



**Office of
Environment
& Heritage**

Date: 27th February 2013
Your reference: SSI 12_15570
Our reference: DOC13/6983
Contact: Liz Mazzer 02 68835325

Felicity Greenway
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Kate Masters

Dear Ms Greenway

**RE Brown's Creek to Orange Gas Pipeline Relocation
(SSI 12_15570)**

I refer to your letter dated 4th February 2013 requesting the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above proposal.

OEH understands that the proposal is predominantly located within cleared agricultural land, and that impacts are largely restricted to areas of exotic grassland. However, up to approximately 0.12ha of Tablelands Snow Gum, Black Sallee, Candlebark and Ribbon Gum Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) would be disturbed.

OEH concurs with the conclusion of the assessment of significance that the activity is unlikely to have a significant impact on this EEC, or any threatened species for which it provides habitat, as the area to be affected is small and the activity will not cause any additional fragmentation of the EEC. OEH supports the mitigation measures presented in section 6.10.4. In particular, OEH strongly supports the measure, "*The clearing of mature and hollow-bearing trees and stags would be minimised and or avoided where possible*". OEH stresses that avoidance of impacts on native vegetation, particularly EECs, is of high importance.

It is understood that no Aboriginal artefacts, sites or areas of archaeological potential have been identified within the study area, and no further concerns were expressed by the registered stakeholders, the Kallari Ngunawal Descendants. OEH supports the heritage mitigation measures presented in section 6.7.4.

If you have any queries, please contact Liz Mazzer, Conservation Planning Officer on (02) 6883 5325 or by email at liz.mazzer@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT TAYLOR
Manager, Environment and Conservation Programs
Conservation and Regulation Division