

Telephone Inquiries:
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18 December 2013

Attention: Jessie Giblett/Howard Reed
NSW Government – Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW. 2001.

Dear Jessie & Howard

By email – Jessie.Giblett@planning.nsw.gov.au
Howard.Reed@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: **Proposed: Gloucester Gas Project – Modification 1 (MP 08_0154)**

Reference is made to the email from Clay Preshaw to Council dated 29th November 2013 and to the Environmental Assessment documentation received from AGL by Council on 2 December 2013. Council thanks you for the opportunity to review the proposed modification details and also encloses a copy of its original comments dated 25 January 2010.

In relation to the modification proposed, Council makes the following comments:

Development Engineering (including Traffic)/Flooding

Council Engineers have no objections to the proposed modification for the Gloucester Gas Project and note that the conditions forming part of the original consent are sufficient in the management of the modification. As such no further conditions are requested to be imposed.

Natural Resources/Ecology

No further comments.

Wastewater/Environmental Health

No further comments.

Planning

Council is currently negotiating terms of easement for the pipeline with AGL for where it crosses underneath Council roads. Council has no additional comments from a Planning perspective, however, reiterates its previous comments made in its letter dated 25 January 2013.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further assistance.

Yours faithfully



Belinda Martin
Development Planner
belinda.martin@portstephens.nsw.gov.au
Amanda Gale
DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL

Cc – Clay Preshaw (Clay.Preshaw@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Telephone Inquiries:
MS M A THOMAS
(02) 49800378

25 January 2010

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

ATTN: DINUKA MCKENZIE

Dear Madam,

Re: **Gloucester Gas Project (MP08_0154)**

Reference is made to the above mentioned application currently being considered by your Department, and your letter dated 16 November 2009.

Apologies for the delay in response, however, Council wish to provide the following additional comments for your information, further to the letter previously sent to the applicant on 30 October 2008.

Planning Comments:

It is recommended that conditions of consent requiring on-going community consultation be imposed, to ensure that the community is informed of construction works prior to commencement.

Environmental Comments:

SEPP 14 Wetlands

It is pleasing to note that when the pipeline crosses through SEPP 14 wetland area the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method has been used to cross the area. However it is unclear as to how far the drilling platform will be located from the wetland. In order to avoid direct impacts it is recommended that a 50m buffer be employed from all SEPP 14 wetlands and the HDD must start from beyond this buffer area.

Management plans/Strategies

Weeds

The pipeline route crosses areas known to be affected by Alligator weed, and earth moving practices are known to spread the weed unless appropriate management practices are put in place. The pipeline crosses prime agricultural land the spread of this weed would have severe impacts on that land's profitability.

It is the opinion of Environmental Services of Council that weed management has not been given due consideration in the Environmental Assessment. It is pleasing to note that the ecological assessment (appendix G) has a recommendation to prepare and implement a weed management strategy. The preparation of the strategy should be a condition of consent and must be prepared prior to works commencing. Basic machinery and equipment hygiene should be practiced in particular when moving from site to site. Weed awareness training for staff should be undertaken and the protocols for working in Alligator Weed affected areas should be employed, these are available from the Port Stephens Council website.

Acid Sulfate Soils

The Environmental Assessment highlights that Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) are likely to be encountered within the Hexham area and recommends that an ASS management plan is developed. Again, the preparation of this plan should be a condition of consent and must be prepared prior to works commencing.

Flora and Fauna

The environmental report highlights the need for a Flora and Fauna Management plan, as above this plan should be a condition of consent and must be prepared prior to works commencing. This plan should also include a management strategy to avoid the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, or alternately a separate strategy dealing with this plant pathogen should be developed.

Offsetting

The Ecological Assessment (Appendix G) recommended that an offsetting strategy is employed to account for the remaining biodiversity impacts that were not able to be avoided through other mitigation strategies. However it is unclear as to if this recommendation will be implemented. This strategy should be developed condition of consent and implemented with any offset lands conserved in perpetuity prior to works commencing.

Recommendation/Conclusions

- A 50m buffer should be employed from all SEPP 14 wetlands and the HDD must start from beyond this buffer area.
- The Preparation of strategies documented in the Ecological and Environmental Assessments should be included as conditions of consent and should be prepared prior to works commencing.

Asset Engineering Comments:

- All road crossings are to be thrust bored and no open road trenching is allow on any Port Stephens Council roads without approval from Civil Assets Engineer. Open trench approvals on roads are very unlikely given the proposed route. This comment does not constitute an approval and a Roads Act approval from Council's Civil Assets Engineer needs to requested by the developer or contractor prior to the actual works commencing. This approval should be sought well in advance of the anticipated timeframe to commence works.

- The upgrade of the Buckets Way will need engineering designs as part of the Roads Act approval from Council's Civil Assets Engineer.

Should you require any additional clarification, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully

Melissa Thomas

SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNER

Phone: 49800378 (9.00am – 12.00 noon)
melissa.thomas@portstephens.nsw.gov.au