

Environment Effects Statement Consultation Plan Western Outer Ring Main Project

November 2020

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1 Introduction

On 22 December 2019, the Victorian Minister for Planning decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the APA Western Outer Ring Main Gas Pipeline Project (the Project) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, listing the following reasons;

- The Project has potential for significant environmental effects, in particular on native vegetation, habitat of terrestrial and aquatic species listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, ecologically sensitive waterways and wetlands, and on Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- An Environment Effects Statement is warranted to provide an integrated, robust and transparent process to assess the proposal’s effects and associated uncertainties, and to evaluate effectiveness of the proposed avoidance, mitigation, management and offsetting measures, prior to any statutory approval decisions.

APA, as the proponent, will work to prepare an EES to ensure the potential effects of the Project are rigorously investigated as part of an integrated assessment process, prior to any statutory approval decisions.

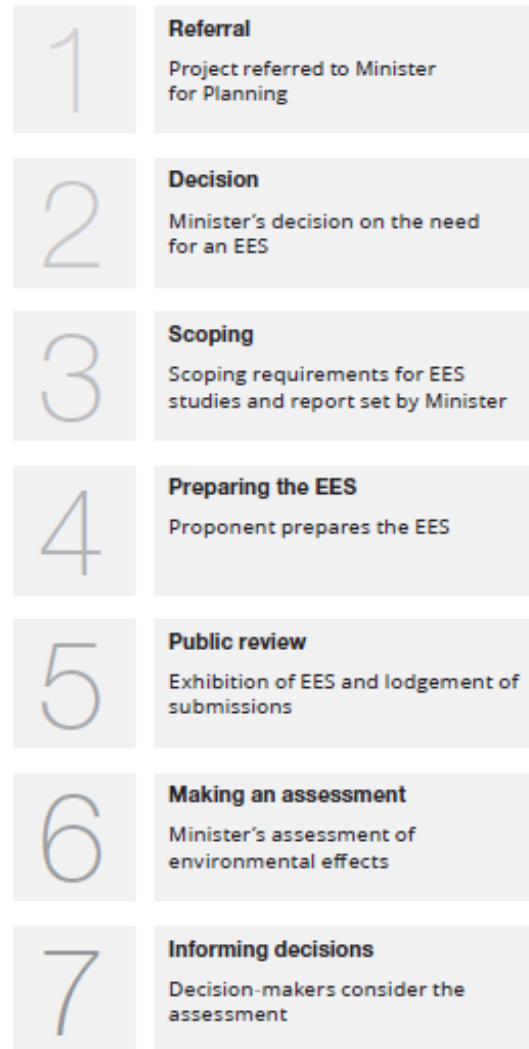
An EES is an assessment of the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of a proposed project. It is prepared to inform the Minister for Planning’s assessment on the level of environmental effects a project may have. It is then provided to relevant decision-makers, by the Minister, to enable them to make decisions about a proposal in the knowledge of its effects and the Minister’s advice about whether the proposal provides an acceptable outcome.

The EES includes a suite of detailed technical investigations undertaken by independent technical specialists. Scoping Requirements for the Project, which set out the issues to be investigated through the EES, have been issued by the Minister for Planning in July 2020 and placed on public exhibition. The EES Scoping Requirements for the Project have been approved by the Minister for Planning in August 2020.

At the completion of the EES preparation, including the detailed technical studies, the EES will be submitted to the state government for consideration and placed on public exhibition. An inquiry may then be appointed under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* to consider and report on the environmental effects of the Project, as per the Minister of Planning’s decision.

In addition to detailed technical investigations, the *Environment Effects Act 1978* requires ‘the proponent to prepare and implement a public consultation plan for informing the public and consulting with stakeholders during the preparation of the EES’.

Figure 1-1: The EES process



Further information on the EES process is available at www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria.

1.1 Background

APA VTS Australia (Operations) Pty Limited, a subsidiary of the APA Group (APA), is proposing the construction and operation of the Western Outer Ring Main (the Project), a 500 millimetre nominal diameter gas transmission pipeline between Plumpton and Wollert, to connect the eastern and western sections of the Victorian Transmission System (VTS).

The approximately 51 kilometre pipeline Project will address key capacity constraints in the VTS by providing a new high pressure connection between existing sources of natural gas supply in the north and east with those in the west of Victoria.

This will provide improved reliability in the network by increasing the amount of gas that can be stored for times of peak demand and ensuring that sufficient volumes of gas can be moved to where it is needed most.

1.2 Purpose and scope

APA has prepared the EES Consultation Plan (EESCP) to address how it proposes to consult and interact with key stakeholders, including approval authorities, government agencies, land owners/occupiers, businesses, and local/community/ council reference groups and government/elected representatives likely to be affected by the Project. This plan identifies key objectives, tools and desired outcomes from the engagement with the relevant stakeholders. The EESCP will apply until the completion of the public exhibition of the EES, and can be modified throughout the EES process to respond to changing stakeholder needs.

The EESCP has been prepared to integrate with the EES program of technical studies for the Project, and in accordance with the procedures and requirements of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, with particular reference to the *Environment Effects Act 1978: EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note*.

It complements the approach outlined in the WORM Project Consultation Plan (18035-PL-LH-0001) and shows how the Project will carry out the consultation that is required within the EES process, in order to fulfil statutory requirements of the Pipelines Act 2005.

The purpose of consultation with the public and stakeholders is to discuss with them the background of the Project, reason for the gas pipeline and associated facilities, seek feedback and to establish how APA can:

- Establish sound consultative processes relating to the planning, construction and operation of the Project
- Protect the public from environmental, health and safety risks resulting from the construction and operation of the pipeline and associated facilities
- Ensure that the Project is constructed and operated in a way that avoids and minimises adverse environmental impacts and has regard for the need for ecologically sustainable development.

The EESCP describes:

- The rationale for the Project and its preferred route
- Why information will be distributed and collected
- The Project's stakeholders, and what their interests are
- How information will be communicated to, and collected from, the respective stakeholders and wider public
- What information will be collected and distributed
- When information will be collected and distributed
- How the EESCP will be monitored for effectiveness, with scope for improvement throughout the process.

The EESCP is based on the intent of the following guidance documents:

- The International Association for Public Participation Australasia (IAP2's) *Public Participation Spectrum* (2014)
- The Victorian Auditor-General's Office Auditing in the *Public Participation in Government Decision-making – Better practice guide* (2015)
- The Australian Pipelines and Gas Association (APGA) *Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines* (2015)
- The APGA and Victorian Farmers Federation's (VFF) *Pipeline easement guidelines* (2009)
- The former Department of Primary Industry's *Guidelines for the preparation of pipeline consultation plans – Pipelines Act 2005*.

These guidelines intend to promote best practice and a positive relationship between relevant stakeholders and pipeline companies and meet relevant regulatory requirements for the content requirements of a consultation plan.

1.3 Abbreviations

The abbreviations used in this document are listed in Table 0-2. A glossary of commonly utilised pipeline industry and EES terminology has been attached as Appendix B.

Table 1-2: Abbreviations

Item	Definition
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
APA	APA Group
APGA	Australian Pipelines and Gas Association
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
DELWP	Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
EE Act	Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EESCP	Environment Effects Statement Consultation Plan
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
ESV	Energy Safe Victoria
HSE	Health, safety and environment
IAP2	International Association of Public Participation
Iona UGS	Iona Underground Gas Storage Facility
LDP	Longford Dandenong Pipeline
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MSA	Melbourne Strategic Assessment
Pipelines Act	Pipelines Act 2005 (Vic)
Pipelines Regulations	Pipelines Regulations 2017 (Vic)
PPA	Preliminary pipeline alignment
SWP	South West Pipeline
The Project	Western Outer Ring Main Project
TRG	Technical Reference Group
VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
VFF	Victorian Farmers Federation
VNI	Victorian Northern Interconnect
VTS	Victorian Transmission System
XIC	X-Info Connect (APA stakeholder management system)

1.4 Document references

All work performed in accordance with this EESCP shall be in conformance with the current issue, including amendments, of those national and international standards, codes of practice and guidelines listed under section 1-2 and APA documents listed in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3: APA referenced documents

Item	Definition
120-PR-QM-0001	Document Control Procedure
560-PR-QM-0001	Landowner Engagement Procedure
560-PR-QM-0004	Authorised Third Party Works Management Procedure
GD-A-1051	Community Consultation Planning Guide
POL-A-2010	Community Consultation Policy
18035-PL-LH-0001	Consultation Plan: Western Outer Ring Main Project
WPT.2373-RP-PL-0001	Routes Options Report: Western Outer Ring Main Project, March 2019

2 Project description and background

2.1 Project overview

The Project is a proposed 500 millimetre nominal diameter high pressure gas transmission pipeline between APA’s existing Plumpton Regulating Station (approx. 38 kilometres north west of Melbourne’s CBD) and Wollert Compressor Station (approx. 26 kilometres north east of Melbourne’s CBD). This proposed 51 kilometre pipeline infrastructure will provide an additional high pressure connection between the eastern and western pipeline networks of the Victorian Transmission System (VTS).

The Project includes the following key components:

- A new pipeline: The pipeline will be approximately 51km. The pipeline will occupy a 15 metre wide permanent easement with the exception of the sections of pipeline to be installed within existing APA easements, crown land or rail reserve. Where the pipeline is installed within Crown Land or rail reserve, a licence will be obtained from the Crown Land Minister or the asset owner (VicTrack), respectively. The pipeline will be buried for its entire length to a minimum depth of cover of 750 millimetres (with the final depth determined as an outcome of the Safety Management Study).
- Mainline valves: Three mainline valves will be located along the pipeline alignment within the proposed easement.
- An additional compressor and a regulating station: These are proposed at APA’s existing gas compressor station located at 365 Summerhill Road, Wollert.

A schematic illustration of the project context is shown in Figure 2-2. The alignment is shown in more detail in the map in Figure 0-1.

Figure 2-1 Western Outer Ring Main overview



2.2 Project rationale

Strategic context

APA is Australia's largest natural gas infrastructure business. In Victoria, the VTS is owned and maintained by APA and consists of some 2,267 kilometres of gas pipelines. The VTS serves a total consumption base of approximately 2 million residential consumers and approximately 60,000 industrial and commercial users throughout Victoria. The VTS has three main branches, including:

- The Longford Dandenong Pipeline (LDP) which lies between Dandenong in Melbourne's south east and South Eastern Victoria.
- The Victorian Northern Interconnect (VNI) which lies between Wollert just north of Melbourne and the NSW border.
- The South West Pipeline (SWP) which lies between Brooklyn in Melbourne's west and South Western Victoria.

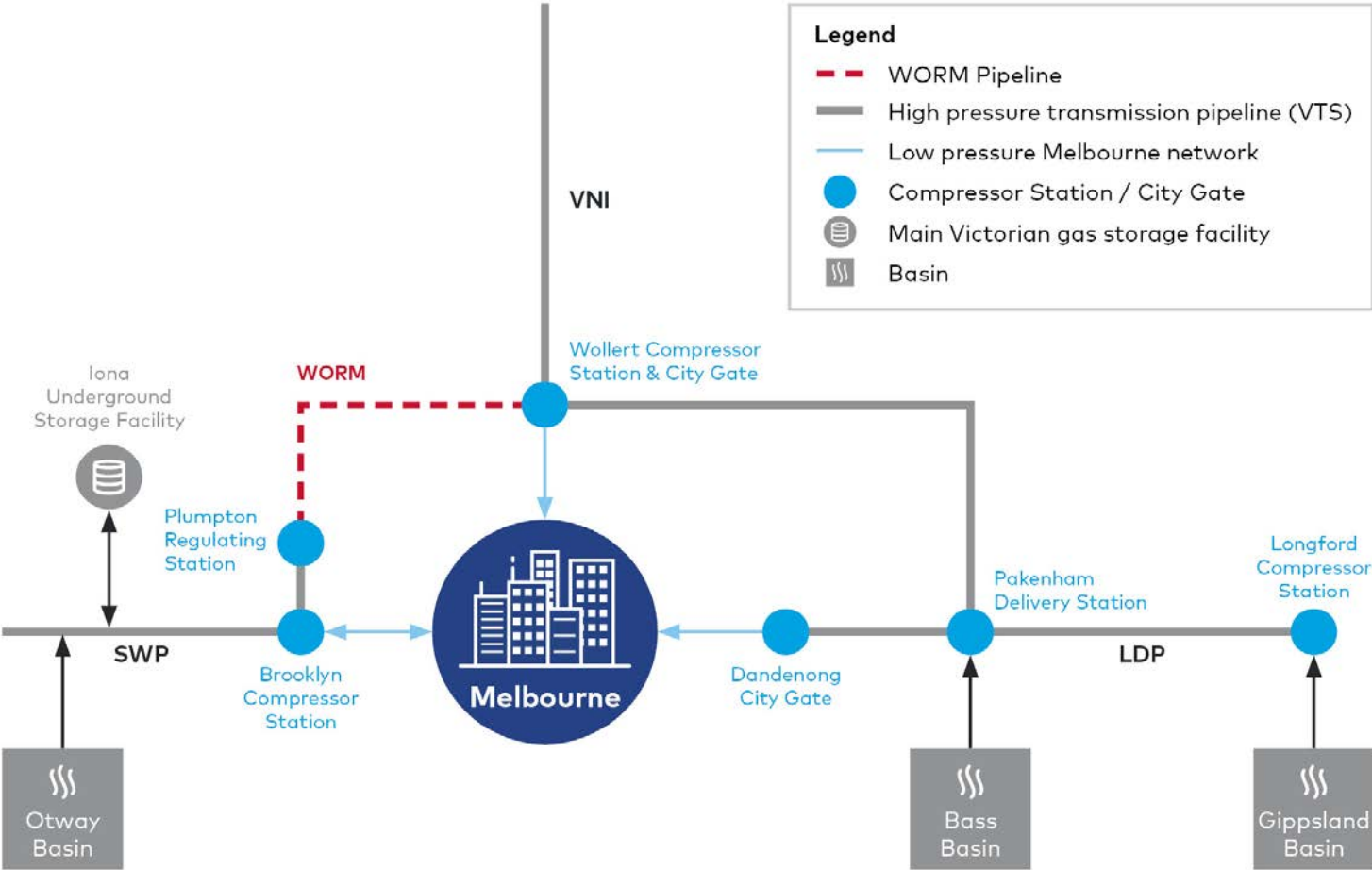
See figure 2-2 for a schematic overview of the VTS.

The LDP and the VNI are linked by the high pressure Outer Ring Main (Pakenham to Wollert Gas Pipeline). This provides the ability to send gas under high pressure between these pipelines.

There is no equivalent link between either the VNI and the SWP or the LDP and the SWP. Sending gas between these pipelines involves using the lower pressure Melbourne network, and this limits the amount of gas that can be moved across Victoria in these directions.

Victoria has two major natural gas storage facilities, Iona Underground Storage Facility (Iona UGS) and Dandenong LNG Storage Facility. Of these two, the more significant in terms of storage capacity is the Iona UGS with a total storage capacity of 26PJ (compared to 0.7PJ for Dandenong LNG). The Iona UGS is located near the town of Port Campbell and uses a depleted gas field to store natural gas. The storage facility is connected to the SWP with the ability to be refilled from the SWP as well as being able to inject into the SWP to flow gas to Melbourne.

Figure 2-2: Victorian Transmission System Schematic including the WORM



Project benefits

The Project will play an important role in Victoria's overall gas supply and result in a number of benefits, including:

- Addressing forecast gas shortages: Improved system resilience and security of gas supply in the event of planned or unplanned outages at one of the main gas processing facilities.
- Unlocking capacity to and from Port Campbell: Ability to move higher volumes of gas from the SWP meaning higher refilling rates for the Iona UGS.
- Increased gas supply capacity for power generation: Increased capacity to supply existing and potential new gas fired peaking power generation demand for which is increasing as Victoria's reliance on renewable generation sources increases.
- Improved network performance resilience: Increased storage capacity within the pipeline system.
- More efficiency in operation: The Project will enable one compressor unit at Wollert to increase capacity into the Iona UGS, with significantly less compression required compared to the current arrangement using two or more compressors at Brooklyn.
- Improved supply options for urban growth areas: Provides an opportunity for third party energy retailers to install new offtakes from the proposed pipeline, at a later date, for future provision of gas supply for residential and employment growth areas along the route, including Sunbury South, Mickleham and Kalkallo.

The Project will help ensure that all Victorians can continue to benefit from a reliable gas transmission system that meets the needs of the community both now and into the future.

In particular, the Australian Energy Market Regulator (AEMO) has identified that Victoria relies on the Iona UGS to meet winter maximum gas demand. Refilling for the Iona UGS is currently limited as gas is required to be transferred through the low pressure pipeline network in Melbourne. This limits the amount of gas that can be moved across the network in Victoria to and from the SWP. The Western Outer Ring Main pipeline will enable gas to be sent at high pressure directly to Port Campbell (to support Iona UGS refilling) which will support peak demand supply during winter periods.

The Project will therefore play a key role in helping to avoid gas supply shortages which are currently forecasted for late 2022 in AEMO's March 2020 Victorian Gas Planning Report Update

Pipeline route selection

Route options for the Project have been under consideration since at least 2007, and the subject of discussion with AEMO since 2012. In late 2018 APA undertook a comprehensive route selection process, assessing the possible alignments through a multi-criteria assessment aligning with the objectives of the Pipelines Act.

Two of the six objectives of the Pipelines Act specifically relate to the minimisation of social and environmental impacts:

- To protect the public from environmental, health and safety risks resulting from the construction and operation of pipelines.
- To ensure that pipelines are constructed and operated in a way that minimises adverse environmental impacts and has regard for the need for sustainable development.

The route selection process identified and assessed a number of key constraints between Plumpton and Wollert to inform the route options including natural values and existing /planned assets and development.

The route selection process is detailed in the Route Options Report – Western Outer Ring Main Project (March 2019). The process resulted in a preferred option to be investigated in greater detail as part of additional desktop information, continual discussions with landowners and on ground assessments.

Key factors in selection of the preliminary pipeline alignment (PPA) include:

- Alignment with objectives of the *Pipelines Act 2005* – including protection of the public from environmental, health and safety risks; and ensuring the pipeline is constructed and operated in a way that minimises environmental impacts
- Avoidance of impacts to the Mount Ridley Nature Conservation Reserve, adjoining Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) conservation area and lowest impact on remnant vegetation
- Minimisation of impacts to Merri Creek by using the existing APA easement at the crossing locations to construct the WORM.
- Minimised co-location with the Ausnet 500 kV easement (to reduce safety and pipeline corrosion risks)
- Lowest number of land parcels intersected
- Avoidance of residential and industrial tenure, and formal conservation tenure outside of APA's existing easement.

The PPA resulting from the route selection process will be the subject of the EES. The constraints and parameters leading to the PPA mean there is scope for refinement of the PPA but alternative route options will not be further investigated.

The maps in Figure 0-1 and in Appendix A show the PPA.

Ongoing alignment refinement will continue to be undertaken which will be informed by consultation with stakeholders and landowners affected by the alignment as described in section 4, as well as findings of ongoing field investigations (engineering and environment) and the EES for the Project.

3 Project consultation background

The EESCP has been developed around different stages of the Project's development. These stages form logical phases of consultation, with distinct aspects in relation to the provision of information, the method of consultation and level of engagement required with relevant landowners and other stakeholders for each stage. The relevant stages, along with a description of the likely consultation requirements for each stage, are illustrated in Figure 3-1.

The stages of development and phases of consultation have been identified as follows:

- 1 Information gathering for route selection
- 2 Initial stakeholder engagement
- 3 Obtaining land access for surveys
- 4 Agreement on pipeline corridor
- 5 Completion of impact assessments and regulatory approvals (EES, EPBC, CHMP and Pipeline Licence)
- 6 Pipeline construction
- 7 Pipeline operation.

Throughout the development of the Project, key stakeholders are being encouraged to actively participate in discussions with APA representatives and raise questions where they may have concerns. Where a query cannot be addressed to the satisfaction of the stakeholder by APA personnel (generally experienced land access officers), a more detailed response will be provided from an appropriate level of technical expertise.

Figure 3-1: Summary of project stages and consultation



The first four stages in Figure 3-1 are either complete or well advanced. The approach to completion of regulatory approvals) is expanded on in section 4.

The purpose of the next round of consultation during the EES and approvals phase is to:

- Inform stakeholders and community members of the EES process and timeline.
- Share technical studies completed with stakeholders and community.
- Provide stakeholders and community members with sufficient opportunities to provide input into the EES process.
- Obtain stakeholder input on project issues, impacts and alignments.
- Outline current and future opportunities for community involvement with the Project.

4 Consultation throughout the EES process

4.1 Project stakeholders

Consultation has taken place prior to the EES process and since mid-late 2018. Engaged parties include impacted landowners, local communities in the vicinity of the PPA, Traditional Owner Groups, utility providers and government stakeholders, at the local, state and federal level.

APA will continue to work with community members, landowners and occupiers, Indigenous groups, local interest groups and other stakeholders to help them understand the potential impacts of the Project that would be assessed as part of the EES process, and will encourage public participation.

Stakeholders for this Project come from a wide cross-section of the community including:

Table 4-1: Overview of stakeholder groups

Landowners and occupiers	Asset/infrastructure owners impacted by pipeline route	Regulatory authorities (State)
Regulatory authorities (Commonwealth)	Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owner Groups	Elected Representatives – all levels
Local councils	Community, Environment and Action Groups	Media
Local residents	Local businesses	

A more detailed overview of stakeholders is provided in the stakeholder engagement matrix (Appendix C). The matrix also includes responsibilities for engagement and ongoing relationship management. It is with these parties that APA seeks to build an open, ongoing relationship to facilitate clear channels of communication and feedback.

4.2 Issues identification

Feedback received to date and preliminary technical investigations have helped to understand the existing conditions and key issues for consideration within the project area, as well as stakeholder and landowner concerns. This has helped APA to develop and refine the project design and alignment.

Table 4-2: Issues identification and project response

What we've heard	What we're doing about it
Impacts from preferred pipeline route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous routes studied before selecting preferred route APA has incorporated changes to the alignment following consultation with landowners and other stakeholders.
Environment impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA will present findings of EES technical studies including key issues such as ecology, noise and vibration, social, ground and surface water greenhouse gas assessment (includes impacts on climate change during construction and in operation) and landscape and visual etc. The community will have the opportunity to provide feedback on these studies as part of the EES process.
Safety of the pipeline operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA will produce a fact sheet regarding management of safety in the design, construction and operation of pipeline.
Aboriginal cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA is preparing Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMP) for the Project which incorporate feedback from Traditional Owners about the approach and content for the CHMP.

Throughout the EES process, further issues and concerns will be identified as the technical studies progress for the following aspects:

- Biodiversity: Removal of vegetation, potential impacts to flora and fauna.
- Water: Potential impacts to waterways and groundwater (water quality and water movement).
- Ground movement and land stability: Potential ground instability or movement from trenching, boring, and blasting.
- Contamination: Disturbance of potentially contaminated soil in construction.
- Air quality: Potential impacts on sensitive receptors from construction dust or operation of the compressor station.
- Noise & vibration: Potential impacts on sensitive receptors from construction noise and vibration and operation of the compressor station.
- Landscape and visual impact: Potential landscape character and visual impacts from removal of vegetation and construction activities.
- Land use planning: Potential impacts on current or planned land use and character of those land uses including residential, rural, commercial, industrial and recreational values.

- Social impact: Potential impacts to access, amenity and/or community infrastructure/services.
- Cultural heritage: Potential impacts to registered Aboriginal Heritage sites or identified European heritage values.
- Greenhouse: Identify potential impacts from greenhouse gas emissions from the Project during construction and operation activities.
- Safety, hazard and risk: Identify potential safety hazards and associated risks with the Project on people and environment.

The technical studies will address specific issues, some relevant to particular groups of stakeholders and some relevant to landowners and the local community. Risk and impact assessments will be undertaken as part of the EES process to identify and implement appropriate measures to either avoid, minimise or mitigate risks and impacts from the Project.

The resulting consultation report will detail the full range of concerns raised, and explain how the proponent is responding in each case.

Summary of previous consultation and communications activity

Information gathering for Route Selection took place in late 2018 and included engagement with key stakeholders of relevance to the route selection process. The Initial Stakeholder Consultation phase commenced in November 2018 with project information and briefings being provided to relevant federal, state and local government authorities and utilities.

Further communications have taken place as follows:

- March 2019: publication of a web page on the APA website
- March 2019: project fact sheet published on the APA website (see Appendix D)
- March 2019: APA Worm Pipeline Project Consultation Plan published on the APA website
- March 2019 – ongoing: land owner and occupier engagement (see section 3 for more information)
- March 2019 – ongoing: council briefings and meetings
- November 2019: land use newsletter published on the APA website (see Appendix E)
- October 2019: distribution of project newsletter by post to approximately 1,750 residents local to the alignment (see Appendix F)
- March 2020: distribution of project newsletter by post to residents local to the alignment (see Appendix G).

4.3 Consultation approach

APA Policy

APA has a Community Consultation Policy (POL-A-2010) that serves to explain APA's approach to community consultation. The policy applies to all staff and contractors of the entities that make up APA Group and/or represent APA in the community. As such, the Project will be developed in accordance with the Community Consultation Policy.

The Community Consultation Policy outlines the following values and commitment with respect to consultation processes:

"APA values and respects its relationships with the communities in which its assets and operations exist and focuses on ensuring that it remains engaged with its stakeholders to inform and engage them in meaningful ways on the activities it undertakes.

APA recognises that every community has insights, knowledge and experiences that can add value to, or improve the outcomes of, proposed activities it may take in a location. By tapping into these insights, knowledge and experiences, APA can improve its decision-making processes and develop better ongoing sustainable solutions.

APA is committed to meeting all applicable regulatory and legislative requirements and working with regional government group to fully communicate its approach and principles.

APA is also committed to building and maintaining relationships with all its stakeholders and ensuring each stakeholder community is recognised and listened to as appropriate to its ongoing work or specific projects."

In addition, APA has developed a Community Consultation Planning Guide (GD-A-1051), which assists staff to adhere to the above policy when identifying the appropriate approach and level of consultation for the activity they are to undertake. In addition to external guidance documents, this guide has been relied upon in the preparation of this EESCP.

Consultation objectives

The primary objectives of the consultation activities proposed under this EESCP are to:

- Ensure a consistent consultation approach is adopted during the Project.
- Meet the statutory requirements and expectations of regulatory agencies in relation to the consultative processes used by the Project for engaging with stakeholders.
- Ensure that consultation activities enable stakeholders to better understand the Project, their rights and the aspects they can influence through the timely distribution of project information that is presented in an understandable format.
- Ensure that APA is able to understand the views of stakeholders by identifying issues of potential concern and obtaining local knowledge on existing conditions.
- Understand stakeholders' perceptions of potential effects, gain their feedback and respond appropriately to their concerns.

- Outline the process of consultation with stakeholders, to ensure consistency with regulatory requirements.

Consultation and engagement principles

APA is committed to responding to and implementing a very high standard of consultation and engagement principles in its approach towards communications and engagement throughout the EES for the Project and indeed the Project's lifetime. The following principles are derived from *Victorian Auditor-General's Office – better practice guide for public participation (2015)*.

Figure 4-3: Consultation and engagement principles



Open communication

Achieved when open and meaningful dialogue is carried out and processes established to allow this to occur



Transparency and integrity

When community concerns are responded to in a timely, open and effective manner; and engagement is conducted in a manner that fosters mutual respect and trust



Collaboration

Working to seek mutually beneficial outcomes where feasible



Inclusion

Created when the rights, cultural beliefs, values and interests of the community within or surrounding the Project area are recognised



Responsiveness

Acknowledging all feedback and by establishing processes to record and disseminate information on how community feedback contributed to decision making



Accountability

Actively seeking diverse opinions and perspectives to broaden understanding of views and assist decisions



Awareness

Demonstrated when the need to understand, engage and identify the community is undertaken early in the process

4.4 Proposed engagement program

A range of resources and channels (see section 4.6) will be used to communicate with and engage stakeholders throughout the EES process. Feedback will be received in written and verbal form, via digital and traditional channels. All communications will be kept clear, concise and culturally appropriate.

Stakeholder communications will be strategically planned and combined to minimise the risk of consultation fatigue in the community.

Communication and engagement activities will be targeted to the needs, interest and impact of community and stakeholders groups and the appropriate level of consultation.

Timing for communication and engagement activities will reflect the status of project activities and the interests of particular stakeholders. For example, engagement with relevant stakeholders or community will be planned when key information becomes available from technical study investigations and in order to feed into the development of relevant technical studies.

This approach is broadly guided by the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation and the Recommendations of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office Better Practice Guide.

Appendix H sets out the proposed engagement and communications activities through the EES phases.

During the preparation of the EES from June 2020 to March 2021, engagement and communications activities would relate to the key themes, topics and interests under consideration as the technical studies and EES are developed. Table 4-4 outlines key themes and sub-themes.

- Public and stakeholder information sessions are anticipated to include:
- A general project/EES introduction
- Subsequent sessions at key points of the Technical Studies and EES development, enabling engagement on key themes. Sessions may run concurrent themes.

The timing, topics and number of sessions will be confirmed as the EES is developed.

Table 4-4 Engagement / public information session themes

Topic	Sub-theme
Project information	Pipeline alignment Overview Rationale
Approval and impact assessment	EES Pipeline licence
Biodiversity	Flora Fauna
Construction	Noise Vibration Air quality
Waterways, soil and greenhouse gas management	Surface water & groundwater Land stability & erosion Contaminated land

Topic	Sub-theme
	Greenhouse Gas emission
Safety and risk	Pipeline safety Climate change risk
Business, cultural heritage, social and landscape	Business Aboriginal cultural heritage Historic heritage Social Landscape and visual

4.5 Engagement and communications methodology

Regarding Covid-19

Following the Covid-19 outbreak in the first quarter of 2020, the most suitable means of communicating and engaging with stakeholders and timing will need to be under constant review, depending on the prevailing isolation requirements and outbreak status.

Generally speaking, use of digital and remote means of interacting (for example webinars, online chat, online engagement platforms) will be more strongly promoted and supported. Another consideration is taking care not to exclude those with limited access to or familiarity with digital media by facilitating traditional channels such as phone calls or providing printed information on ongoing basis related to significant project milestones in the Project. Timing of events will need to take account of community priorities for communications material.

Resources and channels

The following resources and channels will be available to engage with Project stakeholders and the wider community.

Table 4-5: Print communications

Letter distribution	Letters delivered directly to impacted householders, landowners and businesses to inform them of project information
Newsletters, fact sheets and brochures	A suite of material: from initial project overview, history, field investigations, design progress through to statutory planning and construction. Available online (in an accessible, HTML format) and in hard copy for face to face events and distribution to community outlets.
Posters and signage	Posters and signage to help increase awareness of the Project. These will be used at public events and can be provided to local councils, MPs offices, libraries and community notice boards.
Media	Local media through local newspapers and local government media networks will help inform people about the Project and feedback opportunities.
Maps and other visual aids	Clear maps displaying project options and other aspects online and at information sessions.

Engagement report	A report outlining the comments, ideas, suggestions and issues heard from stakeholders and communities. The report will make clear how their concerns are being addressed, and if they cannot be addressed, it will explain why not.
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Table 4-6: Digital communications

Website	APA WORM website pages will be updated promptly as new information becomes available. Content prepared in line with accessibility guidelines.
Email updates	Sent at regular intervals (milestone triggers) to keep people informed and highlight opportunities to get involved.
Promotion through partner websites	Communicating project updates and promoting discussion through use of local council and community pages.
Videos	Videos help communicate project messages and distil complex information into an easy to understand format. Videos will be uploaded onto the project website to provide information and project updates.
Engagement snapshots	Snapshots outlining what comments, ideas, suggestions and issues heard from stakeholders and communities and links to more detailed reports.

Table 4-7: Engagement

Land owners and occupiers	Working with residents and land owners closest to the project area, including land owners along the proposed pipeline route.
Webinars	This platform will be made available in the event that there is more limited opportunity to engage directly with the public due to Covid-19. It can be used for meetings, panels, information sessions, workshops and presentations.
Online engagement tools	Tools hosted and linked from the APA website to provide information and collect feedback.
Stakeholder meetings	Building stakeholder relationships through meetings and briefings, targeted and on request.
Information sessions/displays	Information sessions/displays will be a primary engagement method to present information and collect feedback. These will be held at key milestones, prior to and during the exhibition of the EES, in accessible venues, allowing a wide cross section of the community to attend.
Community presentations	APA will offer to present to groups potentially interested in the Project such as local Rotary and RSL clubs, highly interested stakeholders, culturally and linguistically diverse groups (with the support of cultural leaders), youth and industry groups.
Email and telephone	Receiving and responding to enquiries via the 1800 phone number and project email address for community queries, which will be included on all public collateral. All calls, responses and actions required are recorded in an accredited stakeholder database (see section 5.1)
Research and/or surveys	Targeted community research activities such as surveys to support technical studies such as social impact assessment.
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities Vulnerable and hard to reach communities	The project team will work with local government, community group leaders and other relevant agencies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify vulnerable and hard to reach communities and to provide culturally sensitive ways to approach and involve different communities Identify relevant individuals, groups and those who support them

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine engagement approaches on a case by case basis • Collaborate with local government to use known contacts. • Ensure information is made available in formats and at times to suit different communities. <p>CALD communications will be used where appropriate including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translations of printed materials • Advertising in specific language publications.
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4.6 Evaluation and continuous improvement of the engagement program

Monitoring and reporting

Engagement methodology and activities outlined in the EESCP will be monitored continuously and revised as necessary to ensure that communication and engagement objectives are met.

APA will measure the performance of the EESCP by analysing:

- Feedback from people attending information sessions, meetings, or talked to during door-knocking activities
- Comments received through the engagement website, emails and phone calls
- Website visits
- Number and content of survey responses
- Sentiment captured through media monitoring.

Participation levels and feedback received on the engagement process will be recorded, collected and considered as part of ongoing evaluation and continuous improvement of the engagement program during the preparation of the EES.

Stakeholder contact information and interaction details will be collected using a stakeholder management database to enable feedback to be accurately recorded and analysed during the engagement process from community members and stakeholders.

Data will also be collected and recorded using tools available on the engagement website and website analytics tools. Issues will be considered and addressed as part of the EES process with outcomes to be reported in the final EES report. Information will be stored in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

A summary of participation levels, feedback and ideas from stakeholders and communities to improve the engagement process will be included in public-facing engagement reports, on the project webpage or in regular newsletter updates.

Evaluating the Consultation Plan

Issues raised during the EES consultation and responses to these issues will be recorded in EES documentation. The Technical Reference Group (TRG) will review all EES documentation. The EESCP itself will be reviewed and updated periodically.

Technical Reference Group

DELWP will convene a TRG, comprised of representatives of relevant state government agencies, departments and relevant local councils to advise on the preparation of the EES. The project TRG is expected to consist of the following bodies:

Table 4-8: TRG members

<p>DELWP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DELWP Planning • DELWP Pipeline Regulation • DELWP Port Philip Region 	<p>Other government department/agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Protection Authority • Heritage Victoria • Aboriginal Victoria • Melbourne Water • Department of Transport • Victrack • Energy Safe Victoria
<p>Local councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melton City Council • Hume City Council • Mitchell Shire Council • Whittlesea City Council 	<p>Traditional Owners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

4.7 How feedback will be used

Community and stakeholder feedback will continue to be collected, recorded and considered as part of the ongoing development and refinement of project design.

The following table outlines how feedback has been used to inform design decisions and how it will be used to further inform the Project.

Table 4-9: How feedback is informing the Project

Project stage	Timing	How feedback is informing the Project
Information gathering for route selection Initial stakeholder engagement	Q3 2018 to Q1 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land owner/occupier, 3rd party utility providers, stakeholder feedback has been considered as part of the pipeline route options analysis.
Information to support proposed alignment	2019 to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land owner/occupier, 3rd party utility providers, stakeholder and community feedback is progressing to support alignment refinement.
Obtaining land access for surveys Issue notice of pipeline corridor	2019 to 2020 Q2 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on outcomes of investigations undertaken. Feedback on draft reports was published in the referral documentation. Engaged with affected parties to refine the pipeline route to minimise potential adverse effects.
Detailed planning and preparation of the EES	Q3 2020 to Q1 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on detailed aspects of the Project including potential environmental impacts and mitigations, including ways to manage construction impacts. Report to TRG and Project specialist groups on consultation so far Feedback from TRG and stakeholders to inform existing conditions studies and impact assessment Explain how feedback helped in developing the technical assessments in the Consultation Report attached to the EES
Formal EES exhibition and inquiry	Q2 to Q3 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public submissions through the formal exhibition of the EES. Presentations to independent inquiry (if appointed by the Minister). Minister for Planning's EES assessment and subsequent approvals.

5 Management of records and enquiries

5.1 Stakeholder management database

APA will maintain a stakeholder management database for the life of the Project to retain information relevant to the development of the Project, which is to include copies of data gathered in the field and from title searching, copies of correspondence, relevant discussion records and agreements for each landowner. The stakeholder management database, X-Info Connect (XIC), will also record enquiries, feedback and complaints raised and details of the relevant response resolution.

XIC will be used to record all external communications and stakeholder engagement activities. Consultation during the construction phase will be required to be recorded by the construction contractor utilising an equivalent system.

Copies of any agreements and discussion records will be left with landowners at the time of meeting or alternatively records will be made available to landowners or their legal representation on request.

5.2 Complaints

Complaints should be carefully distinguished from adverse project feedback from the community or key stakeholders, or comments given during difficult discussions with owners and occupiers of land – all of which should be recorded in the stakeholder management database, and actioned as appropriate.

Where comments require further action outside the project brief, APA will register and endeavour to acknowledge it as a complaint within 24 hours of receiving it and provide a timeframe for the follow-up and close-out of any investigation.

APA has established a Complaints Register which is being maintained throughout the life of the Project. The Complaints Register provides a structure for the lodgement and management of all information in relation to complaints. All interactions with stakeholders, related to complaints submitted, and all further actions taken as a result will be recorded in this system.

APA also advises any complainant that they are able to raise issues with the pipeline regulator (DELWP).

5.3 Media enquiries

All media enquiries will be directed to a dedicated person within APA's Communications Team responsible for handling media enquiries on behalf of the Project. The management and response to media enquiries will be in accordance with APA's media management protocols.

All personnel as part of the project induction will be informed of the relevant reporting protocols.

5.4 Personal information

APA is committed to handling and protecting personal information in accordance with Australian Privacy Principles set out in the Commonwealth *Privacy Act 1988*. Information collected in discussions with landowners will solely be used by APA, its representatives and the engaged construction contractors for project purposes.

At project completion any data relevant to operational matters will be used to manage ongoing maintenance, safety and operation activities within the easement. APA will be required to maintain contact with landowners on the easement, with conditions for access to the land set out in the easement instrument, over the life of the asset.

All other information gathered during the project will be archived securely in accordance with Australian Privacy Principles set out in the Commonwealth *Privacy Act 1988*.

6 Messaging

The following messaging will be used in communications with the community and stakeholders to ensure a consistent understanding of the Project, the EES process, and progress to date.

6.1 Project background

Who are APA?

APA is a leading Australian energy infrastructure business, operating and maintaining networks that connect around 1.4 million Australian homes and businesses to the benefits of natural gas. Our 15,000 kilometres of natural gas pipelines connect sources of supply and markets across mainland Australia.

What are we doing?

APA proposes to construct a high pressure gas pipeline between Plumpton and Wollert in Victoria, which will present a number of benefits, including:

- Increasing the amount of natural gas that can be stored for times of peak demand
- Improved network performance and reliability
- Opportunity for natural gas supply to new growth areas in the northwest, including Sunbury South, Lindum Vale, Merrifield and Kalkallo
- Addressing potential gas shortages as forecast by the Australian Energy Market Operator.

The proposed Western Outer Ring Main Project will include construction of:

- A buried pipeline, approximately 51 kilometres long
- An additional compressor, at the existing Wollert Compressor Station, owned by APA, on Summerhill Road
- Three main line valves and associated above ground equipment
- Connections into our existing APA infrastructure at Plumpton and Wollert

6.2 EES process and scope of investigations

- The Minister for Planning has determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required to be prepared for the Project
- The EES will contain an assessment of the potential environmental, social and planning effects of the Project
- The matters to be addressed in the EES will be set out in scoping requirements issued by the Minister for Planning. The scoping requirements will be finalised following exhibition for public comment
- A Technical Reference Group (TRG), including relevant government agencies and local councils, has been convened by DELWP to advise on environmental and social issues throughout the EES assessment

- There are many opportunities for community involvement in EES development, including meetings and workshops, information sessions, community advisory panel(s) (if supported by the community) and online engagement
- The completed EES will be exhibited for public comment
- The Minister for Planning will consider the Independent Assessment Committee report and then prepare a Minister's Assessment to inform statutory approvals decisions for the Project
- The EES process will conclude with release of the Minister for Planning's assessment report
- Approval authorities will finalise their assessments and issue approvals under each relevant statute including EPBC Act, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Environment Protection Act 1970*.

6.3 Our commitment to consult and listen

- APA commits to ongoing consultation with the local community and stakeholders
- We will be seeking feedback on a number of key project matters such as: safety, noise, landscape and visual components of the Project, as well as, traffic and noise management during construction
- This Consultation Plan relates to the preparation of the EES up to exhibition period.

7 Further information

7.1 The Project

A summary of relevant contact information is supplied in Table 0-4.

Table 7-1: Project contact information

For further information			
Proponent	APA VTS Australia (Operations) Pty Limited		
Project name	Western Outer Ring Main Gas Pipeline Project		
Office location	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Head Office: Level 25, 580 George Street Sydney NSW 2000</td> <td>Project Office: IBM Building Level 14, 60 City Road Southbank VIC 3006</td> </tr> </table>	Head Office: Level 25, 580 George Street Sydney NSW 2000	Project Office: IBM Building Level 14, 60 City Road Southbank VIC 3006
Head Office: Level 25, 580 George Street Sydney NSW 2000	Project Office: IBM Building Level 14, 60 City Road Southbank VIC 3006		
Website	A dedicated project page is available here: www.apa.com.au/about-apa/our-projects/western-outer-ring-main/		
Contact details	Phone 1800 951 444 Email WORM@apa.com.au		
Register for updates	To register for regular updates, information, newsletters and notification of community information sessions, call the APA WORM team during business hours, send an email or complete the registration request on the website: https://www.apa.com.au/about-apa/our-projects/western-outer-ring-main/contact-details/		
Contact DELWP	Information about the EES process for the APA WORM Project is available on the DELWP website https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/western-outer-ring-main-gas-pipeline or via email to the Senior Impact Assessor, Impact Assessment Unit at environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au		

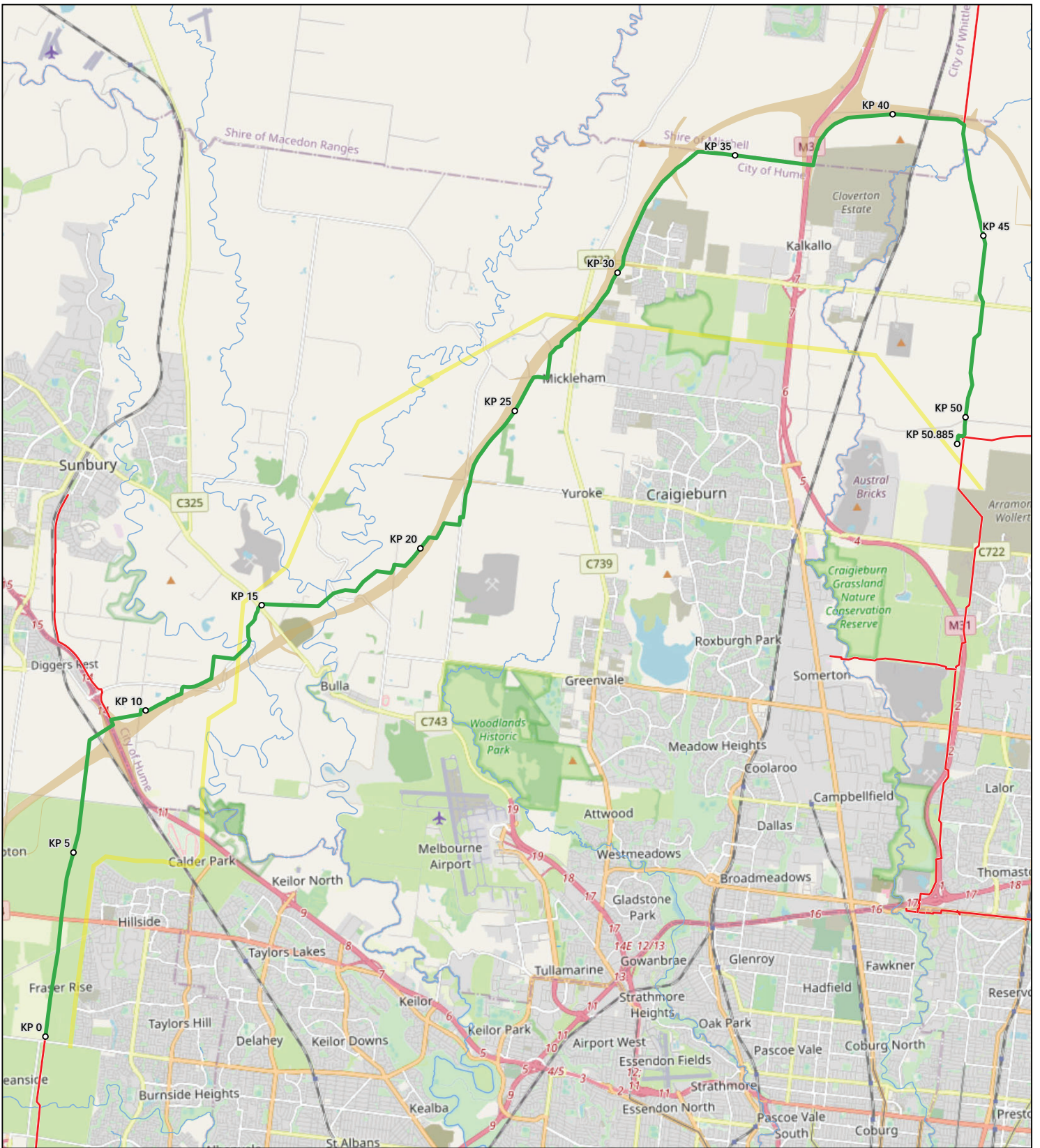
7.2 Other reference documentation

Other information sources that may be helpful for landowners to understand high pressure gas pipelines and context of the Project are identified in Table 0-5.

Table 7-2: Reference documents

Information type	Document (and location)
Relevant Legislation	Commonwealth: www.comlaw.gov.au Victorian: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
Australian Standards	AS 2885.1-2012 Pipelines - Gas and Liquid Petroleum – Design & Construction AS 2885.3-2012 Pipelines - Gas and Liquid Petroleum – Operation & Maintenance
Guidelines and Codes of Practice	APGA Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines (October 2015) APGA Code of Environmental of Environmental Practice – Onshore Pipelines (September 2017) APGA/VFF Pipeline Easement Guidelines (2009) Guidelines for the Preparation of Pipeline Consultation Plans – Pipelines Act 2005 International Association for Public Participation Australasia (IAP2S) Public Participation Spectrum (2014) Victorian Auditor-General's Office Auditing in the Public Participation in Government Decision-making – Better practice guide (2015)

Appendix A Map of preliminary alignment for consultation



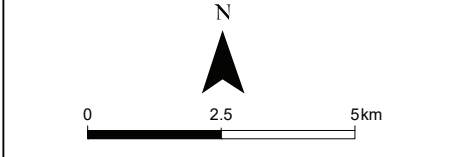
MAP DETAILS

LEGEND

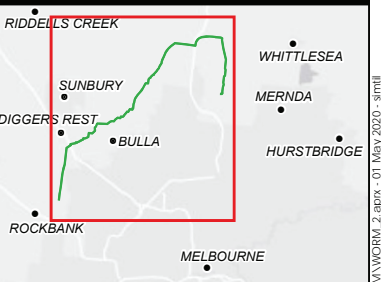
OVERVIEW

SERIAL #: WPT-MAP-L-0089
AUTHOR: ST **DATE:** 1/05/2020
DOCUMENT #: WPT.2373-MAP-L-0092.01_1_IFU
DATA SOURCE:
 Service Layer Credits: World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community
 OpenStreetMap: © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA

SCALE: 1:100,000 **PAGE SIZE:** A3



- Pipeline Kilometre Points
- Western Outer Ring Main – Rev 6 Alignment
- Existing APA Pipelines
- HV Powerline Easement
- Outer Metropolitan Ring Road (OMR) Public Acquisition Overlay



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 Email: worm@apa.com.au



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Western Outer Ring Main – Rev 6 Alignment Overview

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Appendix B Glossary

Term	Definition
APGA	The Australian Pipelines and Gas Association Ltd (APGA) is the peak body representing Australasia's pipeline infrastructure, with a focus on gas transmission, but also including transportation of other products, such as oil, water, slurry and carbon dioxide. Our members include constructors, owners, operators, advisers, engineering companies and suppliers of pipeline products and services.
AS2885	<p>This Australian Standard applies to the design and construction of pipelines that transport gas and liquid petroleum. This Standard is intended for pipelines constructed from steel pipe used for the transport of gas or liquid petroleum.</p> <p>AS2885 has been accepted by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) as the single and sufficient standard for the technical regulation of pipelines in all Australian jurisdictions. The AS2885 set of standards comprises five parts covering all aspects of pipeline design, construction, operation and maintenance.</p>
Compensation	<p>Once the proposed pipeline alignment has been confirmed, APA will commence negotiations with landholders to obtain an easement to contain the pipeline. An easement is an agreement registered on the title of the land that sets out the rights of a pipeline owner to install and maintain the pipeline and also defines the restrictions on the landowner in the area of the easement.</p> <p>Every landowner will be fairly compensated for agreeing to grant APA an easement to accommodate the pipeline. The compensation offered by APA will be based on fair market value and include consideration of the value of the easement and the anticipated loss of production during construction. The compensation offered will also reflect the general disturbance to landowners as a result of dealing with APA. Landowners will be paid an upfront fee for entering into an agreement, and APA will meet the reasonable legal and valuation costs incurred in reviewing and responding to the proposed easement agreement.</p>
Creation of Easement / Restrictive Covenant	<p>This document describes the rights and obligations the Pipeline Company has and the restrictions imposed on the use of the easement land (sometimes known as the 'pink document'). The rights allow the Pipeline Company to enter the easement land for the purpose of construction and operation of the proposed or existing pipelines. The Pipeline Company is required to restore the land to a condition similar to that prior to construction and pay compensation for damages which may arise as a result of exercising the rights (refer to Damage Release).</p> <p>The main points to note with respect to restrictions within the easement are that excavation of greater than 300 mm is not permitted without written consent of the Grantee (Pipeline Company) and structures are not permitted with similar conditions. Normal farming practices such as cereal cropping, and cultivation can be followed without reference to the Grantee. The easement does not prevent subdivision, although it may influence the layout of a subdivision to maximise lot yield.</p> <p>Landowners will be asked to execute a similar document, as will any mortgagees or other parties known to title, in order to register the easement. Upon receipt of title and executed documents, the balance of compensation is paid. Any reasonable legal costs incurred during the easement acquisition process will be met by the Pipeline Company.</p>
Crown Land	Land which is held and managed by the Government. The Government may licence the use of such land for specific purposes (e.g. Grazing Licence, delegation of the land to road authorities) or may alienate the land by selling or leasing.

Term	Definition
Cultural Heritage Survey	A cultural heritage survey is conducted as part of the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan. The survey is undertaken by members of a local Indigenous group and personnel with an understanding of regional historical matters. The purpose of this survey is to identify any significant material which is likely to be lost or destroyed by the proposed pipeline and either make arrangements for its preservation or alter the pipeline route. The methods in which these surveys are conducted are by visual inspection and in some cases by scraping away topsoil for subsurface investigation.
Environment Effects Statement (EES)	An EES is an assessment of the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of a proposed project. It is prepared to inform the Minister for Planning's assessment on the level of environmental effects a project may have, which is considered by statutory decision-makers in deciding whether to approve a project.
Environmental management measure	Controls and measures to avoid or mitigate environmental impacts. These may be sourced from Government policy, guidelines or standards, or may be specific APA construction measures outlined in a Construction Environmental Management Plan.
Preliminary Pipeline Alignment (PPA)	The PPA is the proposed location of the pipeline, following the securing of necessary easements and approvals pursuant to the Pipelines Act. Any potential variation to the approved route would be subject to agreement with landowners affected by the change.
Technical study	A study prepared by a technical specialist on a particular aspect of potential project impact, for example noise. The study assesses the existing environment, the impact of project activities, and appropriate environmental management measures.

Appendix C Stakeholder engagement matrix

Target group	Examples of stakeholders	Potential involvement/Interest	Responsibility	Contact schedule	Contact method	Desired outcomes
Landowners and occupiers	<p>Owners and occupiers impacted by the pipeline construction/operation</p> <p>DELWP - Committees of Management for Crown land reserves</p> <p>Neighbouring owners and occupiers of land (not directly impacted)</p>	<p>Owners and occupiers are likely to be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of pipeline • Pipeline Licence Application • Reinstatement plan • Dust • Noise • Fencing • Access roads • Tree pruning and/or removal • Timing of works <p>Neighbouring owners and occupiers will be interested in activity taking place in the area. General interest in scope and delivery approach.</p>	APA	Ongoing Obtaining land access for surveys, construction, operation	Email, phone and face-to-face	Parties are fully informed with input acknowledged and considered Agreement of pipeline corridor
Asset/ infrastructure owners impacted by pipeline route	Melbourne Water, the Department of Transport (previously VicRoads), VicTrack (owners of land).	<p>Asset owners are likely to be interested in impacts on assets, stakeholders and reinstatement.</p> <p>Asset owners will also potentially be interested in operational and construction impacts, if any, on the asset including ground movement, vibration.</p> <p>Operational and construction impacts on the asset purpose including existing waterways and reinstatement.</p>	APA	Ongoing Obtaining land access for surveys, construction, operation	Email, phone and face-to-face	Agreement of pipeline corridor and construction specification

Target group	Examples of stakeholders	Potential involvement/Interest	Responsibility	Contact schedule	Contact method	Desired outcomes
	Utility asset owners/authorities including: Telstra, AusNet Gas Services, Water service providers (City West Water, Western Water, Yarra Valley Water)	Asset owners are likely to be interested in project design scope and timeline. Asset owners may also be interested in operational and construction impacts, if any, on the asset including ground movement, vibration. Operational and construction impacts on the asset purpose including reinstatement.	APA's Construction Contractor	Prior to construction and finalisation of detailed design/construction	Email and phone	Construction specification
Regulatory authorities (State)	DELWP, Environment Protection Authority, Aboriginal Victoria, Energy Safety Victoria, Heritage Victoria	Regulatory authorities may be interested in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities which could or do cause environment risk and or/impact relevant to approvals within their regulatory area of interest. Documentation related to their approvals processes. Construction activities taking place within EPA guidelines. Project scope, engagement with residents, community groups and businesses. Mitigation measures, including environmental management plans Cultural heritage management plan. 	APA	Ongoing Completion of regulatory approvals process, construction, operation	Email, phone and face-to-face, TRG	All regulatory requirements met prior to construction and compliance with approval documents. Agreement of environmental management measures.

Target group	Examples of stakeholders	Potential involvement/Interest	Responsibility	Contact schedule	Contact method	Desired outcomes
Regulatory authorities (Commonwealth)	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	<p>Commonwealth regulatory authorities may be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities which could or do cause environment risk and or/impact relevant to approvals within their regulatory area of interest. Project scope, engagement with residents, community groups and businesses. Mitigation measures, including environmental management plans. 	APA	Ongoing Completion of regulatory approvals process, construction, operation	Email, phone and face-to-face	All regulatory requirements met prior to construction and compliance with approval documents
Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owner Groups	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>Boon Wurrung Foundation</p> <p>Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation</p>	<p>Traditional Owners have an interest in protecting cultural heritage, with involvement in preparation of the CHMP. Relevant monitoring during works as required.</p> <p>Liaising with the Wurundjeri on the controls to be part of the CHMP.</p> <p>There is a direct interest in the Heritage technical study.</p>	APA	Ongoing Completion of regulatory approvals process, construction, operation	Email, phone and face-to-face	All regulatory requirements met prior to construction (approval of CHMP) and compliance with approval documents

Target group	Examples of stakeholders	Potential involvement/Interest	Responsibility	Contact schedule	Contact method	Desired outcomes
Elected Representatives – All levels	<p>Relevant local, State and federal members of Parliament</p> <p>State MPs:</p> <p>Sydenham: Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP</p> <p>Kororoit: The Hon. Marlene Kairouz MP</p> <p>Sunbury: Mr Josh Bull MP</p> <p>Yuroke: Ms Ros Spence MP</p> <p>Yan Yean: Danielle Green MP</p> <p>Federal MPs:</p> <p>Gorton: Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP</p> <p>McEwan: Mr Rob Mitchell MP</p>	<p>Elected representatives may be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value that works will deliver for the community. The works and investment in assets in the electorate. Project scope, engagement with residents, community groups and businesses. Mitigation measures. 	APA	Initial meeting and progress updates at key milestones	Letter and face-to-face	Members fully informed and supportive of the Project
Local councils	<p>Melton City Council</p> <p>Hume City Council</p> <p>Mitchell Shire Council</p> <p>Whittlesea City Council</p> <p>- as managers of respective areas at a local level and for specialist input</p>	<p>Councils are likely to be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project scope, timelines, and engagement with residents, community groups and businesses. Potential impacts on communities and the environment including biodiversity, water, air, noise, social, landscape and visual, land use. Statutory planning framework (land use planning study). Mitigation measures. Reinstatement. 	APA	Ongoing Obtaining land access for surveys, agreement of pipeline corridor, construction, operation, approvals	Email, phone, face-to-face, briefings, TRG	Council is fully informed and supportive of Project

Target group	Examples of stakeholders	Potential involvement/Interest	Responsibility	Contact schedule	Contact method	Desired outcomes
	CEO and high-level personnel: Melton City Council: Kelvin Tori Hume City Council: Domenic Isola Mitchell Shire Council: Brett Luxford Whittlesea City Council: Simon Overland	CEO and high-levels personnel may be interested in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project scope, engagement with residents, community groups and businesses. Mitigation measures. Reinstatement Plan. 	APA	Initial meeting and progress updates at key milestones	Letter and face-to-face	
Community, Environment and Action Groups	Clubs, Land Care Groups, Friends of Parks groups, Including: Melton Environment Group, Bulla Hill Railway, Friends of Malcolm Creek & Grasslands, Friends of Edgars Creek, Friends of Merri Creek, Sunbury Residents Action Group, Environment Victoria, Environmental Justice Australia, Hume Climate Action Now, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action	The community groups may be interested in details of the works and potential impacts to the surrounding environment. Environmental Management Plan. Groups with an environment or conservation focus will have specific interest in biodiversity and water technical studies.	APA	As part of broader community consultation then as required	Letter, email, phone, face-to-face, workshops	Groups are fully informed with input acknowledged and considered
Media	News organisations – print, television, digital	The media may be interested in issues that affect landowners, residents and businesses and the way in which project is working. They may wish to update community on works and impacts.	APA	As required – response to requests	Letter, email and phone	News organisations are fully informed of the Project and have balanced reporting
Local community residents	Residents of towns and locations close to works: Plumpton, Diggers Rest, Bulla, Oaklands Junction, Wildwood, Mickleham, Kalkallo, Donnybrook, Craigieburn, Wollert	Residents may be interested in knowing the project scope and timeline, long-term impacts and impacts during construction (levels of noise, dust, social and	APA	As part of broader community consultation	Information sessions, email, phone,	Residents are fully informed with input acknowledged and considered

Target group	Examples of stakeholders	Potential involvement/Interest	Responsibility	Contact schedule	Contact method	Desired outcomes
		landscape/visual impacts, and work hour.			online engagement	
Local businesses	Business located close to works	Businesses may be interested in knowing the project scope, timeline, long-term impacts and impacts during construction.	APA	As part of broader community consultation	Letter, email, phone, face-to-face (as required).	Businesses are fully informed with input acknowledged and considered

Appendix D Project fact sheet (March 2019)

western outer ring main **project.**



Improving Victoria's energy security.



What is the Western Outer Ring Main Project?

Natural gas is an essential source of energy for Victoria with approximately two million customers using gas every day for domestic applications including cooking, heating and hot water. Natural gas is also a critical fuel for approximately 60,000 industrial and commercial users throughout Victoria including manufacturers, and gas fired power generation plays a key role in ensuring a reliable electricity network. In Victoria, the Victorian Transmission System (VTS) is owned and maintained by APA and consists of some 2,267km of gas pipelines.

The Western Outer Ring Main project is a proposed high pressure, buried, gas transmission pipeline approximately 50km in length. It will address a key capacity constraint in the VTS by providing a new high pressure connection between existing sources of natural gas supply in the north and east with those in the west of the State.

Addressing this missing link will deliver improved network reliability by increasing the amount of natural gas that can be stored for times of peak demand and ensuring sufficient volumes of natural gas can be moved where it is needed most. Importantly, without the project being delivered, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has forecast that Victoria may face natural gas shortages by winter 2021.

The Western Outer Ring Main will help to deliver sufficient natural gas to Victorian homes for heating and cooking on very cold days, as well as supplying natural gas for power generation during times of peak electricity demand. The project also provides the opportunity for new growth suburbs on Melbourne's urban fringe to be supplied with natural gas as those areas are developed.

The Western Outer Ring Main project will ensure that all Victorians can continue to benefit from a reliable natural gas transmission system that meets the needs of the community both now and into the future.

Pipeline stats

length	Approximately 50km
material	Epoxy coated high strength steel line pipe
diameter	500mm
burial depth	Minimum 900mm
design principles	Strictly in accordance with the latest version of Australian Standard (AS) AS2885 Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum.
easement width	20m plus temporary space for construction access

Project benefits:

- Addressing forecast gas shortages
- Improved network performance and resilience
- Increased gas supply capacity for power generation
- Improved supply options for urban growth areas

Further information:

 **project hotline:** 1800 951 444

 WORM@apa.com.au

 apa.com.au

We're Australia's leading energy infrastructure business. We've been connecting Australian energy since 2000. From small beginnings we've become a top 50 ASX-listed company, employing 1,700 people, and owning and operating the largest interconnected gas transmission network across Australia. We deliver smart, reliable and safe solutions through our deep industry knowledge and interconnected infrastructure. Visit www.apa.com.au to learn more about how we are connecting Australia to its energy future.

energy. connected.

Project timeline

Stakeholder engagement

Meetings with private and public owners of land. Consultation with government agencies, local Councils and other stakeholders.

Completion: Q2 2019

Obtaining land access for surveys

Seek agreement for land access to undertake specialist investigations. Seek feedback from landholders regarding preferred pipeline route.

Completion: Q3 2019

Complete field surveys

Undertake specialist investigations of the preferred pipeline route such as ecology and cultural heritage surveys.

Completion: Q4 2019

Completion of regulatory approvals

Obtain relevant State and Federal government approvals following consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Completion: Q4 2020

Pipeline construction

Construction and commissioning of the pipeline.

Completion: Q4 2020 – Q3 2021

Pipeline operation

Operate the pipeline for the life of the asset. Once in operation, there will be little disruption to the local environments along the pipeline route.

Alignment selection

APA has undertaken initial consultation to determine the key constraints to consider for a pipeline route between Plumpton and Wollert. The initial consultation included relevant local governments in order to ensure that community issues were understood and taken into account. APA has identified a preferred pipeline route for the project based on an assessment of such key constraints including environmental values, cultural heritage, terrain, existing and proposed infrastructure corridors, watercourses, and land use.

The preferred pipeline route has sought to minimise impacts on individual properties by following existing pipeline easements as well as the proposed Outer Metropolitan Ring transportation corridor that has previously been identified for reservation by Vic Roads.

APA's pipeline route selection report is available to download from the Western Outer Ring Main project website.

APA will now be making contact with landholders to seek their feedback regarding the preferred pipeline route and the likely impacts on their property. This feedback will be used to refine the preferred pipeline route or agree on other design and construction commitments with a view to minimising the impact on individual properties wherever possible.

Approvals process

APA will need to obtain a Pipeline Licence under the Pipelines Act 2005 (Vic) to allow for the construction and operation of the Project. In order to submit the Pipeline Licence application, APA is required to have given each landowner in the proposed pipeline corridor a Notice of Pipeline Corridor. The Pipelines Act also includes a requirement to prepare an Environmental Management Plan which demonstrates how the impacts of the project will be managed.

In Victoria, environmental assessment of the potential environmental impacts or effects of a proposed development may also be required under the *Environmental Effects Act 1978*. APA will refer the Project to the Minister for Planning to assess whether an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is required.

APA will also refer the Project to the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy for the Minister to assess whether the Project requires further assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* for potential significant impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance.

Land Access and Compensation

APA will initially be seeking landholder agreement to provide access to land along the preferred pipeline route so that more detailed investigations regarding the route can be undertaken. This may include ecology, cultural heritage and other investigations necessary to confirm a preferred alignment and inform a detailed environmental assessment.

Once the preferred pipeline route has been confirmed APA will then commence negotiations with landholders to obtain an easement to contain the pipeline. An easement is an agreement registered on the title of the land that sets out the rights of a pipeline owner to install and maintain the pipeline and also defines the restrictions on the landowner in the area of the easement. Compensation for the easement is payable to the landowner and APA will also pay landowner legal and valuation costs reasonably incurred in negotiating an easement agreement.



Example of a pipeline under construction, prior to being lowered into the ground.



The same pipeline easement, after reinstatement.

Appendix E Land use newsletter (November 2019)

Land use and proposed Western Outer Ring Main (WORM) high pressure gas pipeline.



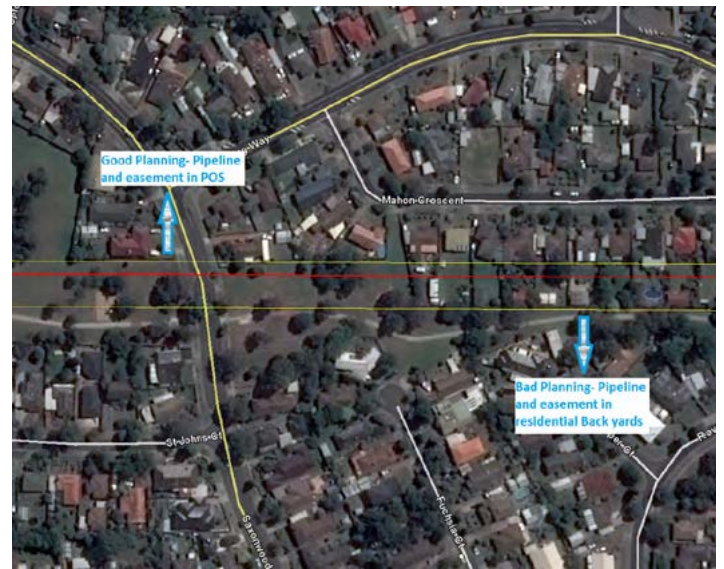
ISSUE DATE: NOVEMBER 2019



APA are proposing a High Pressure Gas Pipeline (HPGP) between Plumptre and Wollert, in Victoria. The approximately 51km long pipeline will address a key capacity constraint in the Victorian Transmission System (VTS) by providing a new high pressure connection between existing sources of natural gas supply in the north and east, with those in the west of the State.

High Pressure Gas Pipelines are located in many growth areas in Victoria. As both new and proposed HPGPs increasingly come into closer proximity with urbanising areas (both current and forecast), more parties are asking questions about both pipeline industry terminology and the practical implications of developing land proximate to a HPGP. Terms such as **Pipeline Corridor**, **Measurement Length**, **Land Use Classification**, **Safety Management Study** and **Area of High Consequence** are often quoted.

Each of these terms are explained on the following pages.



Land use and proposed high pressure gas pipelines – Victorian Urban Growth Areas

Existing HPGPs have been incorporated into a number of Precinct Structure Plans (PSP) within the Victorian Planning System with little impact on the ability to develop adjacent land for urban purposes. Recent PSP's include:

- Kororoit PSP
- Plumpton PSP
- Wollert PSP
- Pakenham East PSP

These existing pipelines designed and constructed many years ago were not necessarily designed to be in an urban environment and provide a useful reference for interested parties as to what can occur around other existing or planned pipelines. Typical urban housing, for example, is able to be located abutting the pipeline easement in each of these PSP's. As will be explained, the key areas for new pipeline design is understanding foreseeable land use changes.



How is land use classified?

Pipelines are designed in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2885 Pipelines – Gas and liquid petroleum (AS2885). AS2885 requires APA to take account of the current and reasonably foreseeable land uses along the proposed pipeline corridor, for the design life of the pipeline, as a central input to the pipeline design.

In reviewing reasonably foreseeable land use, APA activities typically include such things as:

- reviewing applicable land zoning;
- reviewing applicable planning scheme provisions;
- reviewing any available longer term land use plans held by State and local government authorities,
- Meeting with State and Local government planning authorities;
- Meeting directly with impacted landowners within the corridor to understand both current land use and any future plans they may hold.

AS2885 sets out land use classifications. The above research underpins what land use classification is applicable to any given area within a proposed pipeline corridor. These land use classifications include:

- R1 – Rural
- R2 – Rural Residential
- T1– Suburban
- T2 – High Density Urban

In addition to the core land use classifications above, AS2885 sets out subclasses including

- I – Industrial
- S – Sensitive

The 'Pipeline Corridor' is the initial area of study for the potential future location of a pipeline. Both the State Government and directly impacted landowners are provided a notice once a corridor of investigation is identified for formal investigation including potential physical surveys.

How are land use classifications used?

A core process to inform the design of the pipeline is a Safety Management Study (SMS). This study uses the above land use classifications applied within the pipeline corridor to inform both direct threats to the pipeline and the consequence of a pipeline failure to adjacent existing and foreseeable land uses. An outcome of this consideration of threat / consequence / likelihood is for the risk of a pipeline rupturing to be designed out or mitigated to as low as reasonably practicable.



What is the Pipeline Measurement Length?

The area of land around the pipeline where APA must consider the existing and reasonably foreseeable land uses for the purpose of pipeline design considerations is referred to as the Measurement Length (ML).

The ML is determined primarily by the Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) and the pipeline diameter.

The ML is the area of consequence in the extremely unlikely event of a full loss of containment of the gas (full-bore rupture of the pipeline) plus the gas being ignited. The ML defines the area where location classes must be identified and the geographical extent of the SMS considerations. There is a misconception that the ML is just the area of consequence in the event of a worse case pipeline failure. This is not strictly true, with the ML more accurately defined as the area where risks associated with the pipeline is assessed and consequently designed out or mitigated to as low as reasonably practical so to minimise any such event from occurring.

The ML is not a 'buffer' in the sense that all land use needs to be kept a distance from the pipeline, it is the area of study and assessment.

How does the Measurement Length impact land use?

A pipeline's ML generally does not impact on urban development from occurring around it. This is because the process outlined above requires the proposed pipeline to be designed to respond to the foreseeable land uses. Where there is potential for a proposed pipeline to influence future land uses is in the case of 'Sensitive' land uses.

For proposed pipelines, AS2885 requires the proposed pipeline corridor to either avoid 'Sensitive' land uses or to design for them where they cannot be avoided. Post construction of the pipeline, AS2885 discourages any further 'Sensitive' uses coming into the ML. Similarly, where urbanisation is occurring around an existing HPGP, it is preferable that Sensitive land uses be planned outside of the ML.

Western Outer Ring Main Pipeline Design

The proposed pipeline design, for the vast majority of its proposed length, adopts the design criteria consistent with a T1-Residential location class, regardless of the actual land use classification applicable to any given area. This means the pipeline, along its entire length, is designed as if it were traversing a T1- Residential land use even though, for a small section of the alignment, an R2-Rural Residential location classification is applicable. This means the entire length of the pipeline will satisfy the 'no rupture' requirements of AS 2885 (see later note on this term).

What are Sensitive Uses?

In addition to primary location classification along the route, APA needs to identify existing 'Sensitive' land uses as a key secondary location classification to be considered in the pipeline design process. AS2885 defines a 'Sensitive' land use as one that may increase the consequence of a pipeline failure due to its use by members of the community that may be unable to protect themselves from the consequence of a pipeline failure. AS2885 requires the pipeline alignment and the associated ML to avoid 'Sensitive' land uses in the first instance. If avoidance cannot be achieved, to design the pipeline appropriately. In addition AS2885 seeks to discourage further 'Sensitive' uses from locating within an established ML.

There are examples in Victorian PSP Planning where the discouragement of 'Sensitive' land use has not been applied to the full extent of the ML for an existing HPGP but a lesser area. This situation has arisen on the basis that a full-bore rupture of the pipeline, based on a risk assessment through an SMS, has been found to not be a credible event (such pipelines are referred to as no-rupture pipelines). In these instances, the worst-case credible scenario (such as a puncture of the pipeline for example) can have a significantly reduced area of consequence and it is this area (the consequence area) where Sensitive land uses are discouraged from locating post construction.

Whilst the WORM Pipeline is designed on a T1 location classification basis and is a no-rupture design, any reduced area of interest (less than the ML) for 'Sensitive' uses would be determined on a case by case basis and would be dependent on an SMS being undertaken at the time of any future land classification change or introduction of 'Sensitive' use into the ML. There are many variables and land use design responses that an SMS can consider to see what 'Sensitive' uses can be located within the ML.

Continued overleaf

APA's position is that the land uses listed below, as defined in the Victorian Planning Provisions, should be located outside of the ML on account of being 'Sensitive':

- Aged Care Facilities;
- Retirement villages;
- Child care / family day care centres;
- Cinema based entertainment facility;
- Schools or other educational establishments;
- Prisons / corrective institutions;
- Hospitals and medical centres;
- Place of assembly or worship; and
- Higher density residential uses (above 50 dwellings per hectare).

Conclusion

The onus is on APA to design proposed pipelines to account for existing and foreseeable land uses. This is not a science. Whilst new pipelines and their associated ML's will not sterilise land for urban development purposes, it may influence the ability to establish 'Sensitive' uses within it after the pipeline has been constructed. A case-by-case assessment of any proposed 'Sensitive' uses or broader Land Use Classification change within the ML of the WORM Pipeline, a no-rupture design based on a T1 location classification, would be required at the time of their consideration. If such an outcome cannot achieve an acceptable management of risk, as evidenced through an SMS process, APA may resist such a change of land use from being permitted by planning authorities.

If you have an interest in either existing or potential future 'Sensitive' land uses or development generally, you are encouraged to contact APA to discuss your plans in more detail.



further information:

t 1800 951 444
e WORM@apa.com.au
w apa.com.au



energy. connected.

Appendix F Project Newsletter (October 2019)

western outer ring main pipeline.

Improving Victoria's energy security.

Who are we?

APA is Australia's largest natural gas infrastructure business, owning and operating approximately \$20 billion of energy assets. In Victoria, APA owns and maintains approximately 2,267km of gas transmission pipelines, which form the Victorian Transmission System (VTS).

Natural gas is an essential source of energy for Victoria with approximately two million customers using gas every day for domestic applications including cooking, heating and hot water. Natural gas is also a critical fuel for approximately 60,000 industrial and commercial users throughout Victoria including manufacturers, and gas fired power generation plays a key role in ensuring a reliable electricity network.

What are we doing?

APA propose to construct a high pressure gas pipeline between Plumpton and Wollert in Victoria, which will present a number of benefits, including:

- Increasing the amount of natural gas that can be stored for times of peak demand;
- Improved network performance and reliability;
- Opportunity for natural gas supply to new growth areas in the northwest including: Sunbury South, Lindum Vale, Merrifield and Kalkallo;
- Addressing potential gas shortages as forecast by the Australian Energy Market Operator.

The proposed Western Outer Ring Main project will include construction of:

- A buried pipeline, approximately 50km in length;
- An additional compressor at the existing Wollert Compressor Station on Summerhill Road, owned by APA;
- Up to four above ground main-line valves;
- Connections into our existing APA infrastructure at Plumpton and Wollert.

What are we doing to finalise the pipeline alignment?

APA is completing a range of comprehensive assessments and further refining the proposed pipeline alignment, in consultation with affected landowners and government authorities. A key consideration in the alignment refinement process has been to minimise environmental and community impacts associated with the construction and ongoing operation of the pipeline.

Where-ever possible, the proposed pipeline has been collocated with existing or proposed linear infrastructure corridors to minimise the impact on current and future land use.

The proposed alignment will also maximise the use of APA's existing pipeline easements, where available.



Example of a pipeline under construction, prior to being lowered into the ground.



The same pipeline easement, after reinstatement.

Pipeline stats

length	Approximately 50km
material	Epoxy coated high strength steel line pipe
diameter	500mm
minimum cover	1200mm
design principles	Strictly in accordance with the latest version of Australian Standard (AS) AS2885 Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum.
temporary construction corridor	Generally 30m plus ancillary areas to facilitate safe construction.
easement width	20m



Project timeline

Stakeholder engagement

- Consultation with government agencies, local councils and other stakeholders.
- Ongoing consultation with landowners where the pipeline is located on their property.

Q1-Q4 2019

Community engagement

Consultation with the wider community.

Q3-Q4 2019

Field surveys

Undertake specialist investigations on pipeline alignment.

Q3 - Q4 2019

Detailed design

Undertake detailed design for the Project.

Q1 - Q2 2020

Regulatory approvals

Obtain relevant Federal and State government approvals.

Q4 2020

Project construction

Construction of the pipeline and compressor station at Wollert.

Q4 2020 - Q2 2021

Project operational

Pipeline and Compressor Station becomes operational.

Q2 2021

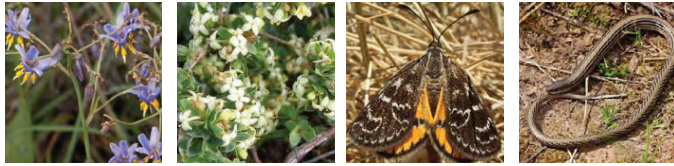
Further information:

📞 project hotline: 1800 951 444

✉️ WORM@apa.com.au

🌐 apa.com.au

western outer ring main pipeline.



Matted Flax-lily Spiny Rice-flower Golden Sun Moth Striped Legless Lizard

What environmental values exist along the pipeline alignment?

APA is currently undertaking detailed studies in relation to the existing values along the pipeline alignment including biodiversity, cultural heritage, surface and groundwater, land use as well as undertaking other technical assessments.

We are currently progressing detailed ecology surveys to confirm the presence or otherwise of protected flora and fauna species along the proposed pipeline alignment. The results of these surveys will inform the planning of the project such that potential impacts can be minimised and offset obligations identified.

A selection of flora and fauna species we are completing surveys for include:

Flora:

- Spiny Rice-flower
- Matted Flax-lily

Fauna:

- Golden Sun Moth
- Striped Legless Lizard
- Growling Grass Frog

What does it mean for future development of surrounding land?

The proposed pipeline will provide improved gas supply opportunities for future developments in the western and northern growth corridors.

The pipeline will be designed to ensure that it is compatible with reasonably foreseeable land uses within proximity of the pipeline including development in accordance with approved Precinct Structure Plans.

A 20m wide easement is proposed where the proposed pipeline is located within private property. Where relevant, APA will work closely with developers in relation to how the easement is incorporated into future development to achieve positive planning outcomes and ensure pipeline safety.

There are restrictions on what can be done within the easement to protect and maintain the asset. Similar to other utility providers, there are specific requirements when undertaking works in close proximity to the pipeline.

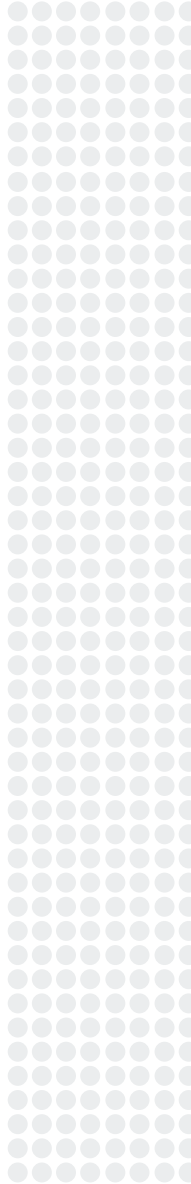
How does APA incorporate safety into pipeline design and construction?

The pipeline industry in Victoria is regulated through the *Pipelines Act 2005* and national safety and design standard AS2885 Pipelines Gas and liquid petroleum.

The proposed pipeline will be designed and constructed in accordance with AS2885 to meet best practice and regulatory requirements.

In addition, APA must comply with all regulatory requirements under the *Pipeline Act 2005* to gain a licence to construct and operate the pipeline, which has safety documentation approved through Energy Safe Victoria.

Project map



Appendix G Project Newsletter (March 2020)

western outer ring main pipeline.



Improving Victoria's energy security.

Who are we?

APA is a leading Australian energy infrastructure business, operating and maintaining networks that connect around 1.4 million Australian homes and businesses to the benefits of natural gas. Our 15,000 kilometers of natural gas pipelines connect sources of supply and markets across mainland Australia.

What are we doing?

APA proposes to construct a high pressure gas pipeline between Plumpton and Wollert in Victoria, which will present a number of benefits, including:

- Increasing the amount of natural gas that can be stored for times of peak demand.
- Improved network performance and reliability.
- Opportunity for natural gas supply to new growth areas in the northwest, including Sunbury South, Lindum Vale, Merrifield and Kalkallo.
- Addressing potential gas shortages as forecast by the Australian Energy Market Operator.

The proposed Western Outer Ring Main project will include construction of:

- A buried pipeline, approximately 51 kilometres long.
- An additional compressor, owned by APA, at the existing Wollert Compressor Station on Summerhill Road.
- Three main line valves and associated above ground components.
- Connections into our existing APA infrastructure at Plumpton and Wollert.



Example of a pipeline under construction, prior to being lowered into the ground.



The same pipeline easement, after reinstatement.

What are we currently doing along the pipeline alignment?

APA is completing a range of comprehensive assessments in relation to the existing values along the proposed pipeline alignment, including biodiversity, cultural heritage, surface and groundwater, geotechnical and other technical assessments.

These comprehensive assessments will provide information to assist in refining the proposed pipeline alignment, in consultation with affected landowners and relevant government authorities. The proposed alignment will also maximise the use of existing APA pipeline easements wherever possible.

Project Update

In December 2019, the Minister for Planning determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the Western Outer Ring Main Project.

The EES will assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the Western Outer Ring Main Project during the construction and ongoing operational phases and describe how any impacts would be managed.

An Environment Effects Statement (EES) is Victoria's most transparent impact assessment process. Further information on the EES process is available on the DELWP website, using the link: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria>.

The Western Outer Ring Main EES referral and determination can be found on the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning webpage, using the link: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/referrals-and-decisions-under-referral-number-2019/RO8>.

Pipeline stats

length	Approximately 51 kilometres
material	Epoxy coated high strength steel line pipe.
diameter	500 millimetres
minimum cover	1,200 millimetres
design principles	Strictly in accordance with the latest version of Australian Standard (AS) AS2885 Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum.
temporary construction corridor	Generally 30 metres, plus ancillary areas to facilitate safe construction.
easement width	15 metres

For questions about the Project and further information, please contact APA on:

Further information:

📞 **project hotline:** 1800 951 444

✉️ WORM@apa.com.au

🌐 apa.com.au

For questions about the EES process, please contact:

Impact Assessment Unit, DELWP

- 03 8392 5503
- environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au

Proposed project EES timeline

Note: timeline provided is indicative only and will be subject to further discussions and agreement with state and federal governments.

Stakeholder engagement 2020 – 2022

- Consultation with government agencies, local councils and other stakeholders.
- Ongoing consultation with landowners where the pipeline is located on their property.

Community engagement 2020 – 2022

Consultation with the wider community.

Field surveys 2020 – early 2021

Undertake any additional investigations of the preferred pipeline route, such as ecology, cultural heritage, feature surveys, and hydrology.

EES Process and Regulatory approvals 2020 – 2021

Undertake:

- EES Scoping Requirements.
- EES Consultation.
- EES Investigations.
- EES Process.
- Obtain all other relevant federal and state government approvals.

Project construction late-2021 – mid-2022

Construction of the pipeline and compressor station at Wollert.

western outer ring main pipeline.



What does an Environment Effects Statement (EES) mean for the Project?

APA will be required to undertake further investigations and prepare all necessary information for the Environment Effects Statement (EES).

During the EES process APA will liaise with various local councils and government stakeholders to seek input into project risks and statutory requirements that apply to the Project.

A tailored EES Consultation Plan shall be developed to describe how APA will engage with stakeholders during the EES process. The Consultation Plan will ensure communities potentially impacted are informed and allows the public to submit any queries and provide relevant feedback for consideration during the EES process.

Project Timelines:

Timelines to deliver the project will be extended, by a minimum of 12 months, to undertake a comprehensive EES process.

The EES process is likely to require additional surveys to be undertaken across the pipeline alignment at various times during this year and early 2021.

Further Investigations:

Further investigations will likely be required to assess potential impacts from the Project, which could include the following areas:

- Waterways and groundwater.
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Land stability and erosion.
- Ecology (flora and fauna)
- Noise and vibration.
- Air quality.
- Greenhouse gas.

What does this mean for landowners directly affected by the proposed pipeline?

Your assigned land access officer will be in contact with you to discuss:

- If any further investigations are required at your property as part of the EES process.
- Formalising an easement or agreement for use of temporary construction area.

Project map Western Outer Ring Main



Appendix H Project Newsletter (October 2020)

western outer ring main.

a project of



Working towards a more efficient gas supply network for Victoria.

Who is APA?

APA is a leading Australian energy infrastructure business, operating and maintaining networks that connect around 1.4 million Australian homes and businesses to the benefits of natural gas. Our 15,000 kilometres of natural gas pipelines connect sources of supply and markets across Australia.

What are we doing?

APA proposes to construct a high pressure gas pipeline between Plumpton and Wollert in Victoria, which will present a number of benefits, including:

- Increasing the amount of natural gas that can be stored for times of peak demand.
- Improved network performance and reliability.
- Opportunity for natural gas supply to new growth areas in the northwest, including Sunbury South, Lindum Vale, Merrifield and Kalkallo.
- Addressing gas shortages as forecast by the Australian Energy Market Operator.

The proposed Western Outer Ring Main Project will include the construction of:

- A buried pipeline, approximately 51 kilometres long.
- An additional Compressor and Regulating Station at the existing Wollert Compressor Station, owned by APA.
- Three main line valves and associated above ground components.
- Connections into our existing APA infrastructure at Plumpton and Wollert.

Project rationale

Refilling rates for the Iona Underground Storage (UGS) are currently limited as gas is required to be transferred through the low pressure pipeline network in Melbourne.

This limits the amount of gas that can be moved across the network in Victoria to Iona UGS.

The Western Outer Ring Main pipeline will enable gas to be sent at high pressure directly to Port Campbell (to support Iona UGS refilling) which will support peak demand supply during winter periods in Victoria.

By completing this missing link in Victoria's high-pressure gas transmission network it would allow gas to be transferred across the state with greater efficiency by allowing increased transfer capacity from one side of Victoria to the other.

Project update

In December 2019, the Victorian Minister for Planning determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the Western Outer Ring Main Project.

In February 2020, the Commonwealth Department for Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) issued a decision that the Project is a 'controlled action' under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and that the Project will be assessed under the assessment bilateral agreement with Victoria.

The EES will assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the Western Outer Ring Main Project during the construction and operational phases and describe how any impacts would be managed. The EES process will address both Commonwealth and Victorian requirements.

To learn about how the EES process works, visit the link: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria>.

EES Scoping Requirements

The Draft Scoping Requirements were exhibited for public comment during July 2020. The EES Scoping Requirements have been approved by the Minister for Planning in August 2020.

The Draft Scoping Requirements can be found on the DELWP webpage using the link: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/western-outer-ring-main-gas-pipeline#overview>.

Note: timeline provided is indicative only and will be subject to further discussions and agreement with state and federal governments.

Proposed Project EES timeline

Stakeholder engagement

2020 – 2022

- Consultation with government agencies, local councils and other stakeholders.
- Ongoing consultation with landowners where the pipeline is proposed to be located on their property.
- Consultation with the wider community.

EES process and regulatory approvals

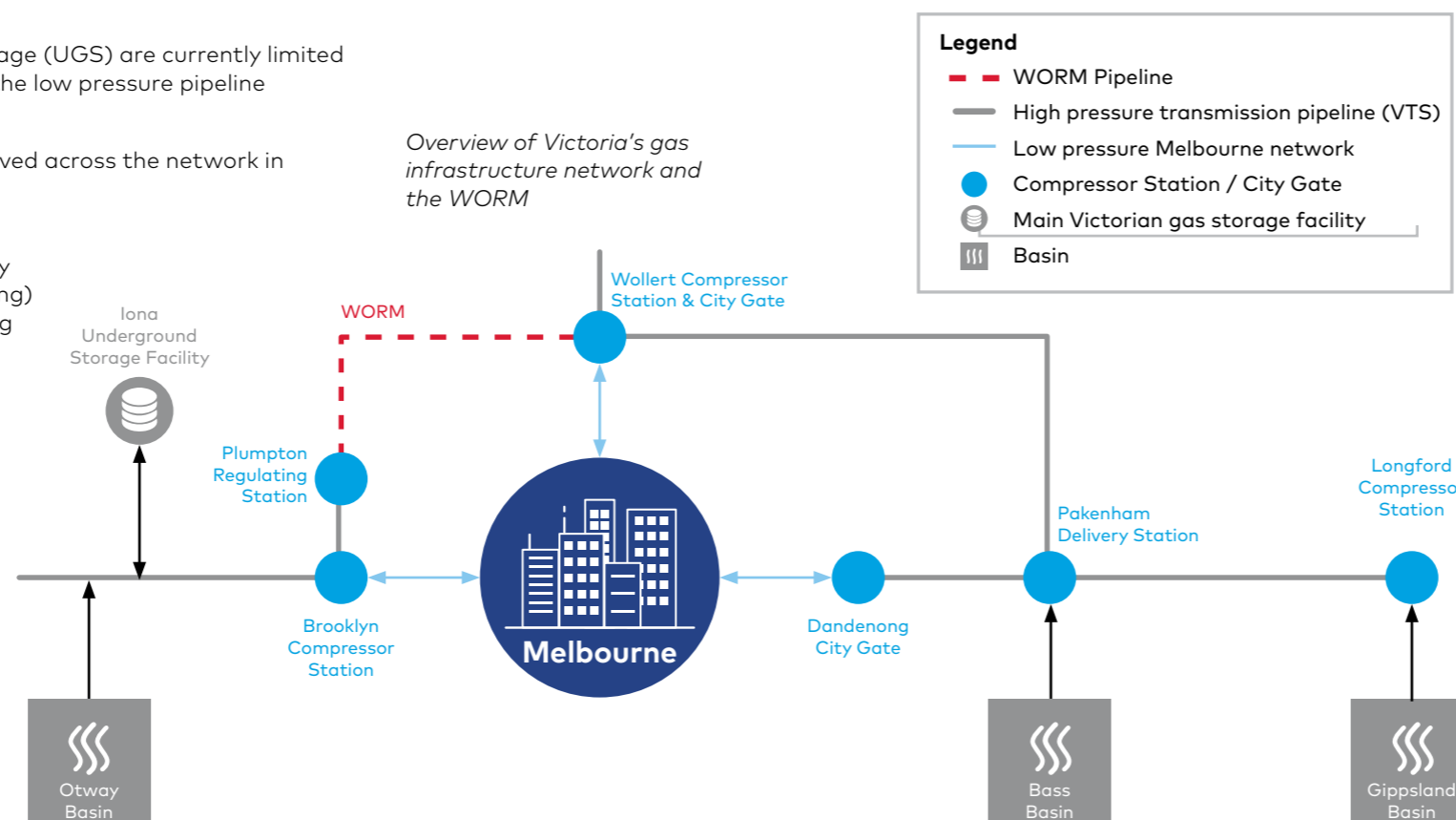
2020 – 2021

- EES Scoping Requirements issued by the Victorian Minister for Planning.
- Undertake EES technical studies.
- Prepare and exhibit EES documentation.
- Victorian Minister for Planning provides an assessment.
- Commonwealth Minister for the Environment provides a decision on EPBC Act approval.
- All other relevant Project approvals obtained.

Project construction

Late-2021 – Mid-2022

Construction of the pipeline and compressor station at Wollert.



Pipeline stats

length	Approximately 51 kilometres
material	Epoxy coated high strength steel line pipe.
diameter	500 millimetres
minimum cover	750 millimetres
	(final depth determined as an outcome of the Safety Management Study)
design principles	Strictly in accordance with the latest version of Australian Standard (AS) AS2885 Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum.
temporary construction corridor	Generally 30 metres, plus ancillary areas to facilitate safe construction.
easement width	15 metres

western outer ring main.

a project of



What does an Environment Effects Statement (EES) mean for the Project?

APA is required to prepare EES documentation which responds to the Scoping Requirements to understand the potential environmental effects of the Project. APA is currently at the stage of scoping and preparing the EES technical reports and EES chapters. The documentation will be reviewed by an inter-agency Technical Reference Group (TRG) convened by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), who comment on the scoping and adequacy of the EES studies and documentation. Once complete, the EES will go on public exhibition, which will enable public comment on the project documentation.

What is APA's engagement commitment during the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process?

During the EES process, APA will liaise with various local councils and government stakeholders, to seek input into project risks and statutory requirements that apply to the Project.

A tailored EES Consultation Plan has been progressed and describes how APA will engage with stakeholders during the EES process. The Consultation Plan details how communities potentially impacted will be informed and outlines opportunities for the public to submit any queries and provide relevant feedback for consideration during the EES process.

What are we currently doing along the pipeline alignment?

APA is completing a range of comprehensive assessments in relation to the existing values along the proposed pipeline alignment, which inform the EES for the Project. The proposed alignment will maximise the use of existing APA pipeline easements wherever possible.

Further investigations:

Further investigations are being undertaken to assess potential impacts from the Project, which include the following areas:

- Waterways and groundwater.
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Land stability and erosion.
- Ecology (flora and fauna).
- Noise and vibration.
- Air quality.
- Greenhouse gas.
- Land use.
- Social and community.
- Safety and hazard.
- Contamination.
- Landscape and visual.

Further information:

project hotline: 1800 951 444

WORM@apa.com.au

apa.com.au

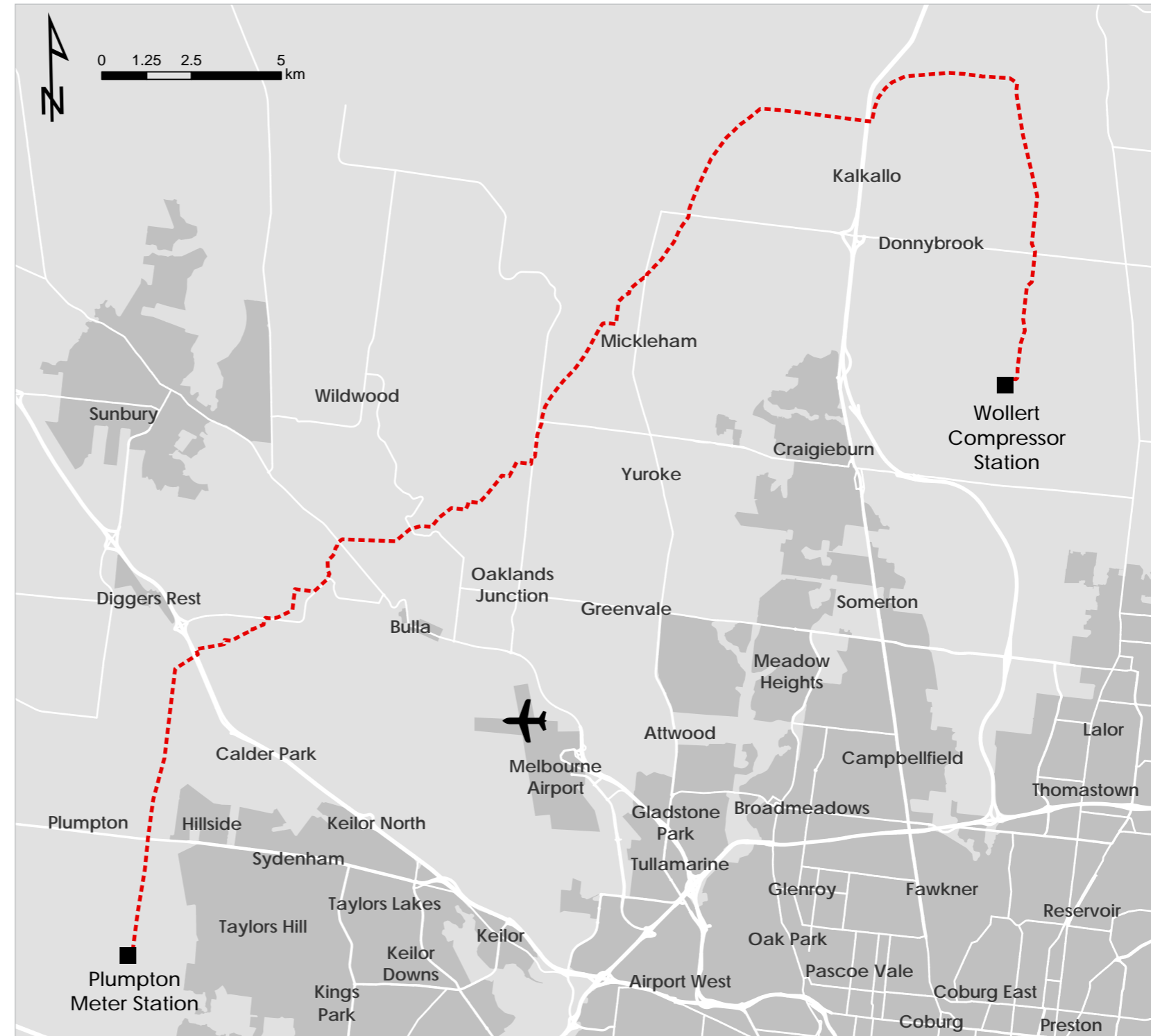
For questions about the EES process, please contact:

Impact assessment unit, DELWP

03 8392 5503

environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au

Project map



Appendix I EES Communications and Engagement Program

Indicative timing	Milestone	Project and planning activity	Proposed engagement activity	Proposed communication activities
Q2 2020	Draft EES Scoping Requirements - Invitation to comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft scoping requirements for EES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of landowners and occupiers Respond to email and phone enquiries Stakeholder meetings and briefings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA website information Email project update to subscribers Advertise public exhibition period to provide comments on Draft EES scoping requirements
Q3 2020	Minister Approves - EES Scoping Requirements Approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue consultation with stakeholders and affected landowners and occupiers about status of the Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of landowners and occupiers Respond to email and phone queries Online engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA website information updates
Q4 2020 Q1 2021	Preparation of the EES – Build awareness of project and key values Community feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further detailed site investigations and technical studies Progress design development Applicable approvals assessment Technical Reference Group (convened by DELWP) Prepare EES documentation for public exhibition in line with the Minister for Planning's scoping requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of landowners and occupiers Respond to email and phone enquiries Online engagement Council briefings Key stakeholder meetings and briefings Community group presentations TRG meetings and presentations Meetings with businesses and residents Public information sessions (online sessions proposed while COVID 19 restrictions are in place – if permitted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EES Consultation Plan available on the DELWP website Project newsletters Factsheets APA website information Email update to subscribers Media through local newspapers and local government webpages (promote engagement opportunities) Information displays/signage Letterbox drops
Q2 2021	EES public exhibition and formal submission period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibit EES documents Liaise with local councils to further raise awareness about the EES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Information sessions (online sessions proposed while COVID 19 restrictions are in place – if permitted) Key stakeholder meetings and briefings Council briefings Respond to email and phone queries 	<p>Broad communication regarding the exhibition including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletters Signage Media through local newspapers and local government webpages (including advertising of EES exhibition and invitation to comment)

Indicative timing	Milestone	Project and planning activity	Proposed engagement activity	Proposed communication activities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • online and traditional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website updates • Email updates • Letterbox drops
Q3 to Q4 2021	Assessment and decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue consultation with stakeholders and affected landowners and occupiers about the status of the EES and approvals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key regulator/ stakeholder meetings and briefings • Council briefings • Respond to email and phone queries 	<p>Ongoing, broad communication about the Project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletters • Signage • Media through local newspapers and local government webpages. • Website updates • Email updates