Public invited to have a say on gas pipeline proposal in southern NSW

The community is being invited to comment on a proposed 70km natural gas pipeline from Bethungra to Young, in southern NSW.

The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure is publicly exhibiting the environmental assessment for the proposal for one month from Monday 6 August to Friday 7 September 2012.

East Australia Pipeline Pty Limited is proposing to construct a 450mm high pressure natural gas pipeline from Bethungra to Young. The pipeline would be installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and within a 20m easement, and would complete the duplication (looping) of the existing Young to Wagga Wagga pipeline.

The project is the second stage of the Young to Wagga Wagga pipeline duplication and will connect to a 61km section previously laid from Bomen, near Wagga Wagga, to Bethungra in 2010. The existing pipeline already provides natural gas to towns in the Riverina, Cootamundra, Young and Wagga Wagga. The completion of the duplication will enhance the ability to move natural gas interstate between the New South Wales and the Victorian supply systems.

The proponent was required to address a number of issues in its environmental assessment including potential land use conflicts, ecological impacts, heritage, surface and groundwater impacts, the potential impact on existing infrastructure such as roads, rail and other utilities, and construction impacts including noise, vibration and dust.

Submissions received during the public exhibition period, along with the proponent’s response to submissions document, will be made available on the department’s website and will be carefully considered as part of the department’s assessment of the project.

To comment on the proposal, members of the public are invited to inspect the project’s environmental assessment online at http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au or during regular business hours at:

- Department of Planning and Infrastructure - Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- Young Shire Council – 189-205 Boorowa Street, Young;
- Junee Shire Council – Corner Belmore and Stewart streets, Junee;
- Cootamundra Shire Council – Wallendoon Street, Cootamundra;
- Harden Shire Council – 3 East Street, Harden; and
- Nature Conservation Council – Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown.

Submissions will be made publicly available. Those who do not want their name or other personal details to be made available should clearly state this in their submission.
Submissions can be:

- Faxed to (02) 9228 6455;
- Posted to Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001; or
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au or via the entry for the project on the department’s website http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au

**Media contact:** Laurel-Lee Roderick, (02) 9228 6128

Note: The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is issuing this media release to encourage the community to take part in the planning process. However, it is the role of the proponent (either through its documents published on our website or otherwise) to provide further specific details about the proposal.