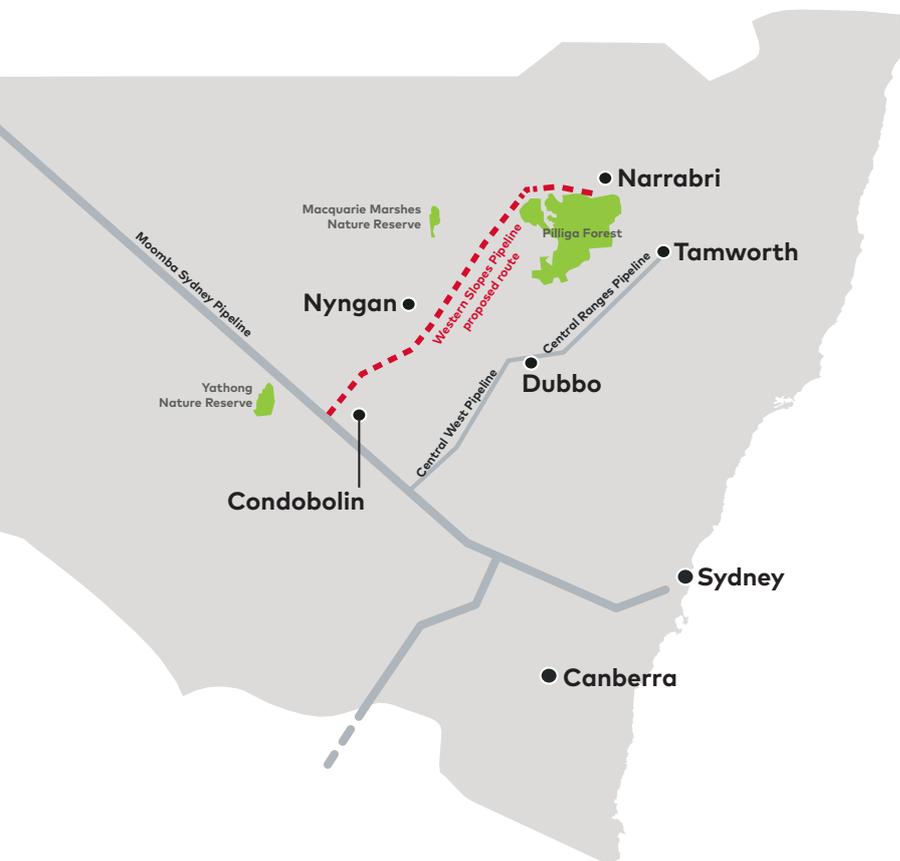


western slopes pipeline.

delivering a new source of gas into the east coast gas market.

APA is progressing studies and consultation for construction of a 450-kilometre gas pipeline – the Western Slopes Pipeline – to connect natural gas from Santos' proposed Narrabri Gas Project to the New South Wales gas transmission pipeline system. This Project is subject to a comprehensive program of regulatory approvals and landowner and community consultation.



About APA

APA is Australia's largest natural gas infrastructure business with more than 15,000 kilometres of natural gas pipelines that connect sources of supply and markets across mainland Australia. We operate and maintain networks that connect 1.3 million Australian homes and businesses to the benefits of natural gas. In total, APA owns and/or operates around \$20 billion of energy assets that deliver half the nation's natural gas usage.

Our 7,500-kilometre East Coast Grid of interconnected gas transmission pipelines provides the flexibility to move gas around eastern Australia, anywhere from Otway and Longford in the south, to Moomba in the west and Mount Isa and Gladstone in the north. In the local region, APA owns and operates the Central Ranges and Central West Gas Pipelines, along with the Tamworth gas distribution network. The proposed Western Slopes Pipeline will further enhance the capacity of the East Coast Grid, thus improving gas supply options and energy security.



Further information:

 **project hotline:** 1800 941 145

 westernslopespipeline@apa.com.au

 apa.com.au

Proposed Pipeline Route

Preliminary studies have identified a proposed route that commences to the north of the Pilliga National Park and Pilliga West State Conservation Areas before travelling west-southwest to connect to the Moomba Sydney Pipeline at the Bundure mainline valve station (see map), approximately 100km west of Condobolin.

A key objective in selecting the proposed route is to ensure the proposed pipeline will have the least practicable impact on landholders, communities and the natural and built environment. A range of guiding factors were considered for this purpose, including environmental values, complexity of the terrain, the number of land parcels, landowners / leaseholders along the proposed pipeline route, and current and future land use considerations.

Pipeline Design

The proposed Western Slopes 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.

Western Slopes Pipeline	
Length	Approximately 450km
Material	Epoxy coated high strength steel line pipe
Diameter	400-450mm
Burial depth	Generally 900mm
Design principles	Strictly in accordance with the latest version of Australian Standard (AS) AS2885 Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum.
Nominal capacity	200 terajoules per day (up to 50% of the gas needs of NSW)
Easement width	Nominally 30metres

energy. connected.

Consultation and Approvals Process

Approval of the Western Slopes Pipeline will be subject to a series of landholder and community consultations and regulatory processes including the NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Act. The following are the key steps:

Environmental Assessment Process for State Significant Infrastructure

1. PEA submission

- Submission by APA of a Preliminary Environmental Assessment to the Department of Planning and Environment to apply for the approval of the Minister to carry out State Significant Infrastructure. Public release of the Assessment is determined by the Department.

2. SEARs preparation and issue

- The Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment prepares a statement of the environmental assessment requirements for the project - Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

3. Landowner meetings and stakeholder engagement

- Commence face-to-face landowner/leaseholder consultation regarding access.
- Broader stakeholder engagement including the formation of a Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

4. EIS preparation and submission

- APA prepares an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) informed by a comprehensive program of community and stakeholder consultation and detailed technical studies.
- The EIS addresses in detail matters outlined in the SEARs.

5. EIS assessment

- Public exhibition of the EIS for a minimum of 30 days. Public comment will be invited.
- Assessment of the EIS by the Department of Planning and Environment.

6. EIS approval

- Decision on the application by the Minister for Planning, which may include the placement of conditions on any approval.

The Western Slopes Pipeline will also be subject to a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Cwth)*.

Further steps beyond the above include, but are not necessarily limited to, completion of land access agreements, obtaining a Petroleum Pipeline Licence and the grant of various tenures for the final pipeline route.



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



The same pipeline easement, after reinstatement.

FAQs

Why is APA proposing to undertake this pipeline project?

The Western Slopes Pipeline will transport natural gas from new supply areas in north-west NSW to help meet the State's future gas needs. The development of additional natural gas production will provide increased competition in the national gas market. That is good for consumers and promises greater energy security and economic and social benefits for regional communities.

Has a final route for the pipeline been determined?

No. A final alignment has not been determined, although preliminary studies have identified a proposed route as being the most suitable to transport gas to market. Some modifications to the alignment have been made in consultation with landowners, and further refinement will occur via further landholder and community consultation and detailed technical and environmental studies.

When will construction commence?

It is too early to say. There are a number of processes that need to be thoroughly completed, including the preparation and public exhibition of a detailed Environmental Impact Statement, extensive consultation and a Final Investment Decision by Santos before a construction timetable can be developed. The community will be clearly informed and consulted throughout these processes.

What is the Narrabri Gas Project?

Santos' proposed Narrabri Gas Project involves the development of natural gas resources located around Narrabri in north west NSW. Santos estimates the Project could supply up to half of the natural gas used in more than 1 million homes and by 33,000 businesses and large industrial customers in NSW. The Narrabri Gas Project is forecast to employ 1,300 people during construction and 200 personnel when operational.

For further details about the Narrabri Gas Project visit:

www.narrabrigasproject.com.au/

Will gas from Narrabri be safe to transport?

APA will only transport gas that meets the strict Australian Standard set by industry regulators. The current version of Australian Standard AS2885, Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum, includes more than 80 individual standards that must be met in the design, construction and operation of gas transmission pipelines.

I think I may be a landholder / leaseholder along the proposed pipeline route. What should I do?

APA has made contact with all landholders and leaseholders directly affected by the proposed pipeline route. Should landowners have any questions or require further information they are encouraged to make contact with our project team. If you haven't heard from us and would like to talk to somebody about the project, please call **1800 941 145**.

You can also contact our project team by email at

westernslopespipeline@apa.com.au