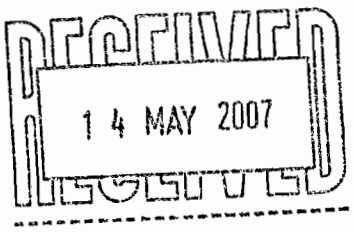
Appendix E

Documentation of consultation

NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Out07/2552
07/215



Mr Terry Perram
Perram and Partners Pty Ltd
12 Clanwilliam St
EASTWOOD NSW 2122

Dear Mr Perram

Proposed Gas-Fired Power Station and Gas Pipeline, Wellington

Thank you for your letter dated 19 March 2007 requesting any matters that must be considered in the environmental assessment and design of the above project.

The Department of Primary Industries is made up of the Divisions of Agriculture & Fisheries, Minerals and Forests NSW. The following information is submitted in the interests of fisheries, minerals, and agricultural matters (there are no forestry related matters at this stage). There were no specific issues in relation to the power station proposal However, the pipeline is of concern and the following issues are tendered for consideration in the environmental assessment.

Fisheries Issues:
The Department advises that the assessment of the proposed gas pipeline development should include consideration of the following issues:

1. General Requirements
The assessment should include the information outlined below:

- A description of proposal and study area
- A topographic map of the locality at a scale of 1:25 000 should be provided. This map should detail the location of all component parts of the proposal, any areas locally significant for threatened species (such as aquatic reserves), and areas of high human activity (such as townships, regional centres and major roads).
- All waterbodies and waterways within the proposed area of development are to be identified.
- Description of aquatic vegetation, snags, gravel beds and any other protected, threatened or dominant habitats should be presented.
- Area, density and species composition should be included and mapped.
- Identification of recognised recreational and commercial fishing grounds, aquaculture farms and/or other waterway users.
- Presented maps or plans
- Details of the location of all component parts of the proposal, including any auxiliary infrastructure, timetable for construction of the proposal with details of various phases of construction
- Size of the area affected

DUBBO OFFICE
PO Box 865, DUBBO, 2830
37 Carrington Avenue, DUBBO, 2830
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
Tel: 02 6881 1285
Fax: 02 6881 1265

- Plan of study area
- Land tenure details for all land parcels
- For each freshwater body identified on the plan, the plan should include, either by annotation or by an accompanying table, hydrological and stream morphology information such as: hydrological and stream morphological information, flow characteristics, including any seasonal variations, bed substrate, and bed width

ACTIVITIES THAT BLOCK FISH PASSAGE

- Type of activity e.g. works in a stream that change flow or morphological characteristics
- Length of time fish passage is to be restricted
- Timing of proposed restriction
- Remediation works

THREATENED SPECIES

- Threatened aquatic species assessment (Section 5c, EP&A Act 1979
- Test of Significance (7 Part Test)

2. Initial Assessment

A list of threatened species, endangered populations and endangered ecological communities must be provided. In determining these species, consideration must be given to the habitat types present within the study area, recent records of threatened species in the locality and the known distributions of these species. A seven part test is required for each threatened species

In describing the locality of the proposal, discussion must be provided in regard to the previous land and water uses and the effect of these on the proposed site. Relevant historical events may include land clearing, agricultural activities, water abstraction/diversion, dredging, de-snagging, reclamation, siltation, commercial and recreational activities.

A description of habitat including components such as stream morphology, in-stream and riparian vegetation, water quality and flow characteristics, bed morphology, vegetation (both aquatic and adjacent terrestrial), water quality and flow characteristics must be given. The condition of the habitat within the area must be described and discussed, including the presence and prevalence of introduced species. A description of the habitat requirements of threatened species likely to occur in the study area must be provided.

In defining the proposal area, discussion must be provided in regard to possible indirect effects of the proposal on species/habitats in the area surrounding the subject site: for example, through altered hydrological regimes, soil erosion or pollution. The study area must extend downstream and/or upstream as far as is necessary to take all potential impacts into account.

Please Note: Persons undertaking aquatic surveys may be required to hold or obtain appropriate permits or licences under relevant legislation.

3. Assessment of Likely Impacts

The assessment must:

- describe and discuss significant habitat areas within the study area;
- outline the habitat requirements of threatened species likely to occur in the study area;
- indicate the location, nature and extent of habitat removal or modification which may result from the proposed action;
- discuss the potential impact of the modification or removal of habitat;
- identify and discuss any potential for the proposal to introduce barriers to the movement of fish species; and
- describe and discuss any other potential impacts of the proposal on fish species or their habitat.

For all species likely to have their lifecycle patterns disrupted by the proposal to the extent that individuals will cease to occupy any location within the subject site, the assessment must describe and discuss other locally occurring populations of such species. The relative significance of this location for these species in the general locality must be discussed in terms of the extent, security and viability of remaining habitat in the locality.

4. Ameliorative Measures

The environmental assessment must consider how the proposal has been or may be modified and managed to conserve aquatic habitat on the subject site and in the study area.

In discussing alternatives to the proposal, and the measures proposed to mitigate any effects of the proposal, consideration must be given to developing long term management strategies to protect areas within the study area which are of particular importance for fish species. This may include proposals to restore or improve habitat.

Any proposed pre-construction monitoring plans or on-going monitoring of the effectiveness of the mitigation measures must be outlined in detail, including the objectives of the monitoring program, method of monitoring, reporting framework, duration and frequency.

In the event of a request for concurrence or consultation of the Director of DPI, one (1) copy of the environmental assessment should be provided to DPI in order for the request to be processed.

It should be noted that DPI Fisheries has no regulatory or statutory role to review draft EISs unless they are accompanied by or are requested as part of a licence application under Part 7A of the *FM Act.* However, NSW DPI is available to provide advice to consent and determining authorities regarding DPI Fisheries' opinion as to whether the requirements have been met if requested, pending the availability of resources and other statutory priorities

The DPI contact for aquatic habitat and fisheries issues related to this project is: Stephen Clipperton, 02 6881 1279 or 0427 107883.

Mineral Issues

The proposed pipeline corridor does not traverse any known resources with the possible exception of sand and gravel resources at Maryvale, north west of Wellington (see below).

The pipeline corridor at Alectown traverses faults and Ordovician age volcanics associated with the Parkes-Peak Hill belt of gold deposits. The corridor in this region also traverses several current exploration licenses, reflecting the high exploration potential of this region. Exploration titleholders should be contacted regarding the route of the proposed pipeline. These companies are:

EL 6644: TECK COMINCO AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
EL 5675: ALKANE EXPLORATION LTD
EL 6195: GOLDEN CROSS OPERATIONS PTY. LTD.

Further east, the proposed pipeline corridor traverses granites of the Yeoval Batholith and various sedimentary packages. The corridor within the Yeoval Batholith avoids the main areas of known mineralisation. However the proposed route does traverse an exploration license held in the area. The title and title holder are:

EL 6311: AUGUR RESOURCES LTD

The proponent should ensure that these companies are aware of the proposed pipeline corridor and given the opportunity to comment. The location of exploration and mining titles in NSW may be accessed by the general public using the online utility "TAS Map". Map images can be printed straight from the screen display or saved and inserted directly into word processing documents. An intuitive tool set allows the user to seamlessly pan, zoom as well as inquire about different Titles via a simple report. This online service is available at:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/titles/online-services/tasmap

The proposed corridor may also intersect with a known sand and gravel resource (and quarry operation) at Maryvale on the Macquarie River. The quarry operator is:

Boral Country-Concrete & Quarries
Mitchell Hwy Maryvale NSW 2820
ph: (02) 6845 1081

The Minerals Resources Division has advised Wellington, Parkes and Cabonne Shire Councils of the location of known and potential mineral resources, and the locations of known operating mines and quarries of a certain minimum size

under the Section 117 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, and can provide additional information in relation to the present study.

Should you wish to discuss any of the matters mentioned above please contact Dr Phillip Blevin of the Minerals Division via email (phil.blevin@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or on (02) 4931 6585.

Agriculture Issues

The pipeline is the major consideration as it will run through areas of agricultural landuse, requiring that all adjacent landholders should be aware of the proposal, and its effects. Weed management will need to be considered, as efforts should be made to ensure they are not spread from property to property

The disturbance of remnant vegetation on freehold or public lands needs to be avoided, considering the impact of past clearing activities. The Department of Environment and Climate Change will provide advice on this aspect, along with further advice on erosion and sedimentation controls.

Rehabilitation is important to both curtail erosion, and weed germination. Topsoil needs to be replaced as soon as possible, especially in restabilising native species, particularly grasses if they are present. New sowings are recommended to assist in outcompeting weed growth if weeds dominate. Adjacent landholders should also be made aware of this, and help assist in species selection. Clean seed and appropriate species (ones that will not cause environmental problems) should always be considered.

With adequate notice by contractors, the proposed works should not inconvenience agricultural activities. The study should provide details of the consultation process with landowners of agricultural operations in relation to impacts and mitigation measures.

Should you have further enquiries regarding the above or other general matters please contact Ms Mary Kovac, Resource Management Officer, Dubbo, phone 02 6881 1270.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Markwick
Regional Director, DPI Relations
Central West
NSW Department of Primary Industries
8 May 2007

NSW Government
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Contact: Tim Baker
Phone: (02) 6841 7531
Fax: (02) 6884 0096
Email: Tim.Baker@dnr.nsw.gov.au

Local Reference Number: DUB0109304-1

Terry Perram
Perram & Partners
12 Clanwilliam Street
EASTWOOD NSW 2122

11 April 2007

Dear Mr Perram

PROPOSED GAS-FIRED POWER STATION AND GAS PIPELINE, WELLINGTON

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

PART 3A *ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979*

I refer to your letter dated 19 March 2007 regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment for the proposed gas-fired power station and gas pipeline near Wellington. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the proposal outline provided and requires the following environmental considerations to be addressed in the environmental assessment (EA) being prepared under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

DNRs response is provided in the following format:

1. Statutory Requirements
2. Statutory Framework
3. Advisory Comment

1. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The EA must provide the following water general information for the proposed development:

1.1.Existing Approvals

1.1.1. Details of any existing development consent.
1.1.2. Details of any existing consents or approvals (permit / licence) applying to the proposal or the development site.

Note: It must to be recognised that increased licensed access to water is the proponent's responsibility under the Water Act 1912. The ability to secure water entitlement on the water market is a commercial risk for the proponent and no opportunity exists for DNR to provide 'shelf' water.

1.2. Land Status/Ownership

1.2.1. Land title description and if proposal includes Crown land (eg. bed of waterway) or Crown roads .
1.2.2. Land tenure (eg. lease/ license) or Crown leasehold.
1.2.3. Details of the registered owner/s of the property and applicant/s.
1.2.4. Evidence of the land owner's consent (eg. to lodge development application).

1.2.5. Details of existing zonings (map to be included).

1.3. Site Information/Survey

1.3.1. Site location with north point and scale, presented at no less than 1:25000 scale for the project, and at no less than 1:10000 for the length of streams to be affected.
1.3.2. Layout plan, set out at scale of not less than 1:25000.
1.3.3. Survey plan of the existing site, at a scale of not less than 1:16000 for native vegetation blocks.
1.3.4. Survey plan to provide current and proposed cross sectional details at sections along affected water courses.
1.3.5. Topographic contours at not less than 5 metre intervals
1.3.6. Site features - watercourses, lakes, wetlands, vegetation, buildings, tracks, infrastructure etc.
1.3.7. Details on direction of flow of surface and groundwater, water levels, high bank, low bank, major aggradation / erosion for any watercourses, flood runners, terraces and other geomorphological features
1.3.8. Plan to identify 1: 100 year flood level
1.3.9. Plans showing surface, watercourse bed/bank long profile and piezometric gradients.

1.4. Project Description

1.4.1. Description of the proposed development, including all ancillary works (stormwater drainage, access crossings, roads or railway access, pipelines or other infrastructure)
1.4.2. Photographs (multiple frames) across the development site, with particular emphasis on any area for which a licence, permit or approval will apply.
Note: **If watercourses are impacted upon or in the vicinity of the development, include photographs also looking upstream and downstream at points of geomorphic change or at distances of no greater than 500 metres**
1.4.3. Site layout plan that indicates the location of photographic reference points

1.5. Operational Information

1.5.1. Operational plan detailing the ongoing operation including staging/ sequencing of the project.
1.5.2. Geotechnical engineers report on the stability of the proposal and its influence on geological or soil terrain stability and geochemistry.
1.5.3. Erosion and Sediment Control Plan prepared in accordance the guideline manual 'Managing Urban Stormwater Soils and Construction'.
1.5.4. Assessment of salinity hazards.
1.5.5. Rehabilitation plan that details the progressive and final restoration/ rehabilitation of landform, revegetation, surface water, groundwater and maintenance.
1.5.6. Monitoring program for assessment on fluvial geomorphology – with particular emphasis on the affected watercourses, and a full justification for interception of any watercourse.
1.5.7. Monitoring program for assessment on surface water.
1.5.8. Monitoring program for assessment on groundwater.
1.5.9. Contingency plans, in the event that surface and/or ground water behaviour does not follow modelling predictions for the site.
1.5.10. Contingency plans linked to the monitoring program, with trigger levels nominated in the EIS for assessment against water sharing arrangements in the catchment.

1.6. Vegetation

1.6.1. Details of any clearing of vegetation including mapping overlaid on an aerial photograph and/or a vegetation/ habitat map.

1.6.2. Details of clearing methods.
1.6.3. Identify species and/or elements of the vegetation structure to be cleared.
1.6.4. Ameliorating measures include details of on-going management, protection of vegetation and habitat retained for conservation purposes.
1.6.5. Identification of any Asset Protection Zone.
1.6.6. Vegetation Management Plan that details the conservation/ rehabilitation of riparian buffer zones on site including the removal of exotic species, revegetation with native species and the stabilisation of erosion hazards.
1.6.7. Where consent to clear may not be required under the NVCA due to the exemptions or exclusions, the EIS must consider the value of the native vegetation on site, and take every precaution during planning and implementation to minimise the impact of development on native vegetation.
Factors to consider include:
1.6.7.1. Conducting a thorough assessment of flora, fauna and ecosystems.
1.6.7.2. Avoiding development in areas of high quality remnant native vegetation or areas identified as being habitat for threatened species (including vegetation of high conservation value, riparian zones, and any area of native vegetation that has not been significantly degraded through grazing, wildfires, weed invasion or public destruction),
1.6.7.3. Retention of native vegetation in riparian areas and on steep or rocky lands.
1.6.7.4. Retention of better quality native vegetation in public reserves.
1.6.7.5. Retention of native vegetation, including groundcover and understorey in all areas outside asset protection zones.
1.6.7.6. Utilising native plant species in landscaping plans, especially those propagated from seeds collected from the local area.
1.6.7.7. Development of a final landform which reflects the variation of ecosystem types across the site, including how riparian corridors are to be integrated into the final landform vegetation arrangement.

1.7. Geomorphology/ Watercourses

1.7.1. Assessment of the impact of the proposal on the existing flow regime (ie. flow quantity, velocity, frequency and duration) for all rainfall events up to a 100 year Average Recurrence Interval
1.7.2. Assessment of impact on the fluvial geomorphology of the watercourse including any erosion and sedimentation likely to be caused by the development
1.7.3. Measures to be implemented to guard against actual and potential environmental disturbances during the construction and operation of the proposal
1.7.4. Water management plan, which includes the engineering, geomorphic and ecosystem identification and protection principles to be included in the Environmental Impact Statement

1.8. Water Requirements

1.8.1. Surface Water

1.8.1.1. Details of any proposed surface water extraction, including purpose, location of any existing pumps, dams, diversions, cuttings & levees on the site & expected annual extraction volumes, from both on site interception and external sources (e.g. From regulated and unregulated systems).
1.8.1.2. Identify sources of surface water, proportions of flow resulting from groundwater accessions, and measures to protect and enhance ecosystem integrity, and the geomorphic integrity of affected streams above, within and below the project site.
1.8.1.3. Location and design specifications for all clean water diversions including channels, detention basins and outlet fixtures.

1.8.1.4. Location and design specifications for dirty water / contaminated water circuit including channels, detention basins and outlet fixtures.
1.8.1.5. Provide details regarding any dirty water / contaminated discharge resulting from the proposed development.
1.8.1.6. Provide information on detailed water balance including inflows and imports / exports to and from the proposed development.
1.8.1.7. Details of the integrated water management system, including an assessment of changes to the water balance under a range of conditions (including 10%, 50% and 90% wet years and severe storm events).

1.8.2. Groundwater

1.8.2.1. Details of any proposed groundwater extraction, including purpose, location and construction details of all proposed bores and expected annual extraction volumes.
1.8.2.2. Details of any proposed works likely to intercept groundwater.
1.8.2.3. Description of different aquifer systems including their extent and inter-relationships (including inter-relationships with surface water bodies and dependent ecosystems).
1.8.2.4. Description of the flow directions and rates and the physical and chemical characteristics of the aquifers, including differentiation of different aquifers and aquifer characteristics (ionic speciation, storativities, migration rates, linkages between aquifers).
1.8.2.5. Description of the potential interaction of hard rock aquifer systems on the site and alluvial groundwater connected to surface waters, and the presence of any geological structures acting as preferential pathways for groundwater transmission.
1.8.2.6. Details of the predicted impacts of any final landform on the groundwater regime.
1.8.2.7. Details of the existing groundwater users within the area of the proposal and any potential impacts on these users, including water/salt balance assessment to determine if interception of groundwater by the project will have environmental, economic and/or social benefits to water users, the community and the local environment
1.8.2.8. Details of the predicted highest groundwater table at the development site and the level of natural variability across the site, and anticipated changes in groundwater conditions across the project site.
1.8.2.9. An assessment of the quality of the groundwater for the development site.
1.8.2.10. Identify water application areas and method of application, and measures to address unacceptable salt accumulations across the site.
1.8.2.11. Details of proposed method of disposal of tail or waste water.
1.8.2.12. Details of the results of any models or predictive tools used, including inputs, sensitivity analyses and justification for any assumptions used in the development of the model(s).

1.8.3. Water Storage Structures

1.8.3.1. Details of proposed water storage structures, including purpose, location, design specifications (crest, bywash, discharge, low flow bypass provisions).
1.8.3.2. Calculation of the catchment area, water storage structure capacity (ML) and water storage surface area.
1.8.3.3. Calculation of the Maximum Harvestable Right Dam Capacity (MHRDC).
1.8.3.4. Estimate the MHRDC as it changes over the life of the project.
1.8.3.5. Details of stream order (using the Strahler System).
1.8.3.6. Estimate of evaporation rates and annual evaporation losses.

1.8.3.7. Details of pumps and intended extraction volumes from the water storage structure/s.
1.8.3.8. Details of any other persons/ party to be supplied (eg. volume, rate, purpose).
1.8.3.9. Identify impacts on other licence users or 'basic rights'.

1.9. Monitoring programs

Details of monitoring programs, including:

1.9.1. Distribution of monitoring network.
1.9.2. Frequency of monitoring.
1.9.3. Parameters to be monitored.
1.9.4. Details of mitigation and contingency plans with respect to groundwater contamination and identification of triggers for implementation of these plans.
1.9.5. Detail the presence of groundwater dependent ecosystems in the surrounding areas, including the identification of flora and fauna and their dependence on groundwater.
1.9.6. Identification of required buffer zones for any groundwater dependent ecosystems.
1.9.7. Identification of auditing and reporting schedule.

2. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

Proposal to satisfy the statutory requirements of the following legislation administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as applicable:

- *Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948*
- *Water Act 1912*
- *Water Management Act 2000*
- *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*
- *Native Vegetation Act 2003*
- *Native Vegetation (Savings and Transitional) Amendment (Minimal Clearing Exemption) Regulation 2004*
- *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999*

Note: **Acts and regulations can be accessed at www.austlii.edu.au**

The EA must address the underlying principles which underpin the above legislation and demonstrate compliance with the principles and intent of these Acts and regulations.

Note: **Acts and regulations can be accessed at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au**

Relevant Policy

The proposal must address the NSW State Government natural resource management policies, as applicable. Policies to include but not limited to:

- NSW Groundwater Policy Framework Document - General
- NSW Groundwater Quantity Management Policy
- NSW Groundwater Quality Protection Policy
- NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy
- NSW Policy for Groundwater Monitoring
- MDBC Guidelines on Groundwater Model Development
- NSW State Rivers and Estuaries Policy
- NSW Wetlands Management Policy
- NSW Weirs Policy
- Farm Dams Policy
- Australian Stream Rehabilitation Manual, LWRRDC, Environment Australia

3. ADVISORY COMMENT

3.1. Waste Management

Management, treatment and storage of toxic, hazardous, contaminated or potentially polluting substances or wastes. Waste materials should be managed in such a way so as to protect water resources from pollution and degradation. The assessment should include the following:

3.1.1.1. Details of all solid and liquid wastes that will be stored on-site.

3.1.1.2. Details of the proposed management system for the solid and liquid wastes from the operation of the power station and any ancillary development. This should include all methods to reuse/recycle waste streams.

3.1.1.3. Details of the quality of waste.

3.1.1.4. Details of the design and location of detention basins, waste facilities or other structures required to store wastes. Designs should also assess any requirement for artificial geosynthetic lining and leakage collection/detection systems and be in accordance with the requirements of the NSW State Groundwater Policy framework.

3.1.1.5. An impact assessment of the construction of detention basins and waste storage facilities.

3.2. Creek Crossings

Characteristics of any creeks which need to be crossed as part of the pipeline installation should be examined. An assessment should include details on:

3.2.1. Details of crossing locations and any structures to be located within 40m of the bed or banks of watercourses.

3.2.2. Impact of proposed method of pipeline installation and any road crossing requirement on riparian stability and ecological functioning.

3.2.3. Impact on riparian vegetation.

3.2.4. Mitigating measures to remediate impacts to achieve the requirements of the NSW State Rivers and Estuaries Policy.

3.2.5. Time frame and longer term maintenance required to ensure sites are adequately stabilised prior to removal of erosion control infrastructure.

Should further information or clarification be required in relation to the above response, please do not hesitate to contact me on telephone (02) 6841 7531.

Yours faithfully

Tim Baker
Natural Resource Project Officer, NR Planning
Landscapes and CMA Support

Mr Terry Perram
12 Clanwilliam Street
Eastwood NSW 2122

Dear Mr Perram

RE: PROPOSED GAS-FIRED POWER STATION AND GAS PIPELINE, WELLINGTON

Reference to your letter ref: 116L01 of 19 March 2007 seeking this Authority advice on matters which should be considered in the environmental assessment and detail design of the above proposal.

Our concern is with aviation safety and the hazards posed by this development to aircraft safety needs to be carefully considered. The matters that may be hazardous include:

1. Gaseous discharge from the power station which may affect aircraft over flying the station. The trigger for a safety assessment is if the velocity of the gaseous discharge into the navigable airspace, at 110m above the local ground level, is in excess of 4.3 m/s.

2. Tall structures in excess of 110m above local ground level.

3. Overhead wires strung over areas where there are significant low level flying activities.

I hope the above is useful for your purposes.

Yours sincerely

Kim Jones
Manager Airways and Aerodromes Branch

3 April 2007

All communications to be addressed to:

Head Office
NSW Rural Fire Service
Locked Mail Bag 17
Granville NSW 2142

Telephone: (02) 8741 5555

Head Office
NSW Rural Fire Service
15 Carter Street
Homebush Bay NSW 2127

Facsimile: (02) 8741 5433

Terry Perram
Principal
Perram & Partners
12 Clanwilliam Street
Eastwood NSW 2122

Your Ref: 116L01
Our Ref: D07/0001
G07/0905

23 March 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 19 March 2007 for – **Proposed Gas-Fired Power Station and Gas Pipeline, Wellington.**

The NSW Rural Fire Service will respond as soon as possible.

Should you have any further queries regarding this matter please contact Doug Stevens.

Yours sincerely

Julia Smyth
Development Control Support Officer

Derek

The preferred location for the rail crossings will become available in April after the results of property owner negotiations have been considered and a more precise plan of the pipeline route prepared.

I will get back to you with these details when they are available.

Regards

Terry Perram

----- Original Message -----
From: Derek Rogers
To: tperram@bigpond.net.au
Cc: Tony White
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2007 1:49 PM
Subject: Proposed Gas Fired Power Station and Pipeline, Wellington

Dear Terry

We received a copy of your letter from RailCorp.

Therefore I was wondering if you are able to supply title details for the proposed power station site and the proposed location where the pipeline would cross the Main Western line together with any other railways (e.g. Molong – Dubbo or Parkes – Narromine lines)

Regards

Derek Rogers
Development Planning Officer

ARTC

P – 02 8259 0708
F – 02 9279 4539
M – 0423 563 344
E – drogers@artc.com.au

Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd.
GPO Box 14 Sydney NSW 2001
Level 15 60 Carrington St Sydney 2000

07/368
484.5351 - 4

RECEIVED
26 MAR 2007

23 March 2007

Perram & PartnersTrust
12 Clanwilliam Street
Eastwood NSW 2122

Development Proposal - Proposed Gas Fired Power Station and Gas Pipeline, Wellington

Dear Sir

Thank you for your letter dated 19 March 2007 (your reference 116L01) regarding the above subject.

The issues raised in your letter will be investigated and an RTA Development Officer will be in contact with you soon.

Yours faithfully

Keri MacGregor
Administrative Assistant
Road Safety & Traffic Management
Roads and Traffic Authority – Western Region

Heritage Council
of New South Wales

3 Marist Place
Parramatta NSW 2150
Locked Bag 5020
Parramatta NSW 2124
DX 8225 PARRAMATTA

Telephone: 61 2 9873 8500
Facsimile: 61 2 9873 8599
heritageoffice@heritage.nsw.gov.au
www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

Contact: Deborah Arthur
Telephone: (02) 9873 8527
deborah.arthur@heritage.nsw.gov.au
File: S90/07256/3
Our Ref: HRL44892
Your Ref: 116L01

Terry Perram
Principle
Perram and Partners
12 Clanwilliam Street
Eastwood NSW 2122

Dear Sir or Madam

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED GAS-FIRED POWER STATION AND GAS PIPELINE, WELLINGTON

I refer to your letter dated 19 March 2007 (received by this Office on 20 March 2007), requesting information regarding the Heritage Council of NSW's requirements for the preparation of the above mentioned Environmental Assessment.

It is advised that the Environmental Assessment should address the following issues:

[Note: Reference to 'site' includes proposed site of power station and gas pipeline.]

- The heritage significance of the site and any impacts the development may have upon this significance should be assessed. This assessment should include natural areas and places of Aboriginal, historic or archaeological significance. It should also include a consideration of wider heritage impacts in the area surrounding the site.

- The Heritage Council maintains the State Heritage Inventory which lists some items protected under the Heritage Act 1977 and other statutory instruments. This register can be accessed through the Heritage Office home page on the internet (www.heritage.nsw.gov.au).

  It should be noted that the legal standing of items listed on the State Heritage Register can also be provided by applying for a Section 167 Certificate through the Heritage Office home page.

  In addition, you should consult lists maintained by the National Trust, any heritage listed under the Australian Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the local council in order to identify any identified items of heritage significance in the area affected by the proposal. Please be aware, however, that these lists are constantly evolving and that items with potential heritage significance may not yet be listed.

- Non-Aboriginal heritage items within the area affected by the proposal should be identified by field survey. This should include any buildings, works, relics (including relics underwater), gardens, landscapes, views, trees or places of non-Aboriginal heritage significance. A statement of significance and an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the heritage significance of these items should be undertaken. Any policies/measures to conserve their heritage significance should be identified. This assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual. The field survey and assessment should be undertaken by a qualified practitioner/consultant with historic sites experience. The Heritage Office has a Heritage Consultants Directory that can be accessed from the 'Quick Menu' on the Heritage Office home page.

- The proposal should have regard to any impacts on places, items or relics of significance to Aboriginal people. Where it is likely that the project will impact on Aboriginal heritage, adequate community consultation should take place regarding the assessment of significance, likely impacts and management/mitigation measures. For guidelines regarding the assessment of Aboriginal sites, please contact the National Parks and Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation on (02) 9585 6444.

- The relics provisions in the Heritage Act require an excavation permit to be obtained from the Heritage Council, or an exception to be endorsed by the Heritage Council, prior to commencement of works, if disturbance to a site with known or potential archaeological relics is proposed. Where possible refer to archaeological zoning plans or archaeological management plans held by local councils. If any unexpected archaeological relics are uncovered during the course of work, excavation should cease and an excavation permit, or an exception notification endorsement, obtained.

  Furthermore, the Heritage Council must be notified under Section 146 of the Heritage Act if relics are discovered. The Heritage Act defines a relic as any deposit, object or material evidence that relates to the settlement of NSW, not being Aboriginal settlement, and that is more than fifty years old.

The Heritage Office would be happy to review any further documentation that may address any likely heritage impacts. If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Deborah Arthur on (02) 9873 8527.

Yours sincerely

16/05/07

Vincent Sicari
Manager
Conservation Team
Heritage Office
Department of Planning

WELLINGTON
COUNCIL NSW Australia

RECEIVED
25 APR 2007

ODJ/MC

18 April 2007

Mr Terry Perram
Perram and Partners
12 Clanwilliam Street
EASTWOOD NSW 2122

Dear Sir

Re: Proposed Gas-Fired Power Station and Gas Pipeline, Wellington

I refer to your letter of 19 March, 2007, requesting Council to indicate the matters it wishes to be considered with the environmental assessment.

Council has forwarded the attached letter to the Department of Planning indicating the main areas of consideration, which are:-

1. Air Quality – particularly in relation to the impact on the level of pollutants in normal climatic conditions and also when temperature inversions occur. Will the quality of surface water collected in rainwater tanks and dams be affected? Will the quality of pastures be impacted?
2. Noise – Wellington enjoys a quiet environment. The impact of the power station on noise levels during different climatic conditions is of concern. Furthermore, will the "amphitheatre" location of the station impact on the noise?
3. Visual Impact - Council has requested photo montages be prepared from various locations in order that local residents can assess the station's impact.
4. Groundwater and Surfacewater – will the groundwater be contaminated in any way by the construction and/or operation of the station.
5. Flora and Fauna – impact on any flora and fauna would be part of any environmental assessment.

Notes from a recent community meeting are also attached, along with a letter from a neighbour of the proposed development. As can be seen from these attachments, there is considerable concern regarding the possible impact of the power station in particular. It has been suggested that environmental impact assessments be carried out on similar stations that are already in operation in order to provide actual environmental impact information.

Council will continue to provide any further points of environmental concern as they are raised.

Please contact the undersigned on (02) 68401718 for further information.

Yours faithfully

O D Johns
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

Encls

All Communications to be addressed to:
The General Manager
PO Box 62 WELLINGTON NSW 2820
Cnr Nanima Crescent & Warne Street
Email: mail@wellington.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.wellington.nsw.gov.au

JC.AH (FILE NO ?)

3 January 2007

Mr S Jeffries
Manager, Critical Infrastructure and Special Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Jeffries

RE: PROPOSED 660MW GAS-FIRED POWER STATION AT WELLINGTON (YOUR REF.: 06_0315)

Thank you for your letter dated 18 December 2006 in which you invite Council's comments on environmental matters to be included in the Director-General's requirements for the above project.

At the outset I would like to advise that Council is in strong support of the project because of its benefits to the Wellington area, to the security of the State's electricity supply, and to the environment generally.

Council notes that the following critical issues were identified at the Planning Focus Meeting held at Wellington on 11 December 2006:

- air quality
- community consultation
- noise
- visual impact
- flora and fauna

Council supports the investigation of these issues as critical studies to be completed prior to concept approval.

Council further notes the Department's intention to require detailed modelling of the heat plume produced by the power station.

In relation to the issue of visual impact, Council considers that the preparation of photo montages and/or computer graphic modelling from various viewpoints would assist nearby residents and the broader Wellington community to understand the likely visual impact of the power station and the likely effectiveness of ameliorative measures such as landscaping and appropriate selection of exterior colour scheme.

In relation to noise, Council notes advice that gas fired power stations are regarded as low noise generators. Council would nonetheless recommend a detailed noise assessment be undertaken which takes into account the low noise environment of the site environs and the nearby Wellington urban area, together with known climatic factors such as the predominance of easterly winds and occasional temperature inversions.

In relation to the matter of odour and air pollution, Council would like to be assured by the preliminary studies that the power station exhaust will not adversely affect the current air quality of the Wellington area, which is considered to be relatively pristine.

In regard to community consultation, Council considers that this is a matter partly lying outside the ambit of the Director-General's requirements. Despite this it is a crucial issue to the success of the project and Council would encourage the applicant to develop a comprehensive public relations and information program to be implemented as the project proceeds. As indicated at the Planning Forum Meeting, Council would be very pleased to provide advice and input to such a plan if required.

Council appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the Director-General's requirements and looks forward to receiving advice of same in due course.

Yours faithfully,

DH Ramsland
GENERAL MANAGER

Questions regarding the Wellington 600MW Gas Turbine Power Station Project

Noise

1. The current ambient noise level is approximately 25 decibels. What is the proposed noise level at the proposed site boundary fence and in town when;
   (a) all 4 turbines are operational?
   (b) the 4 generators are starting up?

2. How will they mitigate the echo effect from the adjacent ranges?
3. How will the noise be mitigated with the prevailing wind gusts known to flow into town?
4. How will the noise impact be assessed in the CBD?

Visual

1. What will be the visual impact from;
   (a) town?
   (b) The Mudgee Road?
   (c) The neighbouring properties?
2. How do they propose to hide a 35-meter stack?
3. What will be the impact of the night lighting on;
   (a) town?
   (b) Neighbouring properties?
   (c) Grazing animals?
   (d) Native fauna?

Air Pollution

We know that gas fired plants result in the release of contaminants to the environment, such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and organic compounds including volatile organic compounds, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and oxides of nitrogen and oxides of sulphur.

1. What will be the impact on the health of;
   (a) Our children?
   (b) The elderly?
   (c) The wider community?
   (d) Local fauna and flora?
   (e) Our soil?
2. What will be the impact on local crops, native grasses, and roses of the condensed air born pollutants?
3. What will be the impact of the above-mentioned pollutants on our rain water supply, with the dust particles and pollutants resting on our rooves?
4. How will they ensure that our drinking water remains clean?
5. What will be the level of greenhouse gas emissions when the plant is fully operational?

FAXED 11/4/07.

"Mount Nanima"
Mudgee Road
Wellington NSW 2820

10 April 2007

Mr Owen Johns
Acting General Manager
Wellington Council
PO Box 62
Wellington NSW 2820

Dear Mr. Johns,

RE: ERM Power
Wellington 600MW Gas Turbine Power Station Project

I am the landowner of the rural property directly adjacent to the proposed site of the Wellington 600MW Gas Turbine Power Station Project. I am extremely distressed about this proposal and am seeking your intervention to ensure that my family's concerns are seriously considered and that we are compensated appropriately.

I understand that the Minister for Planning will be approving the proposal under Part3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. This Act also requires that an environmental impact study be conducted. The definition of "environment" includes all aspects of the surroundings of humans, whether affecting any human as an individual or in social groupings.

I am seeking your assistance as General Manager of Wellington Council, to protect my family's health, grazing enterprise and property investment and the health and welfare of the Wellington community. My concerns that need to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Study and the Conditions of Application I will be lobbying for are;

- **Emission of Pollution**
  I have chosen to live in a rural environment, with clean fresh air. We are not currently exposed to any of the planned pollutants. The combustion of natural gas does result in the release of contaminants to the environment, such as carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO2), and organic compounds including volatile organic compounds, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen NOx and oxides of sulfur SOx. This proposal includes 4x 150MW open cycle gas turbines with air intakes, generators, exhaust stacks and water tanks. The biggest Gas Fired Turbine Power Station to be built by ERM Power in Australia. The impact of this development will not be neutral on my living environment. There will be

significant increase in pollution, decrease in air quality, and increase in unnatural odors from the four 35-meter exhaust stacks and evaporative water ponds.

What impact is this going to have on the health of my family?

What impact is this going to have on the health of the Wellington Community?

What will be the contaminant load released to the atmosphere?

What will be the contribution to, and impacts of, the emissions on the surrounding environment and our grazing enterprise?

Combustion efficiencies depend on the unit design and generating capacity – this information needs to be provided in order to understand the consequences of NOx emissions.

I understand that natural gas from Central NSW is not pure, and contains more contaminants. What additional measures will be taken by ERM Power to reduce the compounding effect of these emissions?

Overseas experience has shown that SO2 and NOx emission from power stations can also be associated with other air quality issues, such as sulfate haze and acid deposition. Given that the proposed site is in a natural valley, 3km form the center of town, and subject to strong and prolonged temperature inversions, how will ERM Power prevent the conversion of SO2 and NOx to aerosol particles settling on the town of Wellington?

How are all these risks going to be mitigated?

I believe that as a minimum condition of DA, the project should include Scrubbing / converting of the exhaust to take out and remove all the pollutants, similar to those proposed for the exhaust stacks to the motorway tunnels in Sydney.

- **Drinking Water – rainwater tanks**
  My family is totally dependant on rain water for drinking and household use. We do not have access to the town water supply. As our home is in such close proximity to the proposed plant, the emission particles of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, polyaromoatic hydrocarbons, and oxides of nitrogen and sulfur will settle on my house and roof water catchments area.

  What effects will these contaminants have on my fresh water supply?

  How will you ensure my family's health is not compromised in any way?

- **Noise**
  The proposed site is in a natural valley surrounded by many hills undulating towards the town of Wellington. I understand that a Gas Fired Power Plant has never been built in such topography. They are normally built on flat land and away from dense populations.

  How will ERM Power resolve the issue of noise pollution and the associated echo off the adjacent ranges?

  What will be the impact of the noise and echo on my family?

  What will be the impact on the noise and echo on the Wellington Community?

  How many hours each day will the plant be in operation? Does this include start up and wind down periods?

  What is the long-term projection for power demand on this plant? What impact will this have on proposed operating hours?

  Will all four gas fired turbine engines be operating at the same time?

  The proposal indicates that it is designed to meet noise limit requirements. I am requesting that a condition of the application be that it reduces noise impact and ensures that my family are not exposed to more that 25 decibels of sound at our boundary when the plant is operational.

- **Visual impact**
  The location of this gas-fired power plant is on my property boundary. It will be in full view from my home and on entry and exit of my home. ERM Power have indicated that the height of the exhaust stacks will be 35-meters, and the buildings will be 20-meters high. I believe that this level is far too high for visual mitigation and is not acceptable.

  I am requesting that a condition of approval be that the power plant is built as far away from my property boundary as possible and that the natural barrier of the ridge along my boundary remain intact and not be excavated for the construction of the plant.

  I also request that there be extensive natural barriers and tree plantings to hide the unsightly plant from both the main road and all aspects of my property.

  I am also concerned about the impact of lighting on our property and home. We currently enjoy a peaceful environment and uninterrupted visual of the night sky.

  How will the lighting impacts affect our home life and the ability to continue to operate our grazing enterprise?

How will we be able to maintain our current enjoyment of the night sky?

What will be the visual impact on the Wellington community?

How will all these negative visual impacts be mitigated?

- **Ground Water**
  We are concerned about the impact of the proposed development on the ground water for our windmill located on Lot2 DP 534034, which is situated between the Transgrid substation and the proposed development.

  How will ERM Power ensure that the development will not impact on our ability to source water from the windmill?

  There is a significant geological limestone shelf running through the proposed property that ends near the Wellington Caves. There are significant under ground water flows along this limestone shelf.

  Given that the proposed site is less than 2km from the Macquarie River, what assurances do we have that there will be no under ground or above ground contaminated water seepage into the Macquarie River?

  In times of heavy and continuous rainfall, there are significant above ground water flows towards the river, due to the topography.

  How will the environment be protected from the water run off associated with the evaporative ponds during these rain events?

- **Threatened Ecological Community**
  The proposed site has native wildlife values. It contains the ecological community of the grassy box woodland, which is now highly fragmented and endangered. The site is also very close to Mount Nanima, which has cultural significance to the traditional landowners. I reject ERM Power's assertion that flora and fauna and archaeological assessments are not seen to be necessary prior to concept approval.

  When are the flora and fauna and archeological assessments going to be undertaken?

  It should be noted that my family is currently investing over $200,000 in partnership with the Central West Catchment Management Authority to improve the biodiversity, salinity and water flows on our property, as our property is located on the Macquarie River. We have spent the last 5 years improving the landscape of our property and the viability of our grazing enterprise. We have been specializing in innovative farming practices and our property is often used

for field day studies.

Wellington seemed to be the logical location for our farm to be a demonstration site. There is the Research Station 1km along the Mudgee Road; the STIPA organization is based in Wellington; along with the Central West Catchment Management Authority head office. Wellington has a reputation for farming innovation and conservation that attracts visitors to the region.

How is this gas fired power plant development compatible with existing and surrounding land use?

How can we continue to be a demonstration site for " conservation farming" techniques with a 600MW gas fired power plant located on our boundary?

How is this development going to impact on the wildlife corridors we are establishing on our property to increase biodiversity?

- **Rezoning land from Rural to Industrial**
  I note that ERM Power's proposal to the Department of Planning, dated 22 November 2006, states that "Wellington Council has advised that a draft LEP is being prepared to rezone the land surrounding the substation from Rural to Industrial"
  I have since been advised by the mayor and the acting general manager of Wellington Council that this assertion is incorrect. There are no plans to re zone this land to Industrial.

  Based on this advice, how can ERM Power continue to plan such an industrial development on land zoned rural?

  How would a proposed industrial zone integrate with our family's grazing enterprise, the proposed residential allotments on the same side of town and the café/tourism business across the road?

  It should also be noted that the only residential growth corridor for the town of Wellington is along the Mudgee Road. The proposed site for the 600MW gas-fired power plant will have a limiting effect on the future growth of Wellington.

  How is ERM Power proposing to mitigate this risk?

- **Devaluation of my home and rural property**
  The location of this 600MW Gas Turbine Power Station will significantly devalue my home and property investment. Not to mention the negative impact on our grazing enterprise. I request that ERM Power pay for a Registered State Valuer to conduct a valuation of my property as a part of the Environmental Impact Study. I

also request that I be compensated for the decrease in value.

The announcement of this project has been a devastating blow to us personally and also the environment in which we live and care for. I do not believe the recent community consultation process was adequate. It left many questions without answers. This is not acceptable for such a significant project that will have such a huge impact on our community.

I would appreciate you raising these concerns with the relevant authorities to ensure that we receive adequate responses and compensation. Should you have any questions in relation to this matter or require further clarification I may be contacted on 6845 1910 or alternatively on my mobile 0428 105 835.

Yours faithfully,

Jeannine Woods

Jeannine Woods

PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

Progress, opportunities and a quality lifestyle for our residents

Your REF: 116L01 Contact Person: Phil King

30th April 2007

T W Perram & Partners
12 Clanwilliam Street
EASTWOOD NSW 2122

Dear Mr Perram,

RE: PROPOSED GAS-FIRED POWER STATION AND GAS PIPELINE WELLINGTON

Thankyou for the opportunity for Parkes Shire Council to indicate matters that should be addressed in the environmental assessment of the proposed gas-fired power station in Wellington and the proposed gas pipeline to be constructed.

The proposed pipeline has been estimated to be 100km long, and the plan indicating the proposed route for the pipeline shows that the pipeline is to be constructed within an existing electricity easement. It was noted that the proposed pipeline will cross a number of shire roads, listed below. Prior to works being undertaken on these road reserves Council will require a section 138 (Roads Act) application to be completed, there is no fee associated with this application, but details of appropriate traffic control and environmental due diligence should also be submitted to Council at this time. Council should be notified of the location, method and details of each crossing, and this information should be included in the environmental assessment and detail design.

SR234	Baldry - Peak Hill Road
SR35	Kadina Road
SR17	**Newell Hwy**
SR97	Mickibri Road
SR101A	Alectown West Road
SR77	Plowman Lane

All road pavements and road reserve areas will need to be suitably reinstated in accordance with AusSpec #1 Parkes Shire Council. Occupation and construction adjacent to, and across the Newell Hwy should be undertaken in consultation with the RTA (*Phil Standen Manager Assets Western Region 6861 1444*).

2 Cecile Street | PO Box 337 | PARKES NSW 2870
PH (61) 02 6861 2333 | FAX (61) 02 6862 3946
EMAIL council@parkes.nsw.gov.au | WEBSITE www.parkes.nsw.gov.au

The proposed pipeline will cross the Parkes to Peak Hill watermain. This watermain is constructed of AC pipe and by nature is very brittle and is typically 600 to 700mm deep. The watermain is located for some part inside private property, and for other parts, in the Newell Hwy road reserve, between Parkes and Peak Hill. Ideally the watermain will be located in the field prior to design, in consultation with Parkes Shire Council (*Peter Sullivan Manager Natural Resources 6861 2346*).

Please find enclosed a copy of the application form for Section 138 (Roads Act), ultimately this is to be submitted by the contractor prior to construction for each crossing.

Yours faithfully

per:

Alan McCormack
GENERAL MANAGER

Kent Boyd
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE

enc
Sec 138 (Roads Act 1993) Application to Occupy Footpath/Public Street

PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

Progress, opportunities and a quality lifestyle for our residents

APPLICATION TO OCCUPY FOOTPATH / PUBLIC STREET

ROADS ACT 1993 – Section 138 Approval

I _____
(Company Name)

of _____
(Company Address)

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

hereby apply to: **PARTIALLY CLOSE** ☐ **ROAD** ☐

CLOSE ☐ **FOOTPATH** ☐

_____
(Name of Street or Lane)

Location _____
(Describe section / location of public street to be occupied)

From: _____ _____ to _____ _____
(Date) (Day) (Date) (Day)

Description of Works

_____

_____

_____
(Indicate nature of work and if day or night time works)

WorkCover Requirements: ☐
(I have been in contact with WorkCover and am aware of, and will comply, with their requirements).

Adjoining Properties: ☐
(I have contacted adjoining /affected property owners / occupiers and they have no objection to the occupation proposed).

Dial Before You Dig: ☐
Dial Before You Dig have been contacted (1100) and their reply notification received.

Council Infrastructure (Water / Sewer): ☐
Parkes Shire Council have located water and sewer pipes.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note conditions over page.

2 Cecile Street | PO Box 337 | PARKES NSW 2870
PH (61) 02 6861 2333 | FAX (61) 02 6862 3946
EMAIL council@parkes.nsw.gov.au | WEBSITE www.parkes.nsw.gov.au

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

Approval to this application is subject to the applicant providing the following additional information:

- Evidence of current public liability insurance — Sighted ☐
- Traffic Management and Pedestrian Safety Plan (In accordance with AS1742.3). — Attached ☐

The approved plans **must** be available for inspection at request by Council staff on site.

Also, for projects that will involve traffic control being in place for 2 days or more, a completed signage checklist in accordance with AS1742.3.A3 will need to be submitted to the Director of Infrastructure by 10:00am every Monday for the following weeks activities.

Work is not to commence without prior approval.

The applicant is to ensure all works, including signs and barriers are to be in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and WorkCover requirements. All signage needs to be erected by an authorised person in accordance with the Roads and Traffic Authority's Traffic Control at Worksites Manual.

This approval **does not** give permission for the applicant or sub contractor of the applicant to carry out traffic control activities, other than the erection of the signs shown on the worksite plan.

Parkes Shire Council authorises the work under the Act and consents to the applicant carrying out the works within, over or across the road reserves applicable to the road in accordance with the Act subject to the terms of this agreement.

Failure to install signage correctly, maintain signage and comply with AS1742.3 requirements may result in this approval being withdrawn and future applications being refused.

Maximum penalty for non compliance — 10 penalty units $1,100

Kent Boyd
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE

energy solutions

erm power

WELLINGTON POWER PROJECT

JUNE 2007

Background

ERM Power proposes to build a gas-fired power station and associated gas supply pipeline near Wellington, NSW. ERM Power has extensive experience in the construction and operation of gas-fired power stations, including the Braemar and Oakey power stations in Queensland. Work is well underway on the NewGen Kwinana Power Station in Western Australian and the NewGen Uranquinty Power Station near Wagga in New South Wales. ERM Power is an electricity generation developer and wholesale electricity supplier with a strong community focus and a proven track record in the dynamic electricity industry in Australia.

Consultation with the community commenced in March 2007 and included preliminary discussions with Wellington Shire Council and key stakeholders, meetings with landowners, mail-outs and information days. Details of these consultation activities and the responses provided by the community can be viewed online at **www.ermpower.com.au.**

The *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act) provides a framework for environmental planning and assessment in NSW. Under Part 3A of the EP&A Act a detailed environmental approval process must be followed before a project will be considered for approval by the Minister for Planning.

ERM Power is in the initial stages of following this process and has engaged Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) to undertake the environmental assessment, including environmental studies and further community consultation.

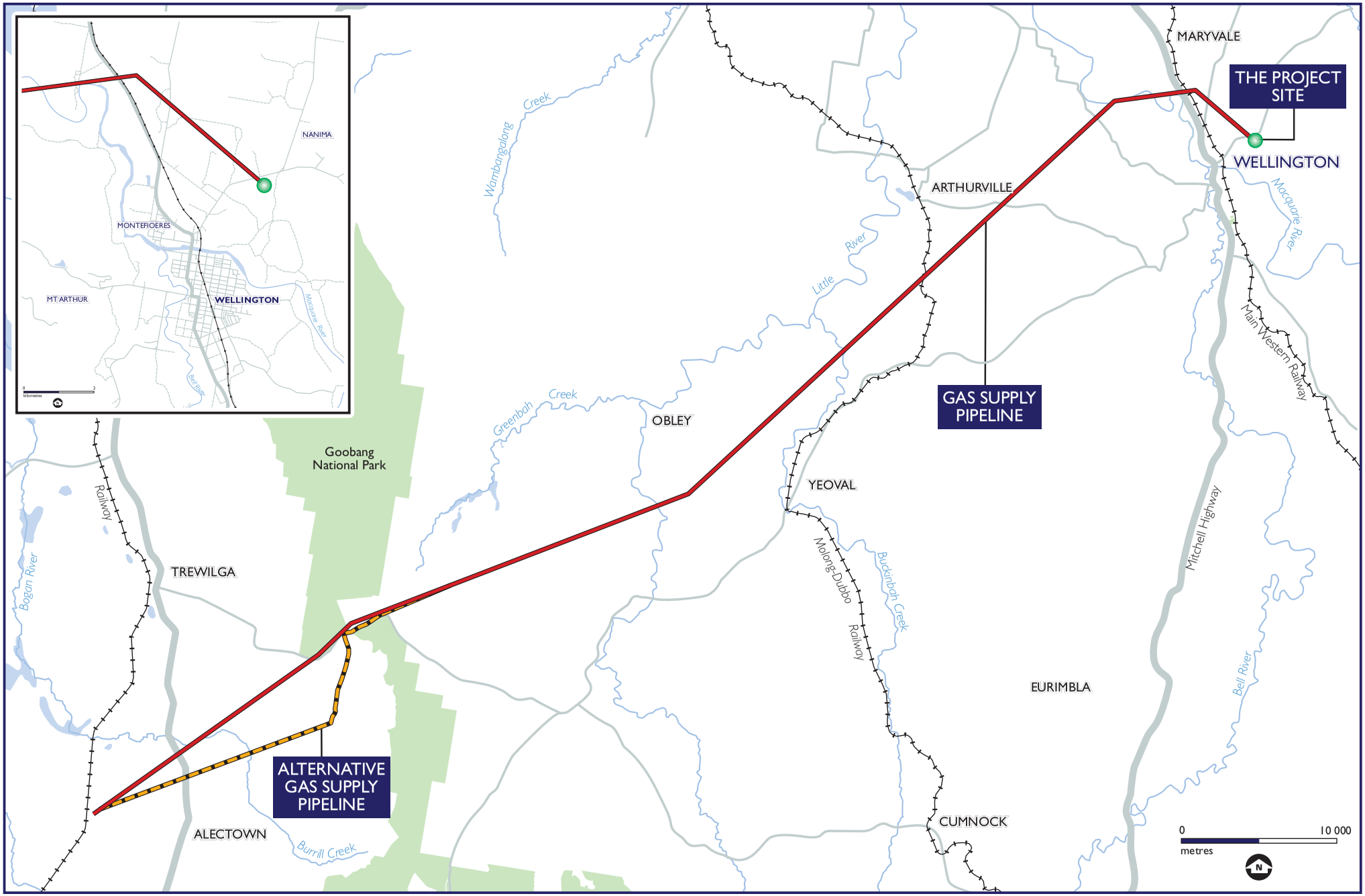
Project description

The proposed power station would be located off Goolma Road approximately 4km north-east of Wellington (see Figure 1). The proposed power station would operate as a peaking plant, supplying electricity at short notice during periods of peak electricity demand such as hot summer and cold winter days. The power station would comprise four 150MW turbines with a combined generating capacity of approximately 600 MW. The power station would utilise clean natural gas fuel and will be eligible for certification under the Governments Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme.

The gas supply would be transported via a new 100km long underground pipeline between the proposed power station site and the Central West Pipeline at Alectown West, connecting to the existing Sydney – Moomba gas pipeline.

Proposed site of Wellington Power Station.

FIGURE 1 PROPOSED POWER PLANT LOCATION AND GAS SUPPLY PIPELINE ROUTE



Project need

The power station would be constructed adjacent to the existing Wellington 330/132kV substation, which is the major electricity hub for central and western NSW. The power station would be developed as a peaking plant to meet the current and future demand for peak electricity. The power station would operate to supplement base load power at times of peak electricity demand generally in the mornings and evenings and on hot summer and cold winter days when there is a high demand for cooling or heating.

Community Feedback

Community Consultation commenced in March and included meetings with Wellington Shire Council, key stakeholders, near neighbours and property owners likely to be affected by the proposed gas pipeline. The consultation included advertising, letters to residents, information days, fact sheets, and feedback forms including the establishment of a 1800 telephone number and email address. A total of 140 feedback forms were received and more than 250 people attended the open days. Of the feedback received 30% raised no particular concerns. Nonetheless, ERM Power realise there is community opposition regarding the proposed power station and pipeline. The key community concern is air quality and pollution from the power station. Other issues include, noise, visibility, water usage, and general environmental impacts. The major concerns associated with the pipeline relate to the construction activity and its impact on land management. The community has also recognised benefits including employment opportunities and general economic spin-offs.

ERM Power and PB will be working with the community during the environmental assessment to address issues raised.

Noise logger used to assess existing noise levels.

Where are we up to?

PB is in the early stages of preparing the environmental assessment. Initial consultation with the NSW Department of Planning and local stakeholders indicated environmental impacts on air quality, noise, Aboriginal heritage and visual amenity to be the main environmental issues for consideration at the power station site. Environmental investigations that have commenced include:

- preliminary review of air quality issues
- noise monitoring at a number of properties in proximity to the proposed power station site to assess the existing noise levels within the area and determine the noise impact of the proposed project
- initial investigations into the Aboriginal heritage significance of the site
- investigation of gas pipeline route through Goobong National Park and crossing of Macquarie river

The outcomes of the investigations will be used to provide early responses to the community on these key issues. More detailed work will then start on the other environmental issues and will include property owner discussions on the alignment of the gas pipeline.

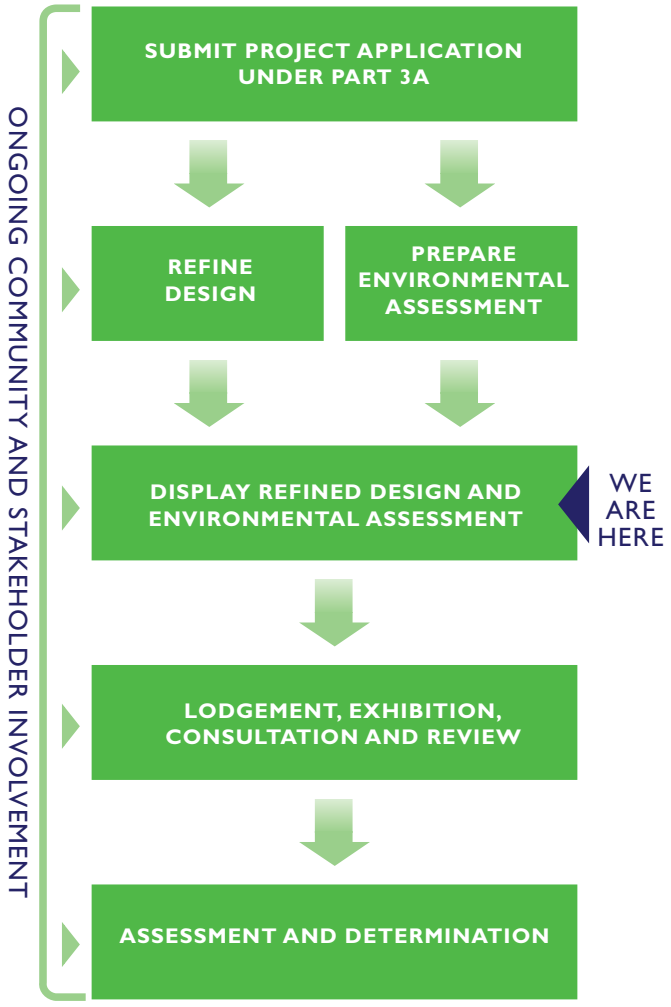


FIGURE 2 PLANNING AND APPROVAL PROCESS

A weather station used during preliminary investigations at Wellington.

Part 3A approval process

The Wellington Power Project is classified as a major infrastructure project under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005. As such, an environmental assessment of the project is required to be undertaken under Part 3A of the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for which the NSW Minister for Planning would be the consent authority. The planning and approvals process is shown in Figure 2. The three main stages of the environmental assessment process are:

- preparation of the environmental assessment
- lodgement, exhibition, consultation (including statutory opportunity for public comment) and review
- assessment and decision by the Minister for Planning.

Consultation

There will be numerous opportunities for the public to comment during the environmental assessment. Consultation activities will include meetings, briefings, community newsletters, advertisements and displays. Feedback from the initial consultation has been reviewed and addressed. Feedback obtained throughout the entire approval process will be used to further identify and discuss the community's concerns, and to obtain and tap into local knowledge and information which can be used to improve the project design.

During exhibition of the Environmental Assessment Report the public will be invited to submit written comments on the proposal. The Minister for Planning will consider the approval of the project based on the details of the Environmental Assessment Report, the written submissions made by the community and ERM Power's responses to the issues raised.

Contact details

Your involvement and feedback during the environmental assessment phase of the project is important. ERM Power wants to ensure that community comment is considered during the environmental assessment. Your comments will be taken by PB and relevant members of the environmental assessment team will provide you with responses to your comments and questions. Comments made will be considered during the environmental assessment.

Further information on the Wellington Power Project and the environmental assessment process can be obtained by contacting the project consultation team. We look forward to your involvement in the project.

Phone:	**1800 445 546**
Email:	**wellington_power@pb.com.au**
Fax:	**9272 5101**
or	

Wellington Power Project
Attention: Mary Diab
Consultation Team
GPO Box 5394
Sydney NSW 2001

energy solutions

erm power

WELLINGTON POWER PROJECT

DECEMBER 2007

Project overview

ERM Power proposes to build a 600 MW gas-fired power station and associated natural gas supply pipeline. The proposed power station would be located off Mudgee Road (Gulgong Road), adjacent to TransGrid's Wellington substation, and the proposed underground pipeline would connect to the Central West Pipeline near Alectown, approximately 100 km to the south-west.

The proposed power station would operate as a peaking plant, supplying electricity at short notice during periods of peak electricity demand, such as hot summer days.

A newsletter was issued to the Wellington community in June 2007, which provided project information and outlined the environmental assessment process that is currently underway. This newsletter provides an update of project progress and an indication of where the project will be moving to from here.

Project progress since June 2007 newsletter

Proposed power station location

PB has conducted noise modelling and visual assessments to determine the best siting and layout to minimise impacts on the surrounding community (see map over page). This layout will determine the location of the main plant, including turbines and stacks, while the position of associated plant may change through detailed design.

Pipeline route development

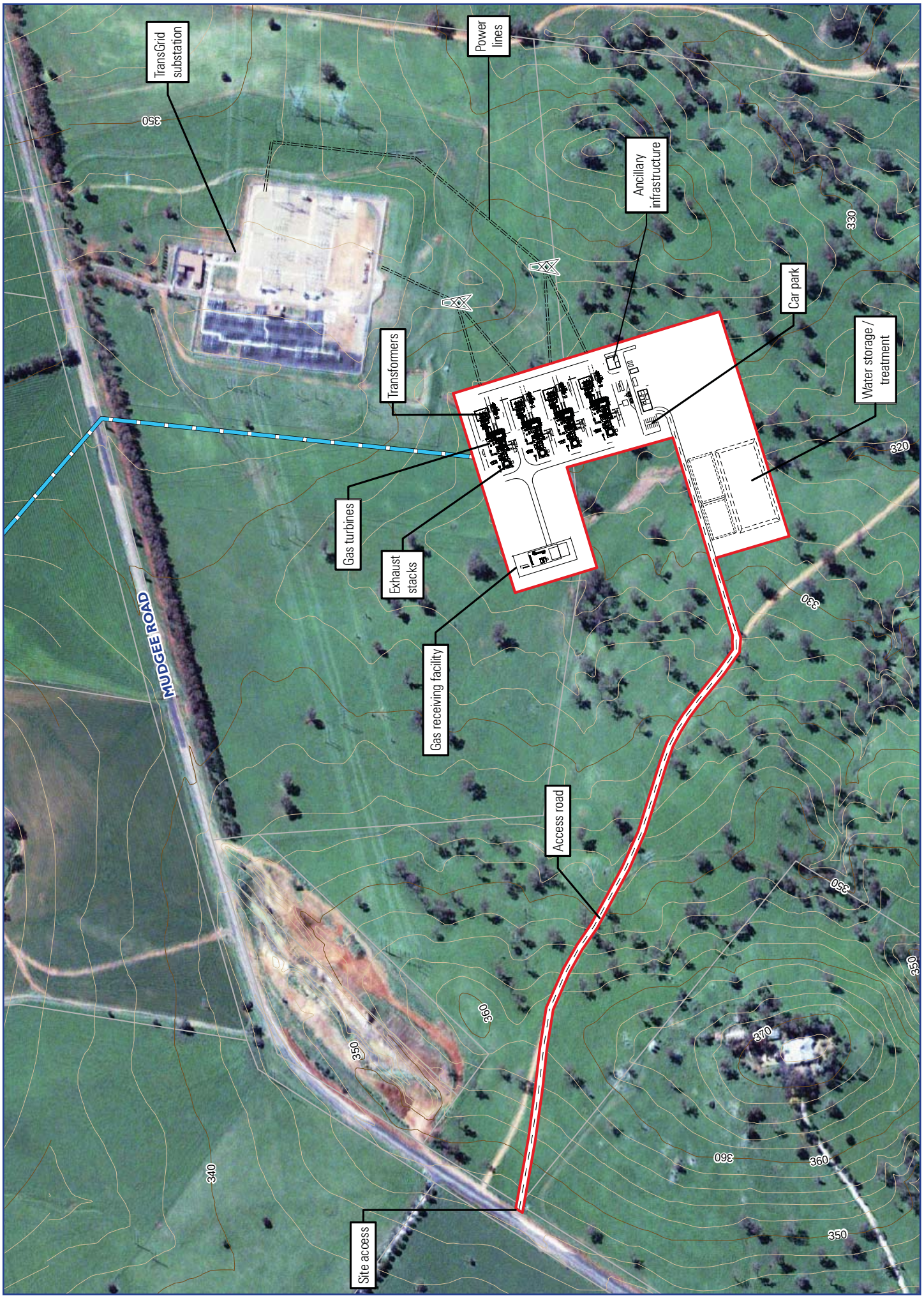
A route alignment workshop was held with representatives of ERM Power and specialists in GIS mapping, ecology, cultural heritage, environmental planning, and land use and property to comprehensively assess the 100 km route for the proposed gas supply pipeline between the proposed power station site and the existing gas supply at Alectown West. Using aerial imagery and topographic maps, the pipeline alignment was developed to avoid residences, dams and native vegetation, as well as to minimise road, rail and watercourse crossings. Consultation with landowners was also undertaken to further refine the proposed pipeline route to minimise any impacts on localised farming practices.

Oakey Power Station visit

On Friday 2 November 2007, ERM Power took a delegation of community and stakeholder representatives to visit its Oakey Power Station in south-eastern Queensland – a power station similar to that proposed for Wellington. During the visit, the plant was started to demonstrate how such a power station would operate. The visit to the power station was considered to be very worthwhile.

Delegation at Oakey Power Station.

Photo courtesy of The Wellington Times



INDICATIVE OPERATIONAL LAYOUT OF THE PROPOSED WELLINGTON POWER STATION

Findings of environmental studies

Noise

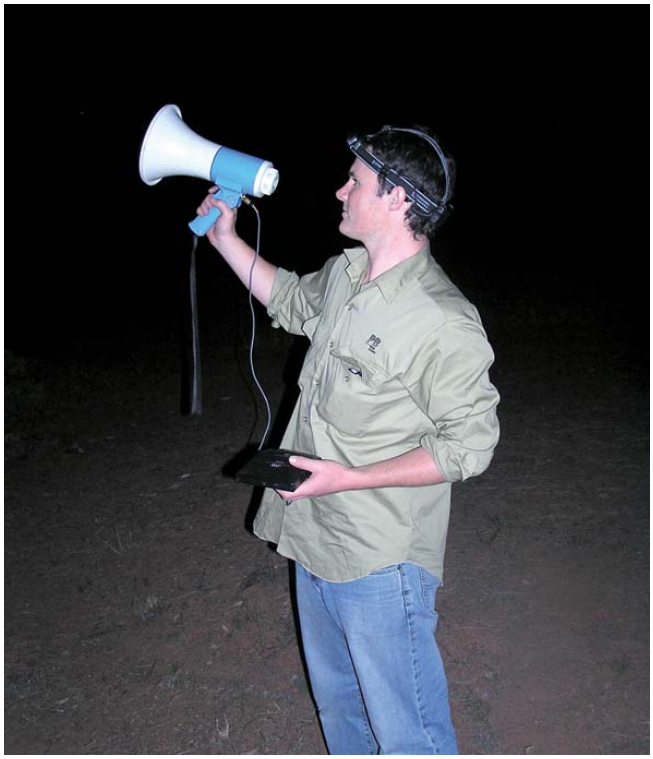
Results of the noise impact assessment indicate that construction and operation of the proposed power station would meet the Department of Planning (DoP) and Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) noise guidelines except under extreme operating and worst case climatic conditions, when tonal noise levels may exceed benchmark levels at the nearest property. Discussions with the potentially-affected owners about the implementation of reasonable and feasible mitigation measures are ongoing.

Air

Investigations have found that operation of the proposed power station would have minimal impact on air quality any where in the region. Strict measures would be implemented to minimise impacts during construction and operation of the project.

Traffic

Operation of both the proposed power station and gas pipeline would have minimal impact on local roads. Construction of the proposed power station would be expected to take approximately 20 months, with an estimated maximum workforce of 75 light vehicles and 12 trucks per day. Construction of the proposed gas pipeline would be expected to take 12 months, with an approximate maximum workforce of 6 light vehicles and no more than 30 trucks per day, moving progressively along the 100 km alignment. Initial studies have indicated that construction of the project would not lead to traffic congestion.



Bird and mammal callback surveying.

Chocolate Wattled Bat found and released during investigations.

Visual

A visual assessment was recently undertaken for the proposed power station. A crane was used to replicate the position and typical height of one of the stacks. A further site assessment will be conducted early in the new year for a maximum stack height of 35 m to accommodate for variations between different plant manufactures. Initial observations indicate that the visual impact created by the proposed power station would be minimal due to its positioning within a depression of the land and the undulating nature of the surrounding environment enabling the proposed power station to be 'absorbed' in the landscape. However, some nearby and distant landowners would have direct views of the power station. Mitigation measures would be implemented to minimise this impact such as appropriate colour-selections for the infrastructure and vegetation screening. It is not expected that the stacks would need to be painted red and white nor have beacons. Following the completion of the studies, 3D graphics will be developed for the final environmental assessment report to show what the power station would look like in the landscape.

Biodiversity

A field survey of the entire proposed pipeline route and power station site identified several threatened fauna species and two threatened ecological communities. However, the small-scale impact of the project is such that it would not have a significant impact on threatened fauna species or ecological communities, due to the abundance of important habitats and the minor extent of vegetation clearance required for construction of the project.

Cultural heritage

Following a six–week Aboriginal consultation period, a cultural heritage survey of the proposed pipeline route and power station site was recently undertaken with representatives of the local Aboriginal community groups to identify sites or objects of significance. Measures implemented to minimise impact on identified sites or objects may include diversion of the proposed pipeline route or removal and preservation of significant objects.

Crane set up on site for the visual assessment.

Where to from here

The next key stages of the environmental assessment process, and their anticipated timing, are summarised below.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT APPROVAL STAGE	ANTICIPATED TIMING
Finalise environmental assessment for initial review by NSW Department of Planning (DoP)	Early February 2008
Public exhibition of environmental assessment document • Public open days • Public submissions	March – April 2008
Assessment and determination by DoP	Mid–late June 2008

Indicative land through which the gas pipeline would pass.

Contact details

Your involvement and feedback during the next phase and during public exhibition of the environmental assessment is important. ERM Power wants to ensure that community comment is considered as part of the environmental assessment process. Your comments and submissions will be taken by PB and relevant members of the environmental assessment team will provide you with responses to your comments and questions.

Further information on the proposed Wellington power station project and the environmental assessment process can be obtained by contacting the project consultation team. We look forward to your continued involvement in the project.

Local business and other interested parties can now register their interest to assist with the construction or operation of the proposed power station through a link on the ERM Power website (*www.ermpower.com.au*).

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