

# Environmental Assessment Requirements

Section 5.16 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

<b>Application Number</b>	SSI 17_8272
<b>Project</b>	Western Slopes Gas Pipeline
<b>Location</b>	From the Newell Highway south of Narrabri to Bundure approximately 100km west of Condobolin, NSW
<b>Proponent</b>	APA Western Slopes Pipeline Pty Limited
<b>Date of Issue</b>	25 June 2021
<b>General Requirements</b>	<p>The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project must comply with the requirements in Schedule 2 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i>.</p> <p>In particular, the EIS must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a stand-alone executive summary;</li> <li>• a full description of the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– details of construction, operation and decommissioning, including any proposed staging of the project or refurbishing of infrastructure over time;</li> <li>– all infrastructure and facilities, such as mainline valves, scraper and meter stations, construction compounds, access roads, and road upgrades (including any infrastructure that would be required for the project, but the subject of a separate approvals process);</li> <li>– site plans and maps at an adequate scale with dimensions showing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the location and dimensions of all project components including coordinates in latitude / longitude;</li> <li>○ existing infrastructure, land use, and environmental features in the vicinity of the project (including any other existing, approved or proposed infrastructure in the region); and</li> <li>○ the project corridor that has been assessed, including any allowance for micro-siting and identification of the key environmental constraints that have been considered in the design of the project;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- details of the progressive rehabilitation of the site during and following construction and decommissioning of the pipeline;</li> <li>- the likely interactions between the project and any other existing, approved or proposed major resource or infrastructure project in the vicinity of the site, including the Narrabri Gas Project and the Inland Rail Project;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• justification as to why the proposed project is preferred over any other alternatives;</li> <li>• a list of any approvals that must be obtained before the project may commence;</li> <li>• an assessment of the likely impacts of the project on the environment, focussing on the specific issues identified below, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the project, using sufficient baseline data;</li> <li>– an assessment of the likely impacts of all stages of the project, including any cumulative impacts, taking into consideration any relevant legislation, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice;</li> <li>– a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, mitigate and/or offset residual impacts of the project, and the likely effectiveness of these measures; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a description of the measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the environmental performance of the project if it is approved;</li> <li>• a consolidated summary of all the proposed environmental management and monitoring measures, identifying all the commitments in the EIS;</li> <li>• consideration of the project against all relevant environmental planning instruments; and</li> <li>• the reasons why the project should be approved having regard to biophysical, economic and social considerations, including the principles of ecologically sustainable project.</li> </ul> <p>While not exhaustive, Attachment 1 contains a list of some of the environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, and plans that may be relevant to the environmental assessment of this project.</p> <p>The EIS must be accompanied by a signed report from a suitably qualified expert that includes an accurate estimate of the capital investment value (as defined in Clause 3 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i>) of the project, including details of all the assumptions and components from which the capital investment value calculation is derived.</p> <p>The EIS must also address the requirements of the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy issued in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (see Attachment 2).</p>
<p><b>Key Issues</b></p>	<p>The EIS must address the following specific issues with the level of assessment of likely impacts proportionate to the significance of, or degree, of impact on, the issue, within the context of the project location and the surrounding environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water and Soils</b>– including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a description of water demand, a breakdown of water supplies and the measures to minimise water use;</li> <li>- an assessment of the likely impacts of the project on the quantity and/or quality of the region’s surface and groundwater resources having regard to the <i>NSW Aquifer Interference Policy</i>;</li> <li>- identification of any licensing requirements or other approvals under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>;</li> <li>- an assessment of the likely impacts of the project on watercourses, riparian land, soil resources, and water related infrastructure and other water users, including use and discharge of water during construction, commissioning and maintenance of the pipeline infrastructure;</li> <li>- a description of construction erosion and sediment controls including how areas of erosion, salinity or acid-sulphate risk, steep gradient land or erodible soils types, would be managed and any contingency requirements to address residual impacts; and</li> <li>- an assessment of the potential flooding impacts of the project;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b> – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- an assessment of the biodiversity values and the likely biodiversity impacts of the project in accordance with the NSW <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>, the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and documented in a Development Assessment Report (BDAR), which must document the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework including assessing all direct, indirect and prescribed impacts in accordance with the BAM;</li> <li>- impacts on koalas or their habitat generally in accordance with the requirements in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020</i> and/or <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2021</i>, based on the relevant land zoning;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Heritage</b> – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- an assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the project, including adequate consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders having regard to the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (OEH, 2010);

- **Air Quality** – including:
  - an assessment of the likely air quality impacts of the project in accordance with the *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW* (EPA, 2016);
  - demonstrated ability to comply with the relevant regulatory framework, specifically the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010*; and
  - an assessment of the likely greenhouse gas impacts of the project;
- **Noise and Vibration** – including:
  - an assessment of the likely construction noise impacts of the project in accordance with the *Interim Construction Noise Guideline* (DECCW, 2009) (Note the *Construction Noise Guideline* currently available in draft form is likely to be finalised in 2021 and should be applied subject to any transitional arrangements and subject to timing of lodgement of the EIS);
  - an assessment of the likely operational noise impacts of the project under the *NSW Noise Policy for Industry* (EPA, 2017);
  - an assessment of the likely road noise impacts of the project under the *NSW Road Noise Policy* (EPA, 2011); and
  - an assessment of the likely vibration amenity and structural impacts of the project under *Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline* (DEC, 2006) and *German Standard DIN 4150-3 Structural Vibration – effects of vibration on structures*; and
  - where blasting is required during construction, an assessment of blast impacts in accordance with relevant guidelines (see Attachment 1);
- **Transport** – including:
  - details of traffic types and volumes likely to be generated by the project;
  - an assessment of the likely transport impacts of the project on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the road network, in particular heavy vehicles, oversize/ over-mass vehicles and traffic associated with worker accommodation facilities; and
  - details of measures to mitigate and / or manage potential impacts including a schedule of all required road upgrades, road maintenance contributions, and any other traffic control measures, developed in consultation with the relevant road authority;
- **Visual** – including:
  - an assessment of the likely visual impacts of the project on private landowners in the vicinity of the project, key vantage points in the public domain, and the Dark Sky Region having regard to the *Dark Sky Planning Guideline* (DPE, 2016), including consultation with the Director of the Siding Springs Observatory;
- **Hazards and Risks** – including:
  - an assessment of the hazards and risk impacts likely to be associated with the project, including gas leaks and transport, handling and management of dangerous goods, to determine the potential for offsite impacts, prepared generally consistent with the approach outlined in the Department's *Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6 – Guidelines for Hazard Analysis* (DoP, 2011), *Multi-level Risk Assessment* (DoP, 2011) and demonstrate the proposal would comply with the criteria set out in *Hazardous Industry Planning Paper No. 4 – Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning* (DoP, 2011) and with reference to applicable Australian Standards (including AS2885 Pipelines – Gas and Liquid Petroleum - Operation and Maintenance);
  - on-going maintenance and safety management of the project, including potential impacts on and from bushfires and floods;
  - management and control of biosecurity risks associated with access to land during construction and operation of the project;
- **Social & Economic** – including:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- an assessment of the likely social impacts of the project, paying particular attention to potential impacts from workers accommodation facilities;</li> <li>- an assessment of the demand for the provision of local infrastructure, services and housing generated by the project including consideration of developer and community enhancement contributions; and</li> <li>- an assessment of the likely impacts on significant mineral resources including any operating mines or quarries, known mineral or petroleum resources, and exploration activities;</li> <li>• <b>Waste Management</b> – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identification, quantification and classification of the likely waste streams likely to be generated during construction and operation, and describe the measures to be implemented to manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of this waste.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Consultation</b>	<p>During the preparation of the EIS, you must establish and operate a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the project in accordance with the <i>Community Consultative Committee Guidelines State Significant Projects November 2016</i>. Given the length of the pipeline, the CCC may be operated as two committees under a single chairperson.</p> <p>You should also consult with relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, infrastructure and service providers, community groups and affected landowners (including holders or applicants of mineral exploration licences).</p> <p>The EIS must describe the consultation that was carried out, identify the issues raised during this consultation (including by the CCC), and explain how these issues have been addressed in the EIS.</p>

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Environmental Planning Instruments, Policies, Guidelines & Plans

<b>Water</b>	
Water Sharing Plans	Relevant Water Sharing Plans along the pipeline route
Groundwater	NSW State Groundwater Policy Framework Document and component policies (DPI) NSW Aquifer Interference Policy 2012 (DPI) National Water Quality Management Strategy Guidelines for Groundwater Protection in Australia (ARMCANZ/ANZECC)
Flooding	Floodplain Project Manual (OEH) Floodplain Risk Management Guideline (OEH)
Surface Water	NSW State Rivers and Estuary Policy (DPI Water) NSW Government Water Quality and River Flow Objectives at <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/</a> Using the ANZECC Guideline and Water Quality Objectives in NSW (DEC, 2006) National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC/ARMCANZ) Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW (DECC, 2008) Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction (Landcom) Technical Guidelines: Bunding & Spill Management (EPA) NSW Guidelines for Controlled Activities (various) (DPI) NSW Government Water Quality and River Flow Environmental Objectives for the water catchments along the pipeline route.
<b>Land and Soils</b>	
	The Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme: Second Approximation (OEH) Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources (CSIRO) Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook CSIRO Acid Sulfate Soils Manual (OEH) Soil and Landscape Issues in Environmental Impact Assessment (DPI) Primefact 1063: Infrastructure proposals on rural land (DPI) Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites (ANZECC)
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
	Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 Biosecurity Act 2015 Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (DPI) Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management – Update (DPI, 2013) <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> Threatened Species Survey and Assessment Guidelines (various – OEH) Environmental Offsets Policy (Commonwealth DoEE) NSW State Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy (DPI Water) Risk Assessment Guidelines for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (DPI Water)
<b>Heritage</b>	
	The Burra Charter (The Australia ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance)

	Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEH, 2011)
	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW, 2010)
	Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (OEH)
	NSW Heritage Manual (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning , 1994)
	Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office, 2001)
	Statements of Heritage Impact (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning , 2002)
<b>Air</b>	
	Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (EPA 2016)
	Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in NSW (EPA)
	Technical Framework – Assessment and Management of Odour from Stationary Sources in NSW (DEC, 2006)
	National Greenhouse Accounts Factors (Commonwealth)
<b>Noise, Vibration and Blasting</b>	
	NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA)
	NSW Road Noise Policy and associated Application Notes (EPA)
	Interim Construction Noise Guideline (EPA)
	Construction Noise Guideline (EPA) – currently draft only – application subject to any transitional arrangements
	Assessing Vibration: a Technical Guideline (DEC, 2006)
	German Standard DIN 4150-3: Structural Vibration – effects of vibration on structures
	Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance Due to Blasting Overpressure and Ground Vibration (ANZECC, 1990)
<b>Transport</b>	
	Guide to Traffic Generating Projects (RMS)
	Road Design Guide (RMS) & relevant Austroads Standards
	Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 12: Traffic Impacts of Project
<b>Lighting and Visual</b>	
	Dark Sky Planning Guideline: Protecting the observing conditions at Siding Spring
	AS4282-1997 Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting
<b>Hazards and Risks</b>	
	State Environmental Planning Policy No. 33 – Hazardous and Offensive Development
	Hazardous and Offensive Development Application Guidelines – Applying SEPP 33
	Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6 – Guidelines for Hazard Analysis
	Planning for Bushfire Protection (NSW RFS)
<b>Waste</b>	
	Waste Classification Guidelines (EPA)
<b>Social</b>	
	Social Impact Assessment Guideline (DPIE) – final to be released July 2021 - application subject to transitional arrangements.
<b>Environmental Planning Instruments – General</b>	
	State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Project) 2011
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Rural Lands) 2008
	State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 – Remediation of Land
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020 and 2021
	Relevant Local Environmental Plans along the pipeline route
<b>Consultation</b>	
	Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPE)

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**EPBC ACT - ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**