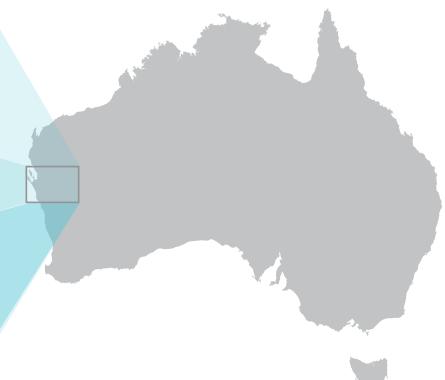
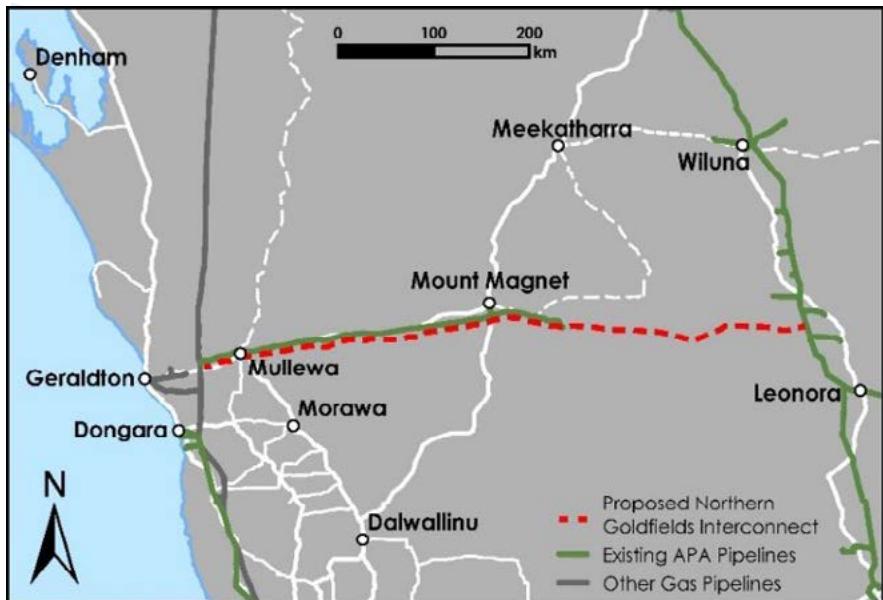


northern goldfields interconnect project.



APA is embarking on a new gas pipeline infrastructure project that will connect new and existing gas provinces to existing gas pipeline infrastructure in the Northern Goldfields region of Western Australia.

The project will involve construction of the Northern Goldfields Interconnect (NGI), a new buried pipeline, approximately 580 kilometres long commencing at Ambania, approximately 50 kilometres east of Geraldton, connecting into the existing Goldfields Gas Pipeline (GGP), approximately 40 kilometres south of Leinster. The project will initially include compression at the inlet, with associated aboveground facilities located along the route of the pipeline.

The NGI will create new opportunities for the supply of natural gas for the mining industry and provide for other growth opportunities in the Goldfields region and beyond. The NGI will provide greater access to existing and new natural gas supply fields supporting the regions processing and power generation growth requirements.

Pipeline stats

length	Approximately 580 kilometres
material	Epoxy-coated high strength steel line pipe
diameter	300 millimetres
burial depth	Minimum 750 millimetres cover, increased at third-party infrastructure crossing locations, such as roads, railways and waterways, or where deemed appropriate by land use or by risk assessment outcome. Note: adjacent to the Mid West Pipeline, the minimum depth of cover will be consistent with the existing depth of cover for the Mid West Pipeline.
design principles	Strictly in accordance with the latest version of Australian Standard (AS) 2885 Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum.
easement width	Nominally 30 metres wide depending on location (larger areas for above ground facilities and reduced at areas of ecological sensitivity or other identified sensitive areas).

APA is a leading Australian energy infrastructure business, owning and/or operating around \$22 billion of energy infrastructure assets. Its gas transmission pipelines span every state and territory on mainland Australia, delivering approximately half of the nation's gas usage.

APA has direct management and operational control over its assets and the majority of its investments. APA also holds interests in a number of energy infrastructure enterprises, including the SEA Gas Pipeline, SEA Gas (Mortlake) Partnership, Energy Infrastructure Investments and GDI Allgas Gas Networks.

With over 1800 employees and 1200 field contractors working across 60 urban, regional and remote locations, APA is truly a nationwide organisation. Its assets include 15,000 kilometres of gas transmission pipelines; 27,000 kilometres of gas distribution mains and pipelines; gas storage and processing facilities; and wind, solar and gas-fired power generation.

Pipeline route selection

APA identified a proposed pipeline alignment for the NGI from desktop studies considering known environmental and cultural heritage values, terrain, existing and proposed infrastructure corridors, the existence of mining tenements, and land uses. In September 2020 APA commenced refining and firming up the proposed pipeline alignment, based on the outcomes of environmental surveys and other technical investigations, and engagement with landholders and other stakeholders. APA is currently undertaking cultural heritage and geotechnical investigations of the alignment as part of the route selection process.

The proposed pipeline alignment traverses agricultural land that includes a mix of cropping and pastoral land uses, and will make use of existing infrastructure corridors, where possible, in order to reduce the extent of disturbance required for the project and in keeping with the proposed use of the land.

Pipeline Design

The proposed pipeline will be designed and constructed in accordance with the latest version of Australian Standard AS2885 Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum. AS2885 incorporates best-practice standards that the Pipeline's design and operation must satisfy. The pipeline will be licenced by a new Pipeline Licence issued under the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969 (WA)* allowing the construction and operation of the pipeline.

Land Access

APA was granted 'Authority to Enter' the preferred pipeline route in accordance with Section 7 of the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969 (WA)*, to conduct ecological and cultural heritage surveys, cadastral and centerline surveys, geotechnical and service locating investigations, and potholing. APA has been engaging with all landholders along the proposed pipeline corridor to discuss the proposed project and the surveys and investigation activities, and seek their input on the proposed alignment.

APA has refined the preferred route and is now consulting and negotiating in order to obtain appropriate tenure to contain the proposed pipeline.

Approvals Process

This project is subject to a comprehensive program of regulatory approvals, landowner and community consultation, which will assist APA in finalising the pipeline alignment and managing and mitigating any identified impacts.

APA will prepare an Environmental Management Plan which demonstrates how APA will manage any potential environmental impacts resulting from the Project. APA will work closely with relevant authorities to gain all necessary approvals for the pipeline development. These include approvals for Heritage, Environment, Licencing, construction, commissioning, and ongoing operations and maintenance.

Indicative project timeline

Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation with regulatory agencies landholders (private and public owners of land), traditional owners and other stakeholders.

Commencement: Q3 2020

Obtaining Land Access for Surveys

Seek agreement for land access and undertaking specialist investigations

Completion: Q1 2021

Agreement of Pipeline Corridor

Seek consent agreements for construction and any required crossing agreements with third parties.

Completion: Q2 2021

Completion of Regulatory Approvals

Obtain relevant state and federal government approvals.

Completion: Q2 2021

Pipeline Construction

Construction and commissioning of the pipeline.

Target completion: Q2 2022

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.

Further information:

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