



Department of Natural Resources and Environment

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Our Ref: SP329510, 01L5-3601/13 (243)
NA-LI/01/0005
Your Ref: L12/0200/14(2)
Contact: Peter Shadwick

Date: 6 August 2001

Attention: Andrew Cockerall

Mr Darryl Fitzgerald
Manager Development Services
Mildura Rural City Council
PO Box 105
MILDURA 3502

Dear Sir,

**PLANNING PERMIT A00/096
'MURRAYLINK' DEVELOPMENT,
BERRI, SA TO RED CLIFFS, VICTORIA**

I refer to the above planning permit issued on the 2 August 2001.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) has undertaken extensive consultation with the proponents with regard to the above planning permit, including a number of on-site inspections.

The Planning permit was issued on the condition that the following items be forwarded and endorsed by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, prior to the commencement of works.

1. Plans drawn to scale of all areas where native vegetation is to be cleared and areas where the minor utility installation crosses land zoned Public Conservation Resource Zone and Special Use zone.
2. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP), be developed for the project in accordance Section 7 of the "*Murraylink - Application Report*" (Ref AN9066-01) and page 6 of the Report of 19 May 2000 (Ref AN9066-C01-S680). All works are to be undertaken in accordance with the approved Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
3. Detailed rehabilitation plans, to be prepared as part of the an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the project in accordance Section 7 of the "*Murraylink - Application Report*" (Ref AN9066-01) and page 6 of the Report of 19 May 2000 (Ref AN9066-C01-S680). All rehabilitation works are to be undertaken in accordance with the approved Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment has received and reviewed the above mentioned documents, and provides the following comments and recommendations.

Environmental Management Plan (PIHA Pty Ltd)

Page 18 11.8 Protection of Flora and Fauna

In Victoria wildlife is protected under the *Wildlife Act* 1975. Flora and fauna are not “already protected by the clearing of a 4m wide easement”.

The Department requires that any sick, injured or orphaned wildlife found must be reported to NRE as soon as practicable. Such animals must be held in a well and transported ventilated enclosed box, away from noise and disturbance. The location (GPS UTM reference) and the circumstances of how the animal was found must be recorded. A single contact from Murray Link be designated for managing these incidents.

Stack (set down) Sites

Stack sites are those sites where plant (machinery), equipment, vehicles and cable drums are temporarily stored along the cable route. As there may be in excess of 100 stack sites along the whole route the total impact of these may be significant.

All native flora species are protected in Victoria. Native flora includes trees, shrubs and grasses. Areas without trees or shrubs may still contain significant protected flora species. As such care must be taken in the choice of stack sites

In order to minimise the impacts of set down areas on conservation values, set down areas are to be chosen according to the following selection criteria:

- Utilise cleared freehold land wherever practicable
- Utilise existing and permitted stacksites wherever practicable
- Use disturbed areas (often weed infested) free of native vegetation (including native grasses)
- Use road shoulder or table drain where and when the risk of traffic interference and rain are minimal
- Use cleared fire breaks where practicable
- Use minimum area for set down areas, including access areas.
- All access points and areas to be clearly marked prior to initial use.
- Utilise the road formation where practicable

10% of stack sites should be used as photo points to determine impacts and weed infestations. Photos to be taken up to 12 months after final use.

Machinery Movement (*esp. Turn around sites*)

Machinery turn around points and access sites shall be located so as to limit any disturbance to native vegetation including grasses and ground cover species. Where practicable sites chosen should be:

- highly degraded areas,
- wayside stops or
- property driveways or
- defined roadside access points.

**Sub-Plan 2.1: Weed and Pest Animal Control
Monitoring and review**

The cable route will need to be periodically monitored for several years following cable installation & rehabilitation to ensure priority weeds (most notably Hardheads) have not been spread along the cable route. Special attention will need to be given to washdown areas. NRE staff will assist in this monitoring.

Washdown Areas

Washdown areas have been listed on page 16 of the PIHA Pty Ltd EMP for the Murraylink Project. The third washdown area (Crown Land – end) is not marked on Survey Map 10 as listed.

Having regard to the above comments and recommendations, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment is satisfied with the Environmental Management Plan and associated plans and that Transenergie have demonstrated a commitment to minimising the environmental impacts of this project and therefore has no objection to the execution of Planning permit no A00/096 for the commencement of works.

Please contact me at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Mildura, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully,

**John Cooke
Manager Sunraysia
Northern Irrigation**

cc Mike Farr, TransEnergie
Siobhan Rogan, Parks Victoria
Mat Crawley, Millewa Carwarp Landcare Group