

APA Technical Note - Western Outer Ring Main - Environment Effects Statement

TECHNICAL NOTE NUMBER: TN25

DATE: 15 September 2021

SUBJECT: Specialist area: Landscape and visual

SUMMARY: This Technical Note provides responses to the request for information query raised in RFI 104 in relation to the Western Outer Ring Main (WORM) Environment Effects Statement (EES).

REQUEST: 104. Clarify the process through which requests for landscape screening of main line valves from affected landowners will be managed and funded. (EMM LV6)

NOTE:

- 1 APA are required to take all reasonable steps to enter into agreements with landowners under the *Pipeline Act 2005*.
- 2 Any specific requirements and requests from the affected landowners along the pipeline route regarding screening of the Main line valves will be captured in the landowner agreements.
- 3 Landowner agreements will be formalised prior to construction works commencing.
- 4 All requests will need to take into consideration restrictions applicable within the easement to maintain ongoing protection of the asset such as the restriction on planting large trees or shrubs over the underground pipeline.
- 5 The planting of select small trees and shrubs would be permitted within the pipeline easement, three metres or greater from the edge of the pipeline. The planting of small shrubs and groundcovers with limited size root balls would be permitted within the easement, within three metres of the pipeline.
- 6 Requests for planting will need to be undertaken in accordance with APA's Site Planning and Landscape National Guidelines, the relevant bushfire management overlays for the area and consider recommendations provided in the Safety Report M (Section 10.2) in providing appropriate setback and asset protection zones from trees for the Main line vales on the project.
- 7 Any landscaping works would be undertaken as soon as reasonably practical post-completion of construction of the project.
- 8 EMM LV5 provides a process for replacing trees or shrubs within the approved construction area that affect public places or existing screening of private residences from road reserves, where practicable and reasonably requested in consultation with affected landowners or the responsible authority.
- 9 EMM LV6 provides a process for affected landowners to request APA to plant new trees and shrubs where feasible to screen Mainline valves from roads and residences (while meeting requirement of the Asset Protection Zone).
- 10 APA will also consider any reasonable request for off-site screening of the MLV sites for any adjacent or nearby landowners who are not party to landowner agreements.

- 11 In accordance with EMM S6, the current Project Consultation Plan describes the engagement process to facilitate consultation with affected landowners in relation to any concerns around visual impacts facilitating discussions around planting new trees and shrubs as described in EMMs LV5 and LV6.
- 12 Any agreed planting of trees and shrubs pursuant to LV5 and LV6 will be undertaken by APA.
- 13 Relevant mitigation measures in the Pipeline CEMP to ensure appropriate landscaping of the MLV sites are as follows:
- LV5:
Where trees and shrubs within the approved construction area are lost and affect public places or existing screening of private residences from road reserves, replace trees and shrubs where practicable, reasonably requested and in consultation with the affected landholder and/or responsible authority. Undertake planting in accordance with the relevant bushfire management overlays for the area.
 - LV6:
Introduce trees and shrubs to screen the mainline valve from roads and residences, if reasonably requested by affected landholders and with any necessary approvals granted (while meeting requirements of the Asset Protection Zone (APZ)). The planting of trees and shrubs must be undertaken in consultation with the affected landholder and/or responsible authority. Undertake planting in accordance with the relevant bushfire management overlays for the area.
 - LV7:
Develop and implement a planting and remediation plan (applicable to screening trees directly impacted) where planting of trees and shrubs are proposed, in consultation with any affected landowners where requested. Planting will be undertaken with consideration of APA requirements for restricted uses within an easement and other necessary approvals granted. The plan must be reviewed by the responsible authority and/or affected landholder. The plan must outline a monitoring and defects period for planting and remediation.