## NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF **PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES**



# **NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE**

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PROGRESS REPORT

Report 1: Q3 2017

#### **SUMMARY**

The NGP Project must meet its environmental commitments in accordance with the EIS, Development Permits and the EPBC Referral. The project team are monitoring daily to ensure compliance with regard to 'Procedural Compliance' and 'Regulatory Compliance'. Procedural compliance relates to the formal monitoring and reporting systems that are in place between Jemena and McConnell Dowell (MCD). Regulatory compliance relates to the environmental commitments arising from the approvals process. Additionally, environmental requirements and commitments are discussed in the daily pre-start meetings and weekly tool box meetings where relevant activities are being undertaken.

Daily meetings on site focus on the general project status with the following relevant information:

- Weed management
- Fauna management
- Number of environmental inspections per type (daily, weekly or pre/post rainfall)
- Number of Environmental Trainings provided

Weekly meetings address the following:

- Environmental incidents
- Weed management
- Fauna management
- Number of environmental inspections per type (daily, weekly or pre/post rainfall)
- Number of Environmental Trainings provided

This report summarises internal project audit findings and findings and reporting resulting from DPIR inspection and compliance monitoring activities conducted in the period July through to October 2017.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

ACTION	MONITORING ACTIVITY	FINDING	RECOMMENDATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
Environmental Audit - Jemena	Between 13 and 16 October 2017 an audit of McConnell Dowell (MCD) compliance with the environmental commitments from Northern Gas Pipeline (NGP) approvals processes was conducted by Jemena.  The purpose of the audit was to ensure that each commitment was:  Captured in documentation such as management plans or registers Implemented with records kept to demonstrate compliance	All reviewed documentation was demonstrated to be Issued for Use, i.e. revision 0 (or later) and approved to use. Documentation was clear, concise and captured the majority of the commitments. Daily and Weekly reports were given to Jemena, with key registers in place.  There were 119 relevant commitments addressed during this audit with only a single non-compliance identified which related to recycling of ferrous and non-ferrous metals.  Eight commitments have Room for Improvement:  Four of these commitments were demonstrated on site to be compliant however were not explicitly outlined in a plan or procedure	<ul> <li>Update NCR template with a 'Date Issue Raised' field as well as a place for the proposed corrective actions to be signed off.</li> <li>Daily reporting templates are updated to report on start and finish time of trench clearing of fauna.</li> <li>Daily and weekly reporting to show fauna deaths as a proportion of captures.</li> <li>Update procedures to explicitly state no intention of storage of chemicals nearby to drainage lines and waterways.</li> <li>A water quality register be created and maintained.</li> <li>The water quality data is required to be analysed by an appropriately qualified person against the relevant water quality criteria.</li> <li>Review the spread of vegetation during reinstatement to achieve rehabilitation outcomes.</li> </ul>	Not applicable

ACTION MONITORING ACTIVITY	FINDING	RECOMMENDATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
The status of documentation, incident reporting (between the Jemena and MCD), communication of project status and non-compliances was also reviewed for context.	<ul> <li>One relates to weed management issues which has now been resolved</li> <li>One is for the vegetation not being consistently spread across reinstated areas</li> <li>One relates to a recommended update on reporting of fauna mortality in the daily and weekly reports</li> <li>One is for some mud at the junction of some access tracks with the Barkly Highway.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ensure that any planting of Buffell Grass at the start of the NGP does not affect meeting rehabilitation criteria.</li> <li>Minimise excess soil from where access tracks enter the Barkley Highway.</li> <li>Ensure third party review of ESCP is completed for development permit locations.</li> <li>Ensure procedure for separating ferrous and nonferrous metals is in place.</li> <li>Documentation showing engagement of licenced waste handler and transporter and any clearance certificates for removal of bio-solids should be made available.</li> <li>All bins should be kept secured.</li> <li>Update construction planning documents to include the requirement for water bore drillers to be licenced.</li> <li>Update construction planning documents to include the requirement that no water will be extracted from watercourses.</li> </ul>	

ACTION	MONITORING ACTIVITY	FINDING	RECOMMENDATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
Biodiversity and Fauna Management	Fauna ramps and shelters have been used to meet compliance of the Biodiversity Management Plan and Trench Inspection Procedure that was approved during the EIS process to reduce the opportunity for fauna to fall into the trench and reducing fatalities by trench design and fauna management.  Trench inspections were conducted while there was open trench between August and November 2017	A total of 11,749 fauna was recorded with a mortality rate of less than 6%.	Earth plugs are being placed within 1km intervals with slopes of less than 45° allowing fauna egress.  An example of an in-trench fauna shelter is shown in <i>Figure.1</i> , which are being placed within 500m of each. These shelters are hessian sacks filled with sawdust and placed leaning against the wall of the trench, thereby allowing animals to hide beneath them.	Figure.1 - In-trench fauna shelters

ACTION	MONITORING ACTIVITY	FINDING	RECOMMENDATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
Reinstatement	Reinstatement is in progress along the ROW.	All trenching and backfilling complete for the first 262 km of the pipeline.  Soil is being returned back into the trench with vegetation spread.  An example is shown in <i>Figure.2</i> .		Figure.2 - Reinstatement of ROW

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Environmental Inspection - DPIR	NT DPIR inspected the progress of construction works including the reinstatement along the ROW on 24 October 2017.	The top soil was returned back into the trench with vegetation spread along the ROW.  DPIR Inspectors observed that some areas were thinly reinstated along the ROW due to limited scrub being available. As the areas are re-covered by the topsoil and limited vegetation this requires careful ongoing monitoring to ensure adequate progress of revegetation.  Photos taken by DPIR Inspectors on 24 October 2017 are shown in <i>Figures.</i> 3 & 4	A follow-up inspection is planned for 1st Quarter of 2018 for the DPIR Inspectors to check up on the progress of the ROW reinstatement.  Figure.3 & 4 - DPIR Inspectors' observations during inspection on 24 October 2017.	20/7/18/2/