

orbost gas plant project update.



Construction on Orbost Gas Plant Upgrade to commence after Easter

APA Group, Australia's leading energy infrastructure business, today announced that main construction works on the project would commence in the first week of April, immediately after the Easter break.

The Orbost Gas Processing Plant (OGPU) is located approximately 375 kilometres east of Melbourne on the Victorian east coast. APA acquired the plant from Cooper Energy on 1 November 2017, along with the export pipeline to the Eastern Gas Pipeline connection. The agreement provided for APA to own, upgrade, and operate the plant to process raw gas from the Sole gas field, currently being developed by Cooper Energy, and its adjacent Manta gas field.

Once fully operational by mid-2019, the upgraded Orbost Gas Plant will have the capacity to deliver up to 68 terajoules of natural gas per day into the East Coast Gas Grid, which is equivalent to approximately 12 per cent of current Victorian demand.

Kevin Lester, APA Group Executive Infrastructure Development said, "This project is a great fit for APA's skills in developing and managing gas processing and compression facilities, and our expertise in midstream gas infrastructure development.

"Most importantly, it will facilitate the delivery of a significant increase in gas supply to the east coast market."

The key features of the OGPU works include:

- Water pipeline: the installation of a 9-kilometre DN90 Water Pipeline to site.
- Installation of key technology packages comprising the following:
 - ▶ Power generators, providing approximately 5MW to power the plant.
 - ▶ Various processing facilities, structures and holding tanks; to treat the incoming raw gas into sale gas.
 - ▶ Plant switchrooms and control rooms; to house the plant electrical switchgear and control systems.
 - ▶ Plant process control package, to control the operations and safe management of the plant.
- Piping, civil works and electrical cabling associated with the above equipment comprises the following:
 - ▶ More than 14,300 metres of new piping, including 5,171 metres of carbon steel piping, 8,017 metres of stainless steel piping, 1,117 metres of high-density polyethylene (HDPE).
 - ▶ Piling: approximately 310 piles in total with a depth of up to 9.7 metres.
 - ▶ Cables: approximately 160 kilometres of cabling for power, instrumentation, controls and communication.

Local business opportunities

Four regional businesses won work in the early construction and service installation stages for the OGPU — GEM Industrial from Leongatha, BMC Group from Morwell, Whelans Group Investments from Bairnsdale, and GBG Concrete and Construction from Sale — representing approximately \$20 million of contracts awarded locally. The businesses provide, respectively, water connections, maintenance and refurbishment services, earthmoving services and concrete and civil works.

Alex Kristovskis, OGPU Project Director, said the construction phase of the plant upgrade will provide further opportunities and benefits to businesses and the region's economy.

"Orbost will be a hub of activity over the next 18 months and there will be more opportunities for contractors and suppliers within the immediate area and from Sale and Latrobe Valley region, in addition to increased spending in the local community."

Businesses or individuals with construction support experience are invited to register their interest in working on the OGPU by emailing their contact details and a summary of their experience to OGPULocalEoI@apa.com.au.

Since December 2017, when this expressions of interest address went live, more than 40 businesses and individuals have registered their interest.

Community engagement

Consultation with the local community about plans to upgrade the Orbost Gas Plant commenced in early 2014. APA has been liaising with nearby landowners about the current program of works since October 2017.

Broader community engagement is being ramped up from March with project briefings scheduled to be delivered to the East Gippsland Shire Council and a meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). A Community Information Session is to be held to inform the wider community of the project's progress.

Peter Turnbull, Manager Approvals and Community Liaison, said onsite construction works are scheduled to occur 7am to 6pm, seven days a week, and they are expected to have minimal impact on nearby landowners.

"In terms of impacts, local residents can expect to see an increase in traffic movements along Corringe and Ewings Marsh Roads in the medium term as construction activity ramps up, and there are more people and vehicles onsite. There is also expected to be heightened activity in Newmerella, Orbost and Marlo.

The CAC was established early in the approval process for the OGPU project to act as a conduit for information from and to the community. We have reactivated it as an effective and representative forum for the community to keep updated on the project.

Community information session

A Community Information session will be held:

- on **Wednesday 21 March 2018**
- from **5pm to 7pm**
- at **Marlo CFA Depot**, Jorgensen Street, Marlo

There will be further sessions throughout the life of the project.

Interested community members who want more information can attend those sessions and there is always the opportunity to call our project team to ask questions or register comments.

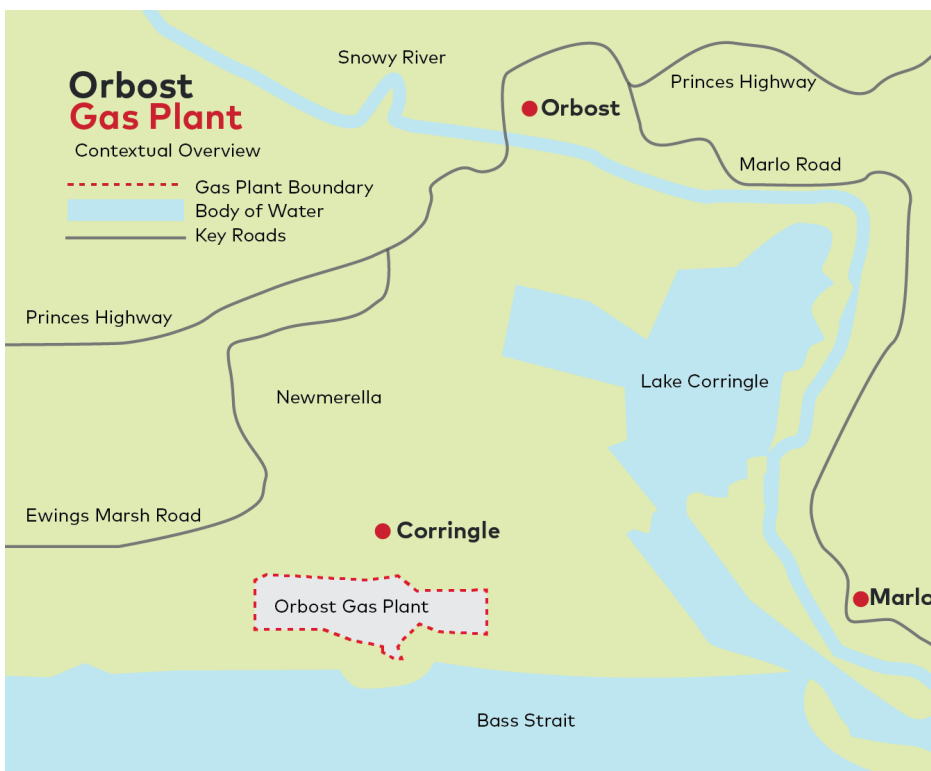
Need more information?

For further information please contact Orbost Gas Plant Upgrade Info line:

1800 ORBOST (1800 672 678) or visit the [Orbost Gas Plant Upgrade page](#).

Media enquiries: Todd Hayward, 0412 205 151

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About APA Group (APA)

APA is Australia's largest natural gas infrastructure business, owning and/or operating around \$19 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 minority interests in a number of energy infrastructure enterprises including SEA Gas Pipeline, SEA Gas (Mortlake) Partnership, Energy Infrastructure Investments, GDI Allgas Gas Networks and Diamantina and Leichhardt Power Stations.

APT Pipelines Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Australian Pipeline Trust and is the borrowing entity of APA Group.

For more information visit APA's website, apa.com.au.

energy.connected.