



10 October 2023

Department Ref: SSI-36656827

APA Ref: 502715

Anthony Ko  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Anthony,

**RE: Submission on Humelink**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Humelink (the Project). Accordingly, APA provides this submission outlining our requirements.

APA Group (**APA**) is Australia's largest natural gas infrastructure business and has direct management and operational control over its assets and investments. APA's gas transmission pipelines span across Australia, delivering approximately half of the nation's gas usage. APA owns and operates over 15,000 km's of high pressure gas transmission pipelines across Australia.

APT Pipelines (NSW) Pty Ltd (**APA**) owns and operates four pipelines located within easement through the proposed project area (see Table 1 for details):

**Table 1: Transmission gas pipelines in the area of consideration**

| Pipeline   | Pipeline Licence | Diameter (mm) | Measurement Length (m) |
|--|------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Moomba to Wilton Natural Gas Pipeline                                      | 16               | 850           | 795                    |
| Moomba – Sydney Ethane Pipeline  | 15               | 200           | 600                    |
| Dalton Canberra Lateral  | 21               | 250           | 240                    |
| Llabo to Tumut Pipeline  | 28               | 200           |                        |
| <b>Note:</b> measurement length is applied to either side of the pipeline. |                  |               |                        |

Please note this advice does not extend to any gas network pipelines that may be in the area, that are owned by APA or other utility provider.

**APA's Role**

As a Licensee under the *Pipelines Act 1967*, APA is required to operate pipelines in a manner that minimises adverse environmental impacts and protects the public from health and safety risks resulting from operation of our high pressure gas transmission pipelines (**HPGTP**). Once a HPGTP is in place, APA is required to constantly monitor both the pipeline corridor and also a broader area within which we are required to consider land use changes and development and to assess what such changes means to the risk profile of the HPGTP.

APA has a number of responsibilities and duties to perform under a complex framework of legislation, standards and controls across Federal, State and Local Government landscapes. In particular, the *Pipelines Act 1967*, cites Australian Standard 2885 (**AS2885**) as a mandatory safety standard for the

design, construction, operation and maintenance of transmission pipelines. In discharging our regulative responsibilities, APA needs to continuously review what is happening around its assets, what land use changes are occurring and what development is taking place to ensure it remains in a position to comply with applicable operational and safety standards and legislation whilst meeting its commercial obligations and imperatives.

### **Pipeline Risk Profile and the Measurement Length**

In managing HPGTP's and considering land use changes, APA must focus on that area geographically defined by AS2885 as the Measurement Length (**ML**). The ML area is the heat radiation zone associated with a full-bore pipeline rupture. APA is mandated to consider community safety in the ML due to the high consequences of pipeline rupture to life, property and the economy.

The ML is determined by the diameter and Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (**MAOP**) of the pipe. APA must consider any changes of land use within the ML area to determine the effect of a new use on the risk profile of the pipeline.

### **Easement Management**

APA's pipelines and associated easements are located on a north - south alignment and an east - west alignment through the project area. The following details regarding easement management are therefore provided for general information.

To ensure compliance with the safety requirements of AS2885, APA needs to ensure our easement is managed to an appropriate standard. This includes:

- Ensuring the easement is maintained free of inappropriate vegetation and structures.
- Place warning signs at various mandated points along the pipeline route, including any change in property description/boundaries.
- Maintain a constant line of sight between warning signs.
- Undertake physical patrols and inspections of the easement.

APA will not accept outcomes that do not enable us to achieve our safety responsibilities to the surrounding community. Crossings of the pipeline should be at 90 degrees and minimised as much as possible.

Any proposed works within the easement must be approved prior to works occurring, by APA through our Third Party Works Authorisation process. This process will ensure all works are undertaken in a safe manner that does not physically impact on the pipeline. Anyone seeking to undertake works on property containing a pipeline, or are seeking details on the physical location of the pipeline, please contact Dial Before You Dig on 1100 or <https://www.1100.com.au/> or APA directly at [APAprotection@apa.com.au](mailto:APAprotection@apa.com.au).

## Proposed development

### Project Overview

Transgrid proposes to increase the energy network capacity in southern New South Wales (NSW) through the development of new high-voltage transmission lines and associated infrastructure between Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. This proposal is collectively referred to as HumeLink.

The area where HumeLink assets such as transmission lines and substations are likely to be located (subject to design refinement) is referred to as the proposal corridor. An overview of the proposal corridor is provided in Figure 1-1 of the HumeLink Scoping Report prepared by Aurecon dated 11 Feb 2022.

The primary purpose of HumeLink is to expand the capacity of the electricity network in order to increase electricity transfer to customers across NSW and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). HumeLink would connect to existing substations near Wagga Wagga and Bannaby. In addition, HumeLink would connect to a future substation at Maragle (in the Snowy Mountains).

The Project is understood to involve the following key components.

- Substation works:
  - A new substation (Gugaa 500/330 kV (Gugaa 500 kV)) located approximately 15 km east of the existing Wagga 330/132 kV substation (Wagga 330 kV)
  - Augmentation of the existing Wagga 330 kV and Bannaby 500/330 kV (Bannaby 500 kV) substations.
- New transmission line circuits between:
  - Maragle 500 kV substation and Bannaby 500 kV substation (276km)
  - Maragle 500 kV substation and Gugaa 500 kV substation (108km)
  - Gugaa 500 kV substation and Bannaby 500 kV substation (296km)
  - Existing Wagga 330 kV substation and new Gugaa 500 kV substation (15km).
- Ancillary development:
  - Two telecommunication huts along the transmission lines
  - New and upgraded temporary and permanent access tracks and roads
  - Temporary facilities required for construction of the proposal e.g. laydown and staging areas, stockpiling areas, concrete batching plants, brake/winch sites, site offices, parking areas and accommodation camp

### Proposal Plans

Figure 1-1 of the HumeLink Scoping Report prepared by Aurecon dated 11 Feb 2022 does not include APA's infrastructure "high pressure gas transmission pipelines", nor is there a specific consideration of the HPGTP within the Environmental Scoping Report. All plans associated with this development must include the gas pipeline easement so that construction workers, and associated contractors are aware of the gas pipeline and its location.

### Electrical Interference

Electrical works near the pipelines (including crossings) have the potential to impact on the pipelines safe operation and studies in accordance with AS4853 and AS2832 are necessary. The cost of these studies and any necessary mitigations must be borne by the development proponent.

### Co-User Agreement

Due to the powerline crossing of APA's pipeline easement, APA will require the development proponent to enter into a Co-User Agreement with APA.

### Pipeline Crossings

The Project appears to involve crossings of APA's Moomba to Sydney Ethane Pipeline and Moomba to Wilton Pipeline. APA seeks to minimise the number of crossings and have these perpendicular to the pipeline if possible. This should include the co-location of road and services crossings. No work on the easement, including crossings, changes in ground level or other works, may occur without the prior authorisation of APA. Detailed design for crossings will need to be informed by field works to positively locate the pipeline (alignment and depth). Such field works must only be performed under APA permit.

Crossings of underground services must accord with APA requirements, particularly minimum separation distances. Road crossings for heavy vehicles (as expected to be required in this case) will require a concrete slab crossing to disperse loads on the pipeline to an acceptable level. This will need to be designed to APA requirements. Vehicular crossings during construction and operation will need to be at the agreed crossing points.

### **Comments**

On the basis of the information provided, APA does not object to the proposed development subject to the following conditions being included with any approval issued for the proposal:

### **Conditions of Approval**

#### **1. No Improvements within Easement**

Buildings, structures, roadway, pavement, pipeline, cable, fence, or any other improvement on or under the land within the gas transmission pipeline easement must not be constructed without prior consent in writing from APA. No structure or vegetation will be permitted on the easement that prohibits maintenance of line of sight along the pipeline easement.

#### **2. Risk Assessment Required**

Prior to the development commencing, and to inform detailed design, the applicant must conduct electrical hazard studies in accordance with (the requirements of) Australian Standard 4853-2012 (for Low Frequency Induction and Earth Potential Rise). The applicant must address any relevant requirements and any recommendations and/or actions must be implemented to the satisfaction of APA. All costs associated with the study, and implementing its recommendations and/or actions are to be borne by the applicant. The applicant must complete validation testing upon completion of construction.

#### **3. Electrical Interference Studies**

The applicant must conduct electrical interference studies in accordance with the requirements of AS2832 once detailed design is complete.

#### **4. Amend Design to Comply with Australian Standards**

The applicant must amend its design as required in order to obtain results for the electrical interference studies and electrical hazard studies which comply with the applicable Australian Standard and promptly provide a copy of the studies and reports to APA.

#### **5. High Voltage Powerlines**

The applicant must make good (at the applicant's cost) any hazards or risks to APA's pipelines (including cathodic protection systems), caused by any powerlines.

## **6. Co-user agreement**

Prior to the commencement of works, the applicant must enter into a co-user agreement with APA for the powerline crossing of the gas pipeline easement, on terms acceptable to APA (at APA's absolute discretion).

## **7. Services**

The design of any infrastructure services shall minimise encroachment on the gas pipeline easement. Any application for an APA permit for an easement crossing will be required to demonstrate that an alternative route, avoiding the easement, is not feasible.

## **8. Easement Delineation On Site**

During construction, the boundary of the easement must be clearly delineated on site by temporary fencing (or other means as agreed by APA), and clearly marked as a hazardous work zone/ restricted area.

## **9. Easement Delineation On Plans**

All plans which include the area of the gas pipeline easement must have the easement clearly identified with hatching on the full width of the easement. The easement must also be clearly labelled as *'high pressure gas pipeline easement – no works to occur without the prior authorisation of the pipeline operator'*.

## **10. Pipeline Operator Access**

The ability of the pipeline operator to access the easement must be maintained at all times to facilitate prompt maintenance and repairs. This may be through interlocking padlocks so APA has keyed access at any time. APA field officers will undertake any necessary site induction to facilitate unaccompanied access.

### Note

If you are planning on undertaking any physical works on property containing or proximate to a pipeline, or are seeking details on the physical location of a pipeline, please contact Dial Before you Dig on 1100 or <https://www.1100.com.au/>, or APA directly on [APAProtection@apa.com.au](mailto:APAProtection@apa.com.au).

### Note

An early works agreement from APA is required for any assessments/approvals that require greater than 3 days assessment or supervision. Lead in times for agreements can be up to 12 weeks. Please contact APA at [APAProtection@apa.com.au](mailto:APAProtection@apa.com.au) or 1800 103 452.

### Note

Any improvements within the transmission gas pipeline easement undertaken by third parties is at the risk of the proponent who will remain liable. APA will not be liable for any costs associated with the reinstatement of any vegetation and/or infrastructure constructed on the easement.

### Note

Where access to the pipeline will not be readily available because of the proposed development e.g. significantly obstructed by pavement etc an assessment of the condition of the pipeline coating will be required prior to development commencing. Any re-coating works required as a result of this assessment, due to future inaccessibility or as an outcome of an SMS will be at the developers expense and to the satisfaction of the pipeline licensee/operator.

### Note

APA has a suite of standard engineering drawings to assist with detailed design. These are available upon request. Please contact APA at [APAProtection@apa.com.au](mailto:APAProtection@apa.com.au) or 1800 103 452.

APA does not seek to unnecessarily inhibit future development proximate to our assets and is happy to work with the Department and development proponents to achieve mutually acceptable and compliant outcomes. Any interested parties are strongly encouraged to contact APA early to discuss the process of integrating APA assets into future urban developments

Should you wish to discuss the contents of this correspondence, or have any further queries, please contact me on 07 3223 3385 or the Infrastructure Planning & Approvals team at [planningnsw@apa.com.au](mailto:planningnsw@apa.com.au).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Lawson', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

**John Lawson**  
**Senior urban Planner**  
**Infrastructure Planning and Approvals**