

Our Reference: DA:MH:2041966  
Your Reference: SSI-53307723  
PAE-53332712  
Contact Name: Michelle Henry



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Friday 3 February 2023

**RE: Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (SSI-53307723) – Input into SEARs (PAE-53332712)**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline project (SSI-53307723).

It is understood that the proposed development involves the construction and operation of an approximately 55 km long gas pipeline to connect the Narrabri Gas Project to the Queensland Hunter Pipeline. The proposed development was declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure on 8 December 2022.

**1. Air Quality Issues**

- i) Air quality including dust and atmospheric emissions, from both construction and operation, of the development on the surrounding landscape/environment should be prevented or minimised as far as practical.
- ii) Dust mitigation measures are to be identified and implemented as standard practice.
- iii) Emissions to the air during operation have the potential to be classified as greenhouse gases, a detailed report/inventory should be prepared to identify any impact.

**2. Noise and Vibration**

Operation of machinery during construction, including clearing and excavation, would generate noise with the potential to affect sensitive receptors such as rural residences. Operation of the project would also generate noise related to movement of maintenance and inspection vehicles. Therefore, a detailed Noise and



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Vibration assessment should be undertaken to further understand these impacts and to identify and implement mitigation measures to manage these impacts.

### **3. Biodiversity**

Clearing of vegetation should be minimised where practical. Impacts of construction, including clearing of potentially threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities, should be investigated and a biodiversity development assessment report prepared.

### **4. Hazards and Risks**

- i) Release or combustion of gas during commission or operation of the project poses a potential safety risk. A preliminary hazard analysis should be prepared as part of the EIS.
- ii) Clearing of vegetation should be minimised where practical. Impacts of construction, including clearing of potentially threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities, should be investigated and a biodiversity development assessment report prepared.
- iii) Uncontrolled loss of gas resulting in fire, explosion or ignition of a bushfire, during construction or operation, should be considered and the relevant criteria under the Planning for Bushfire Protection Guide addressed within the EIS.

### **5. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**

The Pilliga has cultural significance to First Nations people including known cultural heritage sites, and more broadly, the cultural heritage value of the environment generally. A detailed Aboriginal Heritage Assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIS documentation including consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).

## **6. Housing/Temporary Accommodation**

It is noted that the project, during construction, may require temporary accommodation for the non-resident workforce, both in and around Narrabri. Council strongly advocates for the use of the existing Civeo accommodation camps (Narrabri and Boggabri) for temporary workers accommodation.

## **7. Traffic and Transport**

- i) Construction activities within road reserves may result in temporary disruptions to the local road network and should be addressed as part of a Traffic Impact Assessment report.
- ii) Construction of the project will generate additional light and heavy vehicle movements on the local road network and should be further investigated as part of the Traffic Impact Assessment report.

## **8. Social Infrastructure and Community Facilities**

A non-resident workforce has the potential to impact and increase demand on social infrastructure services and community facilities. This is likely to occur in areas where the non-resident workforce is to be accommodated, in particular the township of Narrabri. On this basis, Council foreshadows a necessity for the payment of developer contributions via a Planning Agreement or other suitable legislatively-based mechanism to assist in offsetting and mitigating commensurate community and social impacts. This should also be augmented to a corresponding Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) framework.

## **9. Pipeline Alignment**

It is noted that the current pipeline alignment detailed in the SEARs request is at a high level and does not detail individually burdened nor affected allotments. The submitted EIS should clearly detail the pipeline alignment and route to enable an informed assessment of the project impacts to be undertaken. The proponent is encouraged to provide this information to the assessing authority (and Council) in a

suitable electronic format, for example, via a Geographic Information System (GIS) overlay.

Council trusts that the above advice provides the necessary assistance and should you have any further questions or require any further clarification on the contents of Council's correspondence, please contact Ms Michelle Henry, Council's Manager Planning and Development on (02) 6799 6866 or via [council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au).

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ausling', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Donna Ausling**  
Director Planning and Sustainability