

Director-General's Requirements

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

Project	Construction and operation of an approximately 83 kilometre water transfer pipeline and associated infrastructure, comprising either : • a raw water pipeline from the Wingecarribee Reservoir to the Goulburn Water Treatment Plant; or • a treated water pipeline from the Wingecarribee Water Treatment Plant to the Goulburn distribution network.
Site	The pipeline corridor will generally run in an east-west direction between the Wingecarribee Reservoir and the township of Goulburn, in the Wingecarribee and Goulburn Mulwaree local Government areas.
Proponent	Goulburn Mulwaree Shire Council
Date of Issue	14 December 2009
Date of Expiration	14 December 2011
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include: • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including: ◦ clear definition of the pipeline corridor during construction and operation; ◦ details of construction or operational staging; ◦ proposed construction methodology at key watercourse crossings (including the Wingecarribee, Wollondilly and Paddys Rivers) and infrastructure crossings (including the Hume and Illawarra Highways and the Main Southern Railway); ◦ any implications on existing operational capacity (including water volumes and treatment procedures) at the Wingecarribee and/ or Goulburn water treatment plants; and ◦ details of maintenance activities (for the pipeline and corridor) including contingency management in the case of pipeline failure. • 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). The EA must provide an equal level of assessment for both route options should a preferred option not be determined at the time of the EA lodgement; • 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 EA 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 water supply requirements of the region, alternatives considered (including consequence of not proceeding); and consistency with relevant State and regional planning policies including the Sydney-Canberra Corridor Regional Strategy; and ◦ analyse the site suitability of the project considering potential conflicts with existing and future landuses and infrastructure (including existing residential and other sensitive landuse, known future development, infrastructure and utility corridors, land of high agricultural value and land of high conservation value), taking into account local and strategic land use objectives.

- **Ecological Impacts** – the EA must include a flora and fauna impact assessment consistent with the *Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment* (DEC and DPI, 2005) taking into consideration impacts on any threatened species, populations, ecological communities, critical habitat and/ or relevant recovery plans; any impacts to local or regional biodiversity corridors; and any impacts on aquatic ecosystems and riparian vegetation at waterway crossings. The assessment shall demonstrate that the project has been designed to avoid native vegetation disturbance as far as reasonable and feasible and where unavoidable, clearly quantify the level of disturbance (in hectares) and include a strategy for offsetting biodiversity values consistent with the principles of "improve or maintain". Sufficient details must be provided to demonstrate the availability of viable and achievable options to offset the biodiversity impacts of the project in perpetuity. The EA must include a management framework outlining the measures to be implemented to avoid, mitigate, manage, monitor and/ or offset flora and fauna impacts during construction and operation, including but not necessarily limited to progressive rehabilitation works. With respect to offsets, the management framework must outline any ongoing management requirements to maintain biodiversity values in perpetuity and associated responsibilities.
- **Heritage Impacts** – the EA must include sufficient information to demonstrate the likely impacts on Aboriginal heritage values (archaeological and cultural) and outline proposed mitigation measures consistent 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.
- **Surface and Groundwater Impacts** – the EA must assess potential risks to surface and groundwater quality during construction and operational activities (including pipeline maintenance activities), demonstrating that the project can be designed and managed to achieve a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality in the drinking water catchment consistent with the *Drinking Water Catchments Regional Environmental Plan No. 1*. The EA must include a framework for the mitigation, management and monitoring of water quality impacts during construction and operation. In addition, the EA must assess the potential for impacts to watercourses which are to be crossed by the pipeline, including a risk assessment justifying the proposed crossing method depending on stream classification and environmental significance and a strategy for the rehabilitation of any watercourses disturbed by the project to an existing or better standard.
- **Human Amenity Impacts** – the EA must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts on human amenity, including noise and vibration, air quality (dust) and traffic impacts during construction and operation of the project (as relevant). The Environmental Assessment must:
 - identify sensitive receptors that have the potential to be impacted by the project and the likely significance of impacts; and
 - include a framework for the mitigation, management and monitoring of impacts during construction and operation (as relevant) with specific reference to noise and vibration-intensive construction works/ activities (drilling, blasting, bulk excavation) and heavy vehicle movements.
- **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:

- NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water – including Office of Water;
- Industry & Investment NSW;
- Sydney Catchment Authority;
- Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority;
- NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
- Australian Rail Track Corporation;
- Wingecarribee Shire Council; and
- relevant utility and service providers.

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.

