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Director Industry and Infrastructure Policy
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001
Via online submission

**FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY
(INFRASTRUCTURE) AMENDMENT (REVIEW) 2016**

The Australian Pipelines and Gas Association (APGA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) Amendment (Review) 2016.

APGA is the industry body representing the owners, operators, designers, constructors and service providers of Australia's high pressure gas transmission infrastructure. Through the work of APGA's Pipeline Corridor Committee, APGA has contemplated the interface of planning decisions, pipeline regulation and public safety for many years.

APGA is particularly interested in the proposed amendments to Part 3 Division 9 of the draft Infrastructure SEPP, being the section covering with high-pressure gas transmission and distribution pipelines.

**Schedule 8 Amendment of State Environmental Planning
Policy (Infrastructure) 2007—development
adjacent to gas pipeline corridors**

[1] Part 3, Division 9, Subdivision 2, heading (Corrects a heading.)

Omit "in". Insert instead "adjacent to".

[2] Clause 55 Development adjacent to corridor

Omit clause 55 (1). Insert instead:

- (1) Before determining a development application for development adjacent to a gas pipeline corridor, the consent authority must:
 - (a) give written notice of the application to the pipeline operator concerned within 7 days after the application is made, and
 - (b) take into consideration any response to the notice that is received from the pipeline operator within 21 days after the notice is given.

The draft amendment proposes to extend the requirement to consult with pipeline operators on development in pipeline corridors to development adjacent to pipeline corridors.

This is an important modification that will improve the ability of planners, pipeline regulators and pipeline operators to enhance public safety outcomes.

It is not apparent to APGA that there is any advice provided through the Infrastructure SEPP or other formal advisory notes to assist decision makers in determining:

- the appropriate extent of the area **adjacent to** a pipeline that is of interest to pipeline operators; or
- the development types of particular interest to pipeline operators.

APGA considers that there is potential to prepare an Advisory Paper or similar to ensure consistent application of Part 3 Division 0 of the Infrastructure SEPP across NSW.

We would be happy to work with the Department of Planning and Environment to develop such advice.

APGA can also advise that we have developed a new service to provide all relevant information on high-pressure gas pipelines to government planners from a single source.

The Australian Pipeline Database

APGA has worked with high-pressure gas transmission operators to develop a new service, the Australian Pipeline Database (APD), to assist government planners in determining relevant areas adjacent to high-pressure pipelines. The Australian Pipeline Database is an industry initiative designed to improve communication with government stakeholders responsible for planning decisions to ensure there are opportunities for early engagement. The database provides a single point for a government planning agency to access information on pipelines in its jurisdiction. The GIS information includes pipeline centerline, the location of above-ground facilities and the measurement length around each pipeline.

The information is available for government planning agencies to download into their own GIS systems or to access through an online service. When using the online service, users can conduct address or lot plan searches associated with development proposals and produce reports detailing the information relevant to their search. These reports provide contact information to enable planners or proposal makers to easily contact pipeline operators and commence engagement.

APGA is available to discuss these matters with the Department, please contact me on 02 6273 0577 or sdavies@apga.org.au to arrange a demonstration of the APD.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Davies
National Policy Manager