



19 December 2013

Dr Geoff Lundie-Jenkins
Manager – Southern Region
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
PO Box 318
Toowoomba QLD 4350

Our ref: 42/16677/06

Your ref:

Dear Dr Lundie-Jenkins

Proposed Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project - Yuleba North Substation

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Powerlink Queensland has been requested by Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited (APLNG) to provide direct connections into the high voltage transmission network to supply power to APLNG's future gas processing facilities in the area west of Wandoan. To meet this request, Powerlink is proposing to extend its transmission network in the area via three sections:

- Section 1
 - **Yuleba North Substation Project (the subject of this letter)**
 - Wandoan South to Yuleba North Transmission Line Project
- Section 2
 - Clifford Creek and Dinoun South Substations Project
 - Yuleba North to Clifford Creek and Yuleba North to Dinoun South Transmission Lines Project
- Section 3
 - Eurombah Substation Project
 - Yuleba North to Eurombah Transmission Line Project

Powerlink divided the proposed network extension into three sections to ensure landowners and other stakeholders receive information in a manageable way and can provide comment on matters that are relevant to them.

The proposed Yuleba North Substation will be a hub site which provides 132kV/275kV connections to six substations, namely Fairview South, Fairview, Blythdale, Dinoun South, Clifford Creek and Eurombah.

Our company, GHD Pty Ltd (GHD) has been appointed by Powerlink to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for this project. As part of the EIA, GHD prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which were released for public comment over a five week period during March and May 2013. All submissions on the Draft EIS, where applicable to this project, have now been considered and GHD has completed the Final EIS.

The Final EIS

GHD has now released the Final EIS for the proposed Yuleba North Substation. The final location identified in the report is the result of feedback received following the release of the Draft EIS and ongoing consultation with the directly affected landowner.

Following submissions received on the Draft EIS, further consultation and assessments were undertaken by GHD to consider an alternative location at a property known as 'Seven Trees' and another on the directly affected landowner's property.

A formal assessment of the suitability of 'Seven Trees' was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. At a high level, the assessment considered social, economic and environmental factors.

In order to undertake a comparative assessment of the sites on each property, the overall impacts of the substation site itself, as well as the connecting transmission line corridors were included as part of the assessment. The findings of this assessment between the substation site options, based on the assessment criteria, can be summarised as:

- Social – the substation social impact assessment favours the Seven Trees option as the site is owned by APLNG. However, the social impacts of the connecting transmission lines were assessed as marginally higher for a substation at Seven Trees.
- Environmental – the transmission lines associated with the Yuleba North option show significant environmental benefit over the transmission lines associated with the Seven Trees option.
- Economic – the Yuleba North option shows material cost benefit over the Seven Trees option.

In conclusion, it was determined that, based on an assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts associated with both substation sites and the connecting transmission lines, the Yuleba North location has - on balance - a lower overall impact than the Seven Trees option.

Your submission incorporated into Final EIS

I would like to personally thank you for your submission on the Draft EIS and can assure you we have considered each matter raised and made amendments to the Final EIS where appropriate. As a result of the feedback received on the Draft EIS, several changes have been incorporated to the Final EIS. Some key matters of interest addressed in the Final EIS include:

- Weed management measures for the dispersion and establishment of weed species including details on the use of herbicides.
- Fire management measures including details relating to smoking.
- Further assessment of flora species listed under the *Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006* and Matters of National Environmental Significance.
- A range of other amendments as detailed in the Final EIS.



Accessing the Final EIS

A copy of the Final EIS is included with this letter. Responses to your submission and details about amendments made to the report (where applicable) are also included with this letter. Please refer to Appendix H of the report for a complete list of the submissions received, the responses provided to each submission, and details about any amendments made to the report.

A copy of the Final EIS is also available for viewing from **23 December 2013** at:

- Powerlink Queensland, 33 Harold Street Virginia (Brisbane) QLD 4014;
- Roma library, 38-44 Hawthorne Street Roma QLD 4455;
- Taroom library, 24 Yaldwyn Street Taroom QLD 4420; and
- Wandoan library, 6 Henderson Road Wandoan QLD 4419.

The Final EIS is also available on the GHD and Powerlink websites:

GHD website – www.ghd.com/global/projects/yuleba-north-substation/

Powerlink website – www.powerlink.com.au (go to Projects/Southern/Wandoan South to Eurombah Transmission Network Project/Section 1).

For details on the next steps of the project please refer to the enclosed newsletter prepared by Powerlink. This newsletter also outlines additional opportunities for landowners and other interested members of the community to formerly comment on the proposed project.

If you have any further questions about the Powerlink project, please refer them to Mr Michael Brown, Powerlink's Project Manager, on FREECALL 1800 635 369.

Sincerely
GHD Pty Ltd

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Amanda Smedley

Environmental Scientist

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Attachment: Draft EIS submission and responses/details
Attachment: Final Environmental Impact Statement
Attachment: Newsletter and Fact Sheet

Yuleba North Substation EIS Agency Submission Responses

Yuleba North Substation Draft EIS Consultation

Agency/Stakeholder	EIS Section	Comments Received	Responses	EIS/EMP Addressed	Where Addressed in EIS/EMP
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)	N/A	DEHP is generally satisfied that due consideration has been given to the relevant State interests. DEHP has no comments on the relevant sections of the Draft EIS, so there are no issues that would preclude the Ministerial Designation process from proceeding for this project.	Noted.	N/A	N/A

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP