Pipeline Construction (Young to Wagga Wagga) Bill 1979

Date Introduced: 23 October 1979
House: House of Representatives

Purpose

The Bill authorises the Pipeline Authority to construct a natural gas pipeline from Young on the main Moomba to Sydney pipeline to Cootamundra and Wagga Wagga.

Background

The Pipeline Authority Act 1973 resulted from a concept for the eventual construction of a national "Pipeline Grid". The concept envisaged the controlled development of natural gas resources including the possibility of a transcontinental pipeline from the North West gas fields. The Act gave wide powers and functions to the Authority.

The 1978 Annual Report of the Department of National Development indicates the shift of emphasis towards encouraging private enterprise in the development of natural gas resources. The Report indicates that, following a number of assurances and incentives, the companies concerned with North West Shelf gas are carrying out a feasibility, planning and definition study. This embraces reserves, offshore and onshore facilities, marketing, shipping, financing and project economics.

The Government's decision to construct the pipeline outlined in this Bill is in accordance with the energy policy statement made by the Prime Minister on 27 June 1979.

Main Provisions

Clause 3 gives authorization to the Pipeline Authority to

(i) construct a 324 millimetre diameter pipeline from Young to Cootamundra and Wagga Wagga in the State of New South Wales on the route described in the Schedule, and
(ii) to make such deviations, not exceeding 1,000 metres on either side of the route which are necessary or reasonable for the better construction and working of the pipeline.

Clause 4 specifies that the estimated cost of constructing the pipeline is $17,500,000.