



Northern Territory Government

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

PART A – INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

**FINAL GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF A DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE TRANS TERRITORY
UNDERGROUND PIPELINE
WADEYE TO GOVE
IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

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1 INTRODUCTION

These Guidelines have been developed to assist Alcan South Pacific Pty Ltd in preparing a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Trans Territory Pipeline (TTP) in accordance with Clause 8 of the Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures of the *Environmental Assessment Act (1982)* of the Northern Territory.

These (draft) Guidelines consist of two sections:

- Part A (this section) is the introduction and description of the project and the EIS process; and
- Part B (attached) details the type and extent of information to be included in the Draft EIS. The list includes issues and concerns that were identified before the public and Government review period (for the Draft Guidelines).

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Trans Territory Pipeline Project (TTP) is a joint project for and on behalf of the Blacktip Joint Venture (ENI Australia Ltd and Woodside Energy Ltd and operated by Woodside) and Alcan South Pacific Pty Ltd. The project proponent is Alcan Gove Pty Ltd on behalf of the TTP. TTP proposes to construct a high pressure gas pipeline, approximately 950 km in length, between Wadeye and Gove. The pipeline corridor may also cater for a condensate export pipeline for condensate export to potential markets in the Northern Territory and beyond.

The gas pipeline will transport treated gas from the Blacktip Field to supply fuel to the Alcan Alumina Refinery in Gove. The pipeline will consist of a buried high tensile steel pipe located in a corridor of up to 30 metres wide. Above ground facilities at intervals along the pipeline route will include compressor stations, meter stations, scraper stations, mainline valves and other ancillary facilities. In the event of a condensate pipeline being layed in the gas pipeline trench there will be a need for road tanker loading facilities located at appropriate intervals along the pipeline route.

The TTP pipeline is intrinsically linked to the Blacktip Offshore Field development and the proposed gasification plans for Alcan's Alumina Refinery at Gove. This development may also provide an alternative gas supply infrastructure to other potential gas customers in the Northern Territory. The pipeline will be constructed and operated in accordance with the requirements of Australian Standard AS2885.

The proposed gas pipeline will be designed, welded, tested, operated, maintained and decommissioned in accordance with relevant legislation, license conditions and Australian Standards.

3 PURPOSE OF THE EIS

The draft EIS aims to provide:

- a source of information from which individuals and groups may gain an understanding of the proposal, the need for the proposal, the economic and other benefits that might arise from the project, the alternatives, the environment that it would affect, the impacts that may occur and the measures taken to minimise those impacts;
- a social impact assessment of the project that includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous social and cultural impacts
- a basis for public consultation and informed comment on the proposal; and
- a framework against which decision-makers can consider the environmental aspects of the proposal, set conditions for approval to ensure environmentally sound development and recommend an environmental management and monitoring program.

The object of these Guidelines is to identify those matters that should be addressed in the draft EIS. The Guidelines are based on the initial outline of the proposal in the NOI. Not all matters indicated in the Guidelines may be relevant to all aspects of the proposal. Only those matters that are relevant to the proposal should be addressed. The Guidelines, however, are not necessarily exhaustive. They should not be interpreted as excluding from consideration any matters which are currently unforeseen that emerge as important or significant from scientific studies or otherwise during the preparation of the draft EIS, the public consultation process and the preparation of the Supplement to the draft EIS (response to submissions).

The proposal has been declared a controlled action under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act)* because it was considered likely to have significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities and listed migratory. The proposal will be assessed in accordance with Schedule 1 to the “Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Northern Territory under s.45 of the *EPBC Act* relating to Environmental Impact Assessment” (the Bilateral Agreement).

The draft EIS should be a self-contained and comprehensive document written in a clear, concise style that is easily understood by the general reader. Cross-referencing should be used to avoid unnecessary duplication of text. Text should be supported where appropriate by maps, plans, diagrams or other descriptive material. Detailed technical information and baseline surveys should be included as appendices.

Content in the draft EIS should include both quantitative and qualitative analysis as appropriate. Impacts should not just be treated as adverse: beneficial effects should also be identified.

The justification of the project in the manner proposed should be consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Assessment of the environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives should be comprehensive. For the purpose of these Guidelines, the “principles of ecologically sustainable development” are as follows:

- the precautionary principle - namely, that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation;
- inter- and intra-generational equity - namely, that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;
- conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity; and

- improved valuation and pricing of environmental resources.

4 EIS PROCESS

The EIS process, as described by the Administrative Procedures of the *Environmental Assessment Act 1982* of the Northern Territory, is displayed in Figure 1.

Overview of the Process

Once the Minister has determined that an EIS is required, the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) prepares Draft Guidelines for Preparation of an EIS, after consulting with relevant advisory bodies.

These Draft Guidelines are then subject to public review for a 14-day period. At the end of this period, OEH has 14 days to finalise the Draft Guidelines for Ministerial approval. If approved, final Guidelines are forwarded to the proponent.

When the proponent has prepared a Draft EIS, this document is exhibited for public review and comment for a minimum of 28 days, during which time advisory bodies also comment on the document.

Comments are forwarded to the proponent, who addresses issues in a Supplement to the Draft EIS. The Supplement is then reviewed by advisory bodies.

OEH then has 35 days to prepare an Environmental Assessment Report and Recommendations based on the Draft EIS and Supplement. If the Minister approves the Report and Recommendations, these are forwarded to the responsible (consent) Minister(s) for inclusion in permit, lease or license conditions and in relevant management procedures (eg. Environmental Management Plans).

The Assessment Report and Recommendations are included on the OEH website and hard copies are provided to respondents and selected public libraries and viewing sites.

5 ADMINISTRATION

To assist the public to understand the geographic extent and scope of the project the words “Wadeye to Gove” and “Underground” must be included in the title of the EIS.

The Project Officer is Mr Rod Johnson from the Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment. The contact number is (08) 8924 4002 and facsimile (08) 8924 4053, e-mail: roderick.johnson@nt.gov.au

Three “Preliminary” copies of the Draft EIS should be lodged with the Office of Environment and Heritage for internal review prior to release for public and advisory body comment.

Once this internal review is complete and any necessary changes implemented by the proponent, approximately 20 bound copies of the Draft EIS will be required for distribution to NT advisory bodies and public viewing locations (eg. libraries, council offices, etc.). Five hard copies and two CD ROM copies should be lodged with the NLC.

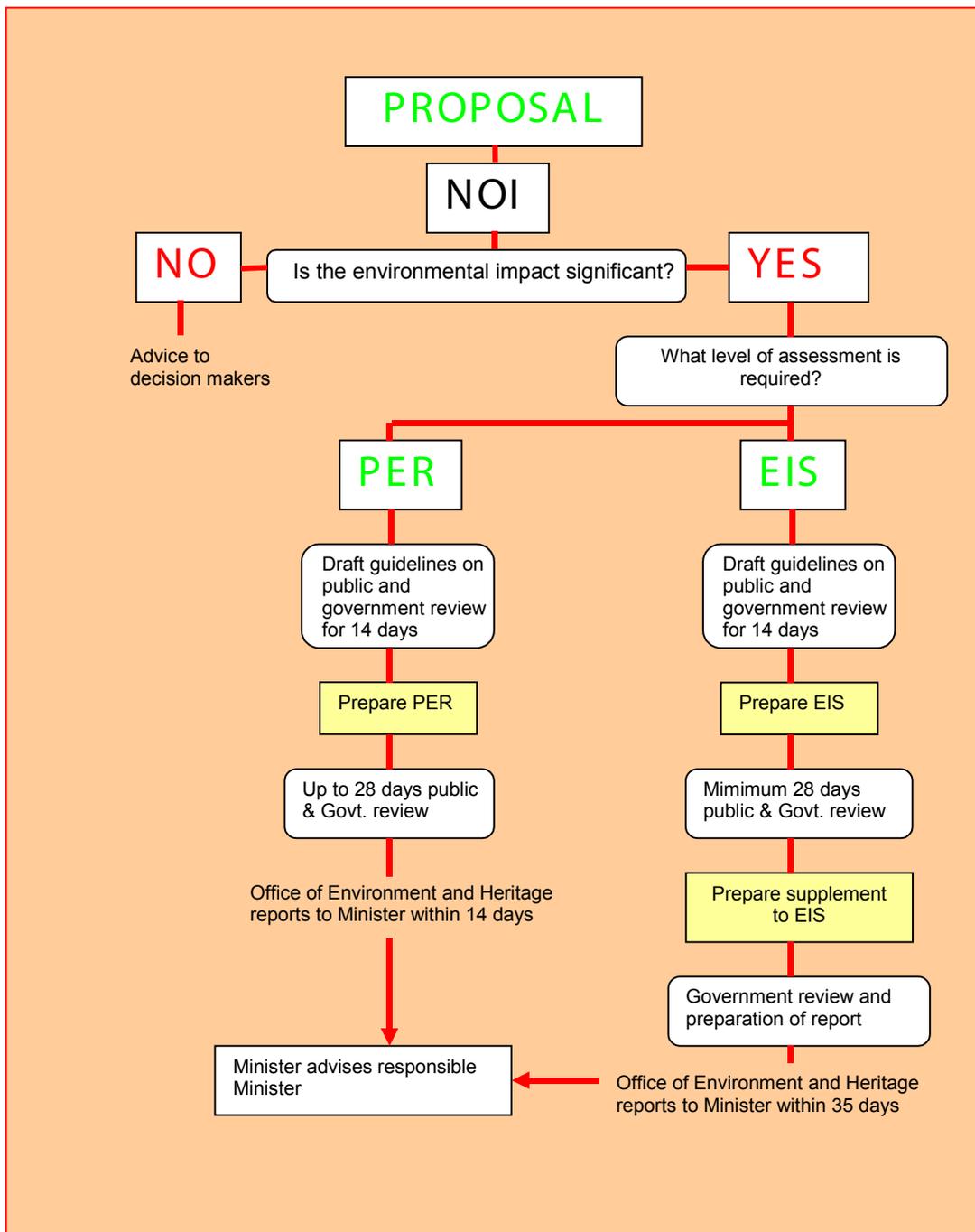
Given the pipeline traverses the Territory and passes through various remote communities along the route it is imperative that the EIS is available for public review in the following communities:

- Wadeye - council and school
- Palumpa
- Peppimenarti
- Daly River - council and school
- Kybrook
- Jawoyn Association
- Kalano Association
- NLC Katherine Regional office
- Barunga
- Jilkmingun
- Wugularr (Beswick)
- Bulman
- Weemol
- Ngukurr
- Barrapunta
- Gapuwiyak
- Ramingining
- Galiwinku
- Dhanbul Association - Yirrkala
- Laynhapuy Homelands Association - Yirrkala
- Marngarr Association (Ski Beach)

- NLC Regional Office – Nhulunbuy
- Doyinji

In addition, 8 CD ROM copies (in ADOBE*.pdf format) plus two unsecured Microsoft Word copies should be submitted (to allow placement on the Office's Internet site and to facilitate production of the Assessment Report and Recommendations).

The proponent should also consider producing at least several copies for direct sale to the public, on request.



6 **FIGURE 1**

The Northern Territory Environmental Assessment Process.