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Att: Dinuka McKenzie
Scott Jeffries
Director - Major Infrastructure Assessment
23-33 Bridge St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms McKenzie

**Queensland-Hunter Gas Pipeline, Wallumbilla (QLD) to Newcastle (NSW)
(Major Project Reference: MP 06_0286) – Review of Draft Environmental
Assessment**

Thank you for your letter requesting written submissions providing relevant comments on the environmental assessment (EA) of the above project. The EA is on exhibition from 19 September 2008 until 20 October 2008.

This section is the response from the DPI (Coal Advice) and is additional to the earlier response (ref: 08/7514).

DPI (Coal Advice) has had productive and ongoing consultations with Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd (QHGP) with respect to the proposed pipeline route. The original proposed route of the gas pipeline impacted significantly on the existing coal mining operations and on the future extraction of coal resources. In response to these conflicts QHGP significantly altered the original proposed pipeline route to minimise conflicts with coal resources.

The pipeline still traverses coal tenements AUTH176 and ML1304 – held by the Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd. The proponent is requested to contact Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd and request a formal written response indicating their consent for the pipeline to pass through AUTH176 and ML1304.

DPI (Coal Advice) has identified one area near Scone where the route conflicts with coal resources. The original proposed route to the east of Scone avoided any conflict with coal resources. However, subsequent field inspections by QHGP found there were significant cultural, geographic and geological constraints for a route east of Scone as originally proposed. Subsequently QHGP now propose a route to the west of Scone.

The route west of Scone is over coal bearing strata. Analysis of the coal resources in this area revealed a conflict in the area south west of Scone between KP680 and KP690 (Fig. 1). DPI (Coal Advice) requires that the pipeline route be altered to closely follow the New England Highway/Railway line between Scone and Aberdeen (Fig. 2).

The proposed pipeline route intersects several areas of known, but as yet undeveloped, underground coal resources in the Gunnedah, Narrabri, Scone and Tomago areas. The pipeline will need to be designed for subsidence in these areas. The DPI in consultation with the NSW Mine Subsidence Board will provide appropriate pipeline design parameters with respect to likely future subsidence and to which sections of the pipeline these parameters need apply. Additionally the pipeline will need to be designed to withstand mine blasting operations in some areas.



Brad Mullard

Director Coal & Petroleum Development

30 October 2008

COAL ADVICE

PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW
2310
516 High Street, Maitland NSW 2320

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
Tel: 1300-736 122
Fax: 02-4931 6788



Drawing no. 07003g_CP_13

Date: 16 May 2009

Source: Geoscience Australia

1:50,000 Scale of Lands

RTGS Pty Ltd

Owner: RTGS

Legend

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Queensland Hunter
Gas Pipeline

88-888

1:140,000 (at A4)

0 1 2 3 4km



Figure 4.15 Proposed 200m wide pipeline corridor: Muswellbrook area (KP 673-712)

Figure 1. Proposed gas pipeline route south west of Scone.

QLD - HUNTER PIPELINE Scone Area

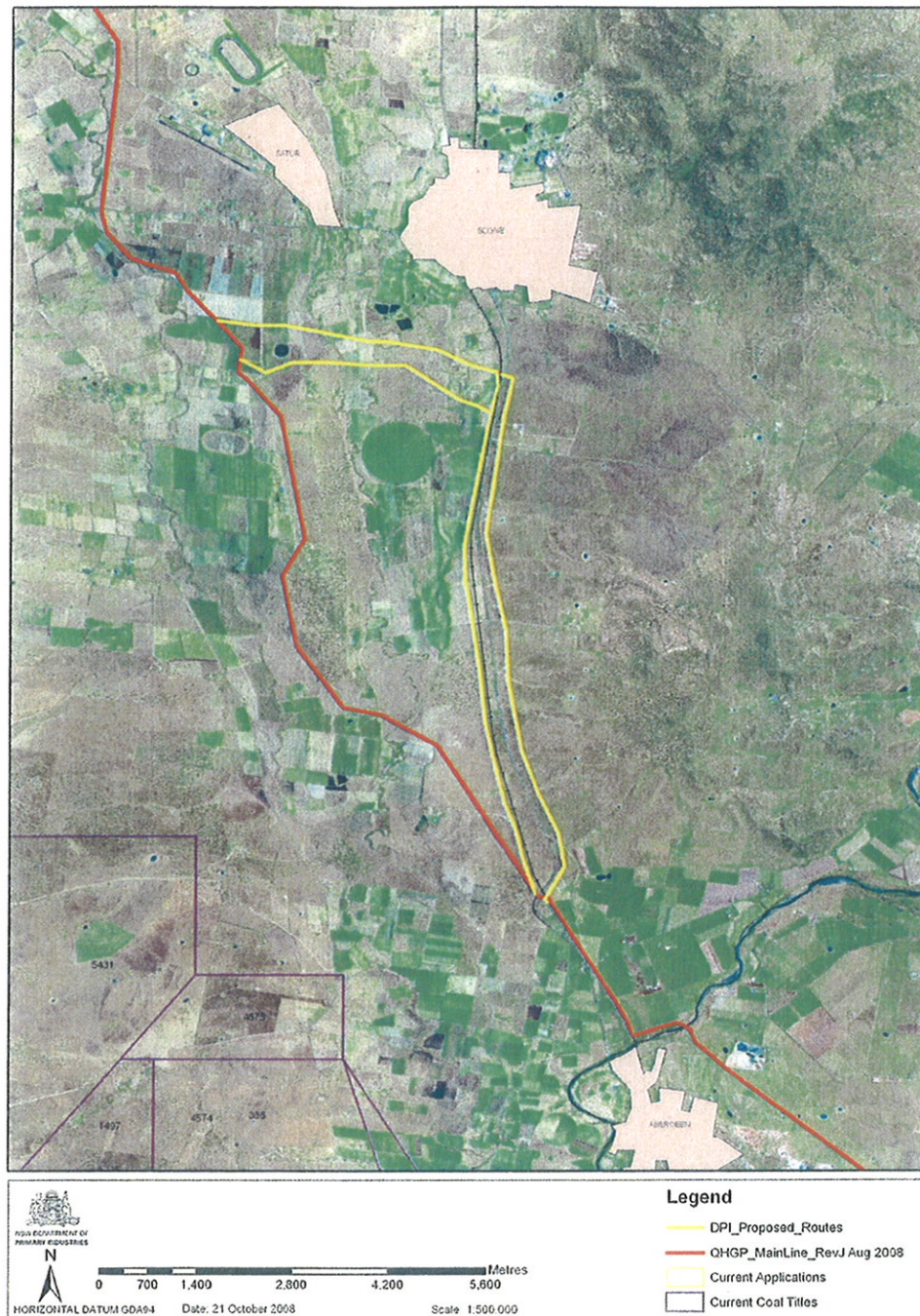


Figure 2. The preferred DPI (Coal Advice) gas pipeline route corridor south west of Scone is shown in yellow.