4. Consultation

Consultation with the community and other stakeholders is a key part of the environmental assessment process and is required under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

ERM Power, in conjunction with PB, undertook extensive consultation prior to and during the environmental assessment process. During preparation of the Environmental Assessment, the consultation process sought to inform the community and stakeholders about the environmental assessment process, obtain feedback on issues and explain how these issues would be addressed in the Environmental Assessment. Regular information and project updates on the Environmental Assessment were, and will continue to be, consistently provided to the community. Consultation activities have, to date, included:

- stakeholder briefings
- community newsletters
- newspaper advertisements
- media releases and interviews
- ERM Power website containing project information
- community information days
- letters to stakeholders
- public displays
- council presentations
- 1800 project information line and email for submission of comments and questions.

The Environmental Assessment will be placed on public display for a minimum 30-day exhibition period for community inspection and comment prior to assessment by the Department of Planning (DoP). The responses received from the community during the exhibition will be addressed through a Submissions Report that will be prepared by PB on behalf of ERM Power for submission to the DoP. This information will be considered as part of the Minister for Planning's decision as to whether to approve the project.

The consultation approaches taken and the responses received are described below.

4.1 Consultation prior to preparation of the Environmental Assessment

The community and key stakeholders, including environmental groups and government agencies, were consulted prior to the commencement of the detailed environmental assessment phase to identify the key issues of concern. The consultation undertaken and responses received are described below.

4.1.1 Government agency consultation

The following government authorities were contacted by letter on 19 March 2007 to seek their comment on the project:

- Wellington Council
- Cabonne Shire Council
- Parkes Council
- Central West Catchment Management Authority
- Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (now the Department of Water and Energy)
- Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)
- Department of Lands
- Department of Primary Industries
- NSW Heritage Office
- NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)
- Department of Natural Resources (now the Department of Water and Energy)
- Rural Fire Service
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- Country Energy
- Rail Corporation of NSW
- TransGrid.

The letter provided background information on the proposed power station and associated gas pipeline, and a feedback form with a reply paid envelope was enclosed. A summary of the issues raised by government stakeholders in response to this letter, including where they are addressed in this report, is provided in Table 4-1.

Further meetings with Wellington Council were held in February 2007 and on 14 March 2007. These were attended by the Mayor, elected representatives and officers. ERM Power also held meetings with the Cabonne and Parkes Councils on 15 March 2007.

4.1.2 Community consultation

ERM Power and its consultants undertook the first phase of community and stakeholder consultation in March 2007, prior to commencement of the detailed environmental assessment. This early consultation was intended to introduce the project to the community, and provide community members with the opportunity to raise initial issues and ideas about the project. The environmental assessment process under Part 3A of the EP&A Act was also explained. Further, the consultation provided the opportunity to capture local knowledge to inform the detailed environmental assessment. Pre-environmental assessment consultation ensured that ERM Power understood the views and ideas of the community and provided an indication of future community consultation needs.

The activities associated with the consultation process included meetings, the establishment of contact mechanisms, public open days and mail outs.

ERM Power held one-on-one meetings with owners of adjoining properties and properties in the immediate vicinity of the proposed power station, as well as with land owners along the proposed pipeline route throughout March 2007. Meetings with the Aboriginal community, attended by representatives from Orana Aboriginal Health, Aboriginal Housing and Orana Aboriginal Co-op, Wellington Aboriginal Land Council and the Wellington Development Inc. (WDI), a local business interest group, were also undertaken during March 2007.

Contact mechanisms were set up, consisting of a dedicated 1800 free-call phone number, an email address, a reply-paid postal address and a feedback form. This form, together with fact sheets about the project, was distributed via mail-outs to local residents, including those in the Wellington township. The form was also hand-delivered to property owners along the proposed gas pipeline route. Feedback forms and fact sheets were also made available on the ERM Power website, and distributed at the meetings and public open days. In addition, a front page article on the project appeared in *The Wellington Times* on 30 March 2007.

Public open days were held on 29, 30, and 31 March 2007 at the Wellington Civic Centre. These days provided the community with information on the project, and the assessment and consultation processes. They also provided an opportunity for the community to ask questions and provide feedback. The open days were advertised in *The Wellington Times* on 21 and 28 March 2007 to encourage residents to attend. Over 250 residents took part in the open days, including many land owners potentially affected by the proposed gas pipeline.

As a result of the consultation activities, ERM Power received 140 written responses. Residents from the Wellington township provided 75% of responses; most indicated support for the project due to associated employment benefits and economic 'spin offs' from the development. The respondents considered the most important issue to be air quality. Specifically, they were concerned about potential health issues associated with emissions. Impacts on groundwater, threatened species, and flora and fauna were also determined to be issues for the community. The community also relayed concerns regarding visual, noise and odour impacts, as well as night-time lighting. Some residents along Gulgong Road, near the proposed power station site, and in the Cadonia subdivision, objected to the project. Some residents in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline route complained about a lack of consultation. However, 30% of respondents did not identify any concerns regarding the project.

4.2 Consultation during preparation of the Environmental Assessment

Community consultation during preparation of the Environmental Assessment was undertaken by PB and ERM Power over a period from March 2007 to March 2008. The consultation approach included targeted and broader community consultation as well as government agency consultation. The following techniques were employed at the outset of the detailed environmental assessment phase:

- stakeholder briefing
- land owner meetings
- letters to all land owners along the pipeline route
- community newsletters
- advertisements
- media releases and interviews

- regular updates on the ERM Power website
- meetings with Aboriginal groups.

The scope and detail of each of the consultation components is described below.

Stakeholder consultation

A briefing was given to the General Manager, Mayor and elected members of Wellington Council in May 2007, outlining the environmental assessment process, timing, studies to be undertaken and the consultation process. A similar briefing was given to the Wellington Development Inc. in May 2007. In addition, newsletters were issued to the Cabonne and Parkes Councils during the Environmental Assessment preparation.

When the technical studies were nearing completion, a further briefing was held with Wellington Council's General Manager to seek feedback on the technical studies and project issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

Meetings were held with the DECC regarding noise and air quality on 30 October 2007 and 20 November 2007 respectively. These meetings focussed on the DECC requirements in relation to noise and air quality impacts.

Consultation with TransGrid

TransGrid is a major stakeholder for this project, not only in the context of the proposed power station's connection to the NSW grid, but also as a close neighbour with a vested interest in the development of an environmentally acceptable solution. Regular meetings were held with TransGrid throughout the environmental assessment phase to update on progress, particularly regarding the location of part of the proposed power station on TransGrid land surrounding the Wellington substation, which would minimise environmental impacts and increase efficiency of energy transfer from the proposed power station into the NSW grid.

Consultation with nearby residents

Meetings were held throughout the Environmental Assessment preparation with residents located in proximity to the proposed power station site. Nanima House, Mount Nanima and the Keston Rose Garden Café are the closest properties to the proposed power station — one-on-one discussions with residents at those properties were held throughout preparation of the Environmental Assessment. The focus of these meetings was to outline the environmental assessment process, timing, studies to be undertaken and the consultation process. These meetings also provided an opportunity for discussions regarding specific compensatory and mitigation measures.

Nearby residents were further consulted during the visual assessment, which occurred on-site on 6 December 2007 and was undertaken by visual consultants Resolve Planning. The assessment included installation of a 30-metre high crane jib on-site to replicate an exhaust stack. The visual specialists liaised with residents to enable photographs to be taken of the proposed power station site from their properties, as part of the visual assessment. Although a second visual assessment was scheduled for 21 January 2008 to assess a potential 35-metre stack height, this could not be completed due to wet ground and a risk of bogging the crane. Resolve Planning contacted nearby residents to explain the situation while on-site that morning and computer-generated graphics have since been prepared to illustrate the impact of these 35-metre high stacks (see Section 9.4).

Consultation with land owners along the pipeline route

Consultation with land owners along the proposed pipeline route was undertaken by CNC Project Management, a company appointed by ERM Power to undertake land owner consultation and negotiate gas pipeline easements. Consultation involved one-on-one face-to-face meetings and negotiations to inform land owners of the environmental assessment process, obtain approval to undertake fieldwork on their land and to discuss possible easements for pipeline construction.

Individual letters and newsletters about the project were sent to all land owners along the proposed pipeline route in June and December 2007. The newsletters provided an outline of the PB and CNC Project Management roles during the environmental assessment phase. The newsletters are discussed further below. The newsletters outlined the environmental assessment process, the consultation process and opportunities to comment, and also explained that the environmental assessment process would cover construction and operation of the pipeline, not just the proposed power station.

Community newsletters

Newsletters were distributed in June and December 2007, and May 2008. The first newsletter informed the community of the commencement of the detailed environmental assessment phase. The first newsletter highlighted opportunities for community input; included a map showing the location of the proposed power station and pipeline; provided information about the role of PB and ERM Power; and included contact details — the 1800 project information line and dedicated project email address.

The second newsletter was distributed once the technical studies were close to completion to provide further details on the project; provide a preliminary outline of assessment results; keep the community informed of the environmental assessment process; and ensure ongoing communication with the community during the completion of the reporting phase.

The third newsletter was distributed prior to the public exhibition of this Environmental Assessment. The newsletter provided an update of the project status; a summary of the key issues included in the Environmental Assessment; information on the forthcoming exhibition; details of the locations where the Environmental Assessment can be viewed; and details of information days. The newsletter also explained how comment could be made on the Environmental Assessment.

Advertisements

An advertisement was placed in *The Wellington Times* in June 2007 to accompany the distribution of the first newsletter. It briefly informed the community of the project and the environmental assessment process. The advertisement also highlighted opportunities for community input and included details of the 1800 project information line and project email.

A further advertisement was placed in *The Wellington Times* in December 2007 to notify the community of ERM Power's intent to place a crane on-site on 6 December 2007. The crane was placed as a means of assisting the visual impact assessment for the project, but also assisted the community in understanding the likely extent of visual impacts of the project.

The community was also notified of the distribution of the second newsletter through an advertisement in *The Wellington Times* in late December 2007.

In mid-January 2008 an advertisement was placed in *The Wellington Times* to notify the community of a second visual assessment to be undertaken on-site on 21 January 2008. The advertisement explained that a crane would be set on-site at a maximum height of 35 metres to accommodate variations between the different designs of plant that may be built in the event of project approval. Unfortunately, wet weather prevented the crane from being set up on-site on 21 January 2008.

A final advertisement was placed in relevant newspapers, including *The Wellington Times*, prior to the public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment. The advertisement was placed to notify the public of the release of the Environmental Assessment for public exhibition.

Communication tools

A dedicated free-call information telephone line was established (1800 445 546). In addition, a dedicated project email address was set up for use by the community. Both of these were provided in the newsletters discussed above, as was a postal address to which letters could be directed.

Information released as part of the consultative process was posted on ERM Power's website. All feedback was forwarded to the consultation manager. Both the free-call information line and the email address were checked on a daily basis, and responses provided the next working day.

Management of submissions

All submissions received during preparation of the Environmental Assessment were entered into an issues database. The names and contact details of persons making the submissions, the dates the submissions were received, and summaries of comments addressing the issues were also included in the database.

All feedback received, including via telephone, email, verbal conversations, feedback forms and other methods, were recorded on feedback forms and recorded in the database. The database enabled the consultation team to:

- distribute information to the public
- record information received from the community
- monitor the 'extent or reach' of the consultation plan.

All information obtained during the consultative process will be used in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Meetings with Aboriginal groups

Aboriginal stakeholder consultation was undertaken by heritage specialists AMBS as part of the heritage impact assessment. This is discussed in detail in Section 9.6.

Oakey Power Station visit

To assist members of the community to understand the nature of the project, ERM Power organised a site visit to its Oakey Power Station in Queensland. Local representatives, including one of the nearby neighbours, the President of the Wellington Development Inc., the Editor of *The Wellington Times*, the local member Mr Russell Turner MP, and the Mayor and General Manager of Wellington Council, were flown to the power station on 2 November 2007. The visit enabled the delegation to familiarise themselves with a

fully-functional gas turbine station similar to that proposed at Wellington. The power station was started to enable the delegation to assess noise and emissions. A meeting was also arranged between the delegation and the Mayor of Oakey to provide some insights into how the Oakey Power Station was locally perceived. The visit, including comments from the members of the delegation, was widely reported in the local media, including *The Wellington Times*.

4.3 Government agency issues raised

The responses in the letters received from the various government agencies consulted prior to Environmental Assessment preparation are summarised in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Government agency responses

Government agency	Issue	Requirements	Where addressed
DECC	Mitigation and management	Describe mitigation and management options that will be used to prevent, control, abate or mitigate identified environmental impacts and to reduce risks to human health and prevent the degradation of the environment; including an assessment of the effectiveness and reliability of the measures and any residual impacts after these are implemented.	Chapters 9, 10 and 11
	Location	Details on the location of the proposed development (in local and regional environmental context), including surrounding land uses, planning zonings and potential sensitive receptors.	Chapters 6 and 7
	Buffer zone	Details regarding the proposed buffer zone to minimise any potential and future land use conflicts.	Section 9.7
	Cumulative impacts	Consider the cumulative impact (specifically air and noise) on the environment and potential sensitive receptors; including assessment of future industrial and other development in the area.	Section 10.8
	Impact on air quality	The goal of the project must be to maintain the existing rural air quality and protect sensitive receptors from adverse impacts of emissions, dust and odour.	Section 9.2
		Identify all potential receptors within a minimum 5 kilometre radius and consider any proposed new developments.	
		Assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants 2005*.	
		Give specific attention in regards to: ▪ potential impacts of NO_x ▪ utilising at least 12 months of	

Government agency	Issue	Requirements	Where addressed
		actual local meteorological data where potential impacts may be close to criteria ▪ high level consideration of meteorology and topography in relation to the assessment of potential impact.	
		Emissions from the plant must meet the requirements of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002.	
		Details on the proposed air pollution control techniques.	
		Contingency plans for the potential system failures.	
		Design of proposed plant and equipment must be benchmarked against international best practice, including emission performance.	
	Impacts of noise and vibration	Potential noise sources should be enclosed.	Section 9.3
		Appropriate equipment should be chosen to minimise noise levels.	
		Assess and design the development in accordance with the *NSW Industrial Noise Policy* (DEC 2000).	
		Assess the potential noise impacts associated with the increased traffic along the access route in accordance with the *Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise* (DEC 1999).	
		Undertake site measurements to determine the percentage of temperature inversions to assist in assessing any potential noise impacts on nearby sensitive receivers.	
	Impacts on water quantity and quality	No pollution of waters.	Section 10.6
		Polluted water is captured on the site and directed to reticulated sewer or collected, treated and beneficially reused.	
		Assess the project in relation to relevant NSW water quality objectives as defined in individual catchment action plans and against ANZECC 2000 water quality criteria.	
		Document the measures that will achieve the environmental outcomes in both construction and operational phases.	
		Identify proposed water pollution controls.	
		Demonstrate best practice sediment erosion control and management in accordance with *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction*	

Government agency	Issue	Requirements	Where addressed
		(NSW Landcom 2004).	
	Waste management	Ensure the project is in accordance with the principles of the waste hierarchy and cleaner production.	Section 10.7
		Ensure the handling, processing and storage of all materials used at the premises do not have any negative environmental or amenity impacts.	
		Ensure the beneficial reuse of all wastes generated at the premises are maximised where it is safe and practicable to do so.	
		No waste disposal occurs on-site except in accordance with an Environment Protection Licence.	
		Describe the management strategies for the treatment and disposal/utilisation of all liquid and sold wastes.	
	Impacts on threatened species, populations, communities and their habitats	Follow the *Draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment*.	Section 9.5
		Field survey should be conducted and documented in accordance with the guidelines.	
		Assess, evaluate and report on likely impacts on threatened species and their habitat.	
		Describe actions that will be taken to avoid impacts, or to mitigate unavoidable impacts of the project on threatened species and their habitat.	
		Where measures to avoid or mitigate are not possible, offset strategies need to be considered.	
		Clearly state whether the project meets each of the key thresholds.	
		Impact should be assessed in accordance with the guidelines, including potential effects of pipeline infrastructure on fragmentation, edge effects and cumulative impacts.	
	Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values	Address and document the information requirements set out in the draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* involving surveys and consultation with the Aboriginal community.	Section 9.6
		Identify the nature and extent of impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values across the project area.	
		Describe actions that will be taken to avoid or mitigate impacts or compensate to prevent unavoidable impacts.	
		Clearly demonstrate that effective	

Government agency	Issue	Requirements	Where addressed
		community consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options, and making final recommendations.	
		Undertake substantive survey and assessment and community consultation along the proposed gas pipeline in particular.	
RTA	Traffic management	Details of traffic volumes and types broken down into peak hours (construction and operation).	Section 10.1
		Traffic flow diagram.	
		Details of any large indivisible loads.	
		Hours and days of operation.	
		Impact of generated traffic on adjacent road networks and nearby major developments.	
		Proposed road and intersection/ access treatments with Mudgee Road must be in accordance with *RTA Road Design Guide*.	
		Assessment of traffic noise and dust effects.	
		Details of local climate conditions that may affect road safety.	
		Internal traffic movements and parking arrangements.	
		Mitigation measures for expected traffic generation.	
		Intersection treatments and mitigation measures to cater for predicted traffic impacts.	
	Lighting	Lighting should be provided at intersections Classified Roads.	
	Highway crossings	Gas pipeline intersection with Newell and Mitchell Highways should follow the *RTA Requirements for Classified Road Crossings*.	
		A Work Authorisation Deed may be required if access to highways are privately financed and constructed.	
		All work is to be at no cost to the RTA.	
Former NSW Department of Natural Resources (now the Department of Water and Energy)	Statutory requirements	Details of any existing approvals.	Chapter 2
		Land status/ownership.	Section 3.11
		Site information/survey.	Would be undertaken as part of detailed design
		Project description.	Chapter 7
		Operational information.	Chapter 7
		Vegetation.	Sections 3.6 and

Government agency	Issue	Requirements	Where addressed
			9.5
		Geomorphology/water courses.	Sections 3.3, 3.7, 10.5 and 10.6
		Water requirements.	Section 10.6
		Groundwater.	Section 10.6
		Water storage structures.	Section 10.6
		Monitoring programs.	Would be addressed as part of construction and operational management planning
	Statutory framework	Satisfy the statutory requirements of the relevant legislation.	Chapter 2
		Address the NSW State Government natural resource management policies, as applicable.	Chapter 2
	Advisory comment	Waste management.	Section 10.7
		Creek crossings.	Section 3.7
NSW Rural Fire Service	The site has been identified as bush fire prone land	Development should meet requirements of *Planning for Bush Fire protection 2006*.	Section 9.7
Commonwealth Civil Aviation Security Authority	Gaseous discharge from the power station may affect aircrafts over flying the station	These matters may be hazardous for aviation safety and need to be carefully considered.	Section 9.7
	Tall structures in excess of 110 metres above local ground level		
	Overhead wires strung over areas where there are significant low level flying activities		
Wellington Council	Air quality	Impact on the level of pollutants in normal climatic conditions and temperature inversions.	Section 9.2
		Whether or not the quality of surface water collected in rainwater tanks and dams will be affected.	
		Whether or not the quality of pastures will be impacted.	
	Noise	Impact on noise levels during different climatic conditions.	Section 9.3
		Whether or not the ‘amphitheatre’ location of the station will impact on noise.	

Government agency	Issue	Requirements	Where addressed
	Visual impact	Photomontages from various locations.	Section 9.4
	Groundwater	Whether or not the groundwater will be contaminated in any way (construction and operation).	Section 10.6
	Flora and fauna	Impacts on any flora and fauna.	Section 9.5

4.4 Community issues raised

As a result of consultation activities prior to preparation of the Environmental Assessment, 140 written responses were received via feedback forms. The issue raised most frequently by the community was air quality, including emissions to air from the proposed power station. Residents living in proximity to the proposed site, in particular, raised concerns regarding potential health issues due to affects of emissions on air quality and tank water used for drinking. Table 4-2 identifies the key community issues raised through the feedback forms, the percentage of respondents that listed each issue and a cross-reference to where each issue is addressed in this Environmental Assessment.

Table 4-2 Community issues raised prior to preparation of the Environmental Assessment

Topic	Issue raised	Percentage of respondents	Where addressed
Air quality	Impact of emissions	18.8%	Section 9.2
	Potential health issues due to emissions adversely affecting air quality and tank water		Section 9.2
Environmental impacts	Impact on groundwater	18.8%	Section 10.6
	Impact on threatened species		Section 9.5
	Impact on flora and fauna		Section 9.5
	Heat from the stacks		Section 9.2
Operational issues	Noise	13.1%	Section 9.3
	Odour		Section 9.2
	Lighting at night		Section 9.4
Visual amenity	Visual impact	8.5%	Section 9.4
Water quality and quantity	Water consumption	4.5%	Section 10.6
Socio-economic	Limited economic benefit	3.9%	Section 10.4
Location	Proximity to township	2.3%	Section 1.3
No concerns identified	N/A	30.1%	N/A

The community feedback received prior to preparation of the Environmental Assessment also highlighted the perceived benefits of the project. The majority of respondents indicated support for the project due to the associated employment benefits. The benefits of the project perceived by the community and where they are addressed in this Environmental Assessment are listed in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3 Perceived benefits identified through consultation prior to preparation of the Environmental Assessment

Topic	Benefit	Percentage of respondents	Where addressed
Socio-economic	Employment	52.7%	Section 10.4
Economic	Spin-offs for industry that will benefit the area	20.9%	Section 10.4
Power	Improved power for local area and state	12.7%	Chapter 5
Environmental	Better for environment than coal-powered power stations	6.1%	Chapter 6
No benefit	N/A	6.7%	N/A

Throughout preparation of the Environmental Assessment, a free-call project information line and project email address were maintained and regularly monitored, and a project postal address was provided (see Section 4.2). Community feedback received through these avenues has been relatively limited, but varied. A summary of the responses is provided in Table 4-4.

Table 4-4 Community issues raised during preparation of the Environmental Assessment

Issue raised	Details
Benefits of/support for the project	Numerous people indicated support for the project, particularly as it would provide job prospects for people in Wellington, and because Wellington is 'ideally positioned to provide all that is needed for [the] project'.
Lack of information	Further information was requested regarding environmental investigations and their findings, particularly the identification of findings that would render the project not feasible.
	Further information was requested regarding the technical specifications of the proposed power station.
Consultation	Concern was raised that community members had not been adequately consulted throughout the environmental assessment process.
	Concern was raised that the consultation activity involving the crane was misleading.
Health issues	Concern was raised relating to the contamination of rain water supplies.
Environmental impacts	It was noted that nearby residents were concerned about the potential contamination of water and the subsequent contamination of limestone.
	It was requested that continuous testing be undertaken for air, soil, and water quality and vegetation, which, it was suggested, should determine whether the project degraded any of the above.
	Further to the above comment, it was suggested that compensation be paid to residents should degradation be found.
Air quality	It was suggested that houses within 1.5 kilometres of the proposed power station be fitted with reverse-cycle air conditioning, at ERM Power's expense, to reduce impacts on air quality.
	Concern was raised that operation of the proposed power station would blanket Wellington in contaminants in winter, due to heat inversions.

Issue raised	Details
	Concern was raised that wood fires used on cold winter mornings and operation of the proposed power station would coincide with temperature inversions, leading to poor air quality.
Noise	The approach to ambient noise monitoring was questioned.
	Further concern regarding noise quality impacts was indicated.
	It was suggested that windows of houses within 1.5 kilometres of the proposed power station be double glazed at ERM Power's expense, in order to reduce noise impacts.
	Concern was raised regarding noise impacts in the centre of town, due to echoing up the river.
	Nearby residents indicated concern that the current ambient noise levels will more than double with development of the proposed power station.
Social	Concern was raised regarding the proximity of the proposed power station to the township of Wellington.
	It was noted that a resident is highly allergic to sulfur and as such, may be forced to move from the area.
	It was feared that environmental contamination (i.e. water and soil) may lead to a loss of rural production and damaged tourism.
	Concerns were raised that the proposed power station would de-value the area around it.

4.5 Director-General's Environmental Assessment requirements

As required under the Part 3A approval process, a Project Application was prepared by ERM Power and submitted to the DoP on 22 November 2006. This included a description of the proposed project, a preliminary environmental assessment and an outline of the proposed detailed environmental assessment. A planning focus meeting was then held in December 2006. The DoP led this meeting to inform key stakeholders of the detailed environmental assessment of the project and to seek initial feedback.

The DoP then provided ERM Power with the DGRs on 31 January 2007. A summary of the DGRs, including where each is addressed in this report, is provided in Table 4-5. A complete copy of the DGRs is provided in Appendix A.

Table 4-5 Summary of DGRs

DGR	Where addressed
A strategic justification of the need, scale, scope and location for the project in relation to the predicted electricity demand, predicted transmission constraints, and the strategic direction of the region and the State in relation to electricity supply and demand, and electricity generation technologies.	Chapters 5 and 7
A strategic planning consideration of the project and an analysis of the suitability of the proposed site and gas pipeline route with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land users.	Chapters 2 and 6
A clear identification the proposed route for the natural gas pipeline and a description of the ownership, land use and zoning provisions for the land along the route.	Chapter 7 and Sections 2.4 and 3.11

DGR	Where addressed
A comprehensive greenhouse gas assessment, incorporating a quantitative model showing the tonnages of each greenhouse gas produced (directly and indirectly from the development) per year.	Section 9.1
An evaluation of greenhouse intensity of the plant which compares the project with alternative electricity generation technologies.	Section 9.1
A comprehensive air quality impact assessment prepared in accordance with the Approved Methods for Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (EPA 2001), with particular focus on combustion gases, particulates and the impact of cumulative air emissions on the local area. A detailed assessment of the effects of strong and prolonged temperature inversions known to occur in the region.	Section 9.2
Details on the proposed air pollution control techniques, including proposed measures to manage and monitor efficiency and performance to ensure compliance with the requirements of Schedule 4 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002. An assessment of the feasibility, effectiveness and reliability of proposed measures and any residual impacts after these measures have been implemented. Contingency plans for potential system failures.	Section 9.2
A noise impact assessment for the project, conducted in accordance with NSW Industrial Noise Policy (EPA 2000), including consideration of noise impacts of the development, with a particular focus on scenarios under which meteorological conditions characteristic of the locality may exacerbate impacts at sensitive receivers. A determination of noise impacts associated with an increase in traffic due to the proposal. An assessment of the noise impacts associated with the proposal along the main access routes to the site done in accordance with the Environmental Noise Control Manual (DEC 1999).	Section 9.3
An assessment of the construction noise impacts of the project, against the criteria provided in Chapter 171 of the Environmental Noise Control Manual (EPA 2004).	Section 9.3
An outline of the noise mitigation, monitoring and management measures the Proponent intends to apply to the project. An assessment of the feasibility, effectiveness and reliability of proposed measures and any residual impacts after these measures have been implemented.	Section 9.3
An assessment of the visual impact of the project from key viewing points within the local area and from nearby residential areas, including a photographic assessment which clearly demonstrates the potential visual amenity impacts of the proposal.	Section 9.4
A flora and fauna impact assessment in accordance with the DECC's Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment, with a clear demonstration of how the EA meets the key thresholds set out in Step 5 of the document above.	Section 9.5
An assessment of impacts on Aboriginal heritage, in accordance with draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation (DECC 2005).	Section 9.6
A demonstration that effective community consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and making final recommendations.	Chapter 6 and Section 9.6
A screening of potential hazards on site (including new gas supply infrastructure) to determine the potential for off site impacts and any requirements for a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA), prepared in accordance with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory	Section 9.7

DGR	Where addressed
Paper No. 3 and No.6, and Multi-level Risk Assessment.	
An environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project (construction and operation), proposed mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures.	Chapter 8
Documentation of consultation with: ▪ NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change ▪ NSW Roads and Traffic Authority ▪ NSW Department of Natural Resources ▪ NSW Rural Fire Service ▪ Commonwealth Civil Aviation Security Authority ▪ Wellington Council ▪ the local community.	Section 4.4 and Appendix E

4.6 Consultation: the next steps

4.6.1 Exhibition

The consultation process will continue during exhibition of the Environmental Assessment. The following techniques will be employed to encourage community feedback on the project:

- exhibition of the Environmental Assessment
- displays
- information days.

The scope and detail of each of these consultation components are provided below.

Exhibition of the Environmental Assessment

This Environmental Assessment will be on public exhibition for a minimum of 30 days. It will also be available for viewing online at:

- the DoP website — www.planning.nsw.gov.au
- the ERM Power website — www.ermpower.com.au.

In addition, the Environmental Assessment will be available for viewing at the following locations:

- DoP Head Office, Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney
- Nature Conservation Council, Level 2, 301 Kent Street, Sydney
- Cabonne Council, 101 Bank Street, Molong
- Parkes Shire Council, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes
- Wellington Council, Nanima Crescent, Wellington
- Wellington Library, Percy Street, Wellington.

Displays

Displays will be prepared to accompany the public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment. Displays will show the site of the proposed power station and pipeline, and explain why this infrastructure is required and the benefits of it. Posters will show key findings of the environmental studies such as noise contours and photomontages.

Displays will accompany the Environmental Assessment exhibited at the Cabonne, Parkes Shire and Wellington Councils, and at the Wellington Library.

Information days

Two information days (Friday and Saturday morning) will be held in Wellington during the public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment. The purpose of the information days is to provide information to the community about the Environmental Assessment. They will also seek to address community issues, concerns and comments prior to formal submissions. The information days are also important for obtaining an indication of the likely community response to the Environmental Assessment.

4.6.2 Submissions Report

Following the public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment, a Submissions Report will be prepared and submitted to the DoP as part of the environmental assessment process under Part 3A of the EP&A Act. This report will summarise issues raised in written submissions made during the public exhibition and how these issues have been addressed.

All written submissions received during the exhibition of the Environmental Assessment will be provided with a submission number, and the date received noted. The names and contact details of the person(s) making the submission, and a summary of the comments, will be entered into a database to allow quick updates for consideration by ERM Power.

4.6.3 Consultation during construction and operation

Community and stakeholder consultation would continue throughout construction and operation of the project. All feedback and complaints would be recorded and a local representative nominated to provide immediate responses. This consultation will be implemented through a Community and Stakeholder Involvement Plan (see Chapter 11).