



Environmental Protection Authority

The Atrium,
Level 8, 168 St Georges Terrace,
Perth, Western Australia 6000.
Telephone: (08) 6467 5000.
Facsimile: (08) 6467 5557.

Postal Address: Locked Bag 33,
Cloisters Square, Perth, Western Australia 6850.
Website: www.epa.wa.gov.au

General Manager
Horizon Power
PO Box 1066
BENTLEY DC WA 6102

Our Ref A543828
Enquiries Mike Pengelly
Phone 6467 5428

Attn: Alastair Trolove

Dear Sir/Madam

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 39A(3)
*Environmental Protection Act 1986***

PROPOSAL: South Hedland 220kV Transmission Line
LOCATION: between South Hedland Power Station and Hedland Terminal
PROPONENT: Horizon Power
DECISION: Not Assessed – Public Advice Given

Thank you for your letter referring the above matter to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

This proposal raises a number of environmental issues. However, the EPA has decided not to subject this proposal to the environmental impact assessment process and the subsequent setting of formal conditions by the Minister for Environment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Nevertheless, the staff of the Office of the EPA has provided the attached advice to you as the proponent, and other relevant authorities on the environmental aspects of the proposal

The EPA's decision to not assess the proposal is open to appeal. There is a 14-day period, closing 22 October 2012. Information on the appeals process is available through the Office of the Appeals Convenor's website, www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au, or by telephoning 6467 5190.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Sutton
Director
Assessment and Compliance Division

8 October 2012

Encl

PUBLIC ADVICE UNDER SECTION 39A(7)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

This advice applies to a proposal referred to the EPA by Horizon Power on 5 September 2012. The proposal is to construct a Power Transmission Line between South Hedland Power Station and Hedland Terminal, Port Hedland.

Horizon Power is proposing to meet an increase in power demand for the Town of Port Hedland generated by economic growth in the region.

Construction of South Hedland Power Station was recently approved under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and a Clearing Permit (Purpose Permit CPS 4049/2) has been issued. The existing Horizon Power transmission line does not have adequate capacity to sustain the expected increase in power supply from South Hedland Power Station; therefore, construction of a 220 kV transmission line to link the South Hedland Power Station with Hedland Terminal is required.

Implementation of the proposal would involve the following:

- Construction of a 220 kV transmission line of approximately 7 km in length.
- Construction of approximately 20 steel towers, 65 m high and situated approximately 350–400 m apart.

The EPA notes that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact and provides the following advice and recommendations regarding environmental issues:

Vegetation

The proposal would result in the clearing of up to 20 hectares (ha) of native vegetation, most of which is considered to be in 'excellent condition'. It is likely that the most of this will remain for future power line maintenance.

There are no threatened species or TECs known to occur in the proposal area. The creek line vegetation associated with South West Creek will be avoided and a buffer of 50 m to creek line vegetation will be maintained.

The proposed clearing for this proposal would be conducted under Horizon Power's existing Purpose Clearing Permit (Purpose Permit CPS 4049/2).

Fauna

Up to 20 ha of habitat will be disturbed and a proportion of this permanently cleared, resulting in the likely displacement of native fauna.

The proponent's survey identified five Specially Protected (threatened) fauna that may be present in the proposal area. These species are all considered to be common and widespread in the Pilbara Region.

Horizon Power has undertaken extensive consultation with all relevant regulatory agencies prior to referral and it is expected that it will produce an appropriate Construction Management Plan to submit to the Department of Environment and Conservation for approval prior to commencement of construction. Horizon Power also referred the proposal to SEWPaC for consideration under the EPBC Act.