



20 September 2017

Mr Michael Silver
 Chairperson
 Western Slopes Pipeline
 Community Consultative Committee
 By Email: westernslopespipelineccc@mail.com

Dear Mike

Information Requested at Community Consultative Committee Meetings - 13 & 14 September 2017

At the recent Western Slopes Pipeline Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings in Narrabri and Warren APA committed to providing information in response to a number of queries raised by the committee. Please find below and attached APA's response to these items:

Item	Description	Response
1	APA to review letter that was sent to some landowners in early August 2017 with copies of the Authority to Survey and Voluntary Land Survey Entry Agreement and advise CCC of proposed course of action.	<p>In early August APA commenced sending letters to landowners regarding the imminent commencement of field survey activities for the project. This letter was <u>not</u> sent to all landowners. Typically it was sent to landowners that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • had so far declined any attempts by APA to discuss the project, or • had discussed the project with us but had not yet received a full briefing including property maps etc, or • APA had not been able to obtain contact details for despite exhausting all publicly available sources. <p>A generic copy of this letter is attached (Attachment 1). The specific text was tailored to each recipient depending on the extent of previous discussion with APA and individual circumstances. The letter introduced the project and provided a range of supporting information. A map of the individual landowner's property illustrating the proposed pipeline alignment was also provided. In relation to the ATS the letter said the following:</p> <p><i>"During our early engagement with landowners, we have proposed APA's voluntary Land Survey Entry Agreement which, where signed, grants voluntary approval for APA and its consultants, subject to conditions, to access properties for the conduct of field survey activities. A copy of that Agreement is attached.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst voluntary agreements are preferred, the Pipelines Act (1967) also allows for the proponent of a pipeline to submit a request to the Minister for Energy and Utilities to consider granting an Authority To Survey (ATS). An ATS, if granted, provides the proponent a right, subject to conditions, to enter private land for the purposes of field survey activities. APA submitted an application for an ATS on 23 March, and an Authority To Survey was granted by the Minister on 30 June. The Minister has outlined certain conditions that apply to the ATS. A copy of the ATS decision and the Minister's conditions is attached for your reference. Your properties are highlighted in the schedule."</i></p>

		<p>Further to the discussion at the Narrabri CCC meeting, APA has further reviewed the contents of the letter and considered what action may be necessary to address any potential confusion. APA's position is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter provides a copy of the voluntary agreement purely for reference and in the interests of transparency and does not suggest that it is for the landowner to sign • It is clear in the letter that any access would be occurring under the ATS and in accordance with the associated conditions • By sending this letter APA was in no way seeking the landowner's agreement to vary the conditions of the ATS • The letter includes an offer to meet with a representative of our team to receive further information and contact details are also provided should landowners have any questions about the project • APA has not been contacted directly by any landowner seeking clarification regarding this issue • Should the Committee members be aware of any landowner that has concerns regarding the letter, current field survey activities or the project in general they should contact APA using the details previously provided to discuss their concerns with view to reaching a resolution.
2	<p>At the Narrabri meeting there was a discussion regarding the potential for future compression facilities along the proposed route of the pipeline. APA was asked to provide a formal response in relation to this item.</p>	<p>APA is not proposing nor seeking approval for a compression facility along the alignment of the Western Slopes Pipeline. The gas will be compressed at Santos' Leewood facility to a pressure suitable to allow it to free flow along the pipeline without further compression.</p> <p>As discussed at the Narrabri CCC meeting, adding an intermediate compression facility is one available mechanism for increasing the operating capacity of the pipeline should there be future demand to do so. Any such proposal would be subject to an entirely separate approval and land access process.</p> <p>APA confirms that it has no such plans nor has it considered potential locations for future compression facilities.</p>
3	<p>APA was asked to make available a copy of the Biosecurity protocol that is being applied to the current field survey activities.</p>	<p>A copy of the Biosecurity Protocol applicable to APA's current fieldwork program is attached for reference (Attachment 2). The following points are made in relation to the protocol and Biosecurity in general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This protocol applies only to current and planned field survey activities during the EIS phase of the project. Subject to the project gaining necessary approvals, further detailed plans will be implemented prior to the commencement of any construction activity. • Should landowners have any property specific requirements these would be applied above and beyond any requirements of APA's own protocol. • APA values feedback from landowners and acknowledges the importance of their local knowledge regarding current biosecurity issues including known areas of weed infestation. Any such information provided to APA during consultation will be used to inform our planned fieldwork such that high-risk areas can be avoided and risks mitigated to the extent practicable.

4	APA was asked to confirm that it has insurance in place to cover the potential for incidents associated with the pipeline.	<p>APA has attached a certificate of currency for our Public Liability policy applicable to the project (Attachment 3). The certificate of currency notes the interest of landowners along the alignment of the project.</p> <p>Such certificates are issued annually and a replacement will be made available upon renewal of the policy.</p>
5	Clarification of Land Access Process and relationship of Voluntary Land Survey Entry Agreements to the Authority to Survey	<p>At both meetings it was apparent there was some confusion about the role of Voluntary Land Survey Entry Agreements and the Authority to Survey which relate to field survey activities and future negotiations regarding an Easement for the Pipeline.</p> <p>APA has prepared a table (see Attachment 4) explaining the main steps in the land access process which will assist individuals to understand the application of these documents to key stages of the project.</p>

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you or any other member of the CCC require further information in relation to the above items.

Yours Sincerely



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APA Group

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