

16 February 2006



Ms Jennifer Wolcott  
Director Policy and Legislation  
Minerals & Petroleum  
Department of Primary Industries  
GPO Box 4440  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Ms Wolcott

**Re: Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the  
Environment Effects Act**

The Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA) would like to take this opportunity to comment on the above guidelines.

The final draft of the guidelines is concise, and provides industry with clear guidance on the Environmental Effect Statement and its processes. It is also encouraging to note the sensible timelines for response from government.

However, APIA would like to comment on the provision of language translations to appropriate stakeholders (pg 11). As the formal language of Australia is English, we believe that it is not our legal responsibility to provide documents in additional languages. Nevertheless we agree that interpretive services could be part of the consultation process at industry's discretion and not by government direction.

Also, industry should not be required to meet the costs associated with panel inquiries (pg 22) as this is a government process. As well as unnecessary, such a requirement could raise questions about the independence of the process.

Finally, APIA is concerned that the government might require industry to exchange information about respective projects (pg 16). Such a proposal has serious commercial implications, particularly if the projects are in competition.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

CHERYL CARTWRIGHT  
Chief Executive

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