

Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion – Molonglo Secondary Gas Pipeline Extension) Notice 2014 (No 1)

Notifiable instrument NI2014–328

made under the

Planning and Development Act 2007, s138AD (Requirements in relation to environmental significance opinions)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion – Molonglo Secondary Gas Pipeline Extension) Notice 2014 (No 1)*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3 Environmental Significance Opinion

An Environmental Significance Opinion has been prepared by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

The text of the opinion is shown at Annexure A.

A copy of the opinion may be obtained from ACTPLA's website:

[http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental
assessment/environmental_significance_opinions](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_assessment/environmental_significance_opinions)

4 Completion

The environmental significance opinion and the notice including the text of the opinion expire 18 months after the day the notice is notified.

Dorte Ekelund

Director-General Environment and Planning Directorate

7 July 2014



ACT
Government

Environment and
Sustainable Development

Ms Dorte Ekelund
Chief Planning Executive
ACT Planning and Land Authority
Dame Pattie Menzies Building
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Ms Ekelund

This is to advise of my decision, under s.138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, on the request for an environmental significance opinion for the proposed installation of a secondary gas pipeline to service the new residential developments at Molonglo that will encroach into the special purpose reserve area for Stromlo Forest Park.

Please find attached the Environmental Significance Opinion and a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

Yours sincerely

Alan Traves
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

3 July 2014



ACT
Government

Environment and
Sustainable Development

ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION

In accordance with section 138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, I provide the following environmental significance opinion:

PROPONENT

Adam Coburn, Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Jemena Ltd.

LOCATION

Block 511 District of Stromlo and the road reserve of Swallowtail Road (formerly Uriarra Road).

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The proposal is for the installation of a secondary gas pipeline extension to service the new residential subdivisions at Molonglo.

The development proposal is mentioned in Schedule 4, part 4.3, item 3, being development on land reserved under s. 315 for the purpose of a wilderness area, national park, nature reserve or special purpose reserve. Block 511 District of Stromlo and the road reserve of Swallowtail Road are within the area of Special Purpose Reserve for Stromlo Forest Park.

The proponent wants the application for the development approval assessed in the merit track on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and has applied to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an environmental significance opinion to that effect.

OPINION

The proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact provided works are in accordance with the following conditions:

1. The restoration works to include weed control along in the area of disturbance to the satisfaction of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS).

2. If subsequent washout or channelling of work areas occurs, the proponent will make good the damage and rectify the eroded areas to the satisfaction of TAMS.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Alan Traves', written over a horizontal line.

Alan Traves
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

3 July 2014

STATEMENT OF REASONS REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The proposed development is a proposal mentioned in Schedule 4 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* – Development proposal for an activity requiring an EIS (a) schedule 4,

item 3

proposal for development on land reserved under s 315 for the purpose of a wilderness area, national park, nature reserve or special purpose reserve, unless the Conservator of Flora and Fauna produces an environmental significance opinion that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact.

The proposed works are located within an area of special purpose reserve for Stromlo Forest Park.

The proponent wants the application for the development approval assessed in the merit track on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact and has applied to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an environmental significance opinion (ESO) to that effect.

Meaning of *significant* adverse environmental impact

An adverse environmental impact is *significant* if—

- (a) the environmental function, system, value or entity that might be adversely impacted by a proposed development is significant; or
- (b) the cumulative or incremental effect of a proposed development might contribute to a substantial adverse impact on an environmental function, system, value or entity.

In deciding whether an adverse environmental impact is *significant*, the following matters must be taken into account:

- (a) the kind, size, frequency, intensity, scope and length of time of the impact;
- (b) the sensitivity, resilience and rarity of the environmental function, system, value or entity likely to be affected.

In deciding whether a development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact it does not matter whether the adverse environmental impact is likely to occur on the site of the development or elsewhere.

It has been determined that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact.

Project description

The proposal is to provide for a secondary gas pipeline to cater for the growth of Molonglo as the existing medium pressure network from Weston Creek cannot sustain supply. The works include:

- the installation of approximately 4km of 200mm diameter steel secondary gas main and associated trenching;
- the associated trenching to be approximately 450mm wide with the pipeline being installed at a minimum depth of 900mm.
- the temporary construction zone will extend to an average width of 6-10m along the alignment of the pipeline.
- installation of one 5,000m³/hr District Regulator Set (DRS) regulator at the northern end of the alignment;
- cathodic protection; and
- site restorations.

Approximately 1.2 kilometres of the proposed pipeline will be within the 'Special Purpose Reserve' for Stromlo Forest Park which currently extends to include the eastern road reserve of Swallowtail Road.

Documentation Submitted

Application for an ESO (Form 1M);

Document titled: Application for an Environment Significance Opinion for a Proposed Secondary Gas Pipeline Extension at Molonglo (Block 511 District of Molonglo) (Environmental Resources Management Australia, 5 June 2014);

Locality Map

Natural conservation values present

The section of the gas pipeline on the eastern (urban) side of Swallowtail Road is approximately one kilometre and is contained within the road reserve which has been largely disturbed as part of the construction of the roadway and ongoing development of the suburb of Wright. No trees or significant vegetation are proposed to be removed as part of the construction.

The section of pipeline on the western (Stromlo Forest Park) side of Uriarra Road is limited to a length of approximately 200 metres and is also contained within the road reserve. This area has been largely disturbed as part of the construction of the roadway and includes limited, scattered vegetation.

Impact of development on these values (including offsite impacts)

The alignment of the pipeline generally follows the eastern boundary of the special purpose reserve, which ensures limited intrusion into, and impacts on, the core of the reserve.

As all works are on the extreme eastern edge of the reserve the proposed construction works will not impact on the management objectives of the reserve as provided in Schedule 3 of the Planning and Development Act being to provide for public and community use of the area for recreation and education.

Has the proponent demonstrated that all reasonable measures have been taken to avoid, minimise and as a last resort offset impact?

Yes. The greatest threat from the proposed works is the spread of weeds. The threat of weed spread is lessened by the measures contained in the conditions of approval.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

Nil. The ESO contains conditions relating to the control of weeds and the rehabilitation of the works.

Plan of Management

There is no relevant Plan of Management for the Stromlo Forest Park.