



## Australian Government

### Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Alison West  
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

Date: 23 December 2008  
EPBC Ref: 2008/4620  
EPBC contact: Jeannine Lisle  
02 6274 1657  
Jeannine.lisle@environment.gov.au

Dear Ms West

#### **Decision on referral Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline**

This proposed action, to construct a high pressure natural gas pipeline (approx. 833 km in length) from Wallumbilla in the Surat Basin of south central Queensland to Newcastle, New South Wales, has now been considered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

**We have decided that the proposed action is not a controlled action and, as such, does not require assessment and approval by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts before it can proceed.**

A copy of the document recording this decision is enclosed.

Please note that this decision relates only to the potential for significant impact on the specific matters protected by the Australian Government under Chapter 4 of the EPBC Act.

There may be a need for separate state or local Government environment assessment and approval to address potential impacts on state, regional or local environmental values.

The Department has an active audit program for proposals that have been referred or approved under the EPBC Act. The audit program aims to ensure that proposals are implemented as planned and that there is a high degree of compliance with any associated conditions. You should be aware that your project may be selected for audit by the Department at any time and all related records and documents may be subject to scrutiny. Information about the Department's audit strategy is enclosed.

If you have any questions about the referral process or this decision, please contact the EPBC project manager and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Skippington  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment Assessment Branch