

Appendix A – Planning Focus Meeting 29 June 2009 Minutes

**Planning Focus Meeting – Proposed Young to Wellington Gas Pipeline
Meeting Minutes – 29 June 2009**

Venue: Wellington Council Chambers

Attendees – refer attached list

10.30am

1. Introduction to ERM Power – Larry Kramer (refer attached presentation)
2. Overview of proposal – Larry Kramer

Allows expansion and increased peaking use of approved power station, no compressor station in application, will use Young compressor station, no landowner consultation as yet, have undertaken some Council consultation, pipe will be constructed to 15MPA, gas will be stored in the pipeline.

3. Overview of proposal route – Lisa King

Desktop constraints mapping and route selection process explained. Final preliminary route review via Google Earth. Route designed to avoid dwellings wherever possible (a 500-600m buffer was used for initial route selection). All Infrastructure crossings to be identified. Four major waterway crossings and encounters EEC at five locations. Powerlines are also considered. Less than 15 degree slope is considered during the route determination. Existing trees are avoided wherever possible.

4. Overview of Part 3A approval process: and likely timeframes – Neville Osbourne

DGRS by end of July. The department will also pass on the detailed comments from the departments to guide ERM on the issues as the DGRs by nature are more general rather than prescriptive. EA aiming for submission of draft by end of August, EA will not have results of consultation (landowner & other stakeholders) – to be completed and added to EA as received, adequacy assessment of draft EA will proceed prior to receipt of consultation results.

The Department will review the EA submission first for “adequacy”. If any changes are required it may take about 3 weeks following the resubmission to evaluate the revised EA submission. Following the submission of the EA there will be a public display for 30 days. ERM will be asked to respond to any submission. The department will assess whether the ERM response is reasonable. This may take a further week.

The local councils have two opportunities to be involved: during the preparation of the DGRs and during the Public Exhibition.

Discussion regarding the approval requirements for the pipeline corridor. A corridor will be proposed for the EA due to the need to potentially move the route at the design/ construction stage to avoid local/ landowner issues. 100-200m proposed. DoP advised future work outside of the approved corridor would require modification to the consent.

5. General discussion and feedback re potential issues and local knowledge - All
6. Any other issues or questions

DECC – recommends early and inclusive consultation with Cowra LGA Indigenous stakeholders. There are no recorded heritage sites within or in proximity to the route. A specialist consultant will be engaged by ERM for Indigenous negotiation.

Cabonne Council - ? bushfire prone land, issue re concessional lots. ERM will consult with the local Rural Fire Brigades. A general discussion followed whereby the impact of construction activity determines the closeness of the

route to existing residences. If there are undeveloped lifestyle blocks the pipeline could be closer than 600 meters, say 20-30 meters.

DPI – Bell River and Belabula River crossings should be done HDD as sensitive environments, potential mineral resource (refer attached map). Bell River has excellent water quality and habitat. There is a potential limestone mine west of Molong. Steve....a map was presented. ERM will investigate its impact on the proposed route. Landholder discussions will be undertaken.

DWE – source and disposal of hydrotest water a potential issue

Wellington Council – Council need to be contacted for utility locations

Has the location of water and tank mains been taken into consideration in the route determination? Carl.

What is the likelihood of explosion? Valves are located along the pipeline to allow segments to be isolated to minimise venting and potential of explosions.

Where does ERM get the soil for the trench bed. The soil is sifted and separated. The sand is put in as a bed. The topsoil is segregated and returned during rehabilitation

Consultation of landholders – a general discussion was held as to when and the extent of landholder consultations. Neville (DoP) indicated that 100% of landholders needed to be consulted in order for the department to assume that the route was “final” and covered by the EA process. Larry (ERM Power) indicated that the timing of when a landholder is consulted, possibly after the EA is submitted but before the final “sign-off” by the department (1-2 months process) and less than 100% consulted should be satisfactory. If a letter drop were used to notify affected property holders and there were few “negative” responses then those that so responded should be met with in person. Other levels of consultation could also be used. If the EA is approved and later during the landholder easement negotiations the route is varied somewhat guidelines are needed as to how it impacts on the approved EA. This also implies that less than 100% consultation prior to submitting the EA is allowable.

DWE, Warren, stated that once an EA is granted the major (only) issue is whether ERM has obtained all written consents by landholders prior to issuing a pipeline licence.

12.30pm

7. Lunch

1pm

8. Site inspection – DoP, DWE, LandPartners and ERM Power

3pm

9. Return to Wellington and depart

Attendees – 29 June 2009

Young to Wellington Gas Pipeline – Planning Focus Meeting

Department of Planning	Neville Osborne, Team Leader, Water & Energy, Major Infrastructure Assessments Anna Timbrell, Environmental Planning Officer, Major Infrastructure Assessments
Wellington Council	John Clague, Director, Environmental, Planning & Community Services Division Owen Johns, Director, Technical Services Division Ashley Albury, Manager, Planning Services Allan Dive, General Manager David Babicci, Technical Services Division
Cabonne Council	Heather Nichols, (Senior Planner), Acting Director Environmental Services
Cowra Shire Council	Duncan Wallace, Senior Planner Carl Berry, Team Leader, Technical Services
DECC	Sheridan Ledger, Regional Operations Officer, Bathurst
DWE	Warren Woodhouse, Project Officer, Energy Networks Compliance
RTA	Fiona Nobes, Development Assessment Officer, RTA Western
DPI	Steve Clipperton, Fisheries Conservation Manager, Central & Far West
ERM Power Pty Ltd	Larry Kramer, Development Manager Andy Pittlick, NSW Director
LandPartners Limited	Lisa King, Environmental Manager Brett Albutt, Pipeline Surveyor

Appendix B - Director-General's Requirements



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

Contact: Anna Timbrell
Phone: (02) 9228 6345
Fax: (02) 9228 6366
Email: anna.timbrell@planning.nsw.gov.au

Mr Larry Kramer
Development Manager
ERM Power Pty Ltd
PO Box 7152
Riverside Centre
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Our ref: S09/00763

Dear Mr Kramer

**Proposed Young to Wellington Gas Pipeline – Young, Cowra, Cabonne and Wellington
Local Government Areas (Application Reference: 09_0143)**

The Department has received your major project application and request for Director-General's Requirements (DGRs) for the above mentioned proposal.

The Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements are attached, pursuant to section 75F(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. These requirements are based on the information provided to date, including the Planning Focus Meeting held on 29 June 2009 and through consultation with relevant government agencies. Under section 75F(3) of the Act, the Director-General may alter or supplement these requirements if necessary and in light of any additional information that may be provided prior to the Proponent seeking approval for the project.

Please contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit the Environmental Assessment for the project to determine:

- the fees applicable to the application;
- relevant land owner notification requirements;
- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply;
- options available in publishing the Environmental Assessment via the Internet; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required.

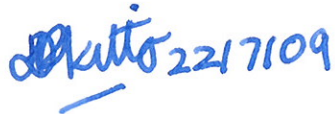
Prior to exhibiting the Environmental Assessment, the Department will review the document to determine if it adequately addresses the DGRs. The Department may consult with other relevant government agencies in making this decision. If the Director-General considers that the Environmental Assessment does not adequately address the DGRs, the Director-General may require the Proponent to revise the Environmental Assessment to address the matters notified to the Proponent. Following this review period the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available for a minimum period of 30 days.

If your project includes any actions that could have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an additional approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation and it is your responsibility to contact the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to determine if an approval under the EPBC Act is required for your project (6274 1111 or <http://www.environment.gov.au>).

Please note that the Commonwealth Government has accredited the NSW environmental assessment process for assessing impacts on matters of National Environmental Significance. As a result, if it is determined that an approval is required under the EPBC Act, please contact the Department immediately as supplementary Director-General's requirements will need to be issued.

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Ms Anna Timbrell, Environmental Planning Officer, Major Infrastructure Assessments on 02 9228 6345 or via email (anna.timbrell@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



David Kitto
A/Executive Director
Major Project Assessments
as delegate of the Director-General

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Project	Construction and operation of a buried, high pressure gas transmission pipeline between Young and Wellington. The new pipeline will be approximately 220 km in length. The project includes: • construction and preparation of temporary compounds, laydown yards, site offices etc; • clearing and grading a right-of-way (ROW); • land access and surveying; • traffic management, including pipe haulage; • easement widths for construction of the pipeline; • trenching; • bored and/or directional drilling; • pipe stringing, welding, coating and laying; • backfilling and compacting; • hydro testing; • revegetation and rehabilitation; • fencing and placing of marker signs; • routine operation and maintenance.
Site	Land within the following local government areas: Young, Cowra, Cabonne and Wellington. The pipeline will run north by north-east from the Young compressor/gas hub facility of the Moomba to Sydney Gas Pipeline (MSP) to the Wellington Power Station. The area is predominantly used for grazing and cropping.
Proponent	ERM Australia Pty Ltd
Date of Issue	22/07/09
Date of Expiration	22/07/11
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include: • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including: construction and operation details that clearly define the proposal corridor. The description should include watercourse crossing methods (especially for the Lachlan, Belubula, Bell and Macquarie Rivers) and infrastructure crossing methods ; • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions including the consistency of the project with the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>; • an assessment of the key issues outlined below, during construction, operation and decommissioning (as relevant); • a draft Statement of Commitments detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project; • a conclusion justifying the project taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project; the suitability of the site; and the public interest; and • certification by the author of the EA that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.
Key Assessment Requirements	The EA must include assessment of the following key issues: • Strategic Planning and Project Justification – the Environmental Assessment must provide a strategic assessment of the project, including justification of the need, scale, scope and location for the project, with particular reference to the existing Australian pipeline network, the location of gas reserves and areas of gas demand and expected demand growth including the Wellington Power Station and other potential users. The Environmental Assessment must include an analysis of the required capacity of the project, having regard to existing gas supplies and the potential for additional known reserves to be connected into the project. • Land Use Planning Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must assess the potential for the project to generate land use conflicts, particularly with respect to

Crown land, mineral/extractive reserves (including limestone resources in the vicinity of Molong), conservation areas, land of high agricultural value (the agricultural land classes should be clearly shown, and rehabilitation proposals), areas of significant scenic or visual value and impacts on concessional lot subdivision;

- **Ecological Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts of the project on native vegetation, threatened species, populations, ecological communities and their habitats for each bioregion (including both terrestrial and aquatic ecology, and groundwater dependent ecosystems). The Environmental Assessment must:
 - identify bioregions that will be or may be impacted by the project;
 - demonstrate a design philosophy of impact avoidance on ecological values, and in particular, ecological values of high significance;
 - for each identified bioregion, include a screening of species, populations, ecological communities and habitats based on ecological significance and the potential for impact as a consequence of the project;
 - for species, populations, ecological communities and habitats with high ecological significance and significant potential for impact, include sufficient information to demonstrate the likely impacts, consistent with *Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment* (DEC & DPI, July 2005)
 - for other species, populations, ecological communities and habitats, a general bioregion-based assessment of ecological impacts associated with the project;
 - consider region-based ecological outcomes, including habitat connectivity and distribution of species, and how these may be impacted by the project;
 - detail measures to avoid or mitigate impacts, including any proposed compensatory habitat or off-set strategy, that describes the scale, scope and timing of implementation;
- **Heritage Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include sufficient information to demonstrate the likely impacts on Aboriginal heritage values/items and outline proposed mitigation measures in accordance with the Draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC, 2005). The Environmental Assessment must demonstrate effective consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and selecting options and mitigation measures.
- **Human Amenity Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts on human amenity, including noise and vibration, air quality (dust and odour) and traffic impacts during construction and operation of the project. The Environmental Assessment must:
 - identify human receptors that will be or may be impacted by the project;
 - characterise potentially impacted human receptors in terms of receptor type (e.g. isolated receptors, receptor areas (such as residential zones) and sensitive receptors (such as schools, hospitals etc))
 - identify those receptors and receptor types likely to be significantly impacted by the project;
 - include a framework for the mitigation, management and monitoring of noise and air quality impacts during construction of the project, particularly with respect to receptors and receptor types likely to be significantly impacted by the project and with specific reference to noise- and vibration-intensive construction works/ activities (drilling, blasting, bulk excavation, heavy vehicle movements etc) around receptors and major centres.
- **Socio-Economic Implications** – the Environmental Assessment must assess the potential for the project to influence the socio-economic profile of major centres and regions along the project route. The Environmental Assessment, where relevant, must also reflect a design philosophy to support the potential for domestic, commercial and industrial connection to gas supplies in major centres where feasible and appropriate in future.
- **Hazards and Risk Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of the hazards and risk impacts of the project, prepared generally consistent with the approach outlined in *Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory*

	<i>Paper No. 6</i> (DoP, 1992) and <i>Multi-level Risk Assessment</i> (DUAP, 1997), and with specific reference to applicable Australian Standards (including AS2885 Pipelines – Gas and Liquid Petroleum – Operation and Maintenance). The Environmental Assessment shall specifically consider on-going maintenance and safety management of the project, including potential impacts on and from bushfires and floods. • Surface and Groundwater Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts on surface water and groundwater along the length of the project, including any stream crossings (incorporating a watercourse crossing risk assessment justifying the proposed crossing method for each watercourse). In particular, the sources of water and disposal of water (from hydro testing) must be detailed. • Infrastructure Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts on infrastructure, including roads, rail, electricity, gas and water supply infrastructure. Mitigation measures to address these impacts shall be described. • Traffic and Transport Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must address the construction and operational traffic impacts of the project including proposed routes, timing and traffic volumes. • General Environmental Risk Analysis – notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the Environmental Assessment must include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project (construction and operation), an outline of the proposed mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, a framework for the consideration of the additional key environmental impact(s) must be included in the Environmental Assessment.
Consultation Requirements	You must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment: • Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts; • NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change; • NSW Department of Primary Industries; • Relevant Catchment Management Authorities; • NSW Department of Water and Energy; • Country Energy and TransGrid; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority and Australian Rail Track Corporation; • NSW Department of Lands, relevant Landcare Groups and relevant Rural Lands Protection Boards; • Relevant local Aboriginal communities and Local Aboriginal Land Councils; • Local councils of Young, Cowra, Cabonne and Wellington. In addition, appropriate consultation with the local community, particularly directly affected landholders, should be undertaken. The Environmental Assessment must clearly indicate issues raised by stakeholders during consultation, and how those matters have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment.
Deemed refusal period	60 days