

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: BMB Gas Pipeline

Proponent: ANZON Australia Ltd (ANZON)

Description of Project:

Anzon proposes to bring natural gas onshore from its Basker, Manta, Gummy offshore oil and gas fields to a location, 7km south of Newmerella. The proposal will require the establishment of an easement and construction of a 10.5km onshore pipeline to connect to the Eastern Gas Pipeline. The works will require that minor gas odour injection and metering infrastructure to be constructed as part of the pipeline. The establishment of the pipeline easement and construction works will require the removal of up to 2 habitat hectares of native vegetation that has a conservation status of Least Concern within the East Gippsland Lowlands Bioregion.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has determined that an Environment Effects Statement is not required for this proposed gas pipeline, subject to the following conditions;

- That ANZON Australia Limited, prior to the removal of any native vegetation, prepare a native vegetation offset and implementation plan to the satisfaction of the Gippsland Regional Director of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Reasons for Decision:

- Notwithstanding any direction by the Minister administering the *Pipelines Act 2005*, the likely environmental effects are of local significance because of;
 - the limited footprint of above ground plant associated with the project;
 - the gas supply does not require onshore processing prior to connection to the domestic gas grid;
 - the low potential for significant adverse visual impacts subsequent to the construction phase of the project;
 - the native vegetation to be removed not being of high local significance and will be required to be offset in a manner consistent with Victoria's Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action, (2002) policy document;
 - the requirement for the proponent to prepare a consultation plan to engage with landowners and occupiers that is to the satisfaction of the Minister administering the *Pipelines Act 2005*;
 - the *Pipelines Act 2005* providing for public notice of the application for a pipeline licence and a suitable process for assessment and management of environmental and social effects having regard to the magnitude of the environmental risks involved.

Date of Decision: 14 May 2007