



Olsen Consulting Group Pty Ltd

3rd July 2009

FS13 P84/0001

Ms A O'Reilly
Environmental Planning Officer
Department of Planning
23-33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Alison,

**Re: Apex Energy Environmental Assessment
Project Application No. 07-0103**

This letter provides the additional information you requested in relation to the relocation of borehole AI05. It supports the information provided previously in our Supplementary Information document dated June 2009.

I have attached a copy of an acoustic report from Heggies that addresses the acoustic impact associated with the relocation.

The Heggies report identifies that during construction (site establishment and preparation for drilling) acoustic criteria will be met. The report also identifies that without best practice management and assuming both the absence of naturally occurring barriers and "worst case" acoustic conditions, there would be exceedances up to 11 dB(A) during the operation of the drilling equipment. Apex will be able to meet the acoustic criteria because existing screening by vegetation and buildings and appropriate management of the operation will reduce noise levels at receiver locations. Monitoring will measure compliance. In addition, Apex have committed to avoid drilling in those times when the criteria are not able to be met and the landowner has not agreed to the exceedances.

The site is currently screened by the Community Hall and the Bushfire Brigade buildings which will act as noise barriers. In addition Apex will implement the mitigation measures identified in Section 4 of the Heggies Report.

There are three residences close to the new location of AI05, located 140m to the northwest (304 Darkes Forest Road), 152m to the northeast (311 Darkes Forest Road) and 230m to the north (313 Darkes Forest Road). The residences at 304 and 313 Drakes Forest Road are owned by Mr Robert Fulton. He lives in 304, while 313 is currently vacant. The residence at 311 Darkes Forest Road is owned by Mr Glenn Fahey. Mr Fahey is also the Chief of the Local Bushfire Brigade and the Community Hall Committee.

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Both were contacted by phone and face to face meetings were held with these owners to discuss the proposals and to clarify any issues that they may have. A meeting with the Darkes Forest community had previously been held in the Community Hall and this was coordinated with the assistance of Mr Fahey and the Bushfire Brigade.

Mr Fulton strongly supported the proposal as the first step in utilizing an environmentally friendly fuel resource and has no concerns with the proposals. He was pleased to see that there was some development activity happening in Darkes Forest. He had no concerns with the 24/7 operation on the site. Apex committed to keeping him informed of the developments as they progressed.

Mr Fahey and his family are very supportive of the activity and did not express any concerns about the proposed activities.

Apex are keen for their Project Application to proceed to determination and we are available to respond to any inquiries or requests that you may have in order to progress their application.

Yours faithfully,

David Olsen
Environmental Manager