arrow energy
go further

30 August 2013

Ref: EPBC 2012/6459

Emma Cully
Director
Mining Section 1 | Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
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Attention: Lisa Van Vucht – Senior Assessment Officer

Dear Emma

Arrow Bowen Pipeline Project –Request for Variation to Referral (Referral: 2012/6459)

I refer to the Email of 22 July 2013 from Lisa Van Vucht regarding comments on the Preliminary Information for the proposed Arrow Bowen pipeline (ABP).

Arrow Bowen Pipeline P/L (Arrow) submits a request for a variation to the Controlled Action. The variation consists of two elements:

1. Clarification of the scope of the Controlled Action
2. Revision of the proposed pipeline route

1. Scope of the Controlled Action

Arrow would clarify an ambiguity in the initial submission to DSEWPaC and requests a variation to remove references from the Controlled Action to temporary construction camps. Although these camps were identified as being necessary in order to construct the pipeline the initial referral the documentation indicated that camps would undergo an independent application and approval process.

Temporary construction camps will undergo approval under local government planning provisions. The EPC Contractor will be responsible for obtaining any and all approvals for construction camps including applicable Commonwealth approvals. Assessment of the impact of these camps on MNES will occur during baseline environmental surveys and a decision on referral to the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act will be made following assessment of the data collected during the surveys.

Arrow requests that the referral 2012/6459 be varied to remove any inclusion of construction camps from assessment of the Controlled Action.

2. Revision of the proposed pipeline route

Arrow identified a pipeline route within the referral documentation lodged with DSEWPaC. Since the original referral, Arrow has reviewed the upstream (field) development philosophy and the Elphinstone Lateral for the pipeline is no longer required. Also, following public advertising of the ABP EIS and subsequent feedback from the Queensland Government and the Rockhampton Regional Council, Arrow has re-aligned the pipeline route from the Gracemere area near Rockhampton to further occupy the State infrastrure corridor (Stanwell Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor). A map showing the route amendment (deletions shown in red) is attached. A GIS shape file for the current route is attached. Arrow requests that the referral 2012/6459 be varied to remove the former Elphinstone Lateral and the former Gracemere alignment.

The route identified has also undergone minor revisions in response to a number of factors including:

- Avoidance of environmental impact from field surveys and investigations

- Reduction in constraints associated with construction and engineering management (e.g. avoidance of geotechnical instability, rock or steep slopes)
- Negotiations with landholders and other stakeholders (such as State and Local governments, mining or petroleum tenement owners)
- Avoidance of other constraints (such as cultural heritage or contaminated land)

Arrow has used the revised route in the preparation of assessment of clearing and impacts associated with the construction of the pipeline as well as the assessment of risks. Arrow has updated species dossiers to reflect the current alignment (refer Attachment 3).

Arrow provides a response to the matters raised by DSEWPaC on 22 July 2013 in the attached documentation.

Should you have any queries regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me or Greg Lee-Manwar – Pipelines EIS Project Manager on (07) 3012 4489.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Neilson
EIS Manager