



Australian Government

Department of Defence
Defence Support Group

AF8003197
ELP/OUT/107/2011

Ms Belinda Scott
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Scott

EXHIBITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY (10_0133)

Thank you for your letter dated 14 June 2011 (Your Ref: 10_0133) advising of the Environmental Assessment submitted by AGL Energy Ltd for the Newcastle Gas Storage Facility project to be located at Tomago NSW. The project will comprise a gas storage tank up to 56m high and a 30m high flare stack with a total height of 40m above ground level. The plume rise from the flare stack will have an above mean sea level elevation of 123m AHD with maximum lateral dispersion of 850m radius.

Defence has assessed the proposal for any possible impact on the safety of aircraft operations. The proposed Gas Storage Facility will be located within the area of the fixed wing Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) for RAAF Base Williamtown. The height of the proposed structures and the elevation of the exhaust plume will not infringe the OLS nor impact military Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) procedures. You will need to seek advice from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) with regard to assessment of the exhaust plume on civil aircraft operations.

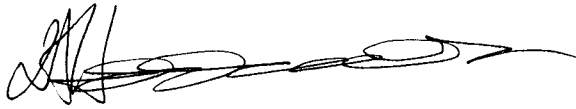
There is an ongoing need to obtain and maintain accurate information about tall structures. The risk posed by a tall structure to aircraft safety can be minimised if information on the tall structure is conveyed to pilots so that they can fly at a safe margin above the structure. The RAAF Aeronautical Information Service (RAAF AIS) in Melbourne is responsible for recording the location and height of tall structures. The information is held in a central database managed by RAAF AIS and relates to the erection, extension or dismantling of tall structures the top of which is:

- a. 30 metres or more above ground level - within 30 kilometres of an aerodrome,
or
- b. 45 metres or more above ground level elsewhere.

The proposed Gas Storage Tank and Flare Stack will meet the above definition of tall structure. The Department of Defence therefore requests that if the project is approved, that as a condition of approval the Developer provides RAAF AIS with "as constructed" details. RAAF AIS has a web site with a Vertical Obstruction Report Form at www.raafais.gov.au/obstr_form.htm which can be used to enter the location and height details of tall structures.

The Department of Defence has no objection to the proposal subject to the conditions stated above. My point of contact for this matter is Mr Gary Lee on telephone (02) 6266 8187.

Yours sincerely



for

John Kerwan

Director External Land Planning

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BP3-1-A052

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22 July 2011

For Information:

Regional Director DS Northern NSW

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CASA