



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: TN125485

Your ref: 941-07

21 APR 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000

Deputy Premier
Minister for Infrastructure
and Planning

LAI'D UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No.:	520873333
	21 APR 2008
MP:	Hon P Lucas
Clerk's Signature:	22/4/08

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I refer to your letter to the Honourable Craig Wallace MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Water and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland, enclosing a copy of the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly number 941-07. As you are aware, Minister Wallace forwarded a copy of your letter to my office for consideration and direct reply as the issue falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

The petitioners have raised concerns about various detrimental impacts for the Yandina community as a result of the proposed route for the Northern Pipeline Interconnector (NPI) Stage 2, and requested the re-routing of the pipeline, wherever possible, adjacent to the M1 highway and roadways and not using power supply easements.

The NPI is a key component of the Government's water planning for South East Queensland to address ongoing drought and progress regional water sharing to enhance long-term water supply security for all areas.

I am advised that the identification of a potential route for NPI Stage 2 generally sought to utilise existing public utility easements, road and other reserves wherever practical, to minimise the impact on landowners and the general community. The examination of potential routes included consideration of the Bruce Highway, rail corridor, other minor roads, and a western and central power corridor.

I am further advised that a detailed review of route options has been undertaken and the determination of the preferred pipeline corridor, which utilises powerline easements for a major part of the pipeline length, takes into account a range of factors, including engineering, environmental, construction, community and cultural heritage considerations. Route optimisation may be undertaken at the local level to refine the pipeline alignment if significant constraints are identified from detailed investigations, including environmental assessment.

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An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared in accordance with state legislative requirements. I am advised that the route options will be outlined in the EIS for Stage 2 to provide information for project environmental approval and to support regulatory requirements. The EIS will examine a preferred pipeline corridor and identify, evaluate and nominate measures to mitigate any potential adverse impacts of the project.

The public will be invited to comment on the Stage 2 EIS report when released later this year. The Coordinator-General considers the EIS, all submissions received, and a Supplementary Report (if required), and may request further information from the proponent and others, to enable the preparation of the "Coordinator-General's Report" on the evaluation of the EIS process.

Landowner, stakeholder and community interaction will input into the development of the EIS and overall project. If the project is approved, there will be ongoing consultation with all affected landowners and key stakeholders throughout the project to minimise the short-term impacts from construction activities at the local level. Projects of this nature require the preparation and approval of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to guide activities during the implementation phase. Rehabilitation and monitoring requirements are included in the EMP to ensure disturbed areas are restored to pre-construction condition as soon as practicable to minimise disruption to individuals and the community.

As requested, an electronic version of this response has also been emailed to TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lucas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PAUL LUCAS MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning