

28. Statement of commitments

This Chapter provides a draft Statement of Commitments for managing the potential environmental impacts of the Project.

Section 75F(6) of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* states that the Director-General may require the Proponent to include in an Environmental Assessment a Statement of the Commitments that describe the measures and actions the Proponent is prepared to make to manage the potential environmental impacts. The Director-General's requirements for the Project also require that a draft Statement of Commitments be provided in the Environmental Assessment.

The proponent commits to implementing the measures outlined in Table 28.1. The commitments listed in this table include the development of construction and operation environmental management and monitoring plans as outlined in Chapter 27 (the first commitment), and the additional measures recommended by the individual impact assessment chapters in Part C (other than the environmental management sub-plans which are incorporated in the first commitment). No additional commitments (beyond the overall commitment to prepare and implement the plans) are made for those issues where the recommended mitigation measures related solely to the preparation and content of the environmental management sub-plans.

Table 28.1 Draft statement of commitments

Issue	Commitment
Environmental management, rehabilitation and monitoring	1. The construction and operation environmental management plans, rehabilitation plan and ongoing monitoring plan, would be prepared and implemented as described in Chapter 27.
Drinking water quality	2. A Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Program would be implemented to monitor the quality of the raw or treated water released into the proposed pipeline.
Ecology	3. Additional targeted surveys would be conducted prior to commencement of construction, within sections of the pipeline corridor, to provide additional baseline data that will be used to refine the pipeline route with the intent to further reduce or avoid direct impacts on biodiversity. Surveys will also be conducted within the proposed offset sites, to generate additional baseline data on biodiversity values, to allow comparison with biodiversity values to be affected by construction of the Project. 4. Refinement of the pipeline route during detailed design, where possible, to further avoid or reduce direct impacts on biodiversity values within the construction corridor, particularly EEC vegetation, threatened plant species and important fauna habitat features (e.g. stands of hollow-bearing trees and rock outcrops). 5. A Flora and Fauna Management Plan would be developed (as a sub-plan to the CEMP and OEMP) prior to construction, which would incorporate recommendations from this Environmental Assessment. The FFMP would include general management measures to mitigate direct and indirect adverse effects on native flora and fauna (and their habitats) during construction and operation of the Project, as well as detailed management

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	protocols to be carried out at specific locations and/or for particular threatened species and EECs (and their habitats). The FFMP will provide detailed protocols to address site-specific impacts during construction on threatened biota recorded during the current investigation and those considered likely to be affected by the Project. 6. Preparation of an Offset Plan, which will be developed in consultation with DECCW and GMC and will build on the results of the additional surveys and on the final alignment from the detailed design. The Plan will outline how the proposed offset contributes to the maintenance or improvement of biodiversity associated with the Project. It will contain detailed information on how the unavoidable impacts on threatened biodiversity associated with construction of the pipeline will be compensated for in the offset sites.
Indigenous heritage	7. Impact to Aboriginal sites/objects along the pipeline alignment, would be avoided where possible. 8. Further Archaeological investigations would be undertaken in areas unable to be accessed. The aim of the investigation should be to further assess the surface archaeological resource of the project and develop appropriate management strategies for any salvage works required. 9. As part of an impact mitigation program, a salvage collection of a representative sample of surface Aboriginal artefacts would be undertaken prior to the conduct of ground surface disturbance within the construction 'footprint'. The management of material recovered by this program should be developed in consultation with the statutory authorities and the Aboriginal stakeholder groups. 10. Consultation with the registered Aboriginal organisations would be ongoing.
Non-Indigenous heritage	11. Impact to the site of the House ruins and tree plantings located near the Kenmore Psychiatric Hospital Complex (item reference HSPH1) would be avoided. Temporary fencing would be erected during construction to protect it from indirect impact. Archival recording and/or salvage excavations would be undertaken prior to commencement of construction works.
Topography, soils and groundwater	12. Should groundwater be intercepted during construction in a volume that would necessitate dewatering, the NSW Office of Water would be consulted to determine if approval under Part 5 of the <i>Water Act 1912</i> is required. 13. A Phase 2 contaminated land assessment would be undertaken in the effluent irrigation area on Lots 1 and 2 / DP 1126788 (being the irrigated land near Goulburn). The investigation would be undertaken in accordance with guidelines approved by the NSW DECCW under Section 105 of the <i>Contaminated Land Management Act, 1997</i>. Based on the results of the investigation, plans for protecting the health of constructions workers and for managing and re-using excavated spoil would be prepared. This could include remediation of any significantly contaminated soil. Any waste spoil generated would be managed in accordance with the <i>Waste Classification Guidelines</i>, DECCW 2008.
Geomorphology	14. Further investigations, including engineering surveys, aquatic ecological assessments, would be undertaken during detailed design to determine the appropriate method that can be used to cross waterways. 15. Soil properties (such as sodicity) at watercourse crossings would also be assessed and used to determine appropriate watercourse crossing

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	methodologies and rehabilitation measures. 16. The method for crossing specific waterways that might be particularly impacted by the works, including specifying the installation and maintenance of sediment and erosion controls and other waterway stability controls, and the reinstatement of waterway crossings, including temporary access tracks, will be documented in the CEMP and rehabilitation plan. 17. The Proponent would consult with the NSW Office of Water and the Sydney Catchment Authority with regard to watercourse crossing methodologies and site-specific mitigation measures for watercourses that can then be incorporated into the construction environmental management plan. 18. During the rehabilitation phase, all waterway crossings, including crossings by access tracks, would be monitored to assess the impact of the construction work on the waterway stability and whether reinstatement and rehabilitation measures are sufficient. Monitoring would be undertaken by an independent suitably qualified certifier and would continue until the waterway crossing is certified as stable.
Surface water quality	19. A soil and water management plan would be prepared as part of the CEMP. All erosion and sediment control works would be designed in accordance with: ▶ <i>Managing Stormwater: Urban Soils and Construction Vol 1(Landcom, 2004);</i> ▶ <i>Managing Stormwater: Urban Soils and Construction Vol 2A Installation of Services (DECC, 2008b); and</i> ▶ <i>Managing Stormwater: Urban Soils and Construction Vol 2C Unsealed Roads (DECC, 2008c).</i> 20. A standard operating procedure would be developed for access to the pipeline during maintenance activities, chemical/fuel storage, and for pipe flushing that meets legislative requirements. 21. A scour water management plan would be developed in consultation with the SCA and the DECCW for release of scour water during the operation of the Project. The plan would include identified sites for release of the scour water, details or scheduling and monitoring, water quality targets, and alternatives for the management of scour water if it cannot be released to the designated sites.
Land use	22. The proponent would consult and prepare agreements between the Proponent and landholders to manage the potential for construction impacts to the operation and use of each property affected by the project. 23. The pipeline route would be periodically inspected, particularly after major rainfall events, to ensure rehabilitation and stabilisation works have been effective in the longer term. 24. Consultation with land owners would occur in accordance with the operational environmental management plan for the project, especially with regards to maintenance access.
Landscape character and visual amenity	25. Landscaping, vegetation rehabilitation, replacement planting and encouragement of natural regeneration would be undertaken in accordance with the rehabilitation plan (Section 27.4.4) and an will be agronomist engaged to identify specific species, rehabilitation methods and duration of

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	maintenance. 26. The detailed design of all structures would involve consideration of building materials and treatments to minimise the potential visibility of the project.
Noise and vibration	27. A noise and vibration management plan would be prepared as part of the CEMP. 28. All buildings within 50 m of the final pipeline easement would be identified. Those buildings at risk of being impacted by vibration would be subject to a building condition survey. The survey would establish a basis of comparison in the event that claims of damage are received following the construction work. If a building damage risk is identified, alternative work methods would be implemented so the vibration impacts are reduced to acceptable levels. 29. In cases where construction activities are carried out in close proximity to sensitive receivers or where there is potential for adverse impact such as from blasting activities, a site specific construction noise and vibration management plan would be prepared to detail how construction noise and vibration impacts would be minimised and managed at that location.
Air quality	30. Consultation would be undertaken with the local residents and communicate the construction program and progress, particularly to provide advance warning of significant dust generating activities being undertaken in close proximity to sensitive receptors.
Greenhouse gas	31. Develop a GHG emissions minimisation strategy for the remainder of the design and construction phases to encourage use of renewable, recycled and recyclable materials and resources.
Social and economic	32. Consultation with the community throughout the project planning and construction phases, as outlined by the community engagement and stakeholder management plan, would be undertaken to ensure that community members have adequate information about the project and the timing and scope of activities in their area. A communications plan would be developed for the Project. 33. Consultation with affected and adjacent land holders with farm animals to determine mechanisms to reduce noise and disturbance to animals.
Traffic and transport	34. A traffic management plan would be prepared prior to commencement of construction. 35. Disruption to private property access would be minimised for the duration of the construction works and access would be restored and maintained at each property as soon as practicable as work moves along the pipeline corridor. 36. Significant damage to road surfaces that result from the Project would be repaired at the expense of the proponent. 37. Consultation with the lessee of the rail crossing - the ARTC would be undertaken to ensure that timing of the works minimises impacts on use of the Main Southern Railway, Goulburn Crookwell Railway and the Moss Vale Unanderra Railway. 38. Consultation would be undertaken with the RTA to ensure that the timing of the works minimises impacts on the use of the Hume Highway, the Illawarra Highway and other RTA controlled roads. A road occupancy licence would

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	be gained under the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> to undertake construction within RTA road corridors. 39. Consultation with Goulburn Mulwaree Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council would be undertaken to determine the timing of works undertaken during construction of the pipeline, particularly where local Council roads are to be crossed. Road rehabilitation standards would be agreed with each Council prior to construction commencing. 40. Implementation of a community information and awareness program which would be initiated prior to construction commencing and continue throughout the entire construction period to ensure that local residents are fully aware of the construction activities, with particular regard to construction traffic issues.
Hazards and risk	41. Ongoing consultation with APA and Gorodok would occur relating to construction activities in the vicinity of the gas pipelines. 42. The daily use of a gas detector would be employed prior to and during construction to detect potential fugitive emissions arising from the gas pipeline. 43. The offset from the gas pipelines would be increased at locations where HDD is used. 44. An integrated risk management plan would be prepared for the Project.
Infrastructure	45. An investigation of the locations of buried infrastructure along the existing gas pipeline easement would be undertaken. 46. Ongoing consultation with the service and utilities providers would be undertaken during design and construction of the Project.
Spoil handling and waste management	47. Wherever practicable spoil would be reused on site. Any surplus spoil that cannot be reused would be transported off-site to recycling depots or approved landfill sites. The material would be tested in accordance with relevant NSW legislation prior to disposal. 48. The Proponent would continue dialogue with local landowners and Goulburn Mulwaree Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council regarding spoil reuse options.