

30 January 2019

The Manager
Department of Planning and Environment
Noel Park House
PO Box 949
TAMWORTH NSW 2300

Via email northern@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline – MOD 1
Modification Request Exhibition – Extension of Lapse Date**

Moree Plains Shire Council is 'open for business' and supports development that is the best interest of our community. However, in relation to developments associated with Coal Seam Gas (CSG), Council currently has a moratorium on exploration and related development activities within the Shire.

We note that Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd and NSW Department of Planning and Environment have communicated with Council in relation to the proposed pipeline development within the Shire. At this time, Council is mindful that gas exploration and CSG activities has not been viewed positively in many parts of our Shire. Gas exploration generally has a 'negative' reputation and communities associate it with fracking and destruction of water supply.

Council understands that the Hunter Gas Pipeline project is a pipeline only and does not include direct exploration activities, but in representing our residents and landholders, we are bound to communicate their strength of feeling on these issues. In particular, there is concern that the pipeline would facilitate fracking and other unconventional gas activities.

We note that the due date for submissions to NSW Planning and Environment in relation to the MOD 1 request was 22 November 2018, however, we would like to take this opportunity to provide the below belated comments.

Council does not support the extension of time for those reasons. If, however, the Department does consent to the extension of time requested, Council requests that consideration be given to appropriate conditions to insure that every effort is made to ensure minimal impact of the development on our highly valued agricultural land and farming operations. In this regard Council requests that in considering any modifications you have regard for the following:

1. Where possible avoid private farming land

- a) The value of farming land in the Shire is very high, being the most productive agricultural Shire in Australia
- b) The Shire contains considerable amounts of strategic agricultural land which requires protection.

2. The possibility of working with Transport NSW in following the rail line:

- a) Make effort to ensure (where possible) the pipeline follows train corridors as the area beside the line is mostly cleared (Hunter Gas Pipeline could use this to their advantage).
- b) Using the rail line would have reduced impacts on farming land.

3. Public road corridors:

- a) Make effort to ensure (where possible) public road corridors are used to reduce impacts on farming land.
- b) Where the pipeline does impact on roads within the Shire, Council requires assurances that roads will be fully reinstated to the satisfaction of the relevant road authority.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further inquiries regarding this matter on (02) 2657 3250.

Yours faithfully



Angus Witherby
**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**