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Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd  
Level 22, 32 Turbot Street  
Brisbane, QLD, 4000

05/05/2025

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**Subject: Queensland-Hunter Gas Pipeline – Staging Request**

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your correspondence to the Department of Planning and Environment (Department) dated 29 April 2025, requesting the Planning Secretary's approval to submit required studies, strategies and plans under the Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline Project Approval on a staged basis.

On 4 October 2023, the Secretary approved the project to undertake construction activities in three stages. As planning for construction progressed, several low-impact works have been identified which are critical to inform engineering design and construction planning for Stage 2 works. To facilitate the low impact works, Santos request a revision to the Stage 1 works description, adding a new stage, as outlined below.

The following four stages are proposed:

- Stage 1a: Construction of temporary laydown yards at multiple strategic locations along the proposed Hunter Gas Pipeline alignment.
- Stage 1b: Low impact works undertaken for the purpose of defining the location of the final 30m Construction Right of Way and detailed design to inform the Stage 2 and 3 Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) and associated sub-plans.
- Stage 2: Construction of the Narrabri to Newcastle section of pipeline.
- Stage 3: Construction of the Wallumbilla to Narrabri section of the pipeline.

The Department understands that consistent with the definition of low impact work in the draft Low Impact CEMP agency presentation, activities proposed to be included in Stage 1b will generally be completed within one day, or up to a maximum of three days.

The Department has carefully reviewed your request and considers that it is consistent with Schedule 2, Condition 6.1 the project approval. Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve your staging request and the proposed approach to preparation of the relevant plans for Stage 1 as outlined in your correspondence dated 19 September 2023.

Further you are also seeking the Secretary's agreement that some of the project approval requirements would not be required to be undertaken for Stage 1 including:

- Schedule 2, Condition 2.9 - local council consultation outcomes for off-take points: these would not be relevant to the Stage 1 construction works.
- Schedule 2, Condition 3.18 – Biodiversity Offset Needs Study: subject to the approval of the Stage 1 Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), demonstrating that there would be minimal impacts on biodiversity values.
- Schedule 2, Condition 3.19 – Final Hazard Studies: Stage 1 construction works would not involve the construction or use of gas-related infrastructure or other hazardous infrastructure.

The Department has carefully reviewed your request and accepts that these conditions are not required for Stage 1, subject to demonstrating that there would be minimal impact on biodiversity values at the locations proposed for the Stage 1 works, and that any impacts would be accounted for in the offsetting requirements developed for the Biodiversity Offset Needs Study.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I agree that Schedule 2, Conditions 2.9, 3.18 and 3.19 are not required to be completed for Stage 1. However, these would be required to be addressed prior to commencing Stage 2.

Please ensure you make the documents publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Jones on (02) 6575 3406.

Yours sincerely



Stephen O'Donoghue  
Director  
Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary