

**REFERRAL DECISION BRIEF – DALBY EXPANSION PROJECT, DALBY, QLD, (EPBC 2010/5343)**

**Public Affairs Consulted:** No  
**DEWHA File:** 2010/02842

**For:** Mary Colreavy, AS, EAB **Deadline and reason:** ASAP - statutory timeframe from database was 16 March 2010.

<b>Recommended Decision</b>	NCA <input type="checkbox"/> NCA(pm) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA <input type="checkbox"/>												
<b>Person proposing the action</b>	Arrow Energy												
<b>Controlling Provisions triggered or matters protected by particular manner</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>World Heritage (s12 &amp; s15A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>National Heritage (s15B &amp; s15C) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wetlands (Ramsar)(s16 &amp; s17B) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Threatened Species (s18 &amp; s18A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Migratory Species (s20 &amp; s20A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>C'wealth marine (s23 &amp; 24A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nuclear actions (s21 &amp; 22A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>C'wealth land (s26 &amp; s27A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>C'wealth actions (s28) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>GBRMP (s24B &amp; s24C) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>See <u>Attachment B</u> for list</td> <td>C'wealth heritage o/s (s27B &amp; 27C) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	World Heritage (s12 & s15A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>	National Heritage (s15B & s15C) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>	Wetlands (Ramsar)(s16 & s17B) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>	Threatened Species (s18 & s18A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migratory Species (s20 & s20A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>	C'wealth marine (s23 & 24A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>	Nuclear actions (s21 & 22A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>	C'wealth land (s26 & s27A) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>	C'wealth actions (s28) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>	GBRMP (s24B & s24C) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>	See <u>Attachment B</u> for list	C'wealth heritage o/s (s27B & 27C) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No if PM <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Public Comments</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<b>Ministerial Comments</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Who: Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management; Department of Defence See <u>Attachment C</u>												
<b>SPRAT</b>	Has data been provided to SIS? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												

**Recommendations:**

We recommend that you:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Consider the referral documentation at <u>Attachment A</u>   | 1. <del>Noted</del> Please discuss |
| 2. Consider your legal obligations for decision-making at <u>Attachment B</u> and the comments received at <u>Attachments C and D</u> | 2. <del>Noted</del> Please discuss |
| 3. Agree with the recommended decision  | 3. Agreed/Not agreed               |
| 4. Sign the notice at <u>Attachment E</u> (which will be published if you make the recommended decision)                              | 4. Signed/ Not signed              |
| 5. Sign the letters at <u>Attachment E</u>  | 5. Signed/ Not signed              |

**s. 47F(1)**

Mary Colreavy  
 AS EAB

16/04/2010

**Key Issues:****Sensitivities**

- This proposal is related to Arrow Energy's Surat Gas Project (EPBC 2010/5344), which is situated within the same general area as the Dalby Expansion Project. On 8 February 2010 further information was requested from the proponent about why the two referrals should be considered as separate actions. Arrow Energy met with the Department on 15 February 2010 and responded by letter dated 19 February 2010 detailing reasons as to why the two referrals should not be considered parts of a larger action. These reasons were accepted. Arrow Energy states that its existing coal seam gas operations at Dalby have not been referred as they have had no impact on matters of national environmental significance. They also state that they have referred the Dalby Expansion Project as the proposed activities are in close proximity to EPBC-listed ecological communities. See Attachment F for more information.
- The proposed Particular Manner is based on commitments contained in the 'Environmental Management Standard Operating Procedures – Vegetation and Habitat' document submitted as part of the referral documentation. In this SOP, the company makes a commitment to undertake a number of activities to minimise the impact to both state and Commonwealth listed species and communities, including pre-clearance surveys with the placement of well and infrastructure configuration to be determined based on the results of these surveys.
- The Monitoring and Audit Section were consulted on the proposed referral decision and they raised concerns that the proposed decision was inconsistent with the Department's guidance note on particular manner decisions (see Attachment G) as it requires the proponent to undertake pre-clearance surveys and to report on their findings. A meeting with MAS Director Mike Smith was held and after gaining a greater understanding of the project, Mike stated that while he believed that while all decisions should be in accordance with department guidelines, in his view the proposed decision approach was a practical one given the lack of certainty regarding the impacts of the action.

**Summary of significant impacts**

- The proposed action has the potential to significantly impact on listed threatened species and ecological communities through direct removal of vegetation and species habitat and indirect impacts such as spread of weeds. See Attachment B for more detail.
- However the proponent has stated in the referral that they have the ability to site gas wells, pipelines and infrastructure away from areas of potential habitat for EPBC-listed species and ecological communities and have committed to avoid these areas and minimise any unavoidable impacts. If surveys for EPBC-listed ecological communities and threatened species habitat are conducted prior to any vegetation disturbance and avoidance and minimisation procedures are followed, it is considered that any impacts on listed threatened species and ecological communities are unlikely to be significant. The decision notice at Attachment E reflects these requirements and outlines the particular manner in which the proposed action is to be taken.

**Background:**

- The referral was received on 2 February 2010 (Attachment A). The action was referred by Coffey Natural Systems on behalf of Arrow Energy who stated their belief that the proposal is not a controlled action for the purposes of the EPBC Act.
- The proposal involves an increase of the production capacity of Arrow Energy's Surat Basin operations which includes an expansion of existing gas field operations centred around the town of Dalby within the Tipton West, Daandine, Stratheden and Kogan North and through the initial development of Plainview, Long Swamp and Meenwarra gas fields.
- The proposed action would involve the development of up to 300 new production wells, two integrated production facilities including gas compression, water treatment, power generation and high pressure gas pipelines that will connect the facilities to existing and proposed sales gas delivery infrastructure.

*Should review guidelines?*

- The proponent was consulted on a draft of the particular manner decision notice. Minor comments in relation to wording were received on 31 March 2010 and the decision notice was amended to reflect these comments.

## Submissions:

### *Public submissions*

- The referral was published on the Department's website on 2 February 2010. The Department received no public submissions.

### *Comments from Commonwealth Ministers*

- The Minister for Resources and Energy, the Hon. Martin Ferguson was informed of the referral by letter dated 2 February 2010 and invited to provide comment. No comments were received.
- The Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator the Hon. Penny Wong was informed of the referral by letter dated 2 February 2010 and invited to provide comment. No comments were received.
- The Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon. John Faulkner was informed of the referral by letter dated 8 February 2010 and invited to provide comment. Comments were received on 18 February 2010 stating that the proposed action is unlikely to have any impacts on Commonwealth land. See Attachment C for more information.

### *Comments from State Ministers*

- The Queensland Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, the Hon. Kate Jones was also informed of the referral in a letter dated 2 February 2010, and invited to provide comment. Comments were received from the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) on 19 February 2010, stating that the proposal will not be assessed using the EIS process in chapter three of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. DERM also advised that they had received an application for a level 1 Petroleum Activity for the proposal under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. See Attachment C for more information.

## Summary of protected matters that are not controlling provisions:

See Attachment B for details.

## s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Director  
Mining Section

14 /04/2010

Primary Contact  
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Consultation:** Wetlands Section, Heritage Division; Monitoring and Audit Section

### **Attachments:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A | Referral including attachments                           |
| B | Legal considerations and further advice on matter of NES |
| C | Letter from Qld DERM and Department of Defence           |
| D | Wetlands and Heritage advice                             |
| E | Decision notice and letters                              |
| F | Letter from Arrow Energy                                 |
| G | NCA-PM Guidance Note                                     |



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

s. 47F(1)  
Senior Consultant  
Coffey Natural Systems  
Level 21, 12 Creek Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Date: February 2010  
EPBC Ref: 2010/5343  
EPBC contact: Mr James Barker  
02 6274 1933  
[james.barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:james.barker@environment.gov.au)

Dear s. 47F(1)

### Receipt of referral Dalby Expansion Project, Qld

Thank you for referring a proposal on behalf of Arrow Energy to increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland, for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Information about this proposed action has been published on the Department's website for public consultation. The period of consultation will extend for 10 business days.

At the end of the consultation period, the information included in the referral, along with any comments received, will be used to help decide whether this proposed action:

- is a controlled action (one that is likely to have a significant impact on matters protected under the EPBC Act and therefore needs to be assessed and approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts before it can proceed), or
- is not a controlled action and may be undertaken but only as described in the referral, or
- does not require approval under the EPBC Act.

Alternatively, it may be decided, on the basis of the information in the referral that the action is clearly unacceptable (the referred action would have unacceptable impacts on matters protected under the EPBC Act and cannot proceed).

Before making a decision, we may contact you to clarify any details or to ask you for further information. By 2 March 2010 you should receive advice about your referral.

An electronic version of your referral can be viewed on the Department's website at [www.environment.gov.au/epbc](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc). This website also includes a range of other information about the process of assessment and decision-making under the EPBC Act.

Your referral has been allocated a unique reference number, EPBC 2010/5343. Please use this number in any communications with the Department as it will help ensure timely and efficient service. You can also use this number to locate any information about your project on the Department's website.

We will make every effort to ensure that the assessment of your proposed action is handled in a professional and helpful manner. A project manager for the next stage of the process has been appointed and will be happy to answer any questions you might have. You can contact Mr James Barker by telephone on 02 6274 1933 or by email at [james.barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:james.barker@environment.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
A/g Director  
Queensland Section  
Environment Assessment Branch



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

**s. 47F(1)**

Environment Manager  
Arrow Energy  
Level 19, AM60  
42-60 Albert Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Date: February 2010  
EPBC Ref: 2010/5343  
EPBC contact: Mr James Barker  
02 6274 1933  
[james.barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:james.barker@environment.gov.au)

Dear **s. 47F(1)**

**Receipt of referral  
Dalby Expansion Project, Qld**

Thank you for referring your proposal to increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland, for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Information about this proposed action has been published on the Department's website for public consultation. The period of consultation will extend for 10 business days.

At the end of the consultation period, the information included in the referral, along with any comments received, will be used to help decide whether this proposed action:

- is a controlled action (one that is likely to have a significant impact on matters protected under the EPBC Act and therefore needs to be assessed and approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts before it can proceed), or
- is not a controlled action and may be undertaken but only as described in the referral, or
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Yours sincerely

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

A/g Director  
Queensland Section  
Environment Assessment Branch



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

The Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP  
Minister for Resources and Energy  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Date: February 2010  
EPBC Ref: 2010/5343  
EPBC contact: Mr James Barker  
02 6274 1933  
[james.barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:james.barker@environment.gov.au)

Dear Minister

**Invitation to comment on referral  
Dalby Expansion Project, Qld**

We have received a referral of a proposed action from Arrow Energy to increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland, for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

We are currently undertaking an assessment to decide whether this proposed action requires approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed. The referral may be viewed or copied from the Department's website, [www.environment.gov.au/epbc](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc).

As a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, I invite you to provide any relevant information as to whether you consider the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on any of the matters protected under the EPBC Act.

In accordance with the timeframes set out in the EPBC Act, we need to receive your response by 16 February 2010. Please quote the title of the action and EPBC reference, as shown at the beginning of this letter, in any correspondence. You can send information to the Department:

by letter            Mr James Barker  
                         Director  
                         Mining Section  
                         Environment Assessment Branch  
                         Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
                         GPO Box 787  
                         CANBERRA ACT 2601

by email            [james.barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:james.barker@environment.gov.au)  
by fax                (02) 6274 1789

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Mr James Barker and quote EPBC 2010/5343.

Yours sincerely

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

A/g Director  
Queensland Section  
Environment Assessment Branch

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

Senator the Hon Penny Wong  
Minister for Climate Change and Water

Date: February 2010  
EPBC Ref: 2010/5343  
EPBC contact: Mr James Barker

02 6274 1933

[james.barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:james.barker@environment.gov.au)

Attention:

Ms Helen Grinbergs  
Assistant Secretary  
Coordination and Frameworks Branch  
Department of Climate Change  
GPO Box 854  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

**Invitation to comment on referral  
Dalby Expansion Project, Qld**

We have received a referral of a proposed action from Arrow Energy to increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland, for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

We are currently undertaking an assessment to decide whether this proposed action requires approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed. The referral may be viewed or copied from the Department's website, [www.environment.gov.au/epbc](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc).

As a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, I invite you to provide any relevant information as to whether you consider the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on any of the matters protected under the EPBC Act.

In accordance with the timeframes set out in the EPBC Act, we need to receive your response by 16 February 2010. Please quote the title of the action and EPBC reference, as shown at the beginning of this letter, in any correspondence. You can send information to the Department:

by letter            Mr James Barker  
                         Director  
                         Mining Section  
                         Environment Assessment Branch  
                         Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
                         GPO Box 787  
                         CANBERRA ACT 2601

by email            [james.barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:james.barker@environment.gov.au)  
by fax                (02) 6274 1789

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Mr James Barker and quote EPBC 2010/5343.

Yours sincerely

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

A/g Director  
Queensland Section  
Environment Assessment Branch


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

Mr Terry Weston  
 Assistant Secretary  
 Estate Policy and Environment Branch  
 Infrastructure Division  
 Department of Defence  
 Brindabella Park (BP3-2-B001)  
 Canberra ACT 2600

Date: February 2010  
 EPBC Ref: 2010/5344  
 EPBC contact: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**@environment.gov.au

Dear Mr Weston

**Invitation to comment on referral  
 Dalby Expansion Project, Qld**

I am writing to you, as the delegated contact for Minister Faulkner, in relation to consultation on actions being assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

We have received a referral of a proposed action from Arrow Energy to increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland, for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

We are currently undertaking an assessment to decide whether this proposed action requires approval under the Act before it can proceed. The referral may be viewed or copied from the Department's website, [www.environment.gov.au/epbc](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc).

As a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, I invite you to provide any relevant information as to whether you consider the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on any of the matters protected under the EPBC Act.

In accordance with the timeframes set out in the EPBC Act, we need to receive your response by 22 February 2010. Please quote the title of the action and EPBC reference, as shown at the beginning of this letter, in any correspondence. You can send information to us:

by letter Mining Section  
 Environment Assessment Branch  
 Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
 GPO Box 787  
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

by email **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**@environment.gov.au

by fax **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

If you have any questions about this process, please contact **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** and quote EPBC No 2010/5343.

Yours sincerely

# **s. 47F(1)**

**s. 47F(1)** James Barker  
 Director  
 Mining Section  
 Environment Assessment Branch





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

The Hon Kate Jones MP  
Minister for Climate Change and  
Sustainability

Date: February 2010  
EPBC Ref: 2010/5343  
EPBC contact: Mr James Barker  
02 6274 1933

Attention:

[james.barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:james.barker@environment.gov.au)

s. 47F(1)

Director Integrated Assessment  
Environmental Operations Division  
Department of Environment and Resource  
Management  
PO Box 15155  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Minister

### Invitation to comment on referral Dalby Expansion Project, Qld

We have received a referral of a proposed action from Arrow Energy to increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland, for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

We are currently undertaking an assessment to decide whether this proposed action requires approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed. The referral may be viewed or copied from the Department's website, [www.environment.gov.au/epbc](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc).

As a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, I am writing to invite you to provide any relevant information as to whether you consider the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on any of the matters protected under the EPBC Act.

In addition, we would be grateful if you could provide the Department with your views on the assessment approach you believe is appropriate to assess the impacts of the project, in the event that it is determined to be a 'controlled action'.

In particular, we would appreciate your advice as to whether the proposal should be assessed at the Queensland state level, using one of the processes agreed under the bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth.

In accordance with the EPBC Act, we need to receive your response by 16 February 2010. Please quote the title of the action and EPBC reference, as shown at the beginning of this letter, in any correspondence. You can send information to the Department:

by letter      Mr James Barker  
Director  
Mining Section  
Environment Assessment Branch  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

by email      [james.barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:james.barker@environment.gov.au)  
by fax        (02) 6274 1789

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Mr James Barker and quote EPBC 2010/5343.

Yours sincerely

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

A/g Director  
Queensland Section  
Environment Assessment Branch



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

s. 47F(1)

Environment Manager  
Arrow Energy  
Level 19, AM60  
42-60 Albert St  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Date: 8 February  
EPBC Ref: 2010/5343 & 2010/5344  
EPBC contact: James Barker  
02 6274 1933  
James.barker@environment.gov.au

Dear s. 47F(1)

**Request for additional information  
Dalby Gas Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343) and Surat Gas Expansion Project  
(EPBC 2010/5344).**

Thank you for submitting two referrals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) concerning the above proposed actions.

Our initial examination of your referrals indicates that these two projects are very closely related and could be assessed as single "action" under the EPBC Act.

Under section 74A(1), if the Minister receives a referral, and the Minister is satisfied the action that is the subject of the referral is a component of a larger action the person proposes to take, the Minister may decide to not accept the referral.

I am writing to ask you to provide further information as to the reasons why these two referrals should be considered as separate actions.

In any correspondence with the Department please quote the title of the action and EPBC reference, as shown on the beginning of this letter. You can send information to us:

by letter      Mining Section  
                  Environment Assessment Branch  
                  Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
                  GPO Box 787  
                  CANBERRA ACT 2601

by email      [James.Barker@environment.gov.au](mailto:James.Barker@environment.gov.au)

We would appreciate your response by 17 February 2010 to allow us to progress your referrals expeditiously.

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

Yours sincerely

**s. 47F(1)**

Michelle Wicks  
A/g Assistant Secretary  
Environment Assessment Branch

**Attachment B: Legal Obligations and Supporting Advice – 2010/5343****Decision on Non-controlled Action- Particular Manner**

The Department has reviewed the information in the referral against the EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 *Significant Impact Guidelines – Matters of National Environmental Significance* (May 2006) and other relevant material. While this material is not binding or exhaustive, the factors identified are considered adequate for decision-making in the circumstances of this referral, and there is no reason to depart from this material or consider additional factors. Adequate information is available for decision making for this proposal.

**Section 75**

Under s75 of the EPBC Act, you must decide whether the action that is the subject of a proposal referred is a controlled action and which provisions of Part 3 (if any) are controlling provisions for the action. In making your decision you must consider all adverse impacts the action has, will have, or is likely to have on the matter protected by each provision of Part 3, and you must not consider any beneficial impacts on the matter.

You must also consider any comments received from responsible Commonwealth Ministers and appropriate State or Territory Ministers (s74) and agencies, to the extent that they are relevant.

You must also consider any comments received from the public. The referral was made available for public comment on 2 February 2010 for 10 business days as required under the EPBC Act and no comments were received.

Based on the available information, including the referral, the Department is of the view that the proposed action be determined **not a controlled action as long as it is carried out in a particular manner.**

**Description of Proposed Action**

Arrow Energy proposes to increase the production capacity of its Surat Basin operations through the Dalby Expansion Project. The project will involve an expansion of existing gas field operations around the Dalby area including the development of up to 300 new production wells, two integrated production facilities and high pressure gas pipelines.

## Potential Impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance

### Listed threatened species and ecological communities

The Department's Environmental Reporting Tool (ERT) identified 25 listed threatened species with the potential to occur within 2km of the proposed project site.

The following table is the Department's assessment of the likelihood of significant impact on listed threatened species.

Threatened fauna species		
Species	Discussion	Significant impact likely?
Murray Cod <i>Maccullochella peelii peelii</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>	<p>These species all have the potential to occur within the project area of the proposed action and have been identified by the Environmental Reporting Tool as potentially occurring within a 2km radius.</p> <p>The specific locations of gas wells, pipelines and infrastructure are not able to be finalised until the project commences.</p> <p>There is the potential for the proposed action to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of these species such as foraging and breeding habitat as well as the potential to fragment or reduce the area of occupancy of a population of these species.</p> <p>A significant impact on these species is therefore considered likely.</p> <p>However, the proponent has stated in the referral that they will avoid EPBC-listed fauna habitat and instigate mitigation measures to reduce potential indirect impacts.</p> <p>Mitigation measures involve following environmental management standard operating procedures which were included in the referral documentation.</p> <p>Due to the ability for the project proponent to locate gas wells, pipelines and infrastructure away from potential habitat, and provided the proponent undertakes the action in the particular manner outlined in the decision notice at <u>Attachment E</u>, any impacts on these fauna species are not considered likely to be significant.</p>	No if undertaken in a particular manner
Regent Honeyeater <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> <b>Endangered</b>		
Red Goshawk <i>Erythrorichus radiatus</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Squatter Pigeon (southern) <i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Swift Parrot <i>Lathamus discolor</i> <b>Endangered</b>		
Star Finch <i>Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda</i> <b>Endangered</b>		
Australian Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula australis</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Large-eared Pied Bat <i>Chalinobolus dwyeri</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Northern Quoll <i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i> <b>Endangered</b>		
Greater Long-eared Bat (south-eastern form) <i>Nyctophilus timoriensis</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Five-clawed Worm Skink <i>Anomalopus mackayi</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Collared Delma <i>Delma torquate</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Dunmall's Snake <i>Furina dunmali</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Grassland Earless Dragon <i>Tympanocryptis pinguicollis</i> <b>Endangered</b>		

<b>Threatened flora species</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Significant impact likely?</b>
<i>Philotheca sporadica</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>	<p>These species all have the potential to occur within the project area of the proposed action and have been identified by the Environmental Reporting Tool as potentially occurring within a 2km radius.</p> <p>The specific locations of gas wells, pipelines and infrastructure are not able to be finalised until the project commences.</p> <p>There is the potential for the proposed action to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of these species as well as the potential to fragment or reduce the area of occupancy of a population of these species.</p> <p>A significant impact on these species is therefore considered likely.</p> <p>However, the proponent has stated in the referral that they will avoid EPBC-listed flora species and instigate mitigation measures to reduce potential indirect impacts.</p> <p>Mitigation measures involve following environmental management standard operating procedures which were included in the referral documentation.</p> <p>Due to the ability for the project proponent to locate gas wells, pipelines and infrastructure away from potential habitat, and provided the proponent undertakes the action in the particular manner outlined in the decision notice at <a href="#">Attachment E</a>, any impacts on these flora species are not considered likely to be significant.</p>	No if undertaken in a particular manner
<i>Acacia chinchillensis</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Ooline <i>Cadellia pentastylis</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
King Blue-grass <i>Dicanthium queenslandicum</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Finger Panic Grass <i>Digitaria porrecta</i> <b>Endangered</b>		
Tricolour Diuris <i>Diuris sheaffiana</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
<i>Homopholis belsonii</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Hawkweed <i>Picris evae</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Austral Cornflower <i>Rhaponticum australe</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
Austral Toadflax <i>Thesium australe</i> <b>Vulnerable</b>		
<i>Tylophora linearis</i> <b>Endangered</b>		

<b>Threatened Ecological communities</b>		
<b>Community</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Significant impact likely??</b>
Brigalow ( <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> dominant and co-dominant)	<p>This community has been identified within the project area for the proposed action.</p> <p>The specific locations of gas wells, pipelines and infrastructure are not able to be finalised until the project commences.</p> <p>There is the potential for the proposed action to fragment or increase fragmentation of this community, reduce the extent of this community and result in the introduction of weed species.</p> <p>However, the proponent has stated in the referral that they intend to avoid EPBC-listed communities and minimise clearance where impacts are unavoidable.</p> <p>Minimisation measures involve following environmental management standard operating procedures which were included in the referral documentation.</p> <p>Due to the ability for the project proponent to locate gas wells, pipelines and infrastructure away from this ecological community, and provided the proponent undertakes the action in the particular manner outlined in the decision notice at <a href="#">Attachment E</a>, any impacts on this ecological community are not considered likely to be significant.</p>	No if undertaken in a particular manner

<b>Threatened Ecological communities</b>		
<b>Community</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Significant impact likely??</b>
Natural grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial plains of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland	These ecological communities are considered unlikely to be present in the area of the proposed action. Queensland Regional Ecosystem mapping did not indicate their presence in the project area and field surveys did not locate these communities. A significant impact on these ecological communities is therefore considered unlikely.	No
Weeping Myall Woodlands		
White box- Yellow box- Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland		

### **Listed migratory species**

The Department's Environmental Reporting Tool (ERT) identified 18 listed migratory species with the potential to occur within 2km of the proposed project site.

The following table is the Department's assessment of the likelihood of significant impact on listed migratory species.

<b>Migratory Terrestrial Species</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Significant impact likely??</b>
White-throated Needletail <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	These species have been identified in the project area of the proposed action during field surveys. However these species have widespread distributions across Australia and are relatively common species.	No
Rainbow Bee-eater <i>Merops ornatus</i>		
Rufous Fantail <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	The proposed action is not expected or considered likely to significantly impact on an important population; an ecologically significant proportion of the population; or result in the establishment of invasive species that are harmful, for any of these migratory species.	No
Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>		
Regent Honeyeater <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	The proposed action is not expected or considered likely to substantially modify, destroy or isolate an area of important habitat for this species; result in the establishment of an invasive species that is harmful to this species; or seriously disrupt its lifecycle. A significant impact on the Regent Honeyeater as a migratory species is not expected or considered likely.	No
White-bellied Sea Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	These migratory species have the potential to occur within the project area for the proposed action, although they were not detected during field surveys of the project area.  The proposed action is not expected or considered likely to significantly impact on an important population; an ecologically significant proportion of the population; or result in the establishment of invasive species that are harmful, for any of these migratory species.	No
Cattle Egret <i>Ardea ibis</i>		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper <i>Calidris acuminata</i>		
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		
Latham's Snipe <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>		
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>		
Australian Cotton Pygmy Goose <i>Nettapus coromandelianus albipennis</i>		
Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula benghalensis s. lat</i>		
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>		
Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>		
Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i>		

### **Ramsar wetlands of international importance**

The Narran Lake Nature Reserve is located approximately 450km from the proposed action, or approximately 600km stream-distance, and the Gwydir Wetlands are approximately 250km from the proposed action site with no surface water connection. The Wetlands Section have advised that a significant impact on the ecological character of these Ramsar sites is not expected or likely- see [Attachment D](#) for more information.

### **Commonwealth Land**

The Environmental Reporting Tool identified an area of Defence land within 2km of the proposed action. The Department of Defence provided comment stating that the proposed action was unlikely to significantly impact on Commonwealth land- see [Attachment C](#) for more information. The Heritage Division also provided comment stating that while the proposed action is to be carried out in the vicinity of Commonwealth land there are no places on the heritage list relating to the Australian Government's responsibilities under the EPBC that are in the vicinity of or likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed action- see [Attachment D](#) for more information. Based on this advice and that received from the Department of Defence, a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land is not expected or considered likely.

### **World Heritage properties**

The proposed action is located approximately 200km from the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia- Main Range Group World Heritage Area. The proposed action is not expected or considered likely to significantly impact on the values of this or any other World Heritage Area.

### **National Heritage places**

The proposed action is located approximately 200km from the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia- Main Range Group National Heritage Place. The proposed action is not expected or considered likely to significantly impact on the values of this or any other National Heritage Place.

### **Commonwealth marine environment**

The proposed action is located approximately 150km from the nearest Commonwealth marine area and is not expected or considered likely to significantly impact on any area of the Commonwealth marine environment.

### **Commonwealth Action**

The proposed action will not be undertaken by a Commonwealth entity.

### **Nuclear actions**

The proposed action is not a nuclear action as defined by the EPBC Act.

### **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

The proposed action is located more than 300km from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and is not expected or considered likely to significantly impact on the environment of the Marine Park.

### **Referral documents and other information sources**

- Referral documentation.
- DEWHA Environmental Reporting Tool (ERT).
- Department of Environment and Heritage (2006) *EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1: Significant Impact Guidelines – Matters of National Environmental Significance*.



Coordinates

-26.88176, 150.83442  
-26.88176, 150.85109  
-26.89843, 150.85109  
-26.89843, 150.88442  
-26.91510, 150.88442  
-26.91510, 150.90109  
-26.96510, 150.90109  
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-26.98176, 150.95109  
-27.08176, 150.95109  
-27.08176, 151.10107  
-27.09842, 151.10107  
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-27.11509, 151.13441  
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-27.08176, 150.91775  
-27.08176, 150.83442



## Australian Government

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

#### Heritage Division

Advice ID: 11005 (Heritage Division Advice Record No.)  
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii), Mining Section  
Date: 18 February 2010  
Officer: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Heritage Information Section  
Contact: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Input to: **Referral EPBC 2010/5343 s26 Arrow Energy/Energy generation and supply (non-renewable)/Surat Basin/QLD/Dalby Gas Expansion Project** under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* provisions: s26

#### Proposal:

The information provided by the person proposing the action states that Arrow Energy (Arrow) proposes to increase the production capacity of its Surat Basin operations through the Dalby Expansion Project. The project will involve an expansion of existing gas field operations within the Tipton West, Daandine, Stratheden and Kogan North, and through the initial development of Plainview, Long Swamp and Meenawarra gas fields. The gas fields are located 20 to 40 km south and west of Dalby, in Queensland's Surat Basin.

The Dalby Expansion Project will involve the development of up to 300 new production wells, two integrated production facilities including gas compression, water treatment, power generation and high pressure gas pipelines that will connect the facilities to existing and proposed sales gas delivery infrastructure. Activities are scheduled to occur between 2010 and 2012.

Gas produced from the nominated fields will maintain supply under existing domestic gas sales agreements and confirm a viable gas supply to proposed export LNG projects.

#### Advice:

While the proposed action is to be carried out in the vicinity of Commonwealth Land, there are no places on the heritage lists, relating to the Australian Government's responsibilities under the EPBC Act (World Heritage List, National Heritage List, Commonwealth Heritage List and Register of the National Estate), that are in the vicinity of, or likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed action.

#### s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director  
Heritage Information Section  
Heritage Division

**Water Reform Division EPBC Act Referral Checklist**  
**for Proposals not expected to have significant**  
**impacts on a Ramsar site.**

Referral: 2010/5343

**Date Due Back to AWD: 22/02/2010**

Arrow Energy / Energy generation and supply (non-renewable) / Surat  
Basin / QLD / Dalby Gas Expansion Project:

**Brief Description:**

The proposed action is to expand Arrow Energy's production capacity in existing coal seam gas (CSG) field operations in the Surat Basin, QLD, through the Dalby Expansion Project. The gas fields are located 20 to 40 km south and west of Dalby.

The action includes up to 300 new production wells, two integrated production facilities including gas compression, water treatment, and power generation, and high pressure gas pipelines that will connect the facilities to existing and proposed sales gas delivery infrastructure.

Construction activities are scheduled to occur between 2010 and 2012, with wells expected to be drilled at the rate of 10 to 15 wells per month and have a production life in excess of 20 years. The approximate area for new well development will be 126 ha. Gathering pipelines between the wells and production facilities will require 30 m width corridors and access tracks will be 3 m wide. Integrated production facilities require 132.5 ha. High pressure gas pipelines will be 5 km by 30 m and 50 km by 30 m, thus requiring 165 ha.

This action is related to Arrow Energy's Surat Gas Project (EPBC 2010/5344), for CSG operations in a larger area which overlaps with the Dalby Gas referral action area and involves up to 1,500 wells, four integrated production facilities and high pressure gas pipeline.

**Issues Checklist:**

How far is the proposal from a Ramsar site?

The action site is within the same surface water catchment (Condamine-Culoga Rivers Basin) as the Narran Lake Nature Reserve (NLNR) Ramsar site and the same ground-water catchment (GAB) as both the NLNR Ramsar site and the Gwydir Wetlands (GW) Ramsar site. The NLNR is approximately 450 km from the proposed action site or approximately 600 km stream-distance, and the GW are approximately 250 km from the proposed action site with no surface water connection.

**Is the proposal likely to result in a significant:**

- extraction or diversion of ground or surface waters within a Ramsar catchment?  
Yes  No

- land use change resulting in changes to groundwater recharge, runoff quantity or quality within a Ramsar catchment? Yes  No
- release of contaminants within a Ramsar catchment? Yes  No
- increases in levels of human activity or other disturbance within close proximity of a Ramsar site? Yes  No
- loss or modification of habitat important for species that make up the ecological character of the Ramsar site? Yes  No
- risk of introducing or spreading invasive flora or fauna within a Ramsar catchment? Yes  No

Are there any other activities with potential to cause significant impacts either directly or as a consequence of the proposal Yes  No

If Yes to any of the above, provide explanation of how these would be successfully managed.

Has AWD forwarded any public comments to WRD Yes  No

If Yes, note details of comments forwarded to WRD below:

Agency, Organisation, Person	Comments

### Issues to note:

The NLNR is approximately 450 km from the proposed action site or approximately 600 km stream-distance, and the GW are approximately 250 km from the proposed action site with no surface water connection.

The Surat Basin Coal Seam Gas (CSG) operations (of which the proposed action are a part) lie within the Walloon Coal Measures. The CSG Water Management Study conducted by Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (QLD DNRME, 2004) states that the Walloon Coal Measures are not considered to be hydrologically connected to the GAB aquifers – thus it can be concluded that groundwater effects of the proposed action would not extend to the NLNR or the GW.

Mr Peter Baker, (Senior Principal Research Scientist - Water Resources, Water Reform Division, DEWHA) a groundwater expert with over 20 years experience and a masters degree in hydrology and water resources, was not convinced about the Walloon Coal Measures not being hydraulically linked to the GAB aquifers, noting QLD DNRME's qualifier that there were no site specific assessments to support their statement, and until such assessments are conducted no detailed estimation of groundwater impact due to CSG development can be undertaken. Despite this, Mr Baker considers that it is still unlikely that the referred action will impact on the NLNR Ramsar site or the GW Ramsar site because there is no evidence to indicate that either Ramsar site relies on GAB groundwater. Though the groundwater dependence of the NLNR and GW Ramsar sites is unknown, both are largely floodplain systems, and as such, the deep groundwater aquifers of the GAB are not expected to play a large part in their hydrology.

The approximate 600 km stream-distance between the NLNR Ramsar site and the site of the proposed action is likely to be sufficient to ameliorate any potential surface-water quality impacts caused by the action. Additionally, sediment controls and buffer zones will be implemented when working near watercourses to avoid or reduce impacts to

water quality and fish.

Consequently, on the basis of information made available to the Department, a significant impact on the ecological character of the Narran Lake Nature Reserve Ramsar site or the Gwydir Wetlands Ramsar site is not expected or likely.

Cleared by: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Assistant Director, Wetlands Section

Signature: .....

Date:

Cleared by relevant Director (s): Yes  No

Cleared by: Chris Schweizer, Assistant Secretary, Aquatic Systems Health Branch

Signature: .....

Date:

Sources:

- ESRI (1999-2008) ArcGIS
- Baker, P. (2010) DEWHA Water Planning Section, Personal communication
- Queensland Department of Mines and Energy, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (2009) Queensland's coal seam gas overview. Accessed February 2010, available from [http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/coal\\_seam\\_gas.cfm](http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/coal_seam_gas.cfm)
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (QLD DNRME) (2004) Coal Seam Gas Water Management Study. Accessed February 2010, available from [http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/csg\\_water\\_management\\_study.cfm](http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/csg_water_management_study.cfm)
- Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) for the Narran Lakes Nature Reserve Ramsar site (1999) and the Gwydir Wetlands Ramsar site (1999)
- Referral documentation



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

**Notification of  
 REFERRAL DECISION – not controlled action if undertaken in a particular  
 manner**
**Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)**

This decision is made under sections 75 and 77A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

**Proposed action**

**person named in the referral** Arrow Energy

**proposed action** To increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland and as described in the referral received under the EPBC Act on 2 February 2010.

**Referral decision: Not a controlled action if undertaken in a particular manner**

**status of proposed action** The proposed action is not a controlled action provided it is undertaken in the manner set out in this decision.

**Person authorised to make decision**

**Name and position** Mary Colreavy  
 Assistant Secretary  
 Environment Assessment Branch

**signature**

**date of decision**

**manner in which proposed action must be taken** The following measures must be taken to avoid significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A).

- Prior to any vegetation disturbance pre-clearance surveys must be conducted in areas ~~where which have the potential to contain~~ EPBC-listed ecological communities and/or habitat for EPBC-listed threatened species are present or likely or possible to occur. These is field validation surveys incorporating observations and verification of base mapping information and key assumptions must be undertaken by a suitably qualified person. If the surveys cannot be conducted and at optimum times for the relevant EPBC-listed species, their presence should be assumed and avoidance and minimisation measures implemented. A record of the survey and results must be kept and submitted to the Department on request.
- In areas where EPBC-listed ecological communities and/or habitat for EPBC-listed threatened species are likely to be

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impacted by the proposed action, the person taking the action must implement avoidance measures so as to have no significant impact on those species or communities. Demonstration of the avoidance measures undertaken must be provided to the Department on request.

- In areas where impacts to EPBC-listed ecological communities and/or habitat for EPBC-listed threatened species cannot be avoided, the person taking the action must minimise potential impacts by implementing Arrow Energy's Environmental Management Standard Operating Procedures as provided in the referral submitted on 2 February 2010 or subsequent versions that incorporate but do not reduce or remove the environmental management procedures set out in that version of the documents, for: vegetation and habitat; site disturbance; ground disturbance and erosion; weed and pathogen; and rehabilitation. Demonstration of minimisation measures must be provided to the Department on request.
- 

DRAFT



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

**s. 47F(1)**

Director  
Environmental Impact Assessments  
Department of Environment and Resource  
Management  
GPO Box 2454  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Date: 16/4/10  
EPBC Ref: 2010/5343  
EPBC contact: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

@environment.gov.au

Dear **s. 47F(1)**

**Decision on referral  
Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)**

This is to advise you of my decision, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), about the proposed action to increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland.

**I have decided that the proposed action is not a controlled action, provided it is taken in accordance with the manner described in the enclosed decision document. This means that, provided that the action is undertaken in that way, it does not require further assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed.**

A copy of the document recording this decision is enclosed. This document will be notified publicly on the Department's website.

Please note that this decision relates only to the specific matters protected under Chapter 4 of the EPBC Act.

This decision does not affect any requirement for separate state or local government environment assessment and approvals of the proposed action.

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

**s. 47F(1)**

Mary Coireavy  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment Assessment Branch





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

s. 47F(1)

Senior Consultant  
Coffey Natural Systems  
Level 21, 12 Creek Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Date: 16/4/10  
EPBC Ref: 2010/5343  
EPBC contact: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

@environment.gov.au

Dear s. 47F(1)

**Decision on referral  
Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)**

This is to advise you of my decision, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), about the proposed action to increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland.

**I have decided that the proposed action is not a controlled action, provided it is taken in accordance with the manner described in the enclosed decision document. This means that, provided that the action is undertaken in that way, it does not require further assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed.**

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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

**s. 47F(1)**

Mary Coireavy s. 47F(1)  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment Assessment Branch

**s. 47F(1)**

Environment Manager  
Arrow Energy  
Level 19, AM60  
42-60 Albert Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Date: 16/4/10  
EPBC Ref: 2010/5343  
EPBC contact: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

@environment.gov.au

Dear **s. 47F(1)**

**Decision on referral  
Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)**

This is to advise you of my decision, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), about the proposed action to increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland.

**I have decided that the proposed action is not a controlled action, provided it is taken in accordance with the manner described in the enclosed decision document. This means that, provided that the action is undertaken in that way, it does not require further assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed.**

A copy of the document recording this decision is enclosed. This document will be notified publicly on the Department's website.

Please note that this decision relates only to the specific matters protected under Chapter 4 of the EPBC Act.

This decision does not affect any requirement for separate state or local government environment assessment and approvals of the proposed action.

Please notify this Department immediately if you are unable to undertake the proposed action in accordance with the measures described. Penalty provisions may apply if the referred action is undertaken in a different way to the manner specified.

Otherwise we would appreciate receiving your written advice:

- within two weeks of the date of this letter - confirming that the action will be undertaken in the manner set out in the enclosed decision, and
- within three months of the date of this letter - reporting on your progress in implementing the measures.

The Department has an active audit program for proposals that have been referred under the EPBC Act. The audit program aims to ensure that there is a high degree of compliance with decisions made in relation to those proposals. 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

**s. 47F(1)**

Mary Colreavy  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment Assessment Branch

Project EPBC 2010/23431

The Department has approved the proposed action under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) about the proposed action to increase the production capacity of the power generation through the development of gas fields and... I have decided that the proposed action is not a controlled action, provided it is taken in accordance with the manner described in the enclosed decision document. This means that provided that the action is undertaken in that way, it does not require further assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed.

Please notify the Department immediately if you are unable to undertake the proposed action in accordance with the measures described. Finally, provisions may apply if the referred action is undertaken in a different way to the manner specified.

The Department has approved the proposed action under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The approval is subject to the conditions set out in the enclosed decision document. You should be aware that your project may be subject to other laws and regulations. The Department's website provides information about the Department's website and documents may be accessed at [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au).

**Australian Company**ARROW ENERGY PTY LTD  
ACN 078 521 936

Extracted from ASIC's database at AEST 15:55:30 on 22/06/2015

**Company Summary**

Name: ARROW ENERGY PTY LTD

ACN: 078 521 936

ABN: 73 078 521 936

Registration Date: 26/05/1997

Next Review Date: 26/05/2016

Former Name(s): ARROW ENERGY LTD, ARROW ENERGY N.L., ARROW  
RESOURCES N.L.

Status: Registered

Type: Australian Proprietary Company, Limited By Shares

Locality of Registered Office: BRISBANE QLD 4000

Regulator: Australian Securities &amp; Investments Commission

Further information relating to this organisation may be purchased from ASIC.

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

---

**From:** s. 47F(1) @arrowenergy.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 June 2015 12:39 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s. 47F(1) Government Correspondence HSE  
**Subject:** RE: Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)  
**Attachments:** Arrow Energy - EPBC Response Letter 12-06-2015.pdf

Dear s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find attached Arrow Energy's response to your letter regarding the Dalby Expansion Project (Ref EPBC 2010/5343). I apologies for the delay.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)  
Operations Environment Manager

**Arrow Energy Pty Ltd**  
Level 39, 111 Eagle St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 5262, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia  
T;  
F: **s. 47F(1)**  
M  
[www.arrowenergy.com.au](http://www.arrowenergy.com.au)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s. 47F(1) [[@arrowenergy.com.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@arrowenergy.com.au)]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 12:10 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s. 47F(1) Government Correspondence HSE  
**Subject:** Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)

Dear s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

We are in receipt of your letter (Ref EPBC 2010/5343) dated 5 May 2015 and are compiling the information that you have requested, including updated contact details. We anticipate a formal response by 5 June 2015.

Please let me know if you have any questions in the interim.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)  
Operations Environment Manager

**Arrow Energy Pty Ltd**  
Level 39, 111 Eagle St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 5262, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia  
T;  
F: **s. 47F(1)**  
M  
[www.arrowenergy.com.au](http://www.arrowenergy.com.au)

Important: This message may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient or you received the message in error, you must immediately delete the message and notify the sender.

Important: This message may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient or you received the message in error, you must immediately delete the message and notify the sender.

Our Ref: ENV15-094  
Your Reference: EPBC 2010/5343

9 June 2015

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Audit and Assurance Section  
Compliance and Enforcement Branch  
Environment Assessment and Compliance Division  
Department of the Environment  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

**Subject: Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)**

Arrow Energy Pty Ltd (Arrow) has received your letter of 5 May 2015 concerning the status of the Dalby Expansion Project.

In accordance with your request, this correspondence provides a summary of the progress of project activities that have been undertaken following the receipt of the Referral Decision on 16 April 2010.

Subsequent to the decision and since May 2010, Arrow has been undertaking ongoing development of the Dalby field. This has occurred at a rate and extent far less than envisaged in the referral documentation, with works including the construction of four CSG production well pads, associated CSG dams and construction of the Tipton Water Treatment Facility. There is also the pending upgrade to the Daandine Compressor Station planned for completion early 2016. Development of this minor nature across the field is likely to continue until end 2016.

For the works undertaken to date, all “measures” as listed in the Referral Decision have been followed so as to avoid significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities.

For future correspondence regarding this referral, I will be the primary Arrow contact. I have provided my full contact details below. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries, or if you require further details.

Arrow Energy Pty Ltd  
Level 39, 111 Eagle St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 5262, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia

T:

M:

F:

**s. 47F(1)**

**s. 47F(1)** [@arrowenergy.com.au](mailto:info@arrowenergy.com.au)

Yours sincerely,

**s. 47F(1)**

General Manager Environment



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**

**Status update review**

<b>EPBC Number</b>	EPBC 2010/5343		
<b>Project Name</b>	Dalby Expansion Project		
<b>Decision Holder Name</b>	Arrow Energy		
To increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland and as described in the referral received under the EPBC Act on 2 February 2010.			
<b>Reviewing Officer</b>	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		
<b>Date Due</b>		<b>Date Received</b>	22 May 2015
		<b>Date Reviewed</b>	30 June 2015
<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Decision Holder Compliance Claim</b>	<b>Reviewing Officer Compliance Assessment</b>	<b>Reviewing officer Comments</b>
<p>Prior to any vegetation disturbance, pre-clearance surveys must be conducted in areas where EPBC listed ecological communities and/or habitat for EPBC listed threatened species are present, likely to occur or have the potential to occur.</p> <p>These pre-clearance surveys must be undertaken by a suitably qualified person. If the surveys cannot be conducted at optimum times for the relevant EPBC listed species, their presence should be assumed and avoidance and minimisation measures implemented.</p> <p>A record of the survey and results must be kept and submitted to the Department on request.</p>			
<p>In areas where EPBC listed ecological communities and/or habitat for EPBC listed threatened species are likely to be impacted by the proposed action, the person taking the action must implement avoidance measure so as to have no significant impact on those species or communities.</p> <p>Demonstration of the avoidance measures</p>			





undertaken must be provided to the Department on request.			
<p>In areas where impacts to EPBC listed ecological communities and/or habitat for EPBC listed threatened species cannot be avoided, the person taking the action must minimise potential impacts by implementing Arrow Energy's Environmental Management Standard Operating Procedures as provided in the referral submitted on 2 February 2010, or subsequent versions that incorporate but do not reduce or remove the environmental management procedures set out in that version of the documents for vegetation and habitat; site disturbance; ground disturbance and erosion; weed and pathogen; and rehabilitation.</p> <p>Demonstration of minimisation measures must be provided to the Department on request.</p>			
<p><b>Post review action and comments:</b></p> <p>The decision holder Arrow Energy Pty Ltd ABN: 73 078 521 936 has provided the following advice: For the works undertaken to date, all measures as listed in the Referral Decision have been followed so as to avoid significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities.</p>			



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**

Our reference: EPBC 2010/5343

Contact Officer: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
Telephone: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** Facsimile: **(s. 22(1)(a)(ii))**  
Email **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**@environment.gov.au

**s. 47F(1)**

Environment Manager  
Arrow Energy  
42-60 Albert Street  
BRISBANE 4000

Dear **s. 47F(1)**

**Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)**

The Audit and Assurance Section of the Department of the Environment (the Department) is responsible for managing projects subject to a Not Controlled Action - Particular Manner (NCA-PM) decision under the national environment law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

As your project has been determined as an NCA-PM under the EPBC Act, the Audit and Assurance Section is the point of contact for further communication with the Department. To avoid any potential delays in responding to future requests of the Department relating to the above project please refer all correspondence to:

Audit and Assurance Section  
Compliance and Enforcement Branch  
Environment Assessment and Compliance Division  
Department of the Environment  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

The Department has an active compliance monitoring program which includes monitoring inspections, desk top document reviews and audits. The Department produces an annual Compliance Monitoring Plan which describes the compliance monitoring activities that are proposed for each financial year. Further detail about this plan can be found on the Department's website <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/environment-protection/environment-assessments/assessment-and-approval-process/approved>.

In order to effectively monitor projects under this program, the Department would appreciate you advising any significant milestones relevant to the project; such as commencement and completion dates, a current status of the project and confirmation of the current contact and contact details within your organisation.

Please note that a project subject to a NCA-PM decision must be taken in a manner that is consistent with that decision to ensure compliance with the EPBC Act; a NCA-PM decision cannot be varied.

NCA-PM decisions do not need to be transferred to another party, if another party intends to undertake the project. Another party who undertakes the project must do so in a manner consistent with the NCA-PM decision to ensure compliance with the EPBC Act.

Please ensure that you maintain accurate records of all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval so that they can be made available to the Department on request. Such documents may be subject to audit and used to verify compliance. Summaries of results of audits may be published by the Department. Information about the monitoring and audit program can be found on the Department's website at [www.environment.gov.au/epbc/compliance/auditing.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/compliance/auditing.html).

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

a/g Assistant Director  
Audit and Assurance Section  
Compliance and Enforcement Branch  
Environment Assessment and Compliance Division

 May 2015

**Note:** Under s 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* it is an offence to knowingly provide false and/or misleading information to a departmental officer.



## Australian Government

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

#### Notification of REFERRAL DECISION – not controlled action if undertaken in a particular manner

#### Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)

This decision is made under sections 75 and 77A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

#### Proposed action

##### person named in the referral

Arrow Energy

ACN: 078521936

##### proposed action

To increase the production capacity of the Surat Basin operations through the initial development of gas fields and expansion of existing gas fields near Dalby, Queensland and as described in the referral received under the EPBC Act on 2 February 2010.

#### Referral decision: Not a controlled action if undertaken in a particular manner

##### status of proposed action

The proposed action is not a controlled action provided it is undertaken in the manner set out in this decision.

#### Person authorised to make decision

##### name and position

Mary Colreavy  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment Assessment Branch

##### signature

**S. 47F(1)**

##### date of decision

16 April 2010

##### manner in which proposed action must be taken

The following measures must be taken to avoid significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A).

- Prior to any vegetation disturbance, pre-clearance surveys must be conducted in areas where EPBC-listed ecological communities and/or habitat for EPBC-listed threatened species are present, likely to occur or have the potential to occur.

These pre-clearance surveys must be undertaken by a suitably qualified person. If the surveys cannot be conducted at optimum times for the relevant EPBC-listed species, their presence should be assumed and avoidance and minimisation measures implemented.

A record of the survey and results must be kept and submitted to the Department on request.

(continued next page)

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

- In areas where EPBC-listed ecological communities and/or habitat for EPBC-listed threatened species are likely to be impacted by the proposed action, the person taking the action must implement avoidance measures so as to have no significant impact on those species or communities.

Demonstration of the avoidance measures undertaken must be provided to the Department on request.

- In areas where impacts to EPBC-listed ecological communities and/or habitat for EPBC-listed threatened species cannot be avoided, the person taking the action must minimise potential impacts by implementing Arrow Energy's Environmental Management Standard Operating Procedures as provided in the referral submitted on 2 February 2010, or subsequent versions that incorporate but do not reduce or remove the environmental management procedures set out in that version of the documents, for: vegetation and habitat; site disturbance; ground disturbance and erosion; weed and pathogen; and rehabilitation.

Demonstration of minimisation measures must be provided to the Department on request.

  
 10 April 2010



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

Our ref: EPBC 2010/5353

s. 47F(1)

# s. 47F(1)

Dear s. 47F(1)

Thank you for your email to the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management the Hon David Littleproud MP, detailing your concerns regarding the Surat Gas Expansion project (EPBC 2010/5344) and the Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343). Given that you raise compliance enquiries, your letter has been passed onto the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the Department) to reply.

As you are aware, the Surat Gas Project was approved with conditions on 19 December 2013 and the Dalby Expansion Project was deemed a Not Controlled Action if undertaken in a Particular Manner (NCAPM) on 16 April 2010 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Department has an active monitoring program that includes inspections and audits to monitor compliance with conditions of approval and particular manner requirements. The Department also maintains regular contact with State and Territory regulators to ensure compliance with approval conditions and particular manner requirements.

The Department will contact the proponent to ensure they are operating in accordance with their environmental obligations.

Should you wish to pursue a reconsideration of the NCAPM decision in accordance with s78 of the EPBC Act, please refer to the guidance provided by Minister Littleproud's office. Any reconsideration request under s78 of the EPBC Act must be submitted to the Minister for the Environment in writing.

For further enquiries or compliance concerns relating to Dalby Expansion Project, please contact the Environmental Audit Section by email [epbcmonitoring@awe.gov.au](mailto:epbcmonitoring@awe.gov.au).

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

Monica Collins  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment Compliance Branch  
November 2020

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 November 2020 2:06 PM  
**To:** s. 47F(1)  
**Cc:** Government Correspondence HSE; s. 47F(1) EPBC Monitoring  
**Subject:** RE: Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good Afternoon s. 47F(1)

As outlined below, the Department received a status update for the Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343) in June 2015.

Would it be possible to receive a further update to allow the Department to understand the current status of the project and Arrow Energy's compliance with the requirements of the particular manner decision.

Feel free to give me a call if you require any further details.

Regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Compliance Officer | Environmental Audit Section**  
**Environment Compliance Branch**  
**Compliance Division**  
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au)

---

**From:** s. 47F(1) @arrowenergy.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 June 2015 12:39 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s. 47F(1) @arrowenergy.com.au>; s. 47F(1)  
s. 47F(1) @arrowenergy.com.au>; Government Correspondence HSE <govcorro@arrowenergy.com.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)

Dear s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find attached Arrow Energy's response to your letter regarding the Dalby Expansion Project (Ref EPBC 2010/5343). I apologies for the delay.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)  
Operations Environment Manager

**Arrow Energy Pty Ltd**  
Level 39, 111 Eagle St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 5262, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia  
T;  
F: **s. 47F(1)**  
M:  
[www.arrowenergy.com.au](http://www.arrowenergy.com.au)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s. 47F(1) [@arrowenergy.com.au](mailto:s.47f(1)@arrowenergy.com.au)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 12:10 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s. 47F(1) Government Correspondence HSE  
**Subject:** Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)

Dear s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

We are in receipt of your letter (Ref EPBC 2010/5343) dated 5 May 2015 and are compiling the information that you have requested, including updated contact details. We anticipate a formal response by 5 June 2015.

Please let me know if you have any questions in the interim.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)

Operations Environment Manager

**Arrow Energy Pty Ltd**

Level 39, 111 Eagle St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 5262, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia

T:

F:

M:

**s. 47F(1)**

[www.arrowenergy.com.au](http://www.arrowenergy.com.au)

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s. 47F(1) @arrowenergy.com.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 November 2020 9:53 AM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Government Correspondence HSE; EPBC Monitoring s. 47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343) [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Dalby Expansion Project EPBC 2010\_5343 status update 25November2020.pdf

Dear s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find attached Arrow Energy's response to your request for an update regarding the Dalby Expansion Project (Ref EPBC 2010/5343).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)  
Environment Manager

**Arrow Energy Pty Ltd**

Level 39, 111 Eagle St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 5262, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia

T; s. 47F(1)  
M  
Safety First - 安全第一

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 November 2020 1:06 PM  
**To:** s. 47F(1) @arrowenergy.com.au>  
**Cc:** Government Correspondence HSE <govcorro@arrowenergy.com.au>; s. 47F(1) @arrowenergy.com.au>; EPBC Monitoring <EPBCMonitoring@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**[External Email]**

This email was sent from outside the organisation – be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Good Afternoon s. 47F(1)

As outlined below, the Department received a status update for the Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343) in June 2015.

Would it be possible to receive a further update to allow the Department to understand the current status of the project and Arrow Energy's compliance with the requirements of the particular manner decision.

Feel free to give me a call if you require any further details.

Regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Compliance Officer | Environmental Audit Section**  
**Environment Compliance Branch**  
**Compliance Division**  
 Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
 P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au)

---

**From:** s. 47F(1) [@arrowenergy.com.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@arrowenergy.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 June 2015 12:39 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s. 47F(1) [@arrowenergy.com.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@arrowenergy.com.au)>; s. 47F(1) [@arrowenergy.com.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@arrowenergy.com.au)>; Government Correspondence HSE <[govcorro@arrowenergy.com.au](mailto:govcorro@arrowenergy.com.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)

Dear s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find attached Arrow Energy's response to your letter regarding the Dalby Expansion Project (Ref EPBC 2010/5343). I apologies for the delay.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)  
 Operations Environment Manager

**Arrow Energy Pty Ltd**  
 Level 39, 111 Eagle St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
 GPO Box 5262, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia  
 T  
 F  
 M  
**s. 47F(1)**  
[www.arrowenergy.com.au](http://www.arrowenergy.com.au)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s. 47F(1) [@arrowenergy.com.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@arrowenergy.com.au)]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 12:10 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s. 47F(1) Government Correspondence HSE  
**Subject:** Dalby Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5343)

Dear s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

We are in receipt of your letter (Ref EPBC 2010/5343) dated 5 May 2015 and are compiling the information that you have requested, including updated contact details. We anticipate a formal response by 5 June 2015.

Please let me know if you have any questions in the interim.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)  
 Operations Environment Manager

**Arrow Energy Pty Ltd**  
 Level 39, 111 Eagle St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
 GPO Box 5262, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia  
 T;  
 F;  
 M  
**s. 47F(1)**  
w

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25 November 2020

Ref: CMO

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Environmental Audit Section  
Environment Compliance Branch  
Compliance Division  
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Subject: Dalby Expansion Project – EPBC 2010/5343**

Arrow Energy Pty Ltd (Arrow) has received your email of 19 November 2020 regarding the status of the Dalby Expansion Project EPBC Approval (EPBC 2010/5343).

As per your request, this correspondence provides a brief summary of the progress of project activities since the last status update in June 2015.

Since June 2015, Arrow has continued to develop the Dalby field progressively with works including the construction of approximately 160 additional CSG production wells and water monitoring bores and an upgrade to the Daandine Compressor Station.

For works undertaken to date, all “measures” as listed in the Referral Decision have been followed to avoid significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities.

On 22 October 2020, the Surat Gas Project EPBC approval 2010/5344 commenced. This recently triggered approval overlaps the entirety of the DXP 2010/5343 approval and the DXP approval is now considered to be ‘superseded’ and will no longer be used.

I look forward to providing you with updates as to the status of EPBC 2010/5344.

For future correspondence I will be the main point of contact. If you require any further information please contact me at s. 47F(1) [@arrowenergy.com.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@arrowenergy.com.au) or s. 47F(1)

Yours sincerely,

s. 47F(1)

Environment Manager

## s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 August 2021 5:47 PM  
**To:** EPBC Monitoring  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Attachment: Revocation request: EPBC 2010/5343 and EPBC 2010/5344 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** MC21-023789 - 210718 - revocation request - 1 (002).pdf  
**Categories:** Michaela

Apologies, I forgot to add the attachment in my previous e-mail.

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 August 2021 4:25 PM  
**To:** EPBC Monitoring <EPBCMonitoring@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Revocation request: EPBC 2010/5343 and EPBC 2010/5344 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello Compliance Team,

A revocation request has been made under Section 145(1) and Section 489 of the EPBC Act for two Arrow Energy projects located in the Surat Basin, Queensland. The request has been made by s. 47F(1) (correspondence attached). The projects in question are the:

[Dalby Expansion project - EPBC 2010/5343](#) (NCA PM); and  
[Surat Gas Expansion Project - EPBC 2010/5344](#) (CA).

Could please advise us of the compliance history for both projects and if there are any contraventions we need to be aware of.

Your assistance is much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Project Officer | Water Resources Regulatory Support  
Environment Approvals Division  
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au) | P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

# s. 47G(1)(a)

## s. 47F(1)

18 July 2021

The Hon. Sussan Ley  
Minister for the Environment  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Thank you for communicating to us the investigations are progressing regarding Arrow Energy EPBC 2010/5344 and EPBC 2010/5343 subsidence, and misleading to obtain approvals, and operating without environmental authority, and other matters.

We are aware that Arrow Energy has lodged a revision to WMMP thresholds. We have not been consulted on the revision however I did attend an Arrow Energy seminar which provided extremely limited information as to their revisions. That information made it clear that the revisions proposed by Arrow Energy remain to their own benefit and to the detriment of the Crown, the Environment, and other users of MNES Water. The thresholds remain unsuitable, do not follow Australian Standards as to Risk, and the method of capturing survey data will not capture the consequence of the subsidence impact to other users of MNES Water.

Dr Richard Chadwick, Assistant Secretary, Environment Compliance Branch, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment wrote to [s. 47F\(1\)](#) (letter reference MC21-019644) stating "On 6 May 2021, officers from the department inspected the site in Dalby". We advise that to our knowledge this inspection of our "site" did not occur, we were not contacted by any officers of your department nor notified that access would be made, no officers of your department were to our knowledge on our property, and further due to substantial rain that occurred on 5 May 2021 the "site" being soil would have readily shown access had occurred so we believe that inspection did not occur. It is not possible to properly inspect the site from any adjoining property.

We request that Dr Richard Chadwick seek clarification of the access his departmental officers made to our property and advise us if access occurred to our property on 6 May 2021. Further we ask that he clarify his correspondence to [s. 47F\(1\)](#)