



Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Lands  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **GAS PIPELINE DUPLICATION BOOSTS ENERGY RELIABILITY**

The NSW Government has approved the duplication of a key section of gas pipeline between Young and Wagga Wagga.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the \$38 million duplication will help secure the State's energy supplies as demand increases.

"East Australian Pipeline's project will increase the storage capacity of the existing pipeline by up to 30 terrajoules a day, or more than 60%," the Minister said.

"This represents the first step in increasing the capacity of gas flow between NSW and Victoria."

The existing pipeline supplies gas to towns in the central south of the State such as Griffith, Cootamundra, Young and Wagga Wagga, and also part of a broader network of lines connecting to Sydney and Melbourne.

Mr Kelly said it provides a key link between the Victorian supply network and the pipelines that supply NSW.

"As gas demand continues to grow, the need for additional infrastructure also increases," the Minister said.

"This proposal will deliver important additional capacity to the NSW gas supply network, increasing the security of supply to existing and future gas-fired electricity generators.

"As part of a planned ongoing upgrade of the remaining NSW to Victoria network, it will provide operational flexibility to suppliers and users, further boosting reliability in the face of increasing demand.

"Projects like this will help the Government achieve its State Plan target of 99.98% electricity reliability for NSW by 2016, and a 60% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050."

The new 61 kilometre section of pipeline will be constructed along an existing easement between the townships of Bomen and Bethungra, that mostly contains already disturbed vegetation.

Nonetheless, Mr Kelly said East Australian Pipeline will offset any cleared vegetation at a ratio of two to one, through measures such as revegetating and rehabilitating land.

"It's one of the 57 conditions placed on the project covering issues such as flora and fauna, construction noise and Aboriginal heritage," the Minister said.

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