approval requirements would not be required to be undertaken for Stage 1 including:

- o **Condition 2.9** - local council consultation outcomes for off-take points: these would not be relevant to the Stage 1 construction works.
- o **Condition 3.18** – Biodiversity Offset Needs Study: subject to the approval of the Stage 1 Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), demonstrating that there would be no impacts on biodiversity values.
- o **Condition 3.19** – Final Hazard Studies: Stage 1 construction works would not involve the construction or use of gas-related infrastructure or other hazardous infrastructure.

The Department has carefully reviewed your request and accepts that these conditions are not required for Stage 1, subject to demonstrating that there would be no impact on biodiversity values at the locations proposed for the Stage 1 works. Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I agree that

conditions 2.9, 3.18 and 3.19 are not required to be completed for Stage 1. However, these would be required prior to commencing Stage 2.

Please ensure you make the documents publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact Mandana Mazaheri on 02 9995 5093.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S O'Donoghue', written in a cursive style.

**Stephen O'Donoghue**

**Director**

**Resource Assessments**

as nominee of the Planning Secretary