

***Environmental Protection Act 1986***

**Section 40(2)(a)**

**NOTICE REQUIRING INFORMATION FOR ASSESSMENT**

**PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN**

APA Northern Goldfields Interconnect Pty Ltd (ACN 646 298 142)  
Level 5/233, Adelaide Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

**PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES:**

Northern Goldfields Interconnect Pipeline

Pursuant to section 40(2)(a) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, I, as a delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), require that you provide the EPA with the following information for its assessment.

**1. Issue 1 - Flora and vegetation**

- The EPA notes that the flora and vegetation survey undertaken within the Murchison region was not conducted during the optimal time to detect and identify the range of flora likely to occur in the eastern portion of the project area. Please provide justification for the adequacy of the flora and vegetation survey undertaken, and advise whether a follow up survey will be conducted during the optimal time for the Eremaean botanical province.
- Please provide an adequate assessment regarding the significant residual impacts to the State listed Priority 3 ecological community '*Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt*', and vegetation associations with a level of less than 30 per cent of pre-clearing extent, from the proposal to determine whether offsets are required.

**2. Issue 2 – Indirect impacts to Threatened flora**

- The flora and vegetation survey identified a population of Threatened flora species *Eucalyptus beardiana* within the development envelope.
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While the EPA notes that there will be no direct clearing of *E. beardiana*, its proximity to the proposed pipeline is considered likely to have an indirect impact to the population. Please provide information on how horizontal directional drilling may inadvertently impact this population and, where relevant and appropriate, the avoidance and mitigation measures for these potential indirect impacts.

- Please provide confirmation that an application for Authorisation to take Threatened flora under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* will be submitted to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

### **3. Issue 3 – Impacts to fauna**

- The referral document states that there will be minimal impact to Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat from the proposal. The EPA notes that the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt and Banksia shrublands within the western portion of the development envelope provide suitable habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo. Please provide further consideration of impacts to this species, to assist EPA in understanding the amount of habitat to be impacted and the potential significant residual impacts to this species.
- Please provide an adequate assessment regarding the significant residual impacts to fauna habitat from the proposal, particularly habitat for conservation significant fauna species, to determine whether offsets are required.

### **4. Issue 4 – Fauna mitigation measures**

- The referral document states that there will be fauna egress points every one kilometre within the proposed pipeline trench and trench inspections will be completed daily, in the morning and evening. Please consult with DBCA on the proposed fauna mitigation measures and demonstrate that these protocols are appropriate to mitigate risks to fauna species likely to occur within the project area.

### **5. Issue 5 – Social Surroundings - Aboriginal heritage**

- Please provide evidence and information on the outcome of the consultation with the eight identified Traditional Owner groups as well as appropriate knowledge-holders. Where relevant and appropriate, please demonstrate how any comments were considered and incorporated into the proposal.
- Please provide information on the indirect impacts to Aboriginal Heritage from the implementation of the proposal.

## 6. Issue 6 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- It is noted that the referral document provides estimated scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions for the proposal during the construction and operation stages for the proposal. As the purpose of the proposal is to ensure a reliable and increased supply of gas to existing and future industries within the Mid-West region and the Goldfields, it is requested that you provide credible estimates of scope 3 emissions over the life of the proposal, as set out in the EPA's Environmental Factor Guideline for Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

## 7. Issue 7 – Other factors – subterranean fauna

- The EPA notes that the proposed pipeline will intersect five calcrete priority ecological communities (PECs), which have the potential to support locally endemic subterranean fauna communities. Please provide information that demonstrates that suitable habitat for subterranean fauna does not occur in the proposed development envelope, as stated in your referral document. Where there is suitable habitat please identify the potential impacts of the implementation of the proposal on the subterranean fauna communities within these PECs and, where relevant and appropriate, the avoidance and mitigation measures for any potential indirect impacts.

## 8. Issue 8 – IBSA Data Package

- Please provide an Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA) data package for each biodiversity survey report undertaken in accordance with the Instructions and Form: IBSA Data Packages. These instructions and forms are available on the EPA's website <https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/forms-templates/instructions-preparing-data-packages-index-biodiversity-surveys-assessments-ibsa>

Please advise the EPA by 15 April 2021 when the updated information will be available for the EPA to continue its assessment. Lina Ramlee is the assessment officer for this proposal and may be contacted on 6364 7124 or at [lina.ramlee@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:lina.ramlee@dwer.wa.gov.au).

Your response should be sent by email to [registrar@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:registrar@dwer.wa.gov.au) marked for the attention of the person cited in the covering letter, or by post to the Environmental Protection Authority, Locked Bag 10, Joondalup DC, Perth WA 6919. Please quote the case number **CMS17949** on any further correspondence.

The EPA will not proceed with its assessment of the proposal until you have provided the requested information and it is considered to be adequate, or if you advise the EPA that the further information is not available and/or cannot be obtained.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MAT TONTS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Professor Matthew Tonts**  
CHAIR

6 April 2021