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Mr Philip Towler
Associate Director
EMGA Mitchell
PO Box 21
ST LEONARDS NSW 1590

Our ref.: MP 10_0133 Mod 2

Dear Mr Towler

Newcastle Gas Storage Facility – Proposed Modification 2

I refer to your email dated 19 December 2012, regarding a proposal to modify the Newcastle Gas Storage Facility project approval by installing a 4.8 kilometre low pressure gas pipeline from the gas storage facility to Tomago Aluminium Company (TAC).

The Department requires the matters listed in **Attachment A** to be addressed in your Environmental Assessment (EA).

Please note that you are required to make an online modification application from the Department's website: <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/lodge-online/>

Please do not hesitate to contact Anna Timbrell on the above contact details if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

Felicity Greenway
Felicity Greenway 24/1/13

A/Director
Infrastructure Projects
as delegate of the Director-General

ATTACHMENT A: REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY MODIFICATION

The EA must include an assessment of the following issues:

General Requirements

- A detailed description of the modification to the project, including figures which illustrate the footprint of the project, the construction footprint, specifications on pipeline depth and materials, and the proposed changes to the originally approved project;
- Justification of the proposed modification;
- Consideration of relevant Environmental Planning Instruments, including *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 71 – Coastal Protection Areas*;
- Identification of the conditions of approval that are required to be modified by this Application; and
- An assessment of all other potential environmental impacts of the proposed modification.

Surface water and Groundwater Impacts

- An assessment of any additional water requirements for the project, eg. for hydrostatic testing, including demonstrating how a sustainable and efficient water supply is to be sourced and secured for the Project;
- A revised assessment in consultation with the NSW Office of Water and the Hunter Water Corporation outlining any impacts to surface water and groundwater – including water quality impacts to the Tomago Sandbeds Aquifer potable water supply – that may result from the additional pipeline construction works. Mitigation, contingency and monitoring requirements must be specified to manage impacts. The details of any models or predictive tools used are to be documented in the EA;
- Disposal of any hydrostatic test water; and
- Details of changes to local drainage patterns, eg. by creating a new drainage pathway.

Acid Sulphate Soils

- Identify the presence and extent of acid sulphate soils on the site and assess the impacts from the disturbance of acid sulphate soils, with particular regard to the potential discharges of acidified waters to adjacent waterways and, where relevant, appropriate mitigation measures. Identify the need or otherwise for an Acid Sulphate Management Plan (prepared in accordance with ASSMAC Guidelines).

Noise

- A revised noise assessment with consideration to the *Interim Construction Noise Guidelines (DECC 2009)* or any update.

Flora and Fauna

- A revised assessment of the potential impact of the proposed modification on flora and fauna, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats in accordance with the *Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment* (DEC July 2005); and
- Details of any further mitigation and management measures, where necessary.

Heritage

- An assessment of the potential impact of the proposed modification on Aboriginal and historic heritage in accordance with the *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC 2005); and
- Details of any further mitigation and management measures, where necessary.

Hazards and Risk

- Undertake a risk assessment to demonstrate that the proposed pipeline will not significantly add to the overall risks from the project.

Traffic Impacts

- An assessment of the capacity of the road network to handle proposed changes to traffic volumes and/or vehicle types and an assessment of traffic safety issues associated with the proposed modification.

General Environmental Risk Analysis

- Notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the EA must include 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. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of these additional key environmental impacts must be included in the EA.

Consultation

- Appropriate consultation must be undertaken as part of the EA process, including consultation with, but not necessarily limited to, the following parties:
 - Port Stephens Council
 - Hunter Water Corporation
 - NSW Office of Water
 - Environment Protection Authority
 - Office of Environment and Heritage
 - Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
 - Hunter Catchment Management Authority
 - Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council
 - Fire & Rescue NSW
 - Rural Fire Service