



Your reference: MP 10_0144 and MP 10_0108
Our reference: DOC12/15576
Contact: Stefan Press, (02) 6229 7002

Mr Chris Ritchie
Manager – Industry
Mining & Industry Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

24 May 2012

Dear Mr Ritchie,

**RE: Shoalhaven Starches Gas Pipeline Project
(Concept Plan Application 10_0169 & Project Application 10_0170)
Review of Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your letter of 16 April 2012 inviting comments from the Environment Protection Authority (“EPA”) to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (“DP&I”) regarding the abovementioned Environmental Assessment (“EA”) for the proposed Shoalhaven Starches Gas Pipeline Project (“the project”).

The EPA has conducted a review of the EA, including the relevant attached specialist reports and provides the following comments and recommendations for DP&I’s consideration.

The EPA notes that the Predicted Noise Levels outlined in the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) are generally in excess of the Noise Management Levels (NML’s) identified in the EA. The noise control measures proposed will reduce the predicted noise levels, however they remain likely to exceed the NML’s on occasion. As such, it is recommended that the proponent be required to apply all feasible and reasonable work practices outlined in section 7.2 of the CNVMP. It is further recommended that the proponent also be required to inform all potentially impacted residents of the nature of works to be carried out, the expected noise levels and duration, as well as relevant contact details for a representative of the company/person undertaking the construction works.

The CNVMP contained within the EA states that construction activities are to be undertaken between 7am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 2pm Saturday. The EPA notes that the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009 – “ICNG”) provides a recommendation that

construction activities on Saturdays be limited to 8am to 1pm. As such, it is suggested that either the construction hours are amended to reflect the ICNG, or alternatively any construction activity outside of the recommended standard hours comply with the requirements of Table 2 of the ICNG. That is, the noise management level for these times is set at rating background level (RBL) + 5dB.

Please note the EPA's view is that operational noise from the pressure reduction facility (to be located at Shoalhaven Starches factory site) will be subject to the existing noise limits specified by Condition L5 in Environment Protection Licence No. 883 which is held by Shoalhaven Starches Pty Ltd.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter further please contact me on 6229 7002.

Yours sincerely



STEFAN PRESS
Acting Unit Head – South East Region
Environment Protection and Regulation Group