

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

TECHNICAL NOTE NUMBER: TN31

DATE: 28 September 2021

SUBJECT: Response to RFI #18, 21-22 and 25

SUMMARY This Technical Note provides responses to the request for information queries raised in relation to RFI# 18, 21-22 and 25 for the Western Outer Ring Main (WORM) Environment Effects Statement (EES).

REQUEST: 18. Provide advice on the potential scope to avoid further vegetation loss (and dissecting large patches) by amending the pipeline route to:

- keep west of the road between KP21.5 and KP23
- avoid splitting vegetation patches in two between KP31 and KP32; and between KP32 and KP33
- avoid vegetation between KP48 and KP49

21. Explain the ability to manage delays in the construction schedule to ensure that ideal times at key sensitive areas are able to be met, including any contingency measures.

22. Explain any planting restrictions over the easement and whether different restrictions apply to areas which have been HDD to avoid tree removal.

25. Confirm native vegetation impacts are conservative worst-case and will not potentially "increase slightly" during detailed design. (Ecological offset strategy section 3.3.1)

Response to RFI Item 18 – Provide advice on the potential scope to avoid further vegetation loss (and dissecting large patches) by amending the pipeline route in locations described below:

Description of location	Mapping Reference	Route Consideration
<p>Keep west of the road between P21.5 and KP23</p>		<p>To avoid area of native vegetation on the eastern site of the road, APA would need to cross Oaklands road at a location where it interfaces with the OMR PAO which was not supported by DoT.</p> <p>APA considered a crossing location at the intersection of Oaklands road and Craigieburn Road, however with further consultation with DoT this was supported due to interfaces with the OMR PAO design.</p> <p>APA have revised the alignment on the property (north of Craigieburn Road) to minimise impacts to native trees.</p>

Avoid splitting vegetation patches in two between P31 and KP32; and between P32 and KP33



To avoid splitting vegetation in this area, the alignment would need to be moved further west within the existing private property creating fragmentation of land between the pipeline proposed easement and the OMR PAO.

Deviating the alignment in this area would see the pipeline installed closer to existing residents to the west, as shown in the figure.

APA initially proposed to construct the pipeline on the eastern side of the OMR PAO in this location, however due to interfacing issues with design this was not supported by DoT.



This section of the proposed pipeline is within OMR PAO in this location.

Moving the alignment to the east would impact on private property within the approved Merrifield West PSP and create fragmentation between the OMR PAO and the pipeline.

The location of the alignment at KP 32 where it crosses the OMR has been agreed with DoT. Continuing the alignment on the west and crossing further north was not supported by DoT.

<p>Avoid vegetation between KP48 and KP49</p>		<p>The WORM is to be constructed within the VNIE easement in this location.</p> <p>The majority of the construction footprint is located within the APA easement.</p> <p>The section outside the easement is approximately a 5m section (on the east side), required to safely construct the proposed pipeline in close proximity to the existing VNIE pipeline. APA will need to undertake works in close proximity to live pipelines in this section. This is within the MSA.</p> <p>Deviating the alignment would result in additional impacts to the privately owned property in this area.</p>
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Response to RFI 21 – Explain the ability to manage delays in the construction schedule to ensure that ideal times at key sensitive areas are able to be met, including any contingency measures.

- 1 Sequencing of construction activities within the schedule at key sensitive areas will comply with environmental timing constraints defined in the CEMP. An example of this includes, relevant construction management measures for Jackson's Creek as defined in EMM SW7 which requires the contractor to develop a plan to capture methodology, timing of works, flow management, duration of construction works in the watercourse, and any contingency works/measures to manage risks associated with weather and EMM SW8 which requires rehabilitation of the creek to be undertaken in accordance with site specific requirements.

Response to RFI 22 – Explain any planting restrictions over the easement and whether different restrictions apply to areas which have been HDD to avoid tree removal.

- 2 Planting restrictions over the easement are the same regardless of whether or not the area has been trenched or direct drilled. It is APA's preference that easements on public land are designed to be linear green spaces and that these spaces will ultimately become public reserves and open spaces.

- 3 The following planting restrictions apply over the easement:
- 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.
 - Requests for planting will need to be undertaken in accordance with APA's Site Planning and Landscape National Guidelines.
- 4 APA would require the same restrictions to be adopted in all areas of the alignment within the proposed easement for any future vegetation to be considered by the respective landowners.

Response to RFI 25 – Confirm native vegetation impacts are conservative worst-case and will not potentially “increase slightly” during detailed design (Ecological offset strategy section 3.3.1)

- 5 Native vegetation impacts indicated in EES Technical Report A *Biodiversity and habitats* were determined based on the understanding that the impacts were the maximum that could occur (i.e. that all vegetation in the construction corridor would be removed). Impacts are not expected to increase during construction, the understanding is that the on-ground impacts will most likely be less than what has been accounted for and assessed.
- 6 Detailed design changes may cause minor changes to the recorded impacts as noted in section 3.3.1 of Attachment II - Ecological offset strategy which states:
- “It should be noted that these results are not final and may change. Following further construction footprint refinement, landowner negotiations and construction methodologies the area of native vegetation impacted may decrease or increase slightly and this will be addressed prior to the procurement process to purchase offsets, as well as during the reconciliation of impacts following construction. Final offsets required can therefore only be calculated and reconciled following construction.”*
- 7 It is considered unlikely that vegetation impacts will increase during detailed design or construction, the intent of this statement in Section 3.3.1 was to highlight that areas could change slightly.
- 8 Construction impacts will be contained to the impact areas identified in Technical Report A *Biodiversity and habitats* and as updated in Technical Note 15 – Rev 10 Biodiversity Assessment.
- 9 A number of controls shall be undertaken to ensure construction activities do not extend beyond the construction footprint which includes:
- Contractor will undertake survey works, prior to the commencement of construction works. The survey will mark out the extent of the construction area.
 - Markers will be placed along the alignment to identify a) pipeline centreline b) boundaries of the construction area including access tracks.
- 10 Any areas with adjacent native vegetation would be protected from additional impacts through the installation of protective fencing and additional mitigation measures as outlined in EMM B1, which requires the contractor to:
- Confine all vegetation clearing works to the defined construction area.

- Clearly demarcate all buffer zones, no go zones, tree protection zones, and the boundary of the construction area prior to relevant works commencing.
- Install and maintain temporary fencing along the construction footprint boundary in areas adjacent to sensitive environmental values such as the Matted Flax Lily and Tough Scurf-Pea would be protected by temporary fencing (e.g. star pickets and wire fencing or galvanized temporary construction fencing).
- For works within conservation areas of the MSA (ie near KP 43 and 49) fencing must be compliant with relevant DELWP guidelines specific to these areas.