Social Impact Assessment

Sturt Plateau Pipeline

APA SPP Pty Ltd

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Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
0.1	3 September 2024	Roland Short	Esther Diffey	Natalie Calder
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Basis of Report

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Australia(SLR) with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescale and resources allocated to it by agreement with APA SPP Pty Ltd (the Client). Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected, which has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

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Executive Summary

The Sturt Plateau Pipeline Project, a 37-kilometre gas transmission pipeline located in the Beetaloo Sub-basin of the Northern Territory, has been assessed for its potential social impacts on the surrounding communities. This Social Impact Assessment (SIA) evaluates the project's implications for local residents, particularly those in Elliott and surrounding areas, over its six-month construction period and subsequent operational phase.

Key Findings:

- Scale and Duration: The Project's relatively small scale (peak workforce of 133) and short construction timeline (6 months) limits its potential for significant, long-term social impacts. However, it contributes to the cumulative effects of the broader Beetaloo Basin development.
- Employment and Economic Opportunities: While the Project will create some job opportunities; local employment is expected to be limited due to specialised skill requirements and the Project's isolation. The economic impact is projected to be modest but positive.
- Community Services and Infrastructure: The assessment indicates minimal strain on local services and infrastructure, with most workforce needs managed through on-site facilities. However, potential impacts on emergency health services need to be carefully managed.
- Cultural Heritage: Significant measures are in place to protect cultural and heritage, including comprehensive engagement with Traditional Owners and formal agreements. These efforts are crucial given the Project's location in a culturally significant area.
- Community Cohesion: The potential for community division over project benefits and impacts emerged as a potential key impact, necessitating ongoing stakeholder engagement and benefit-sharing initiatives.
- Cumulative Impacts: While individual project impacts are limited, the SIA highlights the importance of considering cumulative effects in the context of broader Beetaloo Basin development.

Risk Assessment:

The SIA employed a risk assessment framework to evaluate potential impacts. Most impacts were assessed as low to moderate risk, with appropriate mitigation measures identified. The highest-rated risk relates to potential community division over project benefits and impacts.

Management Measures:

A comprehensive set of management and mitigation measures have been developed, focusing on:

- Proactive stakeholder engagement and transparent communication
- Maximising local employment and business opportunities within project constraints
- Protecting cultural heritage and First Nations' interests
- Managing potential strains on local services, particularly health services
- Contributing to long-term community development through targeted initiatives

Conclusion

While the Sturt Plateau Pipeline Project is not expected to cause major social disruption, its presence represents another step in the changing socio-economic landscape of the Beetaloo Basin region. The Project's success in managing social impacts will depend on continued commitment to stakeholder engagement, transparent communication, and responsive management of emerging issues.

The short timeline and small scale of the Project present challenges for monitoring and managing social impacts. However, through proactive planning, clear communication, and adaptive management, the Project aims to maximise potential benefits and mitigate risks effectively.

By maintaining a focus on responsible development and community engagement, the Sturt Plateau Pipeline Project can contribute positively to the region while minimising potential negative impacts on local communities. Ongoing vigilance, particularly regarding cumulative impacts, will be crucial as development in the Beetaloo Basin continues.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AGP	Amadeus Gas Pipeline
DITT	Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
DN	Diameter Nominal
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
FIFO	Fly-In-Fly-Out
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IRSAD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage
LGA	Local Government Area
ML	Mega Litres
MPaG	Megapascals Gauge
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NT	Northern Territory
NT EPA	Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
P50	50% probability (in the context of resource estimation)
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate
PPL	Perpetual Pastoral Lease
Q4	Fourth Quarter
RDA NT	Regional Development Australia Northern Territory
ROW	Right of Way
SAL	Suburbs and Localities (ABS geographic classification)
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SPP	Sturt Plateau Pipeline
sq Kms	Square Kilometres
TB	Tuberculosis
TBN	Tamboran B2 Pty Ltd

1.0 Introduction

APA SPP Pty Ltd (APA) engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) to prepare this Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the Sturt Plateau Pipeline Project (the Project). APA seeks to develop the Sturt Plateau Pipeline (the SPP) in order to transport gas from Tamboran B2 Pty Ltd's (TBN) Sturt Plateau Compression Facility (SPCF) development sites in the Beetaloo Sub-basin to the Amadeus Gas Pipeline (AGP).

The Project is being referred to the Northern Territory (NT) Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) to determine whether formal assessment is required pursuant to the Northern Territory *Environment Protection Act 2019* (EP Act). This SIA was prepared to inform the referral and has been prepared pursuant to the Guidelines for The Preparation of an Economic and Social Impact Assessment (NT EPA, 2013).

1.1 Project Overview

The Beetaloo Sub-basin in the NT is in the early stages of development. It is estimated to contain 500 trillion cubic feet of gas (P50 gas-in-place resource as estimated by industry). Several producers have undertaken appraisal drilling and are proposing to undertake additional development work to verify gas production quantities and ultimately sell the gas to commercial markets.

The SPP is proposed to transport gas from TBN's SPCF to the AGP via a lateral pipeline 300 mm in diameter. The AGP is a transmission pipeline that extends from the Amadeus Basin in the south of the NT to Darwin, in the north. It transports natural gas to Darwin, Alice Springs and regional centres, principally to fuel power generation.

Table 1 Project summary

Project element	Summary
Overview	
The Project	The Project will involve the: • Use of the existing sealed road network for transport of machinery and materials to the Project Area. • Clearing of approximately 134 ha of native vegetation and site preparation. • Ancillary surface facilities including additional work areas, supply of gravel, water, site access and the temporary construction camp. • Construction of surface facilities, including the Shenandoah Facility (receipt station) and Sturt Plateau Facility (delivery station). • Installation of a medium diameter (DN300), gas transmission pipeline (up to 9.6 MPaG) of approximately 37 km in length. • Operation of the pipeline. • Decommissioning of the pipeline.
Project Area	The development envelope of the Project, within which the Project will be sited, is approximately 2002 ha.
Location	The Project is in the locality of Birdum, approximately 50 km south of Daly Waters, and 80 km north of Elliott, in the Northern Territory.
Land tenure	The Project is located across: • NT Portion 1077 – Shenandoah Perpetual Pastoral Lease (PPL). • NT Portion 7026 – Hayfield PPL. • NT Portion 7513 – Hayfield PPL. • The Stuart Highway Road Reserve.

Project element	Summary
Capital Investment Value	Approximately $57 million
Project life	40 years
Construction	
Disturbance Footprint	The construction footprint covers an area of approximately 146 ha, including approximately 12 ha of previously disturbed land.
Total area that will be rehabilitated	Approximately 33 ha of the Disturbance Footprint will be rehabilitated progressively during construction.
Construction water use and supply	Construction of the Project will require an estimated 70 Mega Litres (ML) of water in total. Approximately 30 ML of non-potable water will be utilised for dust control and hydrostatic testing which will be sourced from Tamboran or associated companies under an existing water extraction licence (WEL). New bores are required to be constructed to source 40 ML for the Project under a new WEL.
Off-site supporting infrastructure	• Existing road network • Waste disposal facility • Pipe laydown area
Construction hours	6 am to 6 pm, seven days a week. Construction will occur in shifts of 21 days on and 7 days off. Limited 24 hours works will be required during hydrostatic testing activities.
Construction workforce	Between 70 to 125 personnel will be required for the majority of the 6-month construction period. The construction workforce will peak at approximately 133 personnel for one or two days, halfway through construction.
Operation	
Operation footprint	Approximately 112 ha will be utilised for the transmission pipeline easement, Shenandoah Facility, and Sturt Plateau Facility during operations.
Operational workforce	Approximately 2 personnel
Operational hours	Up to 24 hours, seven days a week as required by the Project's operations and maintenance.
Decommissioning	
Decommissioning	The pipeline's decommissioning may include suspension or abandonment. Removal of the pipeline as part of abandonment would result in significant disturbance and environmental impacts and is therefore not preferred.

1.2 Methodology

The following methodology was used to conduct the Social Impact Assessment, which was in accordance with the requirements outlined in the NT EPA Guidelines for the Preparation of an Economic and Social Impact Assessment.

1.2.1 Scoping Phase

Project Definition:

- Review project documentation to understand the nature, scale, and timeline of the SPP Project.
- Identify key project activities and their potential interactions with local communities.

Study Area Delineation:

- Define the geographical boundaries of the study area based on project location and potential impact reach.
- Identify key communities and stakeholder groups within this area.

Preliminary Impact Identification:

- Conduct a preliminary analysis to identify potential social impacts based on project characteristics and local context.
- Develop an initial list of impact categories (e.g., employment, health, cultural heritage).

1.2.2 Baseline Data Collection

Desktop Research:

- Gather and analyse existing demographic, socio-economic, and cultural data for the study area.
- Review relevant policy documents, previous studies, and regional development plans.

Stakeholder Mapping:

- Identify key stakeholders including local communities, Indigenous groups, government agencies, and other relevant parties.
- Develop a stakeholder engagement plan.

Field Visits and Primary Data Collection:

- Conduct site visits to gain firsthand understanding of local conditions.
- Carry out interviews, focus groups, and community meetings to gather primary data and local perspectives.

1.2.3 Impact Assessment

Impact Identification and Analysis:

- Systematically identify potential social impacts across various categories.
- Analyse the nature, scale, and significance of each potential impact.

Risk Assessment:

- Employ a risk assessment framework to evaluate the likelihood and consequence of each potential impact.
- Categorise impacts based on their risk level (e.g., low, moderate, high) using the social risk analysis framework shown in Appendix C.

Cumulative Impact Assessment:

- Consider the Project's contribution to cumulative impacts in the context of broader Beetaloo Basin development.

1.2.4 Management and Mitigation Planning

Develop Mitigation Strategies:

- Identify and develop appropriate management and mitigation measures for each significant impact.
- Ensure measures are practical and aligned with project constraints (e.g., short timeline, small scale).

Stakeholder Consultation on Proposed Measures:

- Engage with stakeholders to gather feedback on proposed management and mitigation measures.
- Refine measures based on stakeholder input.

1.2.5 Reporting and Review

Draft SIA Report:

- Compile findings, analysis, and recommendations into a comprehensive SIA report.

1.3 Study Area

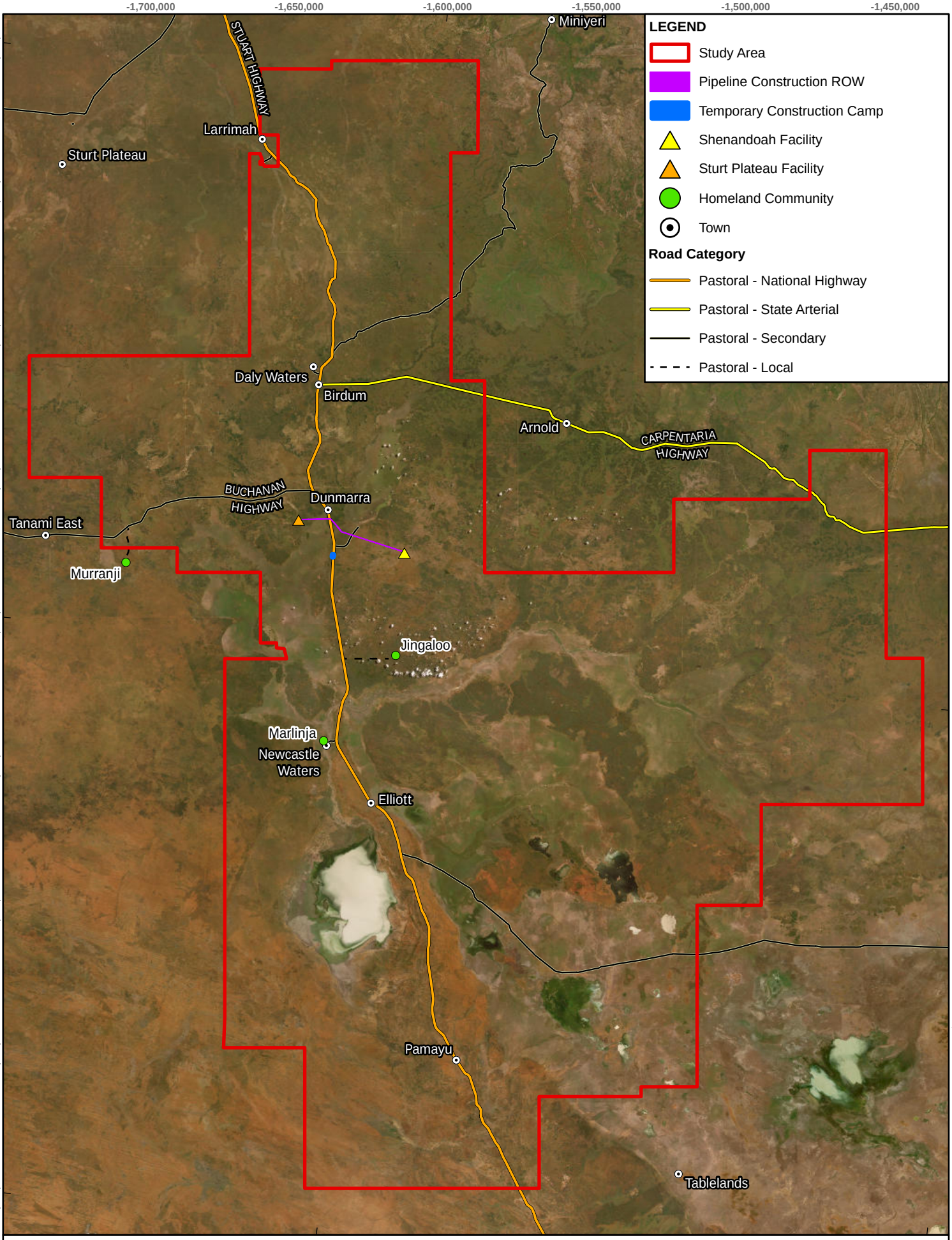
The Project is situated in an isolated region across two large pastoral stations. Apart from a cluster of houses and outbuildings on the host station, the nearest settlement is the small homeland family outstation of Jingaloo, approximately 30 km directly south of the eastern end of the pipeline. The nearest town is Daly Waters, approximately 50 km north along the Stuart Highway.

The study area for the SIA, shown in Figure 1, incorporates five Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Suburbs and Localities (SAL) geographic boundaries, those being:

- Birdum (SAL70034) 16735.7 square kilometres (sq kms)
- Daly Waters (SAL70072) 5 sq kms
- Pamayu (SAL70217) 33921.2 sq kms
- Newcastle Waters (SAL70205) 4.4 sq kms
- Elliott (NT) (SAL70091) 3 sq kms

SAL are an ABS Mesh Block approximation of the officially recognised boundaries of suburbs (in cities and larger towns) and localities (outside cities and larger towns) defined by Australian state and Territory governments.

Owing to the region's sparse land use and settlement patterns and corresponding low populations, these boundaries cover a significant geographical area compared to the Project. However, they also represent the most feasible means of collecting population data from the Census across these regions.



SLR

0 25 50 km

Coordinate System:	GCS GDA 1994
Scale:	1:1,600,000 at A4
Project Number:	680.030294
Date Drawn:	03-Sep-2024
Drawn by:	CP
Reviewed by:	RS

Service Layer Credits:
Esri, TomTom, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Earthstar Geographics, Esri, USGS

APA STURT PLATEAU PIPELINE ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

STUDY AREA

FIGURE 1

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\680-DRW\680-DRW\680.030294.00001 APA for Sturt Plateau Pipeline\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\680030294_APA_for_Sturt_Plateau_Pipeline.aprx\D_A4_P

2.0 Scoping

2.1 Policy Context

Several key government strategies and frameworks in the NT provide important context for evaluating and improving the social and economic impacts of the Project. These policy documents outline development objectives, priorities, and approaches that the Project should adhere to in order to support regional goals and achieve positive community outcomes.

The NT Social Outcomes Framework (NT Government, 2021) outlines a whole-of-government approach to improving wellbeing across seven domains: health, housing, safety, education, financial security, community connectedness, and environment. It focuses on measurable, population-level social outcomes and encourages collaboration between the government, NGOs and the community. Relevant to the Project and the SIA, the framework points to the importance of identifying the Project's impacts on high-level social indicators, enabling cross-sector cooperation, supporting place-based approaches, and addressing inequities. Relevant outcomes include growing the economy and jobs while maintaining safe communities, a healthy environment and secure infrastructure access.

The Big Rivers Regional Economic Growth Plan 2022-2030 (NT Government, 2022), which covers the Roper Gulf Regional Council area, contains contextually relevant elements aligned with NT-wide policy. These include a vision to grow the economy, jobs and population; objectives to promote regional advantages, Aboriginal economic leadership, liveability, and coordinated planning; and an emphasis on the resources industry as a key growth driver alongside agribusiness, tourism and Defence. The plan underscores the need for the SIA to consider the Project's alignment with regional growth aspirations and ensure the Project engages closely with Aboriginal stakeholders, manages impacts on infrastructure and services, and coordinates cross-sectoral development activities.

The Barkly Regional Economic Growth Strategy 2030 (Remote Strategy Plus, 2022) is also highly pertinent given the Project's proximity to the Barkly Regional Council area. It sets a vision for a thriving, strong community that can maximise opportunities for investment and growth. Guiding principles span cultural safety, equity, engagement, regional benefit, measurement, and accessibility. The strategy identifies six targets: local jobs, service industry growth, workforce skills, Aboriginal participation, innovative technologies, and responsible mining. While not explicitly covering gas development, these strategic elements reinforce ensuring the Project delivers broad-based, sustainable and inclusive regional development.

Together, these three documents provide a consistent policy framework centred on advancing economic participation and well-being, especially for Aboriginal communities; growing regional populations and liveability; coordinating responsible industry and infrastructure development; and collaborating across government, industry and community.

While the Project is not specifically mentioned, broader associated projects, such as the Beetaloo Basin development, are, and realising the potential to contribute to these regional development goals while managing impacts will be critical.

2.2 General Community Sentiment

While there is a significant range of viewpoints related to the broader development of the Beetaloo Basin, this SIA is focused on the potential social impact of one specific, small project within the basin and the identification of purposeful management measures to manage potential social impacts.

It is acknowledged that community attitudes towards gas extraction in the Beetaloo Basin are complex and varied, with no single, overarching viewpoint. These perspectives have been shaped by various factors, including several large inquiries, studies, and investigations into the development of the Beetaloo Basin in recent years. Notable examples include the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the NT (NT Government, 2018) and the Beetaloo sub-basin Social Impact Assessment Case Study (Coffey, 2018).

While widespread media coverage and social discourse on the matter have highlighted a range of different perspectives and viewpoints, including concerns about environmental impacts, social and cultural impacts, and economic implications, as well as support for potential economic benefits and energy security, it is important to note that this SIA has a specific focus. The scope of this SIA is limited to the Project. The cumulative impacts of other Beetaloo Basin developments are addressed in Section 5.3 of this report.

The goal of this SIA is to:

1 Assess the potential social impacts of this specific project within the Beetaloo Basin.

2 Identify purposeful management measures to protect community wellbeing in relation to this project.

3 Provide a focused analysis that acknowledges the broader context but remains specific to the Project.

3.0 Social Baseline

3.1 Physical Environment

The Project site is situated across two large pastoral leases: Hayfield Station and Shenandoah Station. These areas are characterised by open plains, flood country, scrub, and sand hills. The Stuart Highway, the main road through Central Australia, separates the two stations and runs north-south across the Project site. It stretches from Darwin in the NT through Tennant Creek and Alice Springs to Port Augusta in South Australia.

The closest community infrastructure to the Project is the Dunmarra Roadhouse, a petrol station and rest stop on the highway, about 3 km north of the Project. Other nearby settlements include Daly Waters, approximately 50 km north, which offers roadhouses, pubs, accommodations, a regional airstrip without commercial services, and various services for regional road users and tourists.

Several remote Aboriginal communities and family outstations are located within 30-50 km of the Project, including Jingaloo, Lily Hole, Murranji, and Marlinja, near the historically significant Newcastle Waters pastoral station and historic township.

The nearest community with local-level services like health, education, and police is the town of Elliott, about 70 km to the south. Residents seeking higher-level social infrastructure and services like hospitals, tertiary education, and civic services would need to travel about 280 km north to Katherine or 330 km south to Tennant Creek from the Project site.

3.2 Native Title

The Project crosses two areas with native title determinations: the Shenandoah Pastoral Lease and Hayfield Pastoral Lease. The Traditional Owners and claimants under the determinations are:

- Shenandoah:
  - The Kinbininggu Group
  - The Bamarrnganja Group
- Hayfield:
  - The Kinbininggu Group
  - The Marlinja Group
  - The Warranangku Group.

Both areas are administered by the Top End Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC), an agent PBC responsible for many native title determinations in the NT. It functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* as an agent for native title holders.

3.3 Demographics

This section presents a social baseline for the Study Area, comparing key demographic and socioeconomic characteristics with those of the NT. Unless otherwise noted, all statistics are sourced from the ABS 2021 Census of People and Households.

3.3.1 Population and Demographics

The Study Area has a usual resident population of 567 people, primarily clustered in the settlements of Daly Waters (55 residents), Newcastle Waters (Marlinja) (122 residents) and Elliott (287 residents). There is a relatively balanced gender distribution of 50.4% male and 49.7% female, closely mirroring the NT's distribution (50.5% male, 49.5% female).

The Study Area's population differs significantly from the NT in terms of Indigenous status. While 26.3% of the NT population identifies as Aboriginal, Aboriginal people make up 59.1% of the Study Area population, with many residing in the homeland outstations and town camps that are located across the Study Area.

The age structure of the Study Area shows some notable differences from the NT. The Study Area has higher proportions of children aged 5-9 years (9.5% vs 7.2% in NT) and young adults aged 20-29 years (22.9% vs 15.8% in NT). Conversely, it has lower proportions of older adults, particularly those aged 60 and above. This is likely associated with the complex nature of elder care in remote areas and the lower average life expectancy for Aboriginal people in Australia (National Indigenous Australian Agency, 2024).

3.3.2 Housing and Households

The Study Area exhibits distinct housing characteristics compared to the NT that highlight the critical role of tourism in the region. There were 428 dwellings in the Study Area on Census night; however, 197 were Caravans, and most were in Daly Waters (134), a major tourist drawcard for travellers along the Stuart Highway.

Of the permanent dwellings, there were 159 Separate Houses and 5 Semi-detached dwellings. Homeownership rates differ markedly, with 36.7% of dwellings in the Study Area owned outright or with a mortgage, compared to 43.2% in the NT. The Study Area has a lower proportion of private rentals (10.5% vs 11.7% in NT), a lower rate of social housing (6.8% vs 11.4% in NT), but a higher rate of dwellings occupied under other or alternative tenure structures (15.9% vs 4.8% in the NT). This is likely associated with the ownership structures of housing in many Aboriginal communities.

3.3.3 Education and Employment

Educational attainment in the Study Area is generally lower than the NT average. Only 6.4% of residents over 15 years old hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 21.5% in the NT. This also sits significantly lower than the national rate for Remote and Very Remote residents (16.8% over 15 years) (Australian Government Department of Parliamentary Services, 2022).

The proportion of residents with vocational qualifications in the Study Area is on par with the NT (20.9% vs 19.2% in NT). However, the Study Area's employment profile differs from that of the NT. The Study Area has a higher proportion of labourers (33.3% vs 8.5% in NT) and a lower proportion of professionals (14.5% vs 22.0% in NT). This suggests a workforce more focused on manual and lower-skilled occupations, which aligns closely with the prevalence of cattle grazing and road transport/tourism-related industries in the region.

The Study Area also exhibits relatively high unemployment. Data is provided at the LGA level, and in the March quarter of 2024, the Roper Gulf Region had an unemployment rate of 15.3%, and the Barkly Region had an unemployment rate of 8.3% (Jobs and Skills Australia, 2024). This sits higher than the NT Outback Unemployment rate of 5.7% in March 2024 (NT Department of Treasury and Finance, 2024).

One of the main challenges in this region is the relatively low participation rate, with 69.3% for NT Outback compared to the NT average of 72.9%. This is mainly due to the very low Aboriginal participation rate in the NT, which is at 35.4%. Within the Aboriginal population in the labour market in the NT, there is a high unemployment rate of 20.8%. These figures emphasize the obstacles that Aboriginal people encounter in the job market, such as limited employment opportunities in regional and remote areas, as well as conflicts between work demands and family/cultural practices.

3.3.4 Income and Economic Status

The income distribution in the Study Area skews lower than the NT average. A significant proportion (22.2%) of residents earn between $150 and $299 per week, compared to just 6.0% in the NT. These income levels align with the higher rates of unemployment and disengagement from the labour market noted above. The Study Area has very few high-income earners, with no residents reporting incomes over $3,000 per week, while 14.1% of NT residents fall into this category.

3.3.5 Health and Wellbeing

The Study Area shows some concerning health trends. The prevalence of diabetes (5.8%) and heart disease (7.2%) is notably higher than the NT averages (4.3% and 3.1% respectively). These are both conditions that are more prevalent amongst the Aboriginal population, particularly in rural and remote areas and pose significant challenges for those affected wishing to remain in their community (National Indigenous Australians Agency, 2024).

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) summarises economic and social conditions within an area. A low score indicates greater disadvantage and a lack of advantage, while a high score indicates less disadvantage and greater advantage. Both the Roper Gulf and Barkly LGAs received a score of 1 on the IRSAD scale, indicating that the area experiences high levels of relative social disadvantage compared to other areas in Australia. This is attributed to a combination of factors commonly associated with high levels of relative social disadvantage discussed in the previous sections, such as:

- Low levels of education and skills: A lack of access to quality education and training opportunities can limit employment prospects and income potential.
- High unemployment and underemployment: The lack of available jobs or jobs that match people's skills can lead to financial hardship and social exclusion.
- Low incomes: Low incomes make it difficult to afford necessities, such as housing, food, and healthcare.
- Poor health and disability: Health problems and disabilities can affect a person's ability to work and participate fully in society.
- Remote location and limited access to services: Remoteness can create barriers to accessing education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and other essential services.
- High proportion of Indigenous population: Indigenous communities in Australia often face systemic disadvantage due to historical and ongoing factors.

3.3.6 Mobility and Stability

The Study Area demonstrates higher residential stability compared to the NT. A larger proportion of residents reported the same usual address one year ago (79.4% vs 72.0% in NT) and five years ago (59.5% vs 46.9% in NT). This suggests a more settled residential population. However, it is worth noting that the region is experienced in handling large numbers of visitors due to the significant tourism activity along the Stuart Highway.

4.0 Consultation

APA implemented a targeted consultation program for the SIA component of the Project, designed to engage key stakeholders while acknowledging the Project's unique characteristics. The consultation approach was tailored to the Project's relatively small scale, isolated location, and self-sufficient nature, recognising that it would have minimal interactions with the broader community due to its situation on private property.

4.1 Consultation Activities:

Introductory Online Meetings:

Several preliminary meetings were conducted online to introduce the Project and establish initial connections with relevant stakeholders. These meetings provided a foundation for subsequent in-person engagements and helped identify key areas of interest or concern.

Regional Engagement Road Trip:

During the week of 19 August 2024, APA conducted a series of in-person engagements across the region. This road trip included meetings in:

- Darwin: to engage with government agencies and broader regional stakeholders.
- Katherine: A key regional centre to connect with local authorities and service providers.
- Elliott: The nearest town to the Project site, to engage with the local community most likely to be impacted or benefit from the Project.

Community BBQ and Information Session:

On Wednesday, 21 August 2024, APA hosted a community BBQ and information session in Elliott (Figure 2 and Figure 3). This event, attended by approximately 36 people, provided an opportunity to engage directly with local residents, answer questions, and gather community feedback. The information session was advertised through the Elliott Community Facebook page and through pinned notices on the local community notice board.

Figure 2 Attendees at the community BBQ

Figure 3 An APA representative discussing the Project with community members

Information Dissemination

APA has provided a range of different avenues to make information available to the community and stakeholders:

- Digital copies of the Project fact sheet (Appendix B) provided to all stakeholders consulted
- Bulk Physical copies of the Project fact sheet provided to both Councils and other interested parties for dissemination
- The Project webpage: https://www.apa.com.au/about-apa/our-projects/sturt-plateau-pipeline-project/
- A dedicated project phone number: 1800 413 200

APA also monitors and responds to enquiries at the Project email address: beetaloo@apa.com.au

4.2 First Nations Consultation

APA is currently engaged in a formal consultation process with the Northern Land Council as the agent for the Top End PBC. While no formal consultation with Traditional Owners has occurred outside of this engagement, it's important to note that local Aboriginal people have been included in broader community consultations. As members of the communities where APA has been engaging, Aboriginal residents have had equal opportunities to access information and raise questions, just like any other community member. This approach ensures that while the formal consultation process proceeds through proper channels, the wider Aboriginal community remains informed and engaged through general community consultation efforts.

4.3 Feedback Received

Feedback received during consultation is provided in Table 2.

Table 2 Consultation feedback

Stakeholder consulted	Feedback Received
Roper Gulf Regional Council	• Remote Location and Limited Council Presence: The Council acknowledges that the Project area is extremely remote from the main population centres in their Local Government Area (LGA). Despite being within their territory, the area's isolation and sparse population result in minimal active Council presence. The region primarily consists of large pastoral holdings and scattered commercial enterprises related to highway trade. • Limited Responsibility for Nearby Settlements: The Council notes that it has no interaction with or responsibility for the homeland outstations located closest to the Project within its territory. This underscores the unique governance challenges in remote areas where traditional local government responsibilities may not fully apply. • Outsourcing of Maintenance Work: Most maintenance work in the region is subcontracted by the Council to a local entity associated with the Daly Waters Hi-Way Inn. This arrangement reflects the practical realities of managing services in remote areas, where leveraging local resources and knowledge is often more efficient. • Challenges and Opportunities for Local Recruitment: The Council recognises that the Project's short delivery timeline and isolated location would make local recruitment challenging. However, they express willingness to explore ways to support local participation and have suggested potential organisations that could assist in this effort. This indicates a desire to maximise local benefits despite the constraints. • Mixed Community Attitudes and Water Security Concerns: The Council notes that the community's attitudes towards Beetaloo development vary. Water security is identified as a particularly significant current issue. While uncertain about the specific response to this project, the Council anticipates that, like other Beetaloo-related initiatives, it may attract heightened interest from some stakeholders. • Road Infrastructure Responsibilities: The Council provided clarification on the authorities potentially responsible for the roads affected by the Project, noting that these are not Council assets.
Barkly Regional Council (Elliott Local Authority)	• Elliott's Economic Decline and Community Resilience: Elliott has experienced a significant economic downturn over the years, marked by the closure of key businesses such as the pub and a service station. Despite these challenges, the local authority emphasises that a strong sense of community persists. • Regional Service Centre Status: Elliott serves as the main service centre for the north of the Barkly region, including the nearby Aboriginal community of Marlinja (located near Newcastle Waters). This underscores the town's importance in providing essential services to a wider area, despite its economic challenges. • Significance of Football in Community Life: Football plays a crucial role in Elliott's community life, with strong local participation. The Elliott football ground is considered a significant public asset.

Stakeholder consulted	Feedback Received
	• Seasonal Isolation and Project Accessibility: Elliott often becomes isolated during the wet season, particularly to the north. If construction were to occur during the wet season, this could potentially render the Project site inaccessible for extended periods. • Potential Commercial Developments: There are plans for new commercial developments in Elliott, including a new service station, shop, and potentially other enterprises to serve both the local community and highway traffic. However, the progress of these plans remains uncertain. • Limited Project Interaction but Willingness to Explore Opportunities: While acknowledging that Elliott is the closest town to the Project, the local authority anticipates minimal interaction between the town and the Project, with limited scope for local businesses to provide support. Nevertheless, they express willingness to explore any potential opportunities, showing a proactive approach to community development. • Potential for Community Initiative Support: The local authority identifies several community initiatives, including youth services, the football team, and educational activities, which could benefit from potential grant programs. This suggests opportunities for the Project to contribute to community development through targeted support of local programs.
NT Health and the Elliot Health Centre	• Major Health Concerns: The feedback highlights chronic diseases and men's health issues as primary concerns in the Elliott region. There's also apprehension about potential increases in communicable diseases and road safety issues due to the Project's impact on local traffic and population dynamics. • Project's Public Health Impact: The Project is expected to increase road traffic, especially during the dry season, and introduce a more diverse population. However, due to the isolated nature of the accommodation camp, there will be little interaction with the general community. Despite this, there are still concerns about a possible rise in communicable diseases and anti-social behaviour, suggesting a need for proactive public health measures. • Recommendations for Minimising Impact on Local Health Services: Given the Project's isolation, several recommendations were made to ensure self-sufficiency and minimal impact on local health services. These include having an on-site paramedic with fully stocked emergency equipment, establishing clear communication channels with the Elliott clinic, and planning for wet season evacuations. Proper signage to alert travellers to increased traffic was also emphasised. • Community Health Support Initiatives: Suggestions for supporting community health include donating to the Elliott clinic (e.g., for their Christmas toy fund) and engaging with local health promotion initiatives. The feedback stresses the importance of community engagement, recommending meetings with clinic staff and the community to share project details and foster understanding. • Elliott Health Clinic Capabilities and Limitations: The clinic serves the area up to Dunmarra, including the Project area, but has significant limitations. They suggested that detailed emergency preparedness plans be implemented to minimise additional demands on local services. They can provide emergency support but are not equipped for general practice or pharmacy services outside the usual residential population. The clinic faces heavy demand from road accidents and

Stakeholder consulted	Feedback Received
	experiences service constraints during the wet season. Due to the large service area and other demands, ambulance availability is often limited. All critical Royal Flying Doctor air services are directed to Alice Springs. • Worker Health Considerations: The feedback emphasises that project workers need to be healthy and self-sufficient in terms of medication, as the local clinic cannot supply these, even in urgent situations. There is also a strong recommendation for thorough health screening of foreign workers, particularly for Tuberculosis (TB), to prevent the spread of communicable diseases in the community.
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (Business and Workforce – Big Rivers Region)	• Challenges in Local Participation: The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) acknowledges that local participation from the Big Rivers region will be challenging due to the Project's isolated location, the need for specialist skills, and its relatively short duration. • Opportunities for Local Services: Despite the challenges, DITT identified potential opportunities for local participation in project services such as camp operations and general labour. This suggests that while specialised roles may be difficult to fill locally, there are still avenues for the local community to benefit from and engage with the Project. • DITT Support for Local Involvement: DITT supports planning strategies, activating local resources, and involving local businesses in the Project's supply chain to facilitate connections between the Project and local businesses, potentially maximising regional economic benefits. • On-Site Certification Opportunities: The department suggests opportunities for the Project to support certification efforts and that they could provide on-site certification resources and supervision if this were possible. • Indigenous Workforce Participation Challenges: DITT notes specific challenges in recruiting local Indigenous workers, primarily due to the Project's short timeline and long work swings that may not align with cultural and homelife demands. • Strategies for Enhancing Indigenous Participation: Despite the challenges, DITT has provided potential measures that could be adopted to support greater Indigenous participation.
Surrounding service businesses: Daly Waters Historic Pub Daly Waters Hi-Way Inn Dunmarra Wayside Inn	• Peak Season Patterns: All three establishments - Daly Waters Pub, Dunmarra Way Side Inn, and Daly Waters Hi-Way Inn - report similar peak seasons, generally running from late April to September or October. This consistency indicates a region-wide trend, likely tied to the dry season and increased tourist activity. The Hi-Way Inn noted occupancy dropping to about 60% in later months, suggesting some potential capacity during shoulder seasons. • Operational Resilience and Constraints: All three businesses report no significant operational constraints under normal conditions. They demonstrate resilience and adaptability in managing their services. However, a common challenge emerges during the wet season, with flooding potentially affecting operations and accessibility. • Accommodation Capacity and Flexibility: Capacity varies among the establishments: o Daly Waters Pub reports no available capacity during peak times. o Dunmarra Way Side Inn maintains 60-80% occupancy during peak season.

Stakeholder consulted	Feedback Received
	○ Daly Waters Hi-Way Inn offers over 60 rooms with potential for expansion. • This suggests that while accommodation is limited, there are options for potential project support, especially if coordinated in advance. • Experience with Project Workforces: All three establishments have experience supporting resource exploration projects, particularly in the Beetaloo Basin. This prior experience indicates a familiarity with the needs of project workforces and an understanding of how to cater to them. • Additional Services and Expansion Potential: Beyond accommodation, these businesses show willingness and ability to provide additional services: ○ Meals and other unspecified services (Daly Waters Pub) ○ Post Office services (Dunmarra Way Side Inn) ○ Meals, potable water, and fuel (Daly Waters Hi-Way Inn) • Both the Dunmarra Way Side Inn and Hi-Way Inn mentioned potential for expansion with adequate notice, indicating some flexibility in capacity. The Hi-Way Inn specifically mentioned strong logistics capabilities, including its own transport arm.
Elliott Community	• Community Benefits and Investment Interest: There is significant interest in community benefits and opportunities for investment and community improvement. This indicates that the community is engaged and eager for positive changes, suggesting potential support for projects that can demonstrate tangible local benefits. • Community Character and Demographics: Despite being small and experiencing population decline, the community is described as close-knit and a good place to live. This suggests a strong sense of community cohesion, which could be both an asset and a consideration for any incoming projects. • Centrality of Sports and Football: Football and sports play a central role in community life, with high participation and attendance at matches. The football ground is a source of local pride. This highlights the importance of recreational facilities and activities in maintaining community spirit and could be a potential area for community support initiatives. • Key Community Programs: Several important community programs operate in the town, including an after-school youth program, a community safe house, and sports programs. These initiatives are actively seeking additional support, indicating potential areas where project-related community investment could have a significant impact. • Cultural Heritage and Traditional Owner Consultation: There is a keen interest in cultural heritage and ongoing consultation with Traditional Owners. The community was made aware of APA's formal consultation process through the Northern Land Council. • Highway Transit Point: The town serves as a busy fuel stopping point on the highway, but visitors typically do not stay long. • Natural Assets and Access Challenges: The area boasts significant natural assets, such as Longreach Waterhole, which are utilised by the community. However, recent wet weather and deteriorating local roads have made access challenging.

Stakeholder consulted	Feedback Received
	• Potential Community Infrastructure Investments: There are discussions about potential investments in community infrastructure, including a new community centre.
Hayfield-Shenandoah Landholder	• APA has an ongoing long-term relationship with the Hayfield-Shenandoah leaseholder as part of the Amadeus gas pipeline access arrangement that transects the Hayfield lease to the west of the Stuart Highway. • Already interacting with development associated with Tamboran exploration works, and work being undertaken in accordance with the EMP and relevant land access and weed management plans. • Will continue to plan for and manage potential impacts in accordance with similar project specific environmental, land access and weed management plans. • Adherence to these plans should minimise interactions with mustering and station management activities and ongoing communication will allow for management of any other potential impacts that may emerge.
Regional Development Australia – NT (RDA NT)	• Beetaloo Industry Development Status Currently: There is no overarching approach to workforce and industry development specifically for the Beetaloo region. The industry is still in its infancy, with individual proponents working independently. • Uncertainty and Information Flow: There is significant uncertainty about the industry's progress and future in the Beetaloo region. A lack of information flowing to the community and industry is potentially hampering investment. • Awareness vs. Action: While there is widespread awareness of the Beetaloo's potential, there has been limited tangible movement or broader regional development. • Regional Challenges: The Beetaloo region faces challenges common to many remote areas, including skills shortages, housing issues, and lower health and education outcomes. These obstacles need to be addressed to support sustainable industry development and improve the quality of life for local communities. • Collaborative Opportunities There are opportunities to work across various levels of government (NT and Local) and industry to enhance opportunities for the NT. This multi-stakeholder approach could lead to more comprehensive and effective strategies for regional development. RDA NT can act as a potential conduit to wider contacts. They express a willingness to facilitate better outcomes and support where feasible.

5.0 Impact Assessment

5.1 Interaction with Other Technical Assessments

Table 3 shows the findings of other technical assessments as relevant to the outcomes of the SIA. These findings have been incorporated into the broader analysis of social impacts in the following sections of this report.

Table 3 Findings of relevant Project technical assessments

Technical Assessment	Relevance to the SIA
Construction Noise and Vibration Assessment	• Nearest receptors (Hayfield Homestead, Dunmarra Roadhouse) are 2.95 km north of pipeline alignment • Tamboran's Camp is 3.1 km south • No exceedances of night-time noise limit predicted • No specific noise mitigation measures are required.
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment	• Nearest sensitive receptors ~3 km from pipeline corridor • No national parks or conservation areas nearby • Negligible risk of adverse soiling or health impacts during construction • Standard dust mitigation measures deemed sufficient.
Traffic Impact Assessment	• 1,948 additional heavy vehicle trips over 6-month construction phase • Up to 133 workers on site daily during peak construction • No significant impact on road safety or intersection performance is expected • Safety management plans proposed for the construction phase.
Cultural Heritage Field Assessment	• No archaeological sites or artifacts were recorded during the field survey • Low risk of encountering archaeological sites within the SPP construction footprint • Lack of suitable knappable stone in the Project Area reduces likelihood of finding stone artifacts • No artifacts found around water features due to soil conditions and erosion • Variable surface water patterns reduce the likelihood of finding concentrated camping areas • Traditional Owner consultation provided insights on past use of local vegetation • Traditional Owners indicated no known stone artifact sites within the Right of Way (RoW) • Recommendations include proceeding with construction, avoiding ground disturbance near water features where possible, and following protocols for the discovery of human remains or artifacts • Traditional Owner representatives did not recommend further cultural monitoring during construction.
Surface Water Impact Assessment	• Effective control measures will adequately manage potential water quality impacts during construction

Technical Assessment	Relevance to the SIA
	• No impact expected on stormwater runoff or receiving water quality • No impacts anticipated on surface water or groundwater availability (water obtained through existing and new groundwater extraction licenses) • Negligible and temporary loss of catchment yield during construction • Negligible impacts expected on surface water availability for downstream users.

Economic Impact Assessment	• Direct increase in output of $10.4 million over two years
	• Total output increase (including direct, supply-chain, and consumption effects) estimated at $18.2 million in NT
	• Peak employment in NT (year 1):
	  ○ Six direct jobs
	  ○ Five indirect jobs (supply-chain effects)
	  ○ Four jobs from consumption effects
	  ○ 15 total jobs (direct, supply-chain, and consumption effects)

5.2 Social Impacts

The following section provides a detailed social impact analysis using the social impact categories in the NT SIA Guideline.

5.2.1 Safety

5.2.1.1 Potential risk of traffic accidents and decreased safety for road users

Environmental Trigger or Change: Increased traffic during the construction phase (1,948 additional heavy vehicle trips over six months)

Population Affected: Residents, tourists, and road users along the Stuart Highway

Duration: Short-term (6 months during construction)

Stakeholder input: Road safety issues raised by NT Health and Elliott Health Centre

Extent: Regional (along Stuart Highway corridor)

Project Considerations: There are not anticipated to be any meaningful reductions in road safety outcomes associated with project activities. Implementing reduced speed limits around key intersections will help manage potential risks.

Impact Assessment:

- **Consequence**: Moderate – 3. The potential consequences of traffic accidents could lead to noticeable impacts on the community, including possible injuries or disruptions to daily life. However, given the short duration (6 months) and the implementation of safety measures, these consequences are likely manageable and within the community's capacity to adapt. While potentially serious for individuals involved, the impact is not expected to cause long-term harm to the broader community.
- **Likelihood:** Unlikely – D. Contributing Factors:
  - The technical report indicates no anticipated meaningful reductions in road safety outcomes.

- Mitigation measures, such as reduced speed limits around key intersections, are planned.
- The Stuart Highway is designed to handle significant traffic, including heavy vehicles.
- The increase in traffic, while substantial, is spread over a 6-month period.

Given these factors, while the consequence of a traffic accident could be moderate, the likelihood of such an event occurring due to the Project activities is assessed as unlikely. This results in a risk rating of **Medium**, suggesting that while the risk should be monitored and managed, it does not represent a high-level threat to community safety with the proposed mitigation measures in place.

5.2.1.2 Potential decreased health outcomes amongst local communities due to increased risk of communicable diseases and potential increase in anti-social behaviour

Environmental Trigger or Change: Influx of construction workforce (up to 133 workers) from outside the region

Population Affected: Local residents in Elliott and surrounding communities, particularly populations exhibiting characteristics of vulnerability (e.g., Aboriginal People, those with pre-existing health conditions)

Duration: Short-term (primarily during the 6 month construction period), with potential for longer-term impacts

Stakeholder Concerns:

- NT Health and Elliott Health Centre expressed concerns about potential increases in communicable diseases
- Apprehension about anti-social behaviour due to changes in local population dynamics
- Emphasis on the need for thorough health screening of workers, particularly for TB.

Extent: Regional (communities served by Elliott Health Centre and surrounding areas)

Project Considerations: The Project workforce will be almost entirely accommodated at the on-site workforce accommodation camp and, owing to the isolation, will remain there for the entire swing. Additional workers who stay in existing accommodation will be located in areas that already experience a significant transient population associated with tourist and freight activities.

APA will also work with the appointed contractor to ensure that all potential workers coming to the site undergo comprehensive health screening.

Impact Assessment:

- **Consequence:** Moderate – 3. The potential consequences of increased communicable diseases or antisocial behaviour could have a noticeable impact on the community, particularly affecting vulnerable populations. These impacts could disrupt or change the community's health dynamics. However, given the measures in place and the isolated nature of the workforce, these consequences are likely manageable and within the capacity of the community and local health services to address without causing long-term harm.

- **Likelihood**: Unlikely – D. Contributing factors:
  - The Project workforce will be almost entirely accommodated at an on-site camp, isolated from the local community.
  - Workers will remain at the camp for their entire work swing, limiting interaction with local communities.
  - Comprehensive health screening will be undertaken for all potential workers coming to the site.
  - Additional workers staying in existing accommodation will be in areas already experiencing significant transient populations.

Given these factors, while the consequences of increased disease transmission or antisocial behaviour could be moderate, particularly for vulnerable populations, the likelihood of such events occurring due to the Project activities is assessed as unlikely. This results in a risk rating of **Medium**, suggesting that while the risk should be monitored and managed, the measures in place significantly reduce the threat to community health. Ongoing communication with local health services and continued adherence to health screening and isolation measures will be important in managing this risk.

5.2.2 Employment Opportunities

5.2.2.1 Creation of new job opportunities but limited local employment due to project isolation and specialised skill requirements

Environmental Trigger or Change: Project construction and operation

Population Affected: Working age population in surrounding communities (e.g. Elliott, Daly Waters)

Duration: Short-term for construction (6 months), Long-term but limited for operations (2 personnel)

Stakeholder Concerns: Limited local participation opportunities were noted by a range of local and territory government stakeholders. However, proactive solutions to facilitate maximising outcomes are also provided.

Extent: Regional (Big Rivers and Barkly regions)

Project Considerations: Due to the specialised skills required for this project and the demanding timeline, the workforce will be primarily FIFO. APA has committed to improving local participation where possible, has developed a Community and Social Performance Management Plan for the Project, and will actively work with stakeholders to investigate opportunities to utilise local workers where possible, particularly in project services roles.

Impact Assessment

- **Consequence:** Moderate – 3. The creation of new job opportunities, albeit limited, could have a noticeable impact on the local community. While the Project will primarily use FIFO workers, there is potential for some local employment, particularly in project services roles. This could lead to some economic benefits and skill development opportunities for the community. However, the limited nature of these opportunities, especially in the long term (only two personnel for operations), means the impact is not likely to cause significant long-term changes in the community's economic structure or employment landscape.

- **Likelihood:** Possible – C. Contributing Factors:
  - The Project will create job opportunities, but local participation will be limited due to specialised skill requirements and the Project's isolation.
  - APA has committed to improving local participation where possible and has developed a Community and Social Performance Management Plan (CSPMP).
  - There is a commitment to actively work with stakeholders to investigate opportunities for local workers, particularly in project services roles.
  - The DITT has noted concerns about limited local participation, indicating that this is a recognised challenge.

Given these factors, the risk is rated as **Medium (Benefit).** This suggests that while the impact of job creation with limited local participation is an acknowledged concern, it's not likely to have far-reaching impacts on the community. However, it does warrant attention and ongoing effort to maximise local benefits where possible. Continued engagement with local stakeholders and transparency about employment opportunities and constraints will be crucial in managing community expectations and identifying potential areas for local participation.

5.2.3 Training Opportunities

5.2.3.1 Potential for on-site certification and skill development for local workers

Environmental Trigger or Change: Project construction activities

Population Affected: Local workforce, particularly Indigenous workers

Duration: Short-term (during 6 month construction period)

Stakeholder Concerns: DITT noted and understood the limitations of providing on-the-job skills development and training owing to the limited project schedule. However, they suggested a range of ways they could potentially support the Project if feasible.

Extent: Localised (project area and immediately surrounding communities)

Project Considerations: APA has committed to improving local outcomes where possible and has developed a CSPMP for the Project. However, it is anticipated that there will be limited opportunities for training and skills development on the Project due to the short timeframe and skilled resourcing requirements.

Impact Assessment

- **Consequence:** Minor - 2: The potential benefits of on-site certification and skill development, if realised, would likely have a limited and relatively inconspicuous impact on the local workforce. While any training or skill development opportunity is valuable, especially in areas with limited employment options, the short duration of the Project and the anticipated limited opportunities mean that the overall impact on the community's skill base or employment prospects would be minimal. These consequences may result in minor changes for a few individuals but are not likely to significantly affect the community's overall functioning or skill level.

- **Likelihood:** Unlikely – D. Contributing Factors:
  - The Project has a short timeframe (6 months for construction), limiting the time available for meaningful training or skill development programs.
  - The Project requires specialised skills, which may not align well with rapid on-site training opportunities.
  - APA anticipates limited training and skills development opportunities due to the short timeframe and skilled resourcing requirements.
  - While the DITT has suggested potential support, they also acknowledged the limitations imposed by the Project schedule.

This results in a risk rating of **Low (Benefit),** suggesting that while the potential for on-site certification and skill development is a positive aspect to monitor, it's not likely to be a significant factor in the overall project outcome. However, if unexpected opportunities do arise to provide even limited training or skill development, these should be pursued as they could provide valuable, if small, benefits to individual workers and potentially lead to future opportunities.

5.2.4 Housing Availability and Affordability:

5.2.4.1 Temporary increased demand for accommodation, potential strain on local housing/accommodation.

Environmental Trigger or Change: Influx of construction workforce (up to 133 workers)

Population Affected: Local residents, tourists, project workers

Duration: Short-term (6 month construction period)

Stakeholder Concerns: Local businesses noted limited accommodation capacity during peak tourist season

Extent: Localised (communities near project area - Daly Waters, Dunmarra, Elliott)

Project Consideration: A self-contained worker accommodation camp will be constructed on-site to provide housing and services for project workers. Workers requiring accommodation during the early works stage will be housed in nearby tourism facilities at highway roadhouses like Dunmarra and Daly Waters. However, this is expected to be a small number of workers.

Impact Assessment:

- **Consequence:** Minor – 2. The potential consequences of increased demand for accommodation would likely have a limited and relatively inconspicuous impact on the local communities. While there might be some temporary pressure on accommodation during the early works stage, the overall effect is expected to be minimal due to the planned worker accommodation camp. These consequences may result in minor, short-term changes in accommodation availability but are not likely to significantly affect the overall functioning of the local tourism industry or housing market.

- **Likelihood:** Unlikely – D. Contributing factors:
  - The Project plans to construct an on-site self-contained worker accommodation camp for most of the workforce.
  - During the early works stage, only a small number of workers are expected to require accommodation in nearby tourism facilities.
  - The use of existing tourism facilities is planned for a very short period and only affects a limited number of workers.
  - The Project has considered the potential impact and has planned accordingly to minimise strain on local accommodation.

This results in a risk rating of **Low**, suggesting that while the potential for increased accommodation demand should be monitored, it's not likely to be an issue as the Project progresses. However, maintaining open communication with local accommodation providers and monitoring any unexpected increases in demand during the early works stage would be prudent to ensure any emerging issues are quickly addressed.

5.2.5 Amenity

5.2.5.1 Temporary noise, dust, and visual impacts affecting rural amenity

Environmental Trigger or Change: Construction activities and increased traffic

Population Affected: Nearby residents (e.g. Hayfield Homestead, Tamboran Workforce Accommodation Camp)

Duration: Short-term (6 month construction period)

Stakeholder Concerns: No specific concerns were raised, but a general interest in project impacts from the community

Extent: Localised (immediate project vicinity).

Project Considerations: Detailed technical assessments have noted that there is unlikely to be any impact on the amenity of the affected landholder or nearby commercial and accommodation receptors. Any potential impacts will be managed through an Environmental Management Plan.

Impact Assessment

Consequence: Insignificant – 1. The potential consequences of temporary noise, dust, and visual impacts are assessed as insignificant. This is based on the detailed technical assessments that have found it unlikely that there will be any impact on the amenity of the affected landholder or nearby commercial and accommodation receptors. These consequences, if they occur at all, would likely be negligible and may not cause any noticeable disruption or change in the social dynamics of the area.

Likelihood: Unlikely – D. Contributing factors:

- Detailed technical assessments have concluded that impacts on amenity are unlikely.
- An Environmental Management Plan will be in place to manage any potential impacts.
- The Project area is in a rural setting where pastoral activity and other industrial activity are already present.
- The nearest receptors (e.g., Hayfield Homestead) are sufficiently far away from the main construction activities to minimise direct impacts.

This results in a risk rating of **Low**, suggesting that the potential for noise, dust, and visual impacts affecting rural amenity is a very low-level concern. It should be noted in project planning for completeness, but it's not likely to require significant management attention beyond implementing standard environmental management practices.

5.2.6 Service Provision and Potential for Overloading Services

5.2.6.1 Potential strain on local health services, particularly emergency services

Environmental Trigger or Change: Presence of construction workforce.

Population Affected: Local residents, emergency services providers and project workers.

Duration: Short-term (6 month construction period)

Stakeholder Concerns: NT Health and Elliott Health Centre raised concerns about impacts on local health services

Extent: Regional (Elliott Health Centre service area)

Project Considerations: APA is aware of and experienced in managing large remote construction projects. The Project will have a range of measures in place to ensure that their workforce is fit and healthy, as well as the required services and infrastructure on-site to effectively manage the associated health requirements of the workforce, except in critical emergencies. In that instance, the Project team would follow the processes of a detailed Emergency Management Plan, which would be developed in consultation with regional emergency services providers such as police, health, and fire.

Impact Assessment

Consequence: Moderate – 3. The potential consequences of strain on local health services, particularly emergency services, could have a noticeable impact on the community. If such strain were to occur, it could lead to some disruption in health service delivery for regional, remote residents who already experience constraints in service delivery and project workers who may be reliant on the service. This could affect the community's access to timely medical care, especially in emergencies. However, given the planned measures, these consequences are likely manageable and within the capacity of the local emergency services providers and the Project team to address without causing long-term harm.

Likelihood: Unlikely – D. Contributing factors.

- APA and their contractors have experience in managing large remote construction projects and are aware of the potential health service impacts.
- The Project will have measures to ensure a fit and healthy workforce.
- On-site services and infrastructure will be provided to manage the health requirements of the workforce, except in critical emergencies.
- A detailed Emergency Management Plan will be developed in consultation with regional emergency services providers.

Given these factors, while the consequences of strain on local health services could be moderate, particularly in emergencies, the likelihood of such strain occurring due to the Project activities is assessed as unlikely. This results in a risk rating of **Low**, suggesting that while the risk should be monitored and managed, the measures significantly reduce the threat to local health service capacity.

5.2.7 Recreational and Cultural Opportunities

5.2.7.1 Potential impacts on access to cultural sites

Environmental Trigger or Change: Project presence in culturally significant area.

Population Affected: Local Indigenous communities

Duration: Short-term during construction, potential long-term impacts

Stakeholder Concerns: Community interest in cultural heritage and Traditional Owner consultation

Extent: Localised (project area and immediate surroundings)

Project Considerations: The Cultural Heritage Field Assessment found no archaeological sites or artifacts within the Project Area. The risk of encountering archaeological sites within the SPP construction footprint is assessed as low. APA is committed to ensuring that all aspects of the Project are conducted in collaboration with the Traditional Owners of the land. In accordance with regulatory procedures, APA is working with the Northern Land Council to engage with Traditional Owners to ensure that their cultural heritage and sacred sites are protected.

The Project has completed the following critical steps:

- Field Survey and Traditional Owner Consultation: A comprehensive field survey was conducted with the involvement of Traditional Owner representatives. This assessment included consultation on cultural heritage matters and identification of potential archaeological sites

The Project will not proceed without the following critical steps being fully completed:

- Finalised Sacred Site Assessment for an Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) Certificate: This process will ensure that all sacred sites are properly identified and protected and that the Project complies with all legal requirements related to the protection of these areas.
- Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA): APA is committed to securing an Indigenous Land Usa Agreement that acknowledges and respects the rights and interests of the Traditional Owners.

Impact Assessment

- **Consequence:** Moderate – 3. The potential consequences of impacts on cultural heritage could have a noticeable impact on local Indigenous communities. If such impacts were to occur, they could disrupt cultural practices, damage to culturally significant sites, or restrict access to important areas. However, given the Project's planned measures and commitments, these consequences are likely manageable, and steps are being taken to prevent any long-term harm.
- **Likelihood:** Unlikely – D. Contributing factors:
    - APA is committed to collaboration with Traditional Owners throughout all aspects of the Project.
    - A comprehensive archeological and sacred site corridor assessment is being conducted with the involvement of Traditional Owners.
    - The Project will not proceed without completing critical steps, including a finalised Sacred Site Assessment and obtaining an Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) Certificate.

- APA is committed to securing an ILUA.

Given these factors, while the consequences of impacts on cultural heritage and recreational access could be moderate, the likelihood of such impacts occurring is assessed as unlikely due to the extensive measures in place. This results in a risk rating of **Low**, suggesting that while the risk should be carefully managed and monitored, the measures in place significantly reduce the threat to cultural heritage.

5.2.8 Community Cohesion and Inclusion:

5.2.8.1 Potential for community division over project benefits and impacts.

Environmental Trigger or Change: Project development and associated economic opportunities

Population Affected: Residents of Elliott and surrounding communities

Duration: Long-term (throughout project lifecycle)

Stakeholder Concerns: Community interest in benefits and investment opportunities

Extent: Regional (communities in Big Rivers and Barkly regions)

Project Considerations: APA acknowledges the complexities and challenges associated with developing the Beetaloo Basin. APA has made efforts to engage with and gather feedback from all potentially affected stakeholders, recognising the diverse perspectives and the potential for fractured relationships among Traditional Owners and the broader community.

APA will continue to work with stakeholders to refine the Project and deliver mutually beneficial outcomes wherever possible. Key elements of their approach include delivering net community benefits through an ongoing community grants program, implementing adaptive measures in the Project Community and Social Performance Management Plan.

Impact Assessment

Consequence: Moderate – 3. The potential consequences of community division over project benefits and impacts could have a noticeable and significant effect on community cohesion and social dynamics. Such division could lead to tensions within and between communities, potentially affecting relationships and social structures. However, given APA's approach to engagement and benefit-sharing, and the relatively small scale of the Project, these consequences are likely manageable and within the capacity of the community and project team to address without causing severe, long-term harm to community cohesion.

Likelihood: Possible – C. Contributing factors:

- The development of the Beetaloo Basin is acknowledged to be complex and challenging, with diverse perspectives among stakeholders.
- There is existing community interest in benefits and investment opportunities, indicating expectations that may not be fully met.
- The Project has a regional extent, affecting communities across Big Rivers and Barkly regions, increasing the potential for diverse opinions.
- APA has implemented measures to address potential division, but the effectiveness of these measures is not yet proven.

This results in a risk rating of **Medium**, suggesting that the potential for community division over project benefits and impacts is a significant concern that warrants ongoing attention and management. By maintaining a proactive and adaptive approach to community engagement and benefit-sharing, APA can work to mitigate the risk of significant community division while maximising the potential for positive social outcomes from the Project.

5.3 Cumulative Impacts

While relatively small in scale, the Project is part of a broader development program in the Beetaloo Basin. APA needs to be aware of the context and potential cumulative impacts. Even small projects can have larger effects when combined with other initiatives. Understanding these potential cumulative impacts will help create effective management measures and focus efforts on maximising project benefits.

Economic Development and Employment:

While this project alone may have limited local employment opportunities, when considered alongside other Beetaloo Basin initiatives, it contributes to a cumulative increase in economic activity in the region. This could lead to:

- Gradual growth in local skills and experience in the gas industry
- Potential for local businesses to develop capabilities to service multiple projects
- Cumulative economic benefits through various community investment programs.

Overall, this would benefit the social and economic outcomes of communities in a region facing relatively high unemployment levels and social disadvantage.

Infrastructure and Services:

The Project's impact on local infrastructure and services may be minimal, but when combined with other projects, there could be:

- Increased pressure on road infrastructure due to cumulative traffic increases
- Gradual strain on local services (health, emergency) as multiple projects operate in the region
- Potential for improved infrastructure as a result of cumulative industry presence (e.g., road upgrades, telecommunications improvements).

The cumulative impact on infrastructure and services has the potential to be both positive and negative. Careful and coordinated planning would need to occur to manage overwhelming existing assets and services. However, greater regional development and investment could enhance service provision and living standards for affected communities.

Social and Community Dynamics:

While this project may have a limited direct impact on community dynamics, the cumulative effect of multiple projects could lead to:

- Gradual changes in community composition if there's an influx of workers or associated businesses
- Potential for community division to deepen or heal over time, depending on how benefits and impacts are managed across projects
- Cumulative effects on traditional land use and access, particularly for Indigenous communities.

While the Project might have limited direct impacts, the cumulative effect of multiple projects could substantially alter the social landscape of the affected communities, necessitating careful, culturally sensitive, and equitable management strategies.

Cultural Heritage:

While this project is taking significant steps to protect cultural heritage, the cumulative impact of multiple projects in the region could lead to:

- Increased risk of inadvertent damage to cultural sites due to more widespread activity
- Potential for both positive and negative impacts on cultural practices and connection to Country resulting from greater funding for and awareness of cultural practices.

While individual projects may take significant steps to protect cultural heritage, the cumulative impact of multiple projects presents a complex challenge. The potential for inadvertent damage and the mixed effects on cultural practices underscore the need for a holistic, collaborative approach that prioritises safeguarding cultural heritage while also exploring ways to positively reinforce cultural connections to the land.

Regional Development:

The cumulative effect of this project and others could contribute to broader regional development trends:

- Gradual shift in regional economic focus towards the gas industry
- Potential for improved regional planning and coordination as multiple projects operate in the area
- Cumulative contributions to community development through various project-specific initiatives.

The cumulative effects of multiple projects on regional development could drive significant economic and social changes. While there are opportunities for economic growth, improved planning, and community development, careful management and equitable distribution of benefits are essential to ensuring that these changes lead to sustainable and inclusive regional progress.

Workforce and Population Dynamics:

While this project's workforce requirements are limited, the cumulative effect of multiple projects could lead to:

- Gradual changes in regional demographics if there's a trend towards more FIFO workers
- Potential for skills development and training initiatives that become more viable with multiple projects.

The potential increase in FIFO workers and the associated social impacts emphasise the necessity for thorough planning and community engagement. Simultaneously, the opportunities for skills development and training could offer long-term benefits for the local population, promoting economic growth and stability in the region.

Stakeholder Engagement Fatigue:

With multiple projects in the region, there's a risk of:

- Cumulative burden on stakeholders, particularly Traditional Owners, to engage with numerous consultation processes
- Potential for confusion or conflicting messages if different projects have different approaches to engagement and benefit-sharing.

The combined impact on various groups involved, especially Traditional Owners and the possibility of mixed or confusing messages emphasise the need for organised, clear, and respectful communication strategies. To minimise these risks, the Government could take a proactive role in coordinating messaging and engagement activities, and developers, such as APA, should explore working together to simplify consultation processes.

5.3.1 Cumulative impacts summary:

While the Project may have relatively minor impacts in many areas, it's important to recognise its role within the broader development of the Beetaloo Basin. The Project should be considered within the larger context of regional development, and management strategies should consider both the specific impacts of this project and the cumulative effects of multiple projects in the area. This may involve:

- Collaboration with other project proponents in the region to address shared challenges
- Collaboration with key stakeholder groups and participation in regional planning initiatives to ensure coordinated development
- Adaptive management approaches that can respond to emerging cumulative impacts.

5.4 Social Impact management and mitigation strategies

The Project, with its relatively short six-month construction timeline and a small peak workforce of 133 personnel, presents unique challenges for monitoring and managing social impacts. The limited duration and scale of the Project make it difficult to observe, measure, and respond to social changes in real time. However, this constraint does not diminish the importance of proactive social impact management.

The following measures have been designed with these constraints in mind, focusing on initiatives that can deliver meaningful outcomes within a short period while also laying the groundwork for potential longer-term benefits.

Safety and Traffic Management:

- Implement a comprehensive Traffic Management Plan, including reduced speed limits around key intersections.
- Conduct driver safety training for all project personnel.
- Coordinate with local authorities to improve signage and road safety measures along key routes.

Local Industry, Employment and Training:

- Further develop the CSPMP to maximise opportunities for local businesses and workers.
- Establish partnerships with key stakeholders such as DITT to investigate the feasibility of facilitating relevant skill development programs.
- Provide information and capacity building support for local businesses to meet project requirements.
- Host supplier information sessions to inform local businesses about upcoming opportunities.

Accommodation and Housing:

- Utilise on-site worker accommodation camp to minimise pressure on local housing.
- Coordinate with local accommodation providers for any off-site housing needs during early works, commissioning and demobilisation works.

Health and Emergency Services:

- Develop and implement a detailed Emergency Management Plan in consultation with local service providers.
- Provide comprehensive on-site health services for workers to minimise impact on local facilities.
- Ensure workers are aware of and comply with requirements to be entirely self-sufficient for medications and other necessities.
- Establish clear communication protocols with local emergency services for coordinated response in emergencies.

Cultural Heritage Protection:

- Finalise and strictly adhere to the ILUA.
- Provide cultural awareness training for all project personnel.

Community Engagement and Cohesion:

- Implement a transparent Social Investment Program to deliver shared benefits.
- Continue to implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan to facilitate easy and open two-way communication and include strategies for addressing potential community division.

Environmental Management:

- Implement a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan addressing potential social and environmental impacts.

Cumulative Impact Management:

- Participate in regional planning initiatives to address broader development impacts.
- Collaborate with other project proponents on shared challenges and opportunities.

Workforce Management:

- Implement a Workforce Code of Conduct to manage worker behaviour both on and off-site.
- Provide cross-cultural awareness training for all workers, with a focus on respect for local communities and cultures.

Adaptive Management:

- Establish a grievance mechanism for community members to raise concerns.

Communication and Transparency:

- Maintain a project website with regular updates on project progress and community initiatives.
- Produce and distribute regular community project updates.
- Host periodic community information sessions to provide updates and gather feedback.

6.0 Conclusion

APA engaged SLR to complete this SIA for the Project. While the Project is relatively small in scale and of short duration, its presence in a remote and culturally significant area necessitates careful consideration of its social implications.

The assessment indicates that most potential negative impacts can be managed through planned mitigation measures. Safety, housing, and local amenity are expected to be minimally affected. However, community division over project benefits and impacts is a significant concern. The Project's impact on local employment and training opportunities is likely to be modest. When considering the broader Beetaloo Basin development, the cumulative impacts of this project, although individually small, may contribute to more significant regional changes over time. Ongoing stakeholder engagement and adaptive management are important for responding to emerging cumulative impacts.

In conclusion, while the Project is not expected to cause major social disruption, its presence represents another step in the region's changing socio-economic landscape. APA’s success in managing social impacts will depend on continued commitment to stakeholder engagement, transparent communication, and responsive management of emerging issues. By maintaining this approach, APA can work towards ensuring that the Project contributes positively to the region's development while minimising potential negative impacts on local communities.

Appendix A Demographic Data

Social Impact Assessment

Sturt Plateau Pipeline

APA SPP Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 680.030294.00001

15 October 2024

Table A-1 Demographic Table

SAL (UR)	Birdum	Daly Waters	Pamayu	Newcastle Waters	Elliott	Study Area Total		NT
Person Records	63	55	40	122	287	567		
Sex								
Male	38	26	22	64	142	286	50.4%	50.5%
Female	24	32	15	62	152	282	49.7%	49.50%
Indigenous Status								
Non-Indigenous	23	25	29	42	35	160	28.2%	65.50%
Aboriginal	12	0	7	75	242	335	59.1%	26.30%
Not stated	22	30	3	5	11	74	13.1%	8.10%
Indigenous Language								
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Language used at home	5	0	0	45	91	141	24.9%	14.80%
Age								
0-4 years	3	0	5	9	26	45	7.9%	7.0%
5-9 years	0	3	0	11	32	54	9.5%	7.2%
10-14 years	0	0	0	8	22	34	6.0%	6.8%
15-19 years	9	0	5	14	28	47	8.3%	6.1%
20-24 years	6	6	11	17	20	62	10.9%	6.8%
25-29 years	10	7	5	22	25	68	12.0%	9.0%
30-34 years	3	5	3	15	19	52	9.2%	9.4%
35-39 years	7	8	0	9	18	44	7.8%	8.3%
40-44 years	0	10	0	3	27	42	7.4%	7.1%
45-49 years	0	0	4	3	21	27	4.8%	6.5%
50-54 years	5	0	0	3	13	21	3.7%	6.4%
55-59 years	8	0	0	9	9	23	4.1%	5.6%
60-64 years	8	0	3	0	9	22	3.9%	4.8%
65-69 years	3	0	0	0	16	16	2.8%	3.6%
70-74 years	4	0	0	0	6	8	1.4%	2.6%
75-79 years	0	5	0	0	0	8	1.4%	1.4%
80-84 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.8%
85+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.5%
Aged over 15	63	41	31	95	211	440		
Highest level of education (aged over 15 years)								
Bachelor or Higher degree	0	0	0	9	11	28	6.4%	21.5%
Advanced Diploma or Diploma	0	0	3	5	3	17	3.9%	7.5%
Vocational	8	7	9	25	36	92	20.9%	19.2%

SAL (UR)	Birdum	Daly Waters	Pamayu	Newcastle Waters	Elliott	Study Area Total	NT	
Highest level of schooling (Aged over 15 years)								
Year 12 or equivalent	17	11	21	43	37	130	29.5%	48.3%
Year 10 or equivalent	13	4	4	17	59	98	22.3%	17.2%
Employment								
Employed People (Over 15 years	20	10	29	47	69	186	42.3%	
Occupation (of employed people)								
Managers	5	0	6	3	9	26	14.0%	12.9%
Professionals	0	0	0	3	16	27	14.5%	22.0%
Technicians and Trades Workers	3	6	5	3	4	22	11.8%	13.8%
Community and Personal Service Workers	3	0	0	0	16	21	11.3%	15.7%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	0	4	3	0	4	12	6.5%	13.2%
Sales Workers	3	0	0	0	6	9	4.8%	6.5%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	0	0	0	0	0	6	3.2%	5.2%
Labourers	7	0	19	26	9	62	33.3%	8.5%
Individual Income								
Negative income	3	0	0	0	0	4	0.9%	6.8%
Nil income	0	0	4	0	14	21	4.8%	3.7%
$1-$149 ($1-$7,799)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	8.3%
$150-$299 ($7,800-$15,599)	4	0	0	24	74	97	22.2%	6.0%
$300-$399 ($15,600-$20,799)	0	0	0	3	17	25	5.7%	5.2%
$400-$499 ($20,800-$25,999)	0	0	0	5	20	28	6.4%	4.9%
$500-$649 ($26,000-$33,799)	0	0	0	6	6	18	4.1%	4.8%
$650-$799 ($33,800-$41,599)	4	9	3	11	6	36	8.2%	6.6%
$800-$999 ($41,600-$51,999)	4	3	0	10	6	29	6.6%	8.9%
$1,000-$1,249 ($52,000-$64,999)	6	6	6	17	8	45	10.3%	7.5%
$1,250-$1,499 ($65,000-$77,999)	0	0	7	7	6	20	4.6%	7.1%
$1,500-$1,749 ($78,000-$90,999)	0	0	0	3	8	17	3.9%	5.3%
$1,750-$1,999 ($91,000-$103,999)	4	0	0	0	0	13	3.0%	9.2%
$2,000-$2,999 ($104,000-$155,999)	0	0	6	0	4	11	2.5%	1.7%
$3,000-$3,499 ($156,000-$181,999)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	2.3%
$3,500 or more ($182,000 or more)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	11.8%
Distance Travelled to Work								
Nil distance	0	0	0	9	5	11	5.9%	
Over 0 km to less than 2.5 km	0	0	0	23	30	60	32.3%	
2.5 km to less than 10 km	9	0	0	0	0	9	4.8%	
10 km to less than 30 km	0	0	0	3	3	4	2.2%	
30 km to less than 50 km	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	

SAL (UR)	Birdum	Daly Waters	Pamayu	Newcastle Waters	Elliott	Study Area Total		NT
50 km to less than 250 km	0	0	6	0	0	7	3.8%	
250 km and over	16	6	25	13	36	89	47.8%	
Chronic health conditions								
Arthritis	0	0	0	0	9	13	2.3%	4.5%
Asthma	0	4	0	0	12	21	3.7%	5.6%
Cancer (including remission)	0	4	0	0	0	4	0.7%	1.6%
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.4%
Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)	0	0	0	7	20	33	5.8%	4.3%
Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)	0	0	3	3	32	41	7.2%	3.1%
Kidney disease	0	0	0	0	4	4	0.7%	1.0%
Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)	3	0	0	0	3	4	0.7%	1.2%
Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	0	0	0	0	11	16	2.8%	5.1%
Stroke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.5%
Any other long-term health condition(s)	0	0	0	0	15	16	2.8%	6.1%
No long-term health condition(s)	33	20	34	95	185	363	64.0%	64.4%
Not stated	22	33	3	5	31	92	16.2%	12.2%
Personal Mobility								
Same usual address 1 year ago as in 2021	26	16	19	83	244	381	79.4%	72.0%
Same usual address 5 years ago as in 2021	18	9	15	45	171	256	59.5%	46.9%
Dwelling Type								
Occupied private dwellings	60	154	33	31	79	357	83.4%	88.5%
Unoccupied private dwellings	3	0	12	0	41	52	12.1%	9.6%
Non-private dwellings	3	3	8	0	4	14	3.3%	0.2%
Total	66	162	46	34	121	428		
Dwelling Structure								
Separate house	14	9	16	15	105	159	37.1%	60.5%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse	0	0	0	0	5	5	1.2%	29.2%
Caravan	35	134	18	8	5	197	46.0%	6.9%
Not stated	7	13	9	5	6	39	9.1%	2.2%
Families in household								
One family household: Couple family with no children	4	3	3	5	9	22	6.2%	20.2%
One family household: Couple family with children	0	0	4	4	15	27	7.6%	27.0%
One family household: One parent family	0	0	0	4	16	20	5.6%	10.3%
Multiple Family	0	0	0	3	9	18	5.0%	1.3%

SAL (UR)	Birdum	Daly Waters	Pamayu	Newcastle Waters	Elliott	Study Area Total		NT
Lone person household	6	7	0	4	10	26	7.3%	19.7%
Group household	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	4.2%
Visitors only	46	140	30	17	14	239	66.9%	11.5%
Other non-classifiable	0	5	0	0	0	9	2.5%	5.8%
Not applicable	8	7	16	0	42	71		
Total	66	162	46	34	121	428		
Tenure								
Owned outright	22	82	23	6	4	142	33.2%	17.7%
Owned with a mortgage	4	10	4	0	0	15	3.5%	25.5%
Renting (Social)	0	0	0	3	21	29	6.8%	11.4%
Renting (Private and Other)	11	27	3	5	9	45	10.5%	11.70%
Other tenure type	5	7	4	13	39	68	15.9%	4.3%
Tenure type not stated	16	30	5	4	6	58	13.6%	10.1%

Appendix B Community Engagement Materials

Social Impact Assessment

Sturt Plateau Pipeline

APA SPP Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 680.030294.00001

15 October 2024

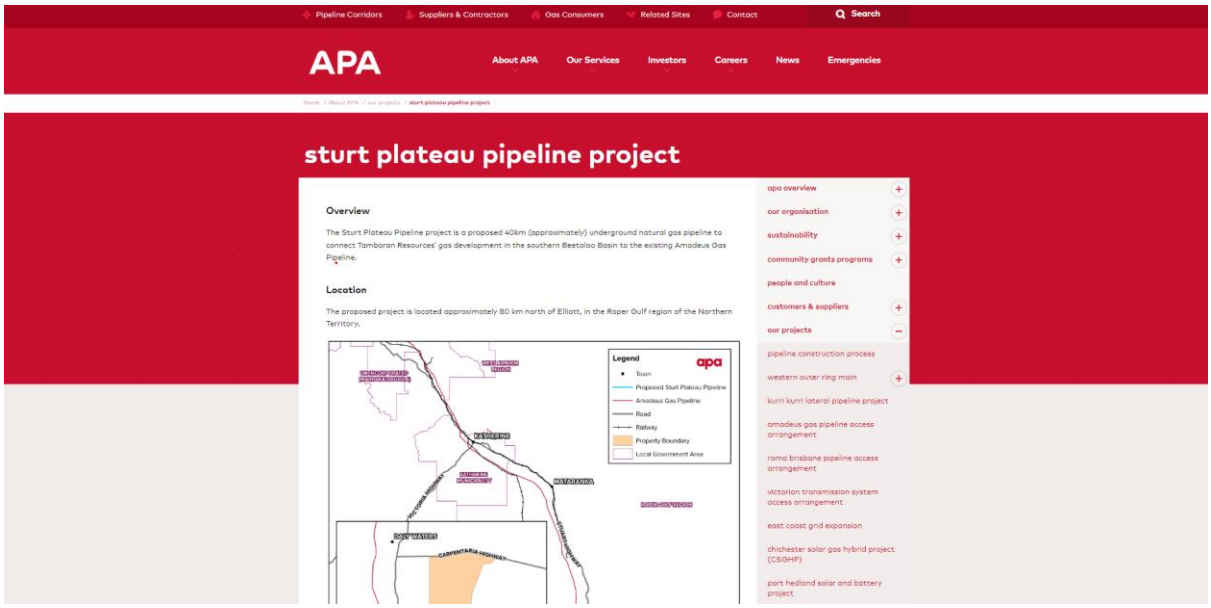


Figure B-1 APA Project website

Figure B-2 Project information session notice on the Elliott community notice board

Figure B-3 Project newsletter (overleaf)

Sturt Plateau Pipeline

About APA

APA Group (APA) is an energy infrastructure business, listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

We own and operate some of the nation's most efficient gas-fired power generators and more than 15,000 kilometres of gas pipelines which deliver energy to families and industry across every corner of Australia.

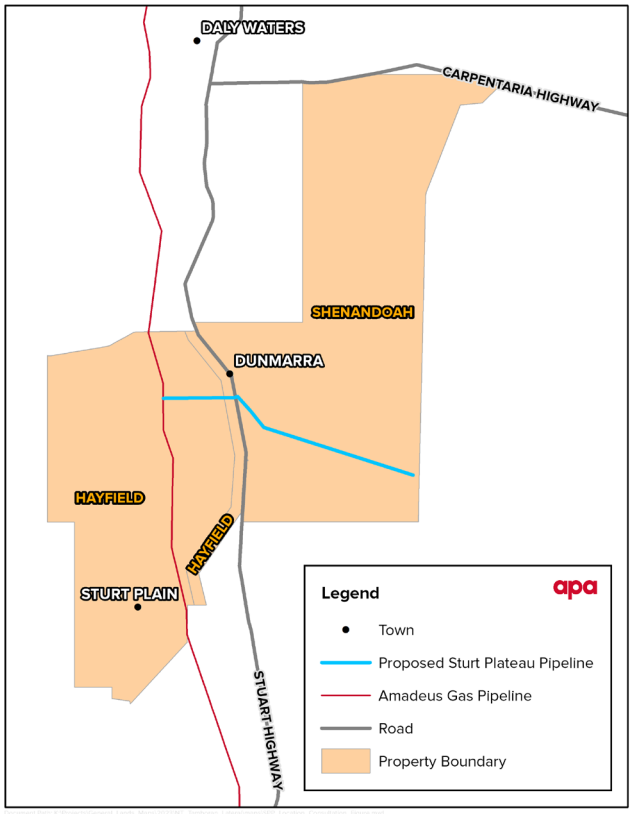
We are also a major owner and operator of solar and wind farms and a number of Australia's most critical electricity transmission interconnectors.

About the Sturt Plateau Pipeline

We are proposing to construct the Sturt Plateau Pipeline that will connect Tamboran Resources' gas development in the southern Beetaloo Basin to the existing Amadeus Gas Pipeline.

The Sturt Plateau Pipeline will be located approximately 80km north of Elliott, in the Northern Territory. The preferred pipeline alignment is approximately 40km in length and passes through pastoral land.

The Sturt Plateau Pipeline will be designed and constructed in accordance with *Australian Standard (AS) 2885 Pipelines - Gas and Liquid Petroleum*, and the Australian Pipeline and Gas Association (APGA) Code of Environmental Practice 2017 (Code of Practice), or subsequent versions.



Preliminary Pipeline Facts	
Length	Approximately 40km
Material	High strength steel with fusion bonded epoxy external coating
Diameter	Up to 300mm (12 inches)
Depth of Cover	Minimum 750mm
Right of Way	30m construction width, plus additional workspaces

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is APA proposing to build this pipeline?

We believe gas is essential to accelerate renewables and deliver the most secure, reliable, affordable and low emissions pathway to the decarbonisation of Australia's energy system.

It is important that as a nation, we continue to invest in domestic gas to successfully facilitate the energy transition. Unlocking the Beetaloo Basin will be key to supporting the energy transition.

Has a final route for the pipeline been decided?

The preferred pipeline alignment was chosen to minimise impacts based on a desktop assessment and initial discussions with stakeholders. The alignment will continue to be refined as the project progresses.

Will the pipeline be underground?

The proposed pipeline will be buried for its entire length other than at surface facility locations at each end of the pipeline.

There will be surface markers at certain locations to identify the presence of an underground pipe.

Directional drilling methods will be used to cross the Stuart Highway so that impacts to traffic flow are minimised.

What other infrastructure/activities are needed for the project?

Associated project infrastructure for the Sturt Plateau Pipeline may include:

- Temporary construction accommodation camp
- Temporary laydown areas
- Temporary access tracks
- Water bores
- Gravel sources

What regulatory approvals will be required for the project?

It is anticipated that the primary regulatory approvals required for the project includes:

- a licence to construct and operate the pipeline under the *Energy Pipelines Act 1981*
- a decision by the Commonwealth Government under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- a decision under the *Environmental Protection Act 2019* by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, informed by the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Agency (NTEPA)
- Consent under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

What are the next steps for the project?

The project is in the early stages. We will continue to progress with environmental approvals documentation and preliminary engineering design.

Specific engineering and environmental technical studies will need to be completed to inform the environmental approvals documentation, alongside engagement with relevant stakeholders including First Nations people.

What are the timeframes for the project?

It is expected that the project will be developed over a period of approximately 2 years. The proposed timing for the commencement of operation is early 2026.

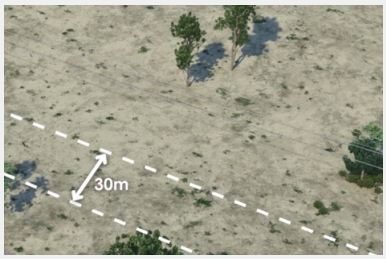
However, there are a number of internal and external processes and approvals that need to be completed, including final investment decision and final route decision.

We will keep our stakeholders informed and consulted throughout these processes.

Pipeline Construction

Open trench construction methods will be used to construct the majority of the pipeline and will typically involve the following key steps:

1. Preliminary **survey works**, including installation of temporary gates as required, pegging of the centreline of the pipeline and the boundary of the Right of Way. Additional works may also be undertaken to facilitate construction, including relocation of stock water points.



2. **Vegetation clearing and grading** of the Right of Way and **stripping and stockpiling** of soils.

3. **Delivery of pipe** segments to the Right of Way and unloaded onto skids ready for welding. **Bending of pipes** to follow landforms.

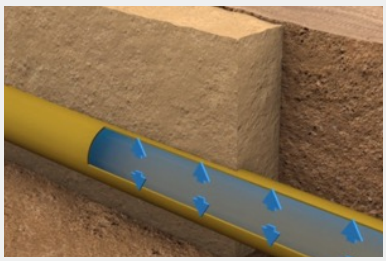
4. **Welding, coating of welds and non-destructive testing**. Pipe segments are welded together into ‘strings’, joints are cleaned and coated with a protective coating to inhibit erosion and then tested to ensure quality.

5. **Excavation** of the trench and **lowering the pipeline** strings into the trench.

6. **Backfilling** the trench with excavated material.

Pipeline Construction continued

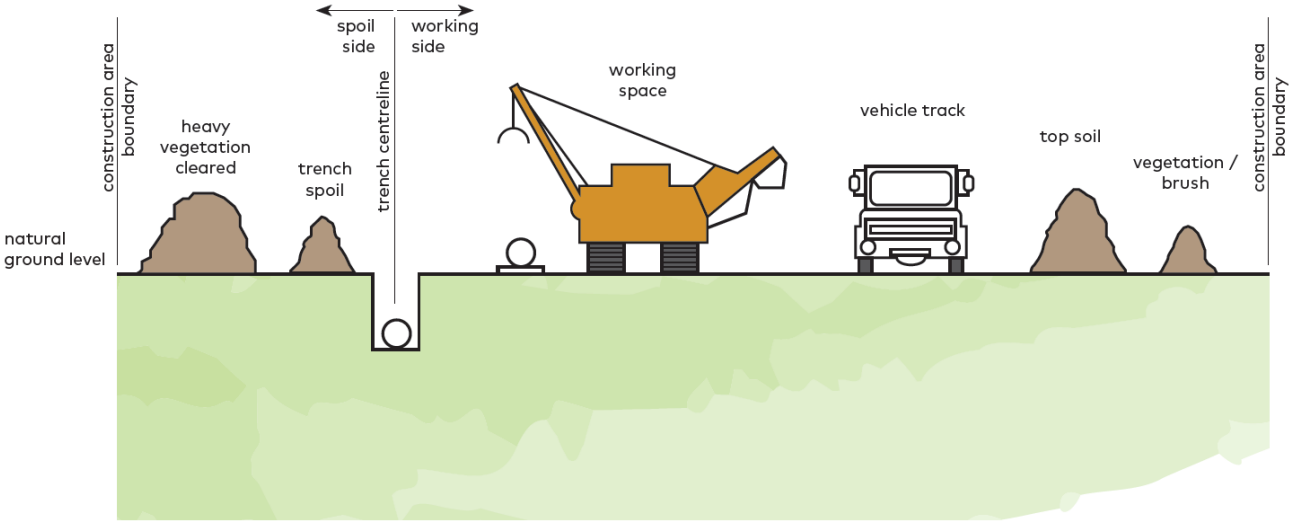
7 Testing the structural integrity of the pipeline by **hydrostatic testing. The testing** of the pipeline involves pressurising the pipeline using water to pressures above the Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure for the pipeline. This provides assurance of the integrity of the pipeline prior to any introduction of gas.



8 **Reinstatement and rehabilitation** of the construction footprint, undertaken progressively with the aim of returning the land to its previous productivity.

9 **Installation of pipeline markers** at fences, road crossings and other locations and installation of permanent gates in fences, where required.

A nominal 30-metre wide Right of Way (also referred to as the construction footprint) is typically sought to provide adequate space for soil management, vehicle movements, trenching and stringing of the pipeline during construction. After construction, normal agricultural operations can resume within this area. A typical layout for the Right of Way is shown below.



Want to know more?

Call us on 1800 413 200, email our project team at beetaloo@apa.com.au or visit **apa.com.au**

Appendix C Social Risk Framework

Social Impact Assessment

Sturt Plateau Pipeline

APA SPP Pty Ltd

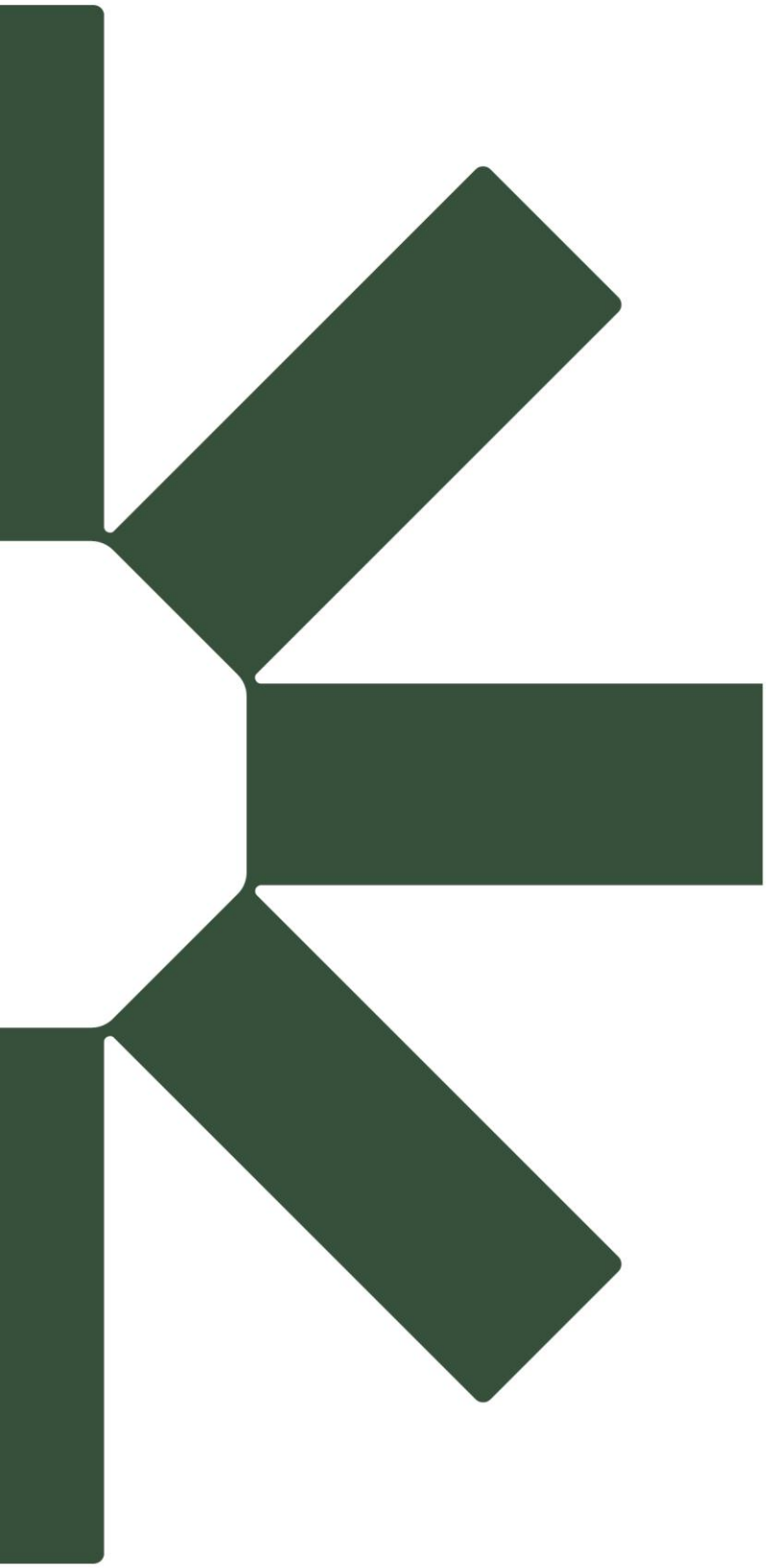
SLR Project No.: 680.030294.00001

15 October 2024

RISK MATRIX

Consequence Description	Level	LIKELIHOOD				
		Rare - E	Unlikely - D	Possible - C	Likely - B	Almost Certain - A
		The event may occur only in exceptional circumstances	Not expected but the event may occur at some time	The event could occur at some time	The event will probably occur in most circumstances	the event is expected to occur or has occurred and is continuing to impact
Critical consequences indicate the highest level of adverse impact on the social well-being of a community or population. These consequences have the potential to cause severe and irreversible harm, posing a significant threat to social cohesion, cultural integrity, or community resilience.	Critical - 5	M - E5	H - D5	H - C5	E - B5	E - A5
Major consequences denote a substantial and noteworthy impact on the social aspects of a community or population. While not as severe as critical consequences, major consequences have the potential to cause significant disruptions, requiring prompt attention and mitigation measures to safeguard community well-being.	Major - 4	L - E4	M - D4	H - C4	H - B4	E - A4
Moderate consequences suggest a noticeable but manageable impact on the social dimensions of a community or population. These consequences may lead to some level of disruption or change, but they are generally considered within the capacity of the community to adapt and recover without causing long-term harm.	Moderate - 3	L - E3	M - D3	M - C3	H - B3	H - A3
Minor consequences indicate a limited and relatively inconspicuous impact on the social aspects of a community or population. These consequences may result in minor disruptions or changes that are easily addressed and do not significantly affect the overall well-being or functioning of the community.	Minor - 2	L - E2	L - D2	M - C2	M - B2	H - A2
Insignificant consequences imply a negligible or minimal impact on the social fabric of a community or population. These consequences are deemed inconsequential and unlikely to cause any noticeable disruption or change in the social dynamics, and therefore may not warrant substantial attention or intervention.	Insignificant - 1	L - E1	L - D1	L - C1	L - B1	M - A1

Figure C-1 Risk Matrix



Making Sustainability Happen