



Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Your Reference: 10/18919-1
Our Reference: MDG 05067
Contact: Janelle Jenkins

Attn: Jahangir Alam

5 September 2012

Dear Sir,

**Subject: Bethungra to Young Looping Pipeline Stage 2 – Environmental Assessment –
MP 10_0163**

Thank you for referring the Environmental Assessment (EA) report for the above project to the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) for comment on 1 August 2012.

Murrumbidgee CMA understand that East Australia Pipeline Limited is seeking Major Project approval under Part 3A (transitional) of the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) to establish a Looping Pipeline for gas transmission between Bethungra and Young NSW.

It is understood the project involves the construction approximately 70 km of looping pipeline between Bethungra and Young NSW. The project will be composed of construction phase during which there will be disturbance to the 30m construction corridor. This will be followed by a remediation phase.

Murrumbidgee CMA has reviewed the documents provided by AECOM which included; Environmental Assessment Young to Wagga Wagga Looping Pipeline Stage 2 and Environmental Assessment - Appendices as requested.

As a Major Project under the EPA Act 1979, Murrumbidgee CMA has no statutory role in the approval or assessment process in relation to this development, however the Murrumbidgee CMA does have a number of concerns about the impact of the proposal on native vegetation, water and soils both at the locality and offsite.

Areas of concern with the current proposal:

- Some areas that will be excavated for the pipeline contain soil types that are naturally erosive, particularly in the Bethungra to Cootamundra areas. It will be extremely important that groundcover issues be carefully resolved in this proposal due to these inherent risks.
- The proposal indicates that a number of methods will be used to mitigate the impact the construction of the pipeline will have on native vegetation. These mitigation measures include the construction of artificial nest boxes in surround intact vegetation, the revegetation of some areas and the relocation of fallen timber to areas adjacent the

proposal. These mitigation tools are useful however there is no indication how these mitigation measures will protected into the future.

- The placement of nest boxes will require the some investigation to determine what species are currently using the hollows in the mature trees to be removed and the placement of the artificial nest boxes that are suited to these species in both size and placement location.
- When considering revegetation option it will be important to ensure suitable local native species are used.

In conclusion the Murrumbidgee CMA does agree that the proposal attempts to reduce the overall impacts. To aid in this impact reduction the Murrumbidgee CMA suggest that the proposal needs to consider developing an offset strategy either on site or elsewhere to ensure the overall "maintain or improved" biodiversity principles are met by the development proposal.

Murrumbidgee CMA appreciates the opportunity to provide input into this project. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Janelle Jenkins Catchment Coordinator (PVP), Wagga Wagga to discuss on (02) 69323282.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John Francis', written over a printed name and title.

John Francis
General Manager
Murrumbidgee CMA