

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

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 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.

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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.