



Mr Paul Neilson
EIS Manager
Arrow Energy Pty Ltd
GPO Box 5262
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Neilson

**Decision on referral
Arrow Bowen Pipeline (EPBC 2012/6459)**

Thank you for submitting a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This is to advise you of my decision about the proposed Arrow Bowen Pipeline action, to construct a 580km long buried high pressure coal seam gas (CSG) pipeline from the Bowen Basin to Gladstone (EPBC 2012/6459).

As a delegate of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, I have decided that the proposed action is a controlled action and, as such, requires assessment and a decision on approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed.

It appears that the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on the following matter protected by the EPBC Act:

- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A).

For example, based on the information available in the referral, the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact because it involves clearing habitat for the endangered Bluegrass (*Dichanthium spp.*) dominant grasslands of the Brigalow Belt Bioregions (North and South) and is likely to have indirect impacts on a number of other listed threatened species and communities.

Please note that this decision only relates to the potential for significant impact on the specific matters protected by the Australian Government under Chapter 2 of the EPBC Act.

I have also decided that the project will need to be assessed by preliminary documentation. Each assessment approach requires different levels of information and involves different steps. All levels of assessment include a public consultation phase, in which any third parties can comment on the proposed action.

A copy of the document recording this decision is enclosed.

While I have determined that your project will be assessed by preliminary documentation, some further information is required to be able to assess the relevant impacts of the action. This information is detailed in Attachment A to this letter.

Once we have received the requested information, you will be provided with instructions on the public consultation requirements to progress assessment of the project.

I have also written to the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to advise them of this decision.

If you have any questions about the referral process or this decision, please contact the project officer, Mrs Lisa Van Vucht, at lisa.vanvucht@environment.gov.au or on 02 6275 9922 and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely



David Calvert
A/g Assistant Secretary
Queensland and South Australia Assessment Branch

| November 2012

ATTACHMENT A

Please provide the following further information, which in addition to information already provided, will constitute preliminary documentation for assessment of this project.

Trenchless Drilling

Provide information detailing Arrow Energy's commitment to using trenchless drilling technologies (either horizontal directional drilling or micro tunnelling) for the crossing of waterways and locations where trenchless drilling will be used (for example the Fitzroy and Isaac Rivers, and Twelve Mile, Raglan and Inkerman Creeks).

Also provide information detailing Arrow Energy's commitment to appropriate buffers zones for waterways from project actions, including trenchless drilling activities.

If information detailing Arrow Energy's commitment to trenchless drilling and appropriate buffer zones cannot be provided, present a detailed assessment of impacts (including downstream impacts), survey effort and methodology, amount and type of habitat to be impacted, maps depicting habitat to be impacted, and avoidance, mitigation and management measures specific to each species including but not limited to:

- Yellow Chat (Dawson), *Epthianura crocea macgregori*
- Fitzroy River Turtle, *Rheodytes*
- Grey-headed Flying Fox, *Pteropus poliocephalus*
- Water Mouse, *Xeromys myoides*

Impacts on listed threatened species and communities

Provide a more detailed assessment of impacts for the following listed threatened species and communities:

- Bluegrass (*Dichanthium* spp.) dominant grasslands of the Brigalow Belt Bioregions (North and South)
- Weeping Myall Woodlands
- Black Ironbox, *Eucalyptus raveretiana*
- Squatter Pigeon (Southern), *Geophaps scripta scripta*
- Ornamental Snake, *Denisonia maculata*
- Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory), *Phascolarctos cinereus*
- Brigalow Scaly-foot, *Paradelma orientalis*
- Dunmall's Snake, *Furina dunmalli*

Information provided for each abovelisted species must include, but is not limited to, survey effort and methodology, amount and type of habitat to be impacted, indirect impacts (for example weed invasion or fragmentation), maps depicting habitat to be impacted, and avoidance, mitigation and management measures specific to each species (for example weed management strategies for the Bluegrass ecological community). Where an impact on a species is avoided this should be stated.

Where surveys are proposed prior to construction (for example the Squatter Pigeon), information must be provided around how survey results will inform construction activities (for example placement of infrastructure) to avoid, mitigate or manage impacts. Impacts to habitat must be quantified for these species.

Offsets

Provide sufficient detail around offsets for any residual significant impacts on listed threatened species or communities.

Offsets must comply with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offsets Policy* (October 2012) and accompanying *Offsets assessment guide*, accessible from:

www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/environmental-offsets-policy.html.

Presentation

Preliminary documentation should be bound in a single volume and must be accompanied by an index identifying what documents are included. Information must be presented using language that is intelligible to the general reader, and accompanied by maps, figures, tables, etc where appropriate.