

# Golden Beach Gas Project - Environmental Effects Statement, Pipeline Licence and Works Approval Applications



## Public Comment Invited

GB Energy (Vic) Pty Limited ABN 63 615 553 010 has prepared an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Golden Beach Gas Project (Project).

The EES, together with the pipeline licence application (PLA) and the EPA works approval application (WAA), are now available for public comment for 30 business days. This notice is prepared pursuant to the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Vic) (EE Act), the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the *Pipelines Act 2005* (Vic) (Pipelines Act) and the *Environment Protection Act 1970* (Vic) (EP Act).

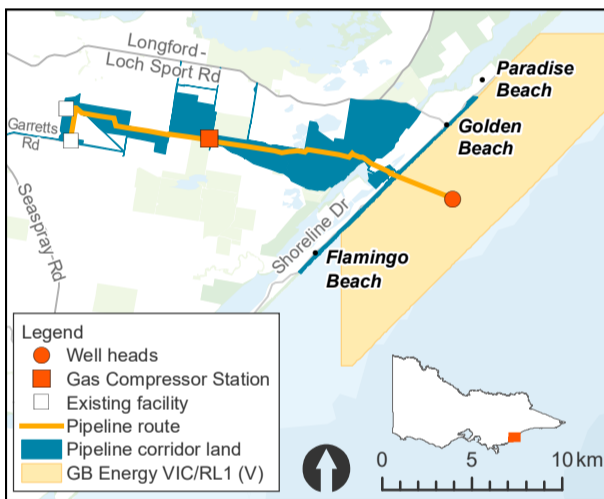
Written submissions can be made during the period starting on Monday 26 October 2020 and closing at **11.59pm** on Monday 7 December 2020.

### Project Description

The proposal for the Project includes the development of the following components:

- two subsea horizontal wells approximately 3.8 kilometres offshore south from Golden Beach, a 2.5 kilometre subsea pipeline and subsea infrastructure and a 1.3 kilometre pipeline shore crossing to the south of Golden Beach
- a 21 kilometre buried pipeline in a 30 metre wide right of way from south-west of Golden Beach to Longford
- associated pipeline infrastructure, including a compressor station off Sandy Camp Road in Dutson to compress the gas and collect water entrained in the gas.

The development would occur in two stages. The first stage being the production of gas by extracting a portion (approximately 40 petajoules) of the gas within the reservoir. The second stage being the conversion of the reservoir to a gas storage facility, providing an initial withdrawal capacity of up to 250 terajoules per day. If the Project gains all required approvals, construction is anticipated to begin in the second half of 2021 and finish in the second half of 2022. A map of the pipeline corridor is set out below.



### EE Act and EPBC Act

In September 2019, the Victorian Minister for Planning determined an EES was required for the Project under the EE Act. The Project is also a controlled action and requires assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. The relevant controlling provisions for matters of national environmental significance (MNES) under the EPBC Act are Ramsar wetlands (sections 16 and 17B), Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A) and Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A).

The Victorian Government is assessing the relevant impacts on MNES within the EES process under the bilateral agreement between the federal and state governments. The EES process will inform the Commonwealth approval decision under the EPBC Act, so the EES covers all relevant impacts of the Project under both the EE Act and EPBC Act.

### Pipeline Licence Application

A pipeline licence under the Pipelines Act is required for the construction and operation of the buried pipeline and associated pipeline infrastructure included in the Project. An application was made to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change on Thursday 8 October 2020. It is included in the exhibited documents at Attachment IV to the EES. Any person who may be affected by the grant of the pipeline licence may make a written submission to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change about the application for the pipeline licence by following the EES submission process. All such submissions will also be treated as submissions on the EES.

## Questions

### In relation to Project or EES documentation:

GB Energy – Regulatory Manager  
Level 1, 110 Church Street Hawthorn VIC 3122  
1800 423 637 or  
info@gbenergy.com.au

### In relation to making a submission or the inquiry:

Planning Panels Victoria by calling 136 186 (select option 6) or emailing Planning.Panels@delwp.vic.gov.au

### In relation to the EES process:

Impact Assessment Unit, DELWP  
Phone: (03) 8392 5503  
Email: environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au

### EPA Works Approval Application

A works approval and licence under the EP Act is required for the construction and operation of the onshore gas compressor station as an L01 (General emissions to air) scheduled premises. An application was made to EPA on 18 August 2020. It is included in the exhibition documents as Attachment III to the EES. You may make a submission or provide comments on the WAA by making a submission on the EES.

### Access to EES and Exhibited Documents

The EES, PLA and WAA will be available on Monday 26 October 2020 to download at [www.gbenergy.com.au/ees](http://www.gbenergy.com.au/ees). Please note the EES is a large document and we encourage the use of electronic versions.

Electronic copies of all EES documents, together with the PLA and WAA are available free of charge on a USB, by contacting GB Energy. Hard copies of the EES Summary Report and WAA are available free of charge. Hard copies of the full EES, the PLA and the WAA are also available. These may be provided free of charge to those who have accessibility issues or where electronic options are impracticable. Should you require a hard copy for any other reason, the following fees apply:

- EES Main Report: \$25
- All documents (EES plus all Technical Reports): \$225

### How to Make a Submission

Submissions on the EES, the PLA or the WAA must be made in writing and received by **11.59pm** on Monday 7 December 2020. You may make a submission on the PLA or the WAA by making a submission on the EES. Each submission will be treated as a submission in response to all exhibited documents, so only one submission is needed to address all of your views about the Project, its effects and the relevant documents.

Online submissions are preferred via the Victorian Government's engagement website

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/golden-beach-inquiry>. Where a submitter is unable to lodge a submission online, they must contact Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) through the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186 (select option 6) and request a hardcopy submission coversheet. Each hardcopy submission must be accompanied by a coversheet issued by PPV. All submissions must state the name and address of the person making the submission. Petitions and pro-forma responses will be treated as a single submission and only the first names from a petition or pro-forma submission will be registered and contacted.

Submissions will be treated as public documents and will be published on the Victorian Government's engagement website. Do not include any personal information in the body of your submission (such as your email address or phone number). Your submission and your name will be made public. The submission process is independently managed by PPV.

### Inquiry Process

The Minister for Planning will appoint an inquiry under the EE Act to review public submissions, the EES, the WAA and the PLA and to consider the environmental effects of the Project in accordance with terms of reference issued by the Minister for Planning. The inquiry may also be appointed by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change as a panel under the Pipelines Act. If appointed as a panel, it must act in accordance with the requirements of the Pipelines Act and any specification in its instrument of appointment.

After the exhibition period, the inquiry will hold a submitter conference between Tuesday 15 and Thursday 17 December 2020 (not necessarily using all this time). Unlike a more formal directions hearing and hearing process with the inclusion of expert evidence, the submitter conference would be a more informal round table forum to enable the issues raised in submissions to be explored by the inquiry, together with the submitters. An agenda for the conference will be produced after the exhibition period closes to schedule times for particular issues to be discussed on a themed basis.

Further information will be published about the format and arrangements of the submitter conference at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/golden-beach-inquiry> when determined. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and in accordance with relevant health advice, it is likely the submitter conference will be conducted online via video conference.

Members of the public and any other parties seeking to be heard and participate in the submitter conference must have made a submission on the EES and indicate on the submission form that they would like to be heard and participate in the submitter conference.

### In relation to the Works Approval Application:

EPA Victoria  
Phone: 1300 372 842  
Email: works.approvals@epa.vic.gov.au  
Website: <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/current-projects-issues/major-infrastructure-and-development>

### In relation to Pipeline Licence Application:

Pipelines Regulation - DELWP  
Phone: 136 186  
Email: pipeline.regulation@delwp.vic.gov.au