

**Environmental Impact Classification  
Pursuant to Section 98 of the *Petroleum Act 2000***

**Pipeline Licence 1 – Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline, South Australia**

**1 July 2003**

**INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to section 98 of the *Petroleum Act 2000* (the Act) the Minister must classify the regulated activities covered by a prepared Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as either low, medium or high impact.

The classification must be made on the basis of:

- The prepared Environmental Impact Report (EIR);
- Criteria established for classifying the level of environmental impact of regulated activities, a copy of which is found on the PIRSA Petroleum Group web page: (<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/dhtml/ss/section.php?sectID=437&templD=8>); and
- Comment received from Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), Planning SA and Department for Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) in accord with established administrative arrangements between these respective departments and PIRSA.

This document summarises the classification made by PIRSA on the Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline (PL1). This classification is based on the information provided in the EIR and draft Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) both dated March 2003, as submitted to PIRSA by Epic Energy on 24 March 2003.

**SUMMARY OF CLASSIFICATION**

- 1) From an analysis of the environmental significance of the various potential impacts associated with this operation – summarised in attachment #1 against the classification criteria – this regulated activity has been classified as **low impact**.
- 2) DWLBC made no comments on this classification.
- 3) Comments received from DEH on 30 June 2003 had no specific comments to make on the assessment, but stated that the major environmental issues were adequately covered by the EIR. As such DEH do not envisage there being any foreseeable environmental problems arising from Epic Energy's operation of the Moomba to Adelaide pipeline if they adhere to management measures stated in the EIR and maintain open communication with their stakeholders.
- 4) Planning SA had no comments to make regarding the classification.

Therefore pursuant to delegated powers dated 28 March 2002 and Gazetted 11 April 2002, I hereby classify this regulated activity as low impact.

**Barry A. Goldstein**

Director Petroleum

Minerals and Energy Division

Primary Industries and Resources SA

Delegate of the Minister for Mineral Resources Development





<b>PROJECT:</b>	PIPELINE LICENCE 1																
<b>ACTIVITY:</b>	OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE																
<b>PIRSA FILE:</b>	SR 11/5/238/6																
<b>ASSESSOR:</b>	ANGELA CRIMES (Reviewed by Richard McDonough, Manager Pipeline Operations)																
<b>Date:</b>	May 2003																
REF	PIPELINE ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL EVENT/IMPACT	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES	PREDICTABILITY						MANAGEABILITY						COMMENTS	ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE
				SIZE	SCOPE	DURATION	FREQUENCY	STAKEHOLDERS	SIGNIFICANCE	AVOIDANCE	PROBABILITY	DURATION	SIZE AND SCOPE	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS	STAKEHOLDERS		
4.1.1, appendix B (no. 2)		Vegetation control along ROW	Removal of remnant vegetation	H	H	H	H	H	1	Yes						1 Requirement to remove vegetation to just above root level on the ROW to maintain the line of sight of pipeline markers. Trees are trimmed rather than cleared where appropriate. As this is undertaken within 2m of the pipeline, it is not expected to impact on any remnant vegetation.	Low
4.4, appendix B (no. 3)		Introduction of weeds via maintenance work	Spread of weed into remnant vegetation Loss of vegetation through competition with weed infestations	H	M	M	M	H	2	No	Med	Med	Confin ed		3 The spread of weeds along the ROW is an issue for inspection activities. Tends to be related to land use and rainfall patterns. Areas of known infestation have been identified and marked. Management measures include targeted eradication, vehicle washdown.	Low	
4.4, appendix B (no. 1, 22)		Spraying of weeds along ROW	Loss of remnant vegetation adjacent to weed spray areas.	M	H	H	H	H	2	No	Med	Short			2 To prevent the movement of weeds by pipeline operations periodic spraying is conducted. This occurs annually for the African Rue weed. Spraying can potentially affect other native species, but this is expected to be minor and short term and wouldn't occur outside the ROW. To minimise the likelihood of this occurring, weed infestations are clearly	Low	
4.1, 4.12.2, appendix B (No 15)		Fire caused by welding activities	Loss of remnant vegetation	M	L	M	H	H	4	Yes					1 The possibility of a fire resulting from welding activities is minimised through appropriate maintenance control measures for safe work practices. To date there have been no incidents involving fire as a result of welding activities	Low	
<b>Fauna</b>																	
4.2, appendix B (no. 12)		Unscheduled maintenance work requiring vegetation clearance	Loss of habitat	H	M	M	M	H	2	No	Med	Med	Confin ed		3 As the work is to be undertaken within the easement it is likely that any habitat clearance will be in previously disturbed areas and over a confined area. To minimise disturbance the activities will be undertaken in the shortest possible time to facilitate rehabilitation, and land contours/features will be re-established to maintain habitats/niches consistent with the surrounding environment.	Low	
4.2, appendix B (no. 12)		Faunal entrapment during excavation work	Injury or loss of native fauna and/or stock	H	M	H	M	H	2	No	Low				1 There is the possibility that native fauna will become entrapped during excavation work. These sites are fenced to prevent stock access. Measures such as escape ramps are used to assist fauna escape from trenches and the trenches will be open for the minimum possible time.	Low	
4.2, appendix B (no. 3)		Vehicle impact with fauna during inspection activities	Injury or loss of native fauna	H	H	H	M	H	2	No	Med	Short			2 Vehicle impacts are possible during the lifetime of pipeline operation and could occur whenever a vehicle passes along the ROW. The likelihood is reduced by vehicles being restricted to designated access tracks and the ROW.	Low	
		Faunal disturbance during inspection and maintenance activities	General disruption to fauna. Disruption to faunal breeding activities	M	H	H	M	H	2	No	High	Short			2 In the lifetime of the pipeline's operation it is likely that activities will disturb localised fauna. All activities will be undertaken over a relatively short period of time, which will minimise disturbance	Low	
<b>SENSITIVE AREAS</b>																	
<b>National Parks</b>																	
3.3.3, 4.7.1, 4.7.2		None	None												Pipeline passes through the Strzelecki Regional Reserve and Gammon Ranges National Park. No work is undertaken within the National Park without the prior permission of the ranger at Balcoona and NPW are contacted regarding conservation values prior to commencing work. No impacts are expected to conservation areas other than those addressed under soil, flora nad fauna		
<b>SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT</b>																	
<b>Heritage</b>																	
4.10, appendix B (no 6, 12)		Operation and maintenance work on uncleared heritage sites. Work undertaken on previously identified sites without clearance	Damage to or loss of sites or artefacts of cultural heritage significance	M	H	H	M	H	2	No	Low				1 Likely to be minimal impact due to activities being located within the previously disturbed easement. Potentially sensitive archaeological areas have been identified. Risk minimised through gaining archaeological clearance for any significant work; all known sites are registered and included in planning documents; induction of employees;	Low	
<b>Community Health</b>																	

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4.12, Appendix B (No 11)		Loss of pipeline integrity from third party interference or pipeline corrosion	Injury to or loss of third parties	M	M	M	M	H	2	Yes							1 The pipeline is constructed, operated and maintained to the AS 2885 pipeline standards. Measures implemented to minimise the risk of a pipeline incident include regular inspections; property contact with all landowners; community awareness program; pipeline warning signs. Where shortfalls are identified, a corrective action program is initiated.	Low
4.8		Fugitive noise emissions	Nuisance to third parties	H	M	H	H	H	2	No	Low						1 Noise emission levels to comply with <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i> and <i>OHSW Act 1986</i> .	Low
4.9, appendix 2 (no. 10)		Gas purging towards built up areas	Risk to third party safety	M	L	M	H	L	4	No	Low						1 Purging does not occur if prevailing meteorological conditions compromise public air quality.	Low
4.9, appendix 2 (no 6, 17)		Dust generation from vehicle movement or excavation activities	Injury risk to third parties from driving in dust clouds	M	M	M	M	H	2	No	Med	Short					2 Dust generation will be minimised through minimising excavation time and limiting vehicle speeds on the ROW	Low
		<b>ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT</b>																
		<b>Natural Resource Impacts</b>																
1.5.2, 4.7, appendix B (no. 12)		Soil inversion as a result of excavation work	Loss of soil fertility Reduction in income	M	H	M	M	H	2	Yes							1 Soil inversion can be avoided by stockpiling topsoil and subsoil separately and ensuring that they are reinstated properly, as per environment management plans. Impacts to landowners will be restricted to the area of disturbance. If soil inversion were to affect farm productivity, the area affected would be minor, and it is a requirement under Part 10 of the Petroleum Act 2000 that landowners will be entitled to compensation if the damage is not made good by the licensee.	Low
		Disruption to landowner activities	Reduction in farm productivity	H	H	H	M	H	2	No	High	Short					2 Any areas impacted are expected to be minor. It is a requirement under Part 10 of the Petroleum Act 2000 that landowners will be entitled to compensation for impairment of the use of the land and for compensation for any damage or disturbance not made good by the licensee.	Low
4.7		Spills to ground on chemical free or organically certified properties	Significant reduction in farm income	M	L	M	M	H	4	Yes							1 There are a number of properties along the pipeline route that have chemical free or organic certification, which could be lost if a spill is not managed appropriately resulting in lost income. Landholders will be liaised with regarding chemical usage on their properties and consulted where a spill	Low

27-Jun-03

Angela Crimes  
Environmental Project Officer  
Petroleum Operations  
PIRSA  
GPO Box 1671  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Angela

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the EIR and SEO for the Epic Energy pipeline operation. The Department for Environment and Heritage has considered the application described below by consulting with the various groups within the Department.

**DME** SR11/5/238/6 **type:** PL  
**Locality:** Moomba - Adelaide  
**Applicant:** Epic Energy Pty Ltd  
**Application Type:** Pipeline Operation

**The following comments are offered**

It has been recognised that Epic Energy have compiled documents that provide a comprehensive coverage of the major issues involved with the pipeline operation and maintenance. It is not envisaged that there would be any foreseeable problems arising of an environmental nature if the company adheres to their guidelines, and maintains an open flow of communication with key stakeholders.

The following additions/information is provided for consideration for finalising these documents.

**SEO:**

**Objective 1:**

- **Objective Achieved 1.2 – point 1** – should read “No unresolved reasonable landholder complaints”

**Objective 3:** New points in

- **Objective Achieved 3.2:** “In conservation areas DEH approval required prior to vegetation clearance outside easement”
- **Objective Achieved 3.3:** “ No fauna deaths as a result of activities”

**EIR:**

**Section 3: Description of Environmental Information**

This section should include EPBC Act (1999) ratings for flora and fauna of conservation significance in addition to listing the National Parks & Wildlife Act (1972) ratings.

**Section 3.4.3 – Conservation:** Approval for works within the conservation areas should be directed in writing to the District Ranger, North Flinders – Ken Anderson who is based at Wilpena Park Headquarters.

**Section 4.4.2 Mitigation Procedures for Pest Plants and Animals**

African Rue is a problem in some of the areas traversed by the pipeline easement. It is important that the vehicle washdown procedures are adhered to, in particular for these areas.

There are only minor infestations of Onion Weed north of the Wirrealpa section of pipeline. The EIR should reflect this knowledge and ensure that adequate procedures are in place to help prevent the spread of this particular problem weed through transport via vehicles.

I trust that the above information can be incorporated into the EIR and SEO for the successful operation of the Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline. The Department for Environment and Heritage looks forward to working closely with Epic Energy in the operation of this pipeline especially through the reserve areas under our control and those of high conservation value.

Yours sincerely

Ben Waining  
Environmental Management Officer  
Natural and Cultural Heritage  
Department for Environment and Heritage SA

## Crimes, Angela (PIRSA)

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**From:** Rigter, Vince (DWLBC)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 June 2003 8:44 AM  
**To:** Crimes, Angela (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline Draft SEO

Good morning Angela

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the draft SEO for the Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline project.

Please be advised that this Department has no comment to make on the draft SEO for the Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Vince Rigter  
Planning Officer  
Resource Management Division  
Department of Water, Land  
and Biodiversity Conservation  
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## Crimes, Angela (PIRSA)

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**From:** Wheaton, Simon (PLNSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 June 2003 3:03 PM  
**To:** Crimes, Angela (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: PL 1 EIR and draft SEO Comments

Ok, sorry about the lateness but had another report to finish.

SOE:

5. insert "and subsurface" after "surface"

5.1. add "Maintain Subsurface Drainage Characteristics"

Objectives and Assessment

5. add as above.

References to subsurface drainage impacts is lacking in the EIR. I remember bringing up this point at the first meeting on this project but wasnt able to attend subsequent meetings.

Simon

Simon Wheaton  
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Environmental Impact Assesment Branch  
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