

2 PETITION - AGL GAS PIPELINE

FILE REFERENCE INT1853237

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the petition regarding the AGL Crib Point to Pakenham High Pressure Gas Pipeline and advise the lead petitioner that it is Council's preference that the pipeline follows road reserves and existing easements to minimise the effect on farming land and communicate this to local State Members of Parliament.

Attachments

Nil.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To consider a petition previously presented to the Victorian Legislative Assembly raising concern with the proposed Crib Point to Pakenham High Pressure Gas Pipeline.

The prayer of the petition reading:

We, the undersigned, call on the Legislative Assembly of Victoria to reject the pipeline alignment proposed by AGL for its Crib Point to Pakenham High Pressure Gas Pipeline and that the alternate pipeline design put forward by residents and food growers be adopted by AGL for its pipeline, for the following reasons:

- 1. The risk to valuable high production agricultural land, which forms a substantive part of Melbourne's food bowl.*
- 2. The potential risk of a significant event (leak, explosion or fire) which would compromise human and food safety.*
- 3. Negative impacts on farming enterprises and therefore local employment and other businesses dependent on the farming enterprises.*
- 4. Disruption to private landowners and the environment.*
- 5. Destruction of endangered species habitat (e.g. Southern Brown Bandicoot).*
- 6. The landowner identified route makes better use of existing linear infrastructure, takes into consideration current and future land use considerations and community needs and has the least practical impact on landowners.*

BACKGROUND

AGL are proposing to install a floating gas storage facility at Crib Point that would be resupplied with Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) by ships from interstate and overseas. This gas import jetty is proposed to be connected by a pipeline to an existing gas pipeline in Pakenham that will be approx. 55kms long. It is the alignment of this pipeline that has raised concerns with the farming communities along the proposed alignment of the pipeline.

The petitioners have proposed an alternative alignment that does not impact on farmland to the extent that the AGL proposed alignment does.

In discussions with AGL Council has suggested that the pipeline alignment should follow existing road reserves and easement to minimise any impact of productive farmland along the proposed route.

The final alignment has not been decided at this stage.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NII

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

Supporting the petitioners in this matter is in keeping with the following Council Plan goals

- Ensure the planning of rural (green wedge) areas protects and enhances important agricultural, environmental, natural resource, infrastructure and recreational values.
- Manage agricultural land use by supporting farmers to utilise sustainable farming practises.
- Support our farmers and growing agricultural industry in adapting to the changing economy and climate.
- Identify innovative ways to value-add to the region's primary production and transportation.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

AGL Have undertaken local community consultation regarding the proposed alignment of the pipeline

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

NII

CONCLUSION

It is considered appropriate for the Council to support the concerns raised by the petitioners and advise them that it is Council's preference that the pipeline follows road reserves and existing easements to minimise the effect on farming land.