

Western Slopes Pipeline activity update.



August 2017

APA is committed to ensuring that landowners and other stakeholders have access to relevant information regarding the Western Slopes Pipeline project. With project activity now increasing APA will be issuing regular project activity updates. All activity updates will be available on the project website and emailed or posted to landowners and other stakeholders.

Landowner Consultation

Since March 2017, APA's land access team have been actively engaging and meeting with landowners across the project area.

Many landowners have provided us with detailed feedback and as a result we have either agreed to or are further considering a range of refinements to the preliminary alignment for the Western Slopes Pipeline. APA is committed to working with landowners to reduce the impact of the project and the information received from landowners is a critical input to the project development process.

Actively engaging with APA allows us to take into consideration the specific features of your property in order to improve the design of the project and make necessary amendments to the alignment.

If you have concerns regarding the project we encourage you to seek more information from our project team. You will also find answers to commonly asked questions in the detailed landowner reference guide available at: <https://www.apa.com.au/about-apa/our-projects/western-slopes-pipeline/>



Landowner consultation undertaken to date has provided a range of valuable feedback to the APA project team which has been used to inform refinement of the preliminary alignment for the pipeline and guide the project environmental assessment

Compensation

A number of landowners have sought further information regarding the compensation arrangements for the project. Once the preferred alignment for the project has been confirmed, APA will be seeking an agreement with landowners granting APA an interest in the land to obtain an easement to accommodate the pipeline.

During negotiations we will seek to agree a fair value for compensation based on relevant external advice from valuation and agronomy professionals. The agreement will include compensation for:

- the value of the easement
- loss of production during construction
- loss of production resulting from disturbance during operations

APA's compensation offer will include consideration of your effort involved in negotiating an agreement. APA will attempt to minimise any impacts on a landowners' usual business activities by meeting at a time which is most convenient. We will also agree to cover your reasonable expenses related to legal and valuation advice incurred in negotiating the agreement.

APA will also pay you an upfront fee for entering into the agreement. This fee will vary depending on the size of your land holdings.

energy. connected.

Community Consultation

The Department of Planning issued the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the project on 12 May 2017. One of the Department's requirements is for the formation of a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the project.

Mr Michael Silver OAM has since been appointed by the Department as the Independent Chair of the CCC. Advertisements were placed in local papers and on the project website seeking nominations from interested members of the public to join the CCC, with nominations due by 28 July.

APA expects that once Mr Silver and the Department have confirmed the CCC membership that the first CCC meetings will be held in September.

APA will be scheduling Community Drop-in Sessions to coincide with the date of the CCC meetings. These sessions will be an opportunity for members of the public, landowners and other stakeholders to come along and obtain further information regarding the project and talk to APA's project team about the project in detail.

APA will also be attending AgQuip in Gunnedah from 22 – 24 August. If you have any questions regarding the project you will be able to find us at the Santos stand.

Environmental Assessment - Field Surveys

A range of technical studies are currently underway which will inform the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project. A number of these studies require the completion of detailed field surveys along the preliminary pipeline alignment.

These surveys commenced on 7 August with targeted assessment of vegetation communities on selected properties. During August we will also be undertaking targeted 'winter' surveys for two fauna species, Sloane's Froglet (see inset) and the Regent Honeyeater. All affected landowners have already been contacted.

Further survey activities for ecology (flora and fauna), soils and cultural heritage are planned to commence in September and will likely run through October and into November.

A fact sheet providing more details regarding the proposed survey activities can be found at <https://www.apa.com.au/about-apa/our-projects/western-slopes-pipeline/information-for-landowners/>

Property Access Requirements

Our preference is to undertake field surveys under a voluntary agreement with landowners. The agreement provides an opportunity for the landowner to nominate any special entry conditions and also provides for indemnification of the landowner.

So that we can adequately fulfil our environmental assessment obligations, we have also applied to the NSW Department of Planning for an Authority to Survey (ATS) under the Pipelines Act 1967 (NSW). The Minister granted APA an ATS for the Western Slopes Pipeline on 30 June 2017. The ATS authorises APA to enter private property for the purpose of undertaking surveys of the pipeline alignment.

Not all survey activities need to be undertaken on every property along the preliminary alignment. If we need to access your property our land access team will make contact and provide you further detail regarding the proposed activity. You will be given the opportunity to advise us of any reasonable requirements you may have regarding the survey.

what is the Sloane's froglet? (*Crinia sloanei*)



Image Source: environment.nsw.gov.au

Sloane's Froglet is a small ground-dwelling frog with a mustard yellow or greyish back with large patches of darker pigment over the body. The throat of males is greyish green. The call is described as a short metallic 'chick chick chick chick' repeated frequently.

Sloane's Froglet has been recorded from widely scattered sites in the floodplains of the Murray-Darling Basin, with the majority of records in the Darling Riverine Plains, NSW South Western Slopes and Riverina bioregions in New South Wales. Its habitat is typically associated with periodically inundated areas in grassland, woodland and disturbed habitats. Sloane's Froglet is listed as Vulnerable in NSW.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=20088>



Helicopter Surveys

APA has undertaken two helicopter traverses of the alignment. The first traverse was completed on June 21 and 22 and was focused on reviewing proposed watercourse crossing locations, agricultural land use activity and vegetated areas. This is a normal step in the assessment process aimed at prioritising future field survey efforts at the most important locations. The geographic scale of the project is such that helicopter traverse is the most efficient way to conduct the rapid assessment. A second flight was undertaken in early August, focused on the confirmation of vegetation mapping at targeted sites.

Prior to undertaking these flights we placed advertisements in local newspapers along the aerial survey route detailing the nature of rapid survey work and the planned dates for the activity. We also advised local area police commands and councils along the survey route so they could respond to any enquiries they may receive from the community.



Helicopter flyovers have assisted APA to rapidly review the accuracy of existing vegetation mapping and prioritise sites for further on-ground survey



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage Focus Group Meetings were held in Wee Waa, Narrabri, Coonamble, Warren and Condobolin from 17-20 July. The APA project team presented the project to the Registered Aboriginal Parties for the project as well as an outline of our proposed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessment methodology. The proposed assessment methodology has also been sent to all Registered Aboriginal Parties for comment.

The Aboriginal parties that attended the focus group meetings provided APA with valuable feedback regarding the cultural heritage values of the area which will help prioritise our field survey efforts in areas most likely to contain Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. Cultural Heritage survey activities are planned to commence in late September.



Registered Aboriginal Parties discussing the project with APA's Heritage Consultants in Condobolin

project calendar:

commencing 7 August 2017	Winter Field Surveys
week beginning 7 August 2017	Targeted Helicopter Survey
August 22 - 24	AgQuip - APA will be at the Santos stand

commencing September 2017	Spring Fields Surveys
September 2017	Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – Date and Venue TBC, first meeting likely
	Community Drop-in Sessions – Dates and Venues to coincide with CCC.

early 2018	Target Date for EIS Submission
------------	--------------------------------

How can I find out more information, provide feedback or register a complaint?

If you wish to register any comments, find out more information or provide feedback about the project, please contact us by:

- Telephoning 1800 941 145 (free call 24 hours/7 days)
- Emailing us at westernslopespipeline@apa.com.au
- You can also complete an online enquiry form and find more information at: <https://www.apa.com.au/about-apa/our-projects/western-slopes-pipeline/>



energy. connected.