Job security supported by proposed new Western Sydney Employment Area controls

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and 50 ongoing jobs are among the benefits of proposed new planning controls to permit a 4.7km gas pipeline in the Western Sydney Employment Area (WSEA).

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure today placed on public exhibition an amendment to the WSEA State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP).

This amendment will allow the construction of a pipeline between the Transpacific Industries (TPI) landfill site at Erskine Park and the Austral Bricks plant at Horsley Park.

Neil McGaffin, Department of Planning and Infrastructure Acting Deputy Director General for Planning Operations and Regional Delivery, said the pipeline would allow gas to be transferred from the landfill to help power the bricks plant.

Mr McGaffin said Austral has submitted applications to Fairfield and Penrith councils to develop the gas pipeline which cannot currently be approved as the proposed route crosses small sections of land zoned for environmental conservation.

However, the majority of the proposed pipeline crosses land zoned for general industrial purposes.

The proposed new planning controls, on exhibition until 31 January 2014, will allow ‘pipelines’ to be an additional permitted land use in environmental conservation zones.

“This initiative will reduce the release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and at the same time provide an affordable energy supply to the brickworks – helping secure existing jobs at the plant,” Mr McGaffin said.

The construction of the short pipeline is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts on the environmental values of the land in question – and the route largely follows the Warragamba-Prospect water pipelines.

If these proposed new planning controls are confirmed, the pipeline development application will need to be assessed by Fairfield and Penrith Councils and approval given before construction work can begin.

More information about the proposed new controls is available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals

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