

Concept Plan Approval

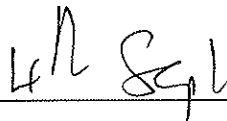
Section 750 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

I, the Minister for Planning, under Section 750 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, approve the Concept Plan referred to in Schedule 1, subject to the conditions set out in Schedule 2.



Frank Sartor MP
Minister for Planning

Sydney



2008

File: S02/02299

SCHEDULE 1

Application No:	06_0292
Proponent:	AGL Gas Production (Camden) Pty Ltd
Approval Authority:	Minister for Planning
Land:	See Appendix 1
Concept Plan:	Construction and operation of coal seam methane gas wells and associated infrastructure within the Stage 2 Concept Plan area of the Camden Gas Project as shown in Appendix 1

SCHEDULE 2

DEFINITIONS

Concept plan	Concept plan for the proposed expansion of Stage 2 of the Camden Gas Project, as described in the EA for the concept plan and the response to submissions dated December 2007
Concept plan area	The land shown within the red boundary line in Appendix 1
Department	Department of Planning
EA	Environmental assessment titled " <i>Environmental Assessment – Expansion of Stage 2 of the Camden Gas Project Stage 2 Concept Area Spring Farm Project Area Menangle Park Project Area</i> ", Volume 1 and 2, prepared by ENSR Australia Pty Ltd, and dated September 2007
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
Proponent	AGL Gas Production (Camden) Pty Ltd
Well	A hole made by drilling in connection with exploration for petroleum or operations for the recovery of petroleum
Well surface location	An area that may incorporate up to 6 co-located wells at one well site or compound

GENERAL TERMS OF APPROVAL

1. Concept plan approval is given for:
 - (a) construction and operation of new wells and associated infrastructure within new well fields at Spring Farm, Menangle Park, Mount Gilead and Kay Park (Stage II);
 - (b) construction and operation of new wells and associated infrastructure within existing well fields;
 - (c) re-fracturing and maintenance (including redrilling) of existing and new wells across all well fields;
 - (d) upgrading of existing gas gathering lines;
 - (e) installation of in-field compression in the vicinity of wellheads or along gas gathering lines; and
 - (f) production and transportation of gas from new wells to the Rosalind Park gas treatment plant,within the concept plan area shown in Appendix 1.
2. The Proponent shall ensure that all development in the concept plan area is carried out generally in accordance with the:
 - (a) concept plan;
 - (b) EA;
 - (c) statement of commitments; and
 - (d) conditions of this approval.
3. If there is any inconsistency between the above, then the most recent document shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. However, the conditions of this approval shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

LIABILITY TO LAPSE

4. This approval shall lapse if the Proponent does not seek approval or consent under the EP&A Act to develop any of the components of the concept plan within 5 years from the date of this approval.

LIMITS ON APPROVAL

5. This approval does not allow any components of the concept plan to be carried out without further approval being obtained under the EP&A Act.

LOCATIONAL PRINCIPLES

6. In determining the well surface location and associated infrastructure for future applications within the concept plan area, the Proponent must comply with the Department's *Locational Guidelines for Development in the Vicinity of Operating Coal Seam Methane Wells* (2004) and the additional locational principles set out below, to the satisfaction of the Director-General:
- (a) well surface locations, gas gathering lines and access roads to be sited in areas that, wherever possible:
 - are co-located with existing wells and associated infrastructure;
 - are already cleared of vegetation or have been subject to previous disturbance;
 - minimise impacts on significant vegetation or potential habitat including threatened species, threatened populations and/or endangered ecological communities;
 - are at least 40m from a watercourse (or where this is not possible that avoid unnecessary disturbance to watercourses);
 - minimise impacts on heritage items and values (including visual impacts); and
 - minimise noise impacts on residential and other sensitive receivers;
 - (b) well surface locations must comply with the separation distances specified in Table 1.

Table 1: Minimum Separation Distances for Surface Well Locations

Gas Well Operation (6 well compound)	Minimum Distance (metres)			
	Active open space	Business use	Residential use	Sensitive use
Early/intermediate operation	20m	20m	20m	20m
Established operation	10m	0m	15m	20m

Notes:

- "Sensitive use" includes schools, hospitals and aged persons accommodation.
- The minimum separation distance is to be measured from the boundary of the well compound.

APPENDIX 1 CONCEPT PLAN AREA

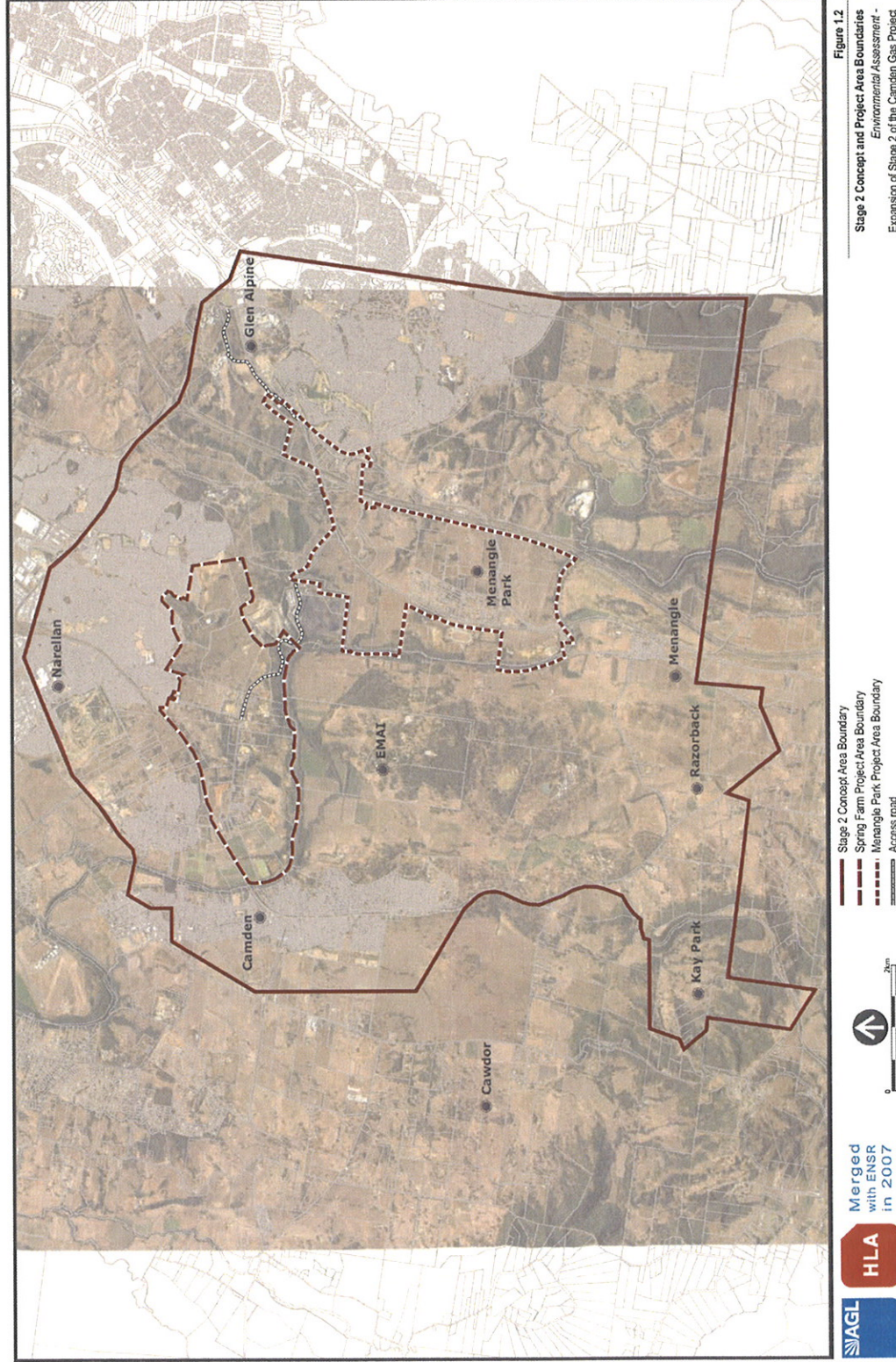


Figure 1.2
Stage 2 Concept and Project Area Boundaries
Environmental Assessment -
Expansion of Stage 2 of the Camden Gas Project

APPENDIX 2 STATEMENT OF COMMITMENTS

Issue	Commitment
General	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works the subject of the Concept application would be subject to further detailed environmental assessment on a range of issues as identified in this Statement of Commitments. 2. The location of wells and associated infrastructure forming part of the Concept application would be developed in consideration of relevant environmental constraints and would be subject to consultation with landowners with a view to minimising the potential impacts of the Project. 3. The location of new wells within the Stage 2 Concept area would be selected generally in line with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, wells would be co-located at existing well platforms so as to minimise new land disturbance; • Supporting gas gathering lines would be located in existing disturbed areas wherever possible; and • Access roads would be located in existing disturbed areas wherever possible. 4. The location of infill wells within the Stage 2 Concept area would be selected generally in line with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infill wells are either new wells co-located within the pad of existing wells in existing well fields within Stage 2 to access additional resource from currently disturbed areas through the installation of a new wellhead and bore; or new wells at undisturbed sites with associated infrastructure (including gas gathering and water pipelines and access roads) to be located within existing well fields within Stage 2 where the gas reserve is not able to be accessed from existing wellhead locations; 5. The location of supporting infrastructure within the Stage 2 Concept area would be selected generally in line with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If required, increasing the capacity of the existing gas gathering system would be carried out along established gas gathering routes. • If required, in-field compression would be located in proximity to either existing wellhead locations or along gas gathering routes. • If required, re-fracture stimulation of wells would occur at existing wellhead locations within the Stage 2 area. The feasibility of re-fracture stimulation would be subject to environmental considerations at the time.
Air Quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. In the selection of potential well surface locations and associated infrastructure within the Stage 2 Concept area, the Proponent shall take account of opportunities to minimise air quality impacts generated by the construction and operation of the project.
Ecology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The Proponent shall undertake further detailed ecological assessment of proposed works within the Stage 2 Concept Area once details of well surface locations and associated infrastructure are known. Details of this assessment shall form part of subsequent project applications in respect of the proposed works. 8. In the selection of potential well surface locations in the Stage 2 Concept area the Proponent shall take into consideration all practicable measures to minimise potential flora and fauna impacts of the proposed Project.

Issue	Commitment
Noise	<p>9. The Proponent shall undertake further detailed noise assessment in respect of proposed works within the Stage 2 Concept area once further details of well surface locations and the location of associated infrastructure is known. Details of this assessment shall form part of any subsequent project application required to be submitted in respect of the proposed works.</p> <p>10. As a guide, the following general principles would be considered when identifying potential well surface locations for the Stage 2 Concept works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well surface locations would be chosen in consideration of the proximity to nearest sensitive receivers and would take account of local topography and meteorological conditions which may affect the extent of noise impacts; • The potential for noise impact would be considered in the preliminary planning phase of the project such noise minimisation will be built into the inherent project design; • The full range of available mitigation measures would be considered and applied where necessary to ensure that noise impacts can be maintained at an acceptable level; • Well surface locations which would result in significant exceedances of project specific noise criteria despite the application of mitigation measures would be flagged and alternative sites considered.
Soil and Water	<p>11. The Proponent shall undertake further investigations into the potential soil and water impacts of the proposed Stage 2 Concept works once details of well surface locations and the location of associated infrastructure is known. Details of these investigations will form part of a broader environmental assessment associated with any subsequent project application required in respect of the proposed Project.</p>
Heritage	<p>12. The Proponent shall undertake further studies in respect of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous heritage as this relates to works subject of the Stage 2 Concept application as part of broader environmental assessment associated with any subsequent project application required to be submitted in respect of the proposed Project.</p>
Safety and Risk Management	<p>13. All works subject of the Stage 2 Concept application will be subject to the Proponent's Emergency Response Plan and Safety Management System. The plan/ system shall be submitted to the Director-General, prior to the commissioning of the Project.</p>