

# Gas Import Jetty and Pipeline Project

## How to Navigate the EES

AGL and APA have prepared an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Gas Import Jetty and Pipeline Project (the Project).

The EES, together with the draft planning scheme amendment, EPA works approval application and pipeline licence application are now available to read.

The EES and related documents provide information about the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed Project. The documents also outline how these potential impacts would be managed during construction and operation of the Project if it is approved.

### About the Project

The Project is a proposed gas import facility and pipeline to be constructed in Victoria. It would supply imported natural gas into the south-eastern Australian states for industrial, commercial and residential gas customers to meet a projected domestic gas supply shortfall and provide gas supply certainty from 2024 or earlier.

### About the EES Process

In October 2018 the Victorian Minister for Planning determined that an EES was required for the Project.

The *Environment Effects Act 1978* provides for assessment of proposed works that could have a significant effect on the environment. The Minister might typically require an EES when there is potential for regionally or State significant adverse effects on the environment, there is a need for integrated assessment of potential environmental effects, and normal statutory processes would not provide a sufficiently comprehensive, integrated and transparent assessment.

This process is managed by the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on behalf of the Minister for Planning, in accordance with the Ministerial guidelines for assessment of environmental effects under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

In November 2018, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Energy determined that both the Gas Import Jetty Works and Pipeline Works were controlled actions, requiring assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The EES is the accredited assessment process for the purpose of the EPBC Act under a Bilateral Assessment Agreement between the Commonwealth and Victorian governments.

### Community Input

Since planning for the Project began in 2017, we've worked with stakeholders and the community to understand views and concerns about the Project, to gather local knowledge about the existing environment in the vicinity of the Project, to explore opportunities to avoid or minimise potential impacts and to improve how we design, construct and operate the Project.

During the public exhibition period, you can make a written submission to have your views on the EES and related documents considered by a public inquiry and the Minister for Planning.

### Key Approvals

The Minister has given notice under the *Environment Effects Act* to decision-makers, which effectively requires them to wait until they have considered the Minister's assessment (the final outcome of the EES process) before making decisions about approvals required if the project is to proceed.

Each of the Gas Import Jetty Works and Pipeline Works requires approval under the EPBC Act.

Under Victorian laws, the Gas Import Jetty Works require planning permission which is proposed to be provided by the draft planning scheme amendment (PSA) and a works approval from the EPA, and the Pipeline Works require a pipeline licence.



# Navigating the EES

The EES and related documents are where you'll find information about the Project, including:

- How the Project has been developed and assessed so far
- An overview of the potential impacts
- Proposed measures to avoid, mitigate or manage potential impacts
- 17 technical reports examining topics such as marine and terrestrial biodiversity, landscape and visual, safety, agricultural, Aboriginal and historic heritage
- A map book showing the pipeline alignment
- Related statutory approval documentation.

This guide shows how the EES documents have been structured, so you can easily find the information you're interested in.

STEP 1 FIND OUT WHAT IS COVERED IN THE EES	STEP 2 PICK A TOPIC OF INTEREST	STEP 3 FIND THE INFORMATION YOU'RE AFTER
<p>The full set of documents provides information on each topic at varying levels of detail. From the overall EES Summary Document to technical studies that provide an extensive assessment on specific technical topic areas and can be up to 400 pages each.</p> <p><b>Here are some tips so you can find information you are looking for.</b></p> <p><b>Start with the EES Summary Document</b></p> <p>This document gives you a broad overview of the whole Project, the rationale for the project, its potential effects and how we propose to manage these.</p> <p><b>Main Report Chapters</b></p> <p>Each of the 27 chapters of the main EES report provides a comprehensive summary of studies and findings. The chapters range from around 20 to 60 pages in length.</p> <p><b>Technical reports</b></p> <p>Each of the 17 Technical Reports detail the study methodology, findings and proposed mitigation measures developed by independent technical specialists. These reports range from around 50 to 450 pages each.</p> <p><b>Attachments</b></p> <p>Supporting studies, reports and the draft planning scheme amendment, EPA works approval application and pipeline licence application.</p>	<p><b>Project Overview</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction, Project Rationale, Development &amp; Description</b></p> <p>These chapters provide an overview of the Project, the purpose and structure of the EES, why the Project is needed, the objectives and benefits of the Project, an overview of how the Project has been developed and a detailed description of the Project. Read details in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction (Chapter 1)</li><li>• Project rationale (Chapter 2)</li><li>• Project development (Chapter 3)</li><li>• Project description (Chapter 4)</li><li>• Map Book (Attachment VII)</li></ul> <p><b>Key Approvals</b></p> <p>The following chapters and attachments outline the legislative and policy context for the Project, the key approvals required under Commonwealth and Victorian legislation, and the assessment framework used to assess and mitigate potential Project impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key approvals and EES assessment framework (Chapter 5)</li><li>• Matters of National Environmental Significance – Gas Import Jetty Works (Attachment I)</li><li>• Matters of National Environmental Significance – Pipeline Works (Attachment I)</li><li>• Legislation and policy report (Attachment II)</li><li>• Draft planning scheme amendment (Attachment VI)</li><li>• EPA works approval application (Attachment VIII)</li><li>• Pipeline Licence application (Attachment IX)</li></ul>
	<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p>	<p><b>Marine Biodiversity</b></p> <p>Considers potential impacts on the marine environment including potential changes to the chemical or physical attributes of the environment, and potential effects on habitat conditions and the ecological character and biodiversity values of the Western Port Ramsar site (Chapter 6 and Technical report A).</p> <p><b>Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity</b></p> <p>Considers potential impacts on terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity including habitats, flora and fauna, native vegetation and listed or protected species or communities that may occur in the local or regional environment around the Project (Chapter 7 and Technical report B).</p>
	<p><b>Physical Environment</b></p>	<p><b>Surface Water</b></p> <p>Considers how the construction and operation of the Project may affect surface water quality and flow characteristics including potential impacts on Western Port Ramsar site (Chapter 8 and Technical Report C).</p> <p><b>Contamination and Acid Sulfate Soils</b></p> <p>Assesses the potential for disturbance of contaminated soils, contaminated groundwater and contaminated marine sediment from construction and operation of the Project. Also considers potential impacts from acid sulfate soils (Chapter 10 and Technical Report E).</p> <p><b>Groundwater</b></p> <p>Considers the possible impacts on groundwater from construction and operation of the Project including potential impacts on beneficial uses of groundwater and existing bores (Chapter 9 and Technical Report D).</p> <p><b>Greenhouse Gas, Climate Change and Sustainability</b></p> <p>These three chapters and their supporting reports consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greenhouse gas emissions from construction and operation of the Project<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Greenhouse gas (Chapter 11 and Technical Report F)</li></ul></li><li>• Potential risks from climate change related events on aspects of the Project<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Climate change risk (Chapter 23 and Attachment IV)</li></ul></li><li>• How the Project aligns with the principles and objectives of ecologically sustainable development<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sustainability (Chapter 24).</li></ul></li></ul>
	<p><b>Amenity</b></p>	<p><b>Air Quality</b></p> <p>An assessment of the potential impacts the proposed Project may have on air quality. Pollutants including dust and vehicle exhaust emissions arising from the construction works and operational emissions from the floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) are considered (Chapter 12 and Technical Report G).</p> <p><b>Noise and Vibration</b></p> <p>Noise and vibration assessments were carried out for the construction and operation phases of the Project to assess possible impacts on sensitive receptors such as homes, schools and aged care facilities (Chapter 13 and Technical Report H).</p> <p><b>Landscape and Visual</b></p> <p>Considers potential impacts on landscape character and the visual environment from construction and operation of the Project. (Chapter 14 and Technical Report I).</p>
	<p><b>Safety, Hazard, Risk and Impact Management</b></p>	<p><b>Safety, Hazard and Risk</b></p> <p>Describes formal safety studies and hazard assessments that have been conducted for the Project as well as the studies that will be completed as the Project development progresses, and the safety procedures the Project will operate under (Chapter 16 and Technical Report K).</p> <p><b>Environment Management Framework</b></p> <p>Sets out the environmental management and monitoring arrangements that have been identified in the EES, and clarifies how these measures will be incorporated in statutory approvals and consents required for the Project. The management plans for design, construction and operation of the Project are also discussed (Chapter 25 and Attachment III).</p>
	<p><b>Economy</b></p>	<p><b>Land Use</b></p> <p>Considers the role of the Project in changing land uses in proximity to the Crib Point Jetty and between the Jetty and Hastings township, and between Hastings and the Pakenham Delivery Facility. The study considers the long-term vision for growth and land use planning in the broader region (Chapter 17 and Technical Report L).</p> <p><b>Business</b></p> <p>An assessment of the non-agricultural business impacts arising from the construction and operation of the Project, particularly in the Hastings area. Draws on interviews with a range of businesses across the Project area and considers land requirements, construction impacts, traffic and access changes (Chapter 19 and Technical Report N).</p> <p><b>Agriculture</b></p> <p>Considers the Project's impact on agricultural activity during the construction and operation of the Pipeline Works. It considers soil associations along the pipeline alignment and draws on consultation with landholders to assess agricultural activities undertaken in the Project Area (Chapter 20 and Technical Report O).</p>
	<p><b>Community</b></p>	<p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>A study of the Project's potential impact on road safety and traffic operation, particularly traffic volumes, intersection safety, road closures, pedestrians and cycling, as well as possible disruptions to public transport (Chapter 15 and Technical Report J).</p> <p><b>Social</b></p> <p>Studies the local neighbourhoods, towns and recreational facilities in the vicinity of the Project for actual or perceived social impacts during construction and operation (Chapter 18 and Technical Report M).</p> <p><b>Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <p>Details the regular engagement and communication activities undertaken with local community and other stakeholders during the planning and design stages of the Project. Feedback received informed the Project design and will continue to inform construction and operational requirements for the Project (Chapter 26 and Attachment V).</p>
	<p><b>Heritage</b></p>	<p><b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>An assessment of the Project's construction activities and their potential impacts on known and previously unregistered Aboriginal cultural heritage (Chapter 21, Technical Report P).</p> <p><b>Historical Heritage</b></p> <p>Considers the Project's potential impact on heritage places, taking into account the residential, agricultural and industrial heritage of the Project Area (Chapter 22, Technical Report Q).</p>

# COMMENT ON THE EES

The EES process provides an opportunity to share your views on the Gas Import Jetty and Pipeline Project.

## Where to read the EES and related documents:



Online at [www.gasimportprojectvictoria.com.au](http://www.gasimportprojectvictoria.com.au)



Request a free EES Information Pack with a USB loaded with the complete EES and related documents and a printed EES Summary Document and Map Book



For those who may have accessibility issues, or where electronic options are impractical, hard copies may be requested.

Make a request by phoning **1800 039 600** or emailing [AGLCommunity@agl.com.au](mailto:AGLCommunity@agl.com.au)

## How to make a submission?

Interested persons and organisations are invited to submit comments on the EES, the draft planning scheme amendment, works approval application and pipeline licence application. Each submission will be treated as a submission on the EES and all of the related documents.

Submissions must be made in writing (in online or letter form) and received by 11:59pm on Wednesday 26 August 2020.

Online submissions are preferred and can be lodged via the Victorian Government's website at [www.engage.vic.gov.au](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au). Hard copy submissions must be accompanied by a coversheet, available only by calling the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

All submissions must state the name and address of the person making the submission. Where a submission is made by two or more persons (including an organisation), it must state the name and address of the person who will speak to the submission in any public hearing and be the contact person for the submission. Anonymous submissions will not be considered. All submissions will be treated as public documents.

For more information about the EES submission process or public hearings, contact DELWP at:  
[environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au) or on **136 186**

## Who reads your submission?

The submission process is independently managed by DELWP.

Submissions will be considered by an Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC), and the Minister for Planning through the EES assessment process.

The Minister for Planning will issue terms of reference to the IAC to specify the scope of the inquiry. The IAC will consider the EES, the draft planning scheme amendment, the EPA works approval application and all public submissions. The pipeline licence application may be considered by the IAC or a separate panel as required by the Minister for Energy.



## Information about the public hearings

Public hearings allow submitters to speak about their submissions in depth. Requests to be heard by the IAC should be specified in the submission and a request must be received during the exhibition period.

The IAC will conduct public hearings. If state of emergency restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic are still in effect at the time of hearings, the IAC may use technology such as video-conferencing to enable submitters and other stakeholders to participate in hearings. Information on the IAC process and timetable for the public hearings will be published as it becomes available at: [www.engage.vic.gov.au](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au)

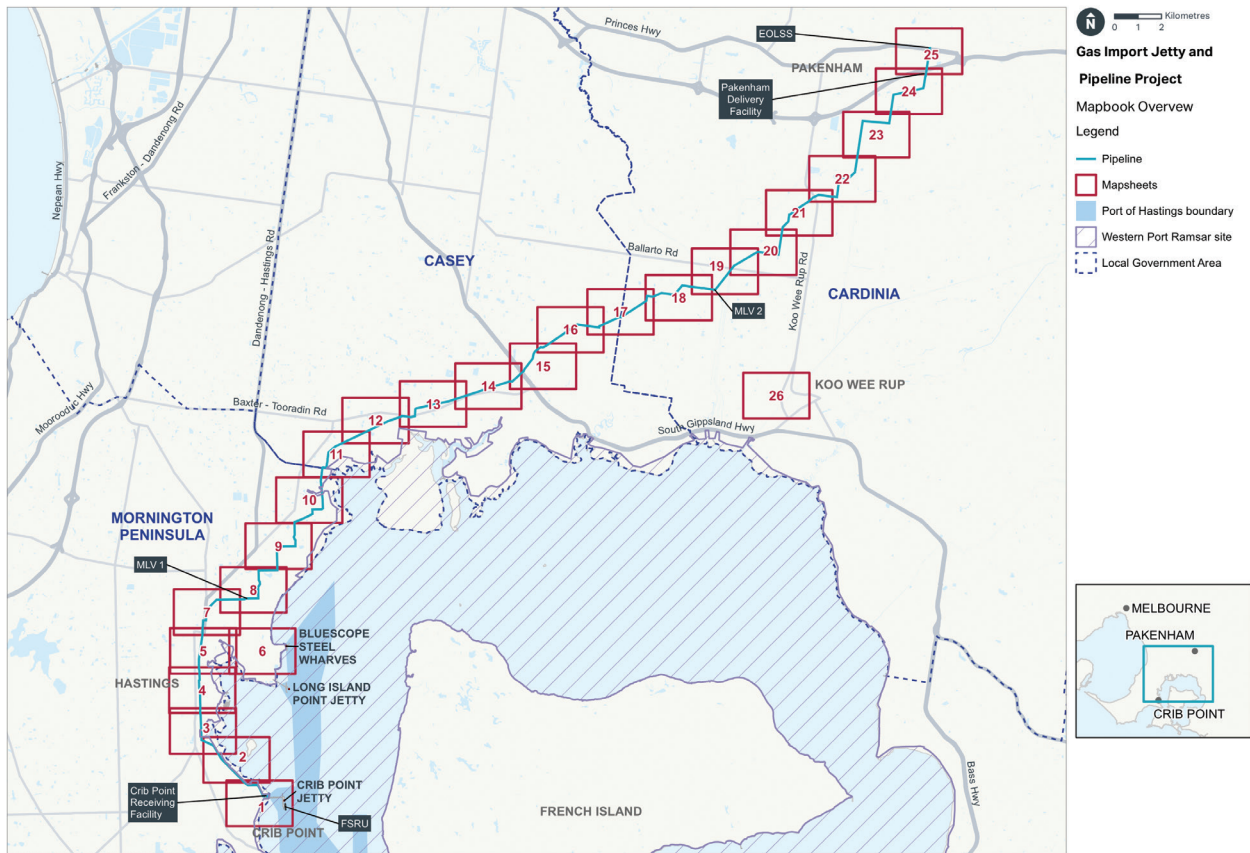
After the public hearings have concluded, the IAC will make recommendations and prepare a report for the Minister for Planning to inform his assessment of the environmental effects of the project.



# What's in the EES Map Book?

The EES Map Book shows the Project design that has been used to assess potential impacts. The EES Map Book includes the locations of key Project features including the FSRU, the pipeline and associated facilities such as the Crib Point Receiving Facility and the Pakenham Delivery Facility.

The EES Map Book includes horizontal plans which show the project in plan-view on a satellite image. Each page shows a different section of the Project, with a key in the top left-hand corner as a guide to the section on the page.



The reference alignment shown in the EES Map Book is not the final pipeline alignment for the Pipeline Project and is based upon landowner negotiations to date. The reference design in the Map Book is the current option for design, construction and operation of the Project. It has been refined during the preparation of the EES and may be subject to further change to suit landowner requirements or to reduce environmental impacts.

Statutory approvals, design work for the Project and consultation with communities and stakeholders is still ongoing and some components of the Project design could change.

The final alignment will be guided by the Minister for Planning's assessment of the EES, and any further outcomes that have arisen once the EES process is complete.

## Contact Us

[www.gasimportprojectvictoria.com.au](http://www.gasimportprojectvictoria.com.au)

General and Gas Import Jetty enquiries | 1800 039 600 | [AGLcommunity@agl.com.au](mailto:AGLcommunity@agl.com.au)

Pipeline enquiries | 1800 531 811 | [cribpointpakenham@apa.com.au](mailto:cribpointpakenham@apa.com.au)

EES process - Impact Assessment Unit, DELWP | (03) 8392 5503 or 8392 5570 | [environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au)  
[planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/](http://planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/)

EPA Works Approval - EPA Victoria | 1300 372 842 | [works.approvals@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:works.approvals@epa.vic.gov.au)

Pipeline Licence- Pipeline Regulator Victoria | 136 186 | [pipeline.regulation@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:pipeline.regulation@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Hearing and impaired customers (TTY) | 133 677 (Quote 1300 664 358)

Interpreter service | 1300 307 245

