



**Gladstone Area
Water Board**

Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline

Annual Compliance Report EPBC 2007/3501

17 January 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	5
2.	Description of Activities	5
2.1	Project Description	5
3.	Addressing All Approval Conditions EPBC Approval Summary	6
4.	EPBC Approval Conditions and The Compliance Table	6
5.	Designations to Record Findings	7
6.	Methodology.....	7
7.	Findings.....	7
7.1	Project Status	7
7.2	Overview	8
8.	Correcting non-compliances.....	8
9.	New environmental risks	8
10.	Conclusions.....	9
APPENDIX A	EPBC Approval Conditions Compliance Table	10
APPENDIX B	Photographs.....	13

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1: Description of the activities	5
--	---

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1: FGP Pipeline location and sections	6
--	---

Document Revisions and Amendments

Document Details

Issue Date	17 January 2025	Doc No.	1151-DL00-GWB-XEV-RPT-00001
------------	-----------------	---------	-----------------------------

Revision Details



Revision	Description	Author	Date
0	Issued for Use		17 January 2025

Report Approvals

Role	Name	Approved/Signature	Date
FGP Approvals Manager			17 January 2025
Project Director			17 January 2025

Declaration of Accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed	
Full name	
Position	FGP Approvals Manager
Organisation (including ABN/ACN)	Gladstone Area Water Board ABN 88 409 667 181
Date	17 January 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this compliance report is to examine the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline Project's compliance with the conditions of approval to ensure that matters under the Environment Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) are protected. This report has been prepared for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to assess that project activities have been implemented as approved.

The Variation of Conditions attached to approval Gladstone-Fitzroy Water Pipeline, Queensland (EPBC 2007/3501) had a date of decision 20 June 2022. The purpose of this Compliance Report is to satisfy Condition 5 of the EPBC approval.

2. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The details of the approved action are summarised in Table 2-1 and a description provided in Section 2-1 below.

Table 2-1: Description of the activities

Item	Details
EPBC number	EPBC 2007/3501
Project name	Gladstone- Fitzroy Water Pipeline, Queensland (also more usually known as the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline Project)
Person to whom the approval is granted	Gladstone Area Water Board ABN: 88 409 667 181
Approved action	To construct and operate a pipeline having a length of approximately 110 kilometres and associated infrastructure to transport up to 30 Gig Litres of water per annum from an intake potin at Laurel Bank on the Fitzroy River to Gladstone, near Aldoga, Queensland
Location of the project	Rockhampton to Gladstone, Queensland
Signed declaration	See signed declaration above
Reporting period	29 August 2023 to 28 August 2024
Date of report preparation	17 January 2025

2.1 Project Description

The 117 km Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline (FGP) runs from the Lower Fitzroy River at Laurel Bank, with most of its length within the Stanwell-Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area (SGIC SDA), and then connects with Gladstone Area Water Board's (GAWB) existing infrastructure near Yarwun within the Gladstone State Development Area (GSDA). The FGP is predominately a mild steel concrete lined (MSCL) pipeline with a diameter of 1,067 mm. At either end of the pipeline, i.e., from the intake facility to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and the Aldoga Reservoirs to the GAWB existing infrastructure, the pipeline will be High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) ranging in diameter of 900 – 1,200 mm.

The FGP will provide up to 30,000 ML per year for long-term water security to industry and urban supply in Gladstone and address the single source water supply risk from Awoonga Dam, which has repeatedly suffered from failed wet seasons. It will also support the emerging hydrogen and renewables sector that is set to expand in Gladstone.

GAWB is the project proponent. The McConnell Dowell and BMD Constructions Joint Venture (MBJV) are the design and construction contractor for the FGP.

The pipeline is divided into three sections, described below and illustrated in Figure 2-1.

Northern Section

- Fitzroy River intake facility and pump station on the southern bank of the Lower Fitzroy River, near Laurel Bank
- Alton Downs water treatment plant, pump station and reservoir – 3 km from the Lower Fitzroy River
- approximately 15 km of pipeline

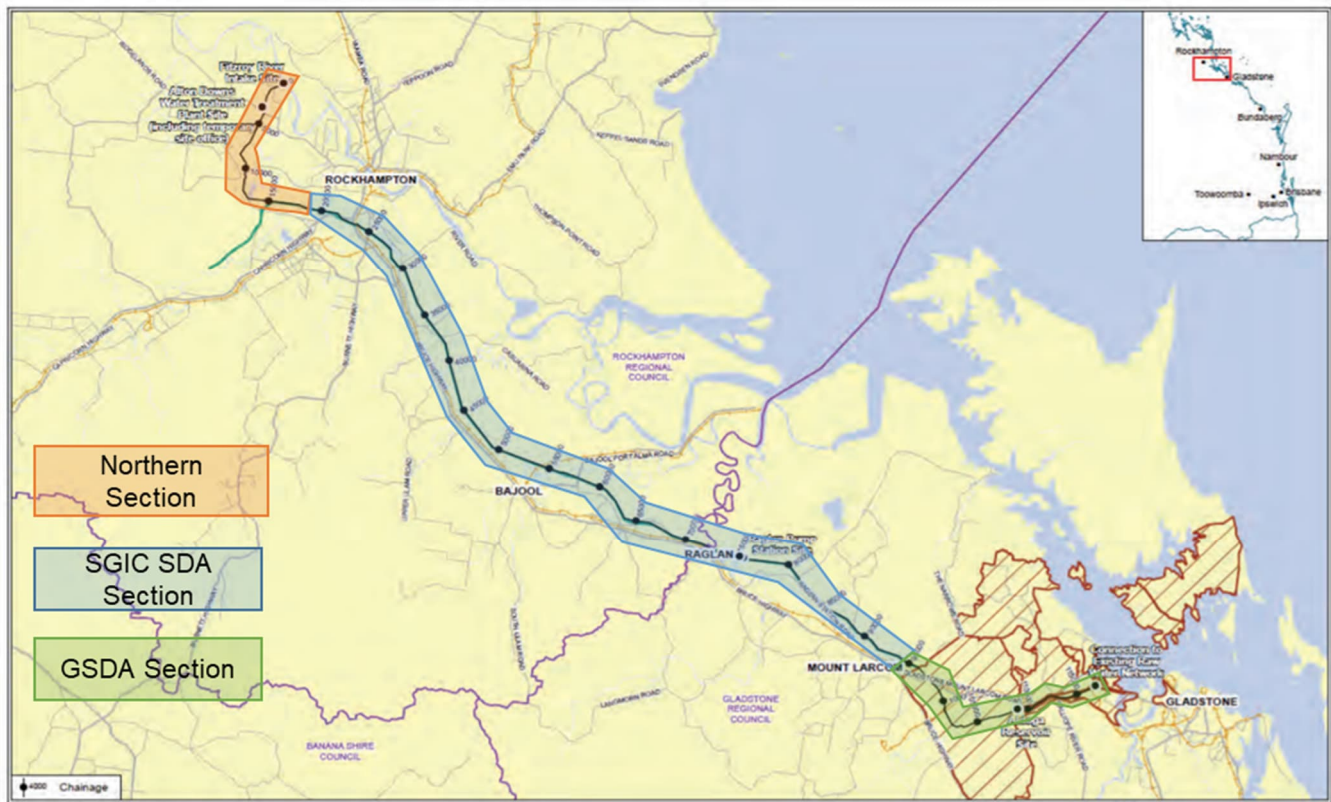
Stanwell to Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor (SGIC) State Development Area Section

- approximately 80 km of pipeline

Gladstone State Development Area (GSDA) Section

- Aldoga reservoirs, near Gladstone
- approximately 20 km of pipeline

Figure 2-1: FGP Pipeline location and sections



3. ADDRESSING ALL APPROVAL CONDITIONS EPBC APPROVAL SUMMARY

All conditions of the EPBC Approval have been considered and the level of compliance with each condition assessed, refer to complete list of conditions of EPBC approval in Appendix A.

To support the approval conditions, the relevant Management Plans are listed and discussed.

4. EPBC APPROVAL CONDITIONS AND THE COMPLIANCE TABLE

A condition compliance table containing the full wording of the condition, condition reference number, compliance assessment, and summary supporting evidence has been provided in Appendix A.

5. DESIGNATIONS TO RECORD FINDINGS

The following designations have been used to record findings in the compliance table (refer Appendix A):

Compliant

'Compliance' is achieved when all the requirements of a condition have been met, including the implementation of management plans or other measures required by those conditions.

Non-compliant

A designation of 'non-compliant' must be given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition, including the implementation of management plans and other measures, have not been met.

Not applicable

A designation of 'not applicable' must be given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition fall outside of the scope of the current reporting period. For example, a condition that applies to an activity that has not yet commenced.

6. METHODOLOGY

The annual compliance review included a site visit on 10 and 11 December 2024 and review of construction documentation provided by the MBJV.

The audit team was comprised of [REDACTED] (FGP Approval Manager and Certified Lead Environmental Auditor Exemplar # [REDACTED]) and [REDACTED] (Principal Environmental Engineer, Worley Consulting - Assistant Auditor).

The site visit included a meeting with [REDACTED] (MBJV Environment Manager) at the Gracemere site offices to discuss the project's compliance with approval conditions and view supporting documentation from MBJV. Visiting the work areas allowed the audit team to view a majority of the active work areas located within the Northern, SGIC and GSDA sections. The audit team was escorted by [REDACTED] while on site.

7. FINDINGS

7.1 Project Status

At the time of the audit, construction activities were underway, at different sections of the ROW, including:

- cleared/grubbed ready for trenching and pipe-laying
- pipe laying activities
- reinstated post pipe-laying
- rehabilitated, i.e., surface reprofiled and respread with topsoil
- trenchless waterway crossings
- Fitzroy River intake structure
- Alton Downs water treatment plant
- Aldoga reservoir

Please refer Appendix B for some photographs illustrating construction progress and environmental management control measures.

7.2 Overview

The EPBC Approval Conditions compliance assessment findings are presented in the Compliance Table at Appendix A. A summary of findings is outlined below:

- Total number of conditions: 10
- Active conditions: 10
- Compliance with conditions: 10

The examination of each of the individual EBPC conditions of approval has found the FGP project to be compliant with the approval requirements.

The evidence provided demonstrates:

- The CEMP was approved by the Queensland Coordinator General and submitted to the department and is published on the project website.
- The SAPs (Trenchless Waterway Crossings, Ornamental Snake and Brigalow Habitat, Larcom Creek, Lion Creek and Yellow Chat Habitat) were approved by the Department and provided to the Queensland Coordinator General and are published on the project website.
- A research initiative report into the critically endangered Yellow Chat "Ecological Drivers of Breeding and Habitat Use of Yellow Chats" - Report for the Gladstone Area Water Board, Wayne Houston, Robert Black, Rod Elder, Leif Black (January 2012) was issued to the department and is published on the project website.
- The department was advised at the time of commencement of the construction activities.
- Detailed project records are kept on activities associated with conditions of approval including construction records maintained in MBJV construction management systems.
- Compliance auditing against conditions of approval (EPBC and Coordinator General) has been conducted by both GAWB and MBJV and submitted to relevant regulatory authorities.
- No requests have been received from the Minister for any revision of a management plan or for any independent audit of compliance.
- Revised Special Area Plans for the Yellow Chat Habitat and Trenchless Waterway Crossings approved by the Minister letter in October 2024.

8. CORRECTING NON-COMPLIANCES

There were no findings of non-compliance and accordingly no details of any corrective measures taken were required to be summarised in this report.

9. NEW ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

The revised SAP Trenchless Waterway Crossings and SAP Yellow Chat Habitat were updated to remove the May-September construction window based upon new information from a CYC specialist assessment report. The CYC assessment report supporting the SAPs' amendments was approved by the department in October 2024 (outside the reporting period) and included a risk analysis and relevant control measures incorporated in the SAPs. The revised SAPs are published on the project Website: <https://www.gawb.qld.gov.au/projects/fitzroy-to-gladstone-pipeline/> - refer to Management Plan and Documents tab.

The site visit, interviews and documentation review undertaken to support this evaluation of compliance with EPBC approval conditions did not identify any new environmental risk that may have become apparent during the reporting period.

10. CONCLUSIONS

The project has achieved a high level of compliance with the EPBC conditions of approval during the 12 month reporting period 29 August 2023 to 28 August 2024.

No non-compliances were identified in relation to any of the variation of conditions attached to approval EPBC 2007/3501.

The next EPBC Annual Compliance Report will be due within 3 months of 28 August 2025.

APPENDIX A EPBC APPROVAL CONDITIONS COMPLIANCE TABLE

Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline Project

Gladstone Area Water Board

EPBC Approval Conditions Compliance Table

EPBC 2007/3501, Audit Report Date: 17 January 2024

EPBC Approval 2007/3501		Supporting Evidence	Compliance Assessment
Condition 1			
1	<p>To avoid and mitigate impacts to protected matters, each management plan must be approved by the Coordinator-General prior to commencement of the relevant stage or sub-stage (if applicable) of the action to which that management plan applies. Within 20 business days of the Coordinator-General having approved a management plan, the person taking the action must submit the approved management plan to the department and publish it on the website.</p>	<p>The Queensland Co-ordinator General approved the FGP project's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), confirmation email from OCG 31 July 2023.</p> <p>The CEMP is relevant for the whole project and covers all relevant stages or sub-stages. The approved CEMP was submitted to the DCCEEW (email from DEECCW 28 August 2023), within 20 business days of approval.</p> <p>Special Area Plans were prepared and approved (email from DEECCW 28 August 2023) environmental management measures for Commonwealth listed species and habitats namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Trenchless Waterway Crossings (October 2024)* Ornamental Snake and Brigalow Habitat within the SGIC (June 2023)* Larcom Creek GSDA (July 2024)* Lion Creek Trenched Crossing (June 2023)* Yellow Chat habitat within the SGIC (August 2024) <p>Approved CEMP and Special Area Plans are available on the project website (refer to Management Plans and Documents dropdown): https://www.gawb.qld.gov.au/projects/fitzroy-to-gladstone-pipeline/ - refer to Management Plans and Document tab near bottom of page</p>	Compliant
Condition 1A			
1A	<p>The management plans may be prepared and submitted in connection with the following stages and sub-stages (if applicable):</p> <p>a. the early works stage, including preparatory works (other than excluded early works and the other preparatory works referred to in paragraph (b) of the definition of commencement), for:</p> <p>i. the northern sub-stage, comprising works located in the area from the intake facility on the southern bank of the Lower Fitzroy River, near Laurel Bank, to where the proposed action intersects with the northern boundary of the Stanwell-Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area on Lot 71 on CP LIV40477 (called the Northern Sub-Stage);</p> <p>ii. the SGIC SDA sub-stage, comprising the works located in the Stanwell-Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area and the Raglan booster pump station and reservoir located on Lot 125 on SP 257851 (called the SGIC SDA Sub-Stage); and</p> <p>iii. the GSDA sub-stage, comprising the works located in the Gladstone State Development Area (called the GSDA Sub-Stage);</p> <p>b. the construction stage for:</p> <p>i. the Northern Sub-Stage;</p> <p>ii. the SGIC SDA Sub-Stage;</p> <p>iii. the GSDA Sub-Stage; and</p> <p>c. the operational stage.</p>	<p>The CEMP was prepared to cover all stages and sub-stages of the project. The CEMP incorporates all Northern, SGIC and GSDA works.</p> <p>An Operational Management Plan will be prepared in the future, anticipated in late 2025.</p>	Compliant
Condition 1B			
1B	<p>The person taking the action must not commence the excluded early works unless a Constraints Protocol for avoiding, minimising and recording impacts to protected matters has been submitted to the department and approved by the Minister in writing. The Constraints Protocol must:</p> <p>a. detail the measures which will apply to excluded early works to avoid, minimise and record impacts to protected matters; and</p> <p>b. specify a hierarchy of constraints which will apply to excluded early works, having regard to:</p> <p>i. the likely presence of protected matters; and</p> <p>ii. the listing status of protected matters and quality of habitat for protected matters.</p> <p>The person taking the action may elect not to commence the excluded early works for the early works stage or relevant sub-stage prior to the relevant management plans being approved by the Coordinator General and submitted to the department, in which case this condition 1B will have no application to those excluded early works.</p>	<p>No excluded early works were undertaken and Condition 1B has no application. Excluded Early Works Constraints Protocols were prepared and approved by the department (approval letter dated 20April 2023), however these we not required.</p>	Compliant
Condition 2			
2	<p>The person taking the action must submit to the department, and publish on the website, the results of the research initiative into the critically endangered Yellow Chat, under the Coordinator-General's requirement condition 10. The results must be provided to the department within 12 months of completion of the research initiative.</p>	<p>Mr Wayne Houston from Central Queensland University was engaged by GAWB and undertook the Yellow Chat bird population field study, commencing in July 2010 and completed in December 2011, capturing two breeding seasons for the birds.</p> <p>A final report was received by GAWB, "Ecological Drivers of Breeding and Habitat Use of Yellow Chats" - Report for the Gladstone Area Water Board, Wayne Houston, Robert Black, Rod Elder, Leif Black. (January 2012). A copy of the report was issued 26 March 2012 (within 12 months of the completion of the research initiative) to the then Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.</p> <p>A copy of this Yellow Chat Research Initiative report is available on the GAWP FGP Project website: https://www.gawb.qld.gov.au/projects/fitzroy-to-gladstone-pipeline/</p>	Compliant
Condition 3			
3	<p>Within 20 business days after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the department in writing of the actual date of commencement.</p>	<p>Email advice regarding the date of commencement of work in the Northern Section (subsequently progressed to adjacent SGIC section) was emailed to DCCEEW on 15 September 2023, actual date of action commencement 29 August 2023.</p> <p>Email advice regarding the date of commencement of work in the GSDA was emailed to DCCEEW on 10 March 2024, actual date of commencement of this section 10 March 2024.</p>	Compliant
Condition 4			

Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline Project

Gladstone Area Water Board

EPBC Approval Conditions Compliance Table

EPBC 2007/3501, Audit Report Date: 17 January 2024

EPBC Approval 2007/3501		Supporting Evidence	Compliance Assessment
4	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement any management plan(s) specified in these conditions and make them available upon request to the department. Such records may be subject to audit by the department or an independent auditor and may be used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	<p>Detailed project records are kept on activities associated with conditions of approval including construction records maintained in MBJV construction management systems.</p> <p>Compliance auditing has been conducted by both GAWB and MBJV.</p> <p>The following GAWB audits to assess compliance against the conditions of approval have been conducted and submitted to the relevant regulatory authorities (Commonwealth and State):</p> <p>*EPBC 2007/3501 - this audit report, dated 17Jan 2025</p> <p>*Stanwell Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor (SGIC) APC2024/004, Coordinator General, Audit No.1 03Nov23, Audit No.2 in progress due 31Jan25</p> <p>*Gladstone State development Area (GSDA) AP2022/006, Coordinator General, Audit No.1 23Apr23, Audit No.2 in progress due 31Jan25.</p> <p>*Aldoga Reservoir GSDA 2023/004, Coordinator General, Audit No.1 dated 05 Dec2023.</p> <p>These audits have found no major non-compliances with conditions of approval and that management plans have been implemented effectively. Opportunities for improvement have been identified in each audit for action and noted for follow-up to confirm close out in subsequent audits.</p> <p>No environmental non-compliance notices have been raised by Queensland Coordinator-General, Department of Environment Tourism, Science and Innovation, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Rockhampton City Council or Gladstone Regional Council in relation to any environmental incidents or the environmental performance of the project.</p>	Compliant
Condition 5			
5	Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action and until completion, the person taking the action must publish a report on the website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the department at the same time as the compliance report is published.	<p>Works commenced 29 August 2023. EPBC Monitoring granted an extension (email 29 November 2025) for the submission of this audit report until 17 January 2025.</p> <p>This audit report assesses compliance against each of the conditions of this approval and implementation of the management plans specified in the conditions.</p> <p>This audit report will be published and uploaded to GAWB Website on 17 January 2025. An email confirming the date of publication and compliance with the condition of this approval will be provided to department at the same time, date 17 January 2025.</p>	Compliant
Condition 6			
6	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of protected matters to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to a management plan specified in the conditions and submit the revised management plan for the Minister's written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved management plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised management plan, then the person taking the action must continue to implement the management plan originally approved, as specified in the conditions.	No request received from the Minster for any specific revision to a management plan.	Compliant
Condition 7			
7	On the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.	No direction received from the Minister for any independent audit of compliance.	Compliant
Condition 8			
8	If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with a management plan which has been approved by the Coordinator-General for the purposes of impact avoidance, mitigation or offsetting habitat for protected matters, the person taking the action must submit to the department, for the Minister's written approval, a revised version of that management plan. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied management plan in writing. If the minister approved the varied management plan, that management plan must be implemented in place of the management plan originally approved.	<p>In August 2024 GAWB sought changes to the SAP Capricorn Yellow Chat (CYC) and the SAP Trenchless Waterway Crossings on the basis of new information including a CYC specialist assessment. Based on this information current areas of CYC habitat lie outside of the alignment and indicated that CYC breeding is opportunistic in time and not dependent on the wet season, as was initially thought at the time of the original EIS in 2009. The SAPs were revised to remove the May-September construction window and an approval request submitted for the revised SAPs.</p> <p>Revised SAPs for the Yellow Chat Habitat were approved by the Minister letter dated 04 October 2024 and SAP Trenchless Waterway Crossing was approved letter dated 11 October 2024.</p> <p>Construction work at 4 out of the trenchless crossings in the CYC area was completed by December 2024 in strict accordance with SAP control measures. No CYC individuals were sighted at any of the construction areas by project staff or during the weekly specialist ecologist surveys looking for the bird and/or nests.</p>	Compliant
Condition 9			
9	If, at any time after seventeen (17) years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Action commencement date 29 August 2023. EPBC variation of conditions approval date of decision 20 June 2020 - within seventeen years.	Compliant
Condition 10			
10	Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must publish all management plan(s) which outline measures to mitigate and/or offset impacts to habitat for protected matters on the website. Each management plan referred to in this condition must be published on the website within 20 business days of being approved by the Coordinator-General.	Refer Management Plan supporting evidence, Condition 1 above.	Compliant

APPENDIX B PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1 – CH30000 Pipeline Right of Way topsoil reinstated and reprofiled to match exiting levels.



Photograph 2 – CH 35000 (approx.), Waterway crossing with jute matting and hydro mulching to stabilise embankment.



Photograph 3 - Pipeline Right of Way topsoil reinstated and reprofiled to match exiting level, with early regrowth.



Photograph 4 – Typical air and scour valve installation arrangement awaiting protective barrier fence and final trim.



Photograph 5 - Twelve Mile Creek, removal of sheet piles from tunnel boring pit. Note waterway in foreground undisturbed by trenchless crossing method.



Photograph 6 – CH 37000 (approx.) Pipeline Right of Way reinstalment work underway to replace topsoil and reprofile to match existing levels.



Photograph 7 – Near Raglan Creek, Potential Acid Sulphate Soil temporary bunded stockpile area.