



APT Management Services Pty Ltd (APA)

North to East Australia Pipeline NT Referral Engagement Report

Prepared by True North Strategic Advisory
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Acronyms

APA	APT Management Services Pty Ltd
ECNT	Environment Centre Northern Territory
EP Act	<i>Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FIFO	Fly-In-Fly-Out
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
Km	Kilometre
NLC	Northern Land Council
NEA Pipeline	North to East Australia Pipeline
NGP	Northern Gas Pipeline
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NT EPA	Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
NTCA	Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
NT RTA	Northern Territory Road Transport Association
SWQP	South West Queensland Pipeline
TNSA	True North Strategic Advisory
Q&A	Questions and Answers
QLD	Queensland

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Acknowledgement of Country

APT Management Services Pty Ltd (APA) and True North Strategic Advisory (TNSA) acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we live and work throughout Australia.

We acknowledge their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and commit to ensuring APA operates in a fair and ethical manner that respects First Nations peoples' rights and interests.

Executive summary

This report captures the methodology and outcomes of targeted engagement conducted by True North Strategic Advisory (TNSA) in conjunction with APT Management Services Pty Ltd (APA). Engagement was conducted in April and May 2026.

APA is proposing to construct and operate a 1,561-kilometre (km) gas pipeline to transport gas from the Beetaloo Sub-basin in the Northern Territory (NT) to the existing Southwest Queensland Pipeline located in western Queensland (QLD). The project will be divided into two stages. Stage one, inclusive of a 582 km pipeline, is entirely within the NT and was the focus of this engagement.

An initial preferred pipeline corridor was selected following a preliminary desktop assessment to minimise impacts on landowners and occupiers, communities and the environment. APA will refine the pipeline corridor as the project progresses, incorporating additional feedback from Traditional Owners, landowners and occupiers, stakeholders and the community.

This project requires environmental assessment under the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT) (EP Act) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act). TNSA was engaged to undertake targeted stakeholder engagement to inform the referral to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA), as part of this engagement, early social impact scoping was conducted with targeted stakeholders. Engagement with Traditional Owners was not undertaken during this phase and will occur separately, in conjunction with the Northern Land Council (NLC).

Aim of this engagement

Engagement aimed to provide a targeted group of stakeholders with information about the project and to engage them early to understand the potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed project.

Methodology

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) principles guide best practice community engagement. This engagement was conducted at the levels of *inform* (providing relevant information so affected stakeholders understand what the project entails) and *consult* (listening to and recording feedback). Engagement was primarily through face-to-face, phone and online briefings.

Stakeholders

Key stakeholder groups for this targeted engagement included:

- local government, including Local Authorities
- local service providers, organisations and businesses
- emergency services
- industry organisations and peak bodies
- other stakeholders and general community in Elliott and Daly Waters.

Findings

Feedback was mostly neutral to cautiously positive. Across all stakeholder interactions, the following key themes emerged:

- the capacity of the existing infrastructure, including road and rail
- local jobs, training and workforce readiness
- land access and related impacts
- environmental management and rehabilitation
- local amenity and 'feel' of the region
- project certainty across the region
- community and regional benefits
- ongoing engagement.

1. Background

1.1. Project overview

APA is investigating the development of a multi-user pipeline to be known as the North to East Australia (NEA) Pipeline. The NEA Pipeline proposes to transport gas from the Beetaloo Sub-basin to markets on the east coast of Australia.

The Beetaloo Sub-basin is located 500 km south-east of Darwin in the NT and covers 28,000 square km. It is estimated to contain 200,000 petajoules of natural gas.

The Beetaloo Sub-basin is in the early stages of its development. There are several companies that 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 NEA Pipeline would collect processed gas via one or more collection header pipelines and transport it south through a large diameter pipeline for approximately 1,561km to a tie-in point that would connect to the South West Queensland Pipeline (SWQP) (Figure 1).

Engagement focused on the Northern Territory component of APA's NEA Pipeline (Stage 1), which includes an approximately 80 km-long collection header and a 582 km pipeline.

Compressed gas will travel via a large-diameter pipeline to the existing Northern Gas Pipeline (NGP) on the NT/QLD border. Stage 2 extends approximately 899 km from the NT/QLD border to the SWQP.

Stage 1 project infrastructure includes:

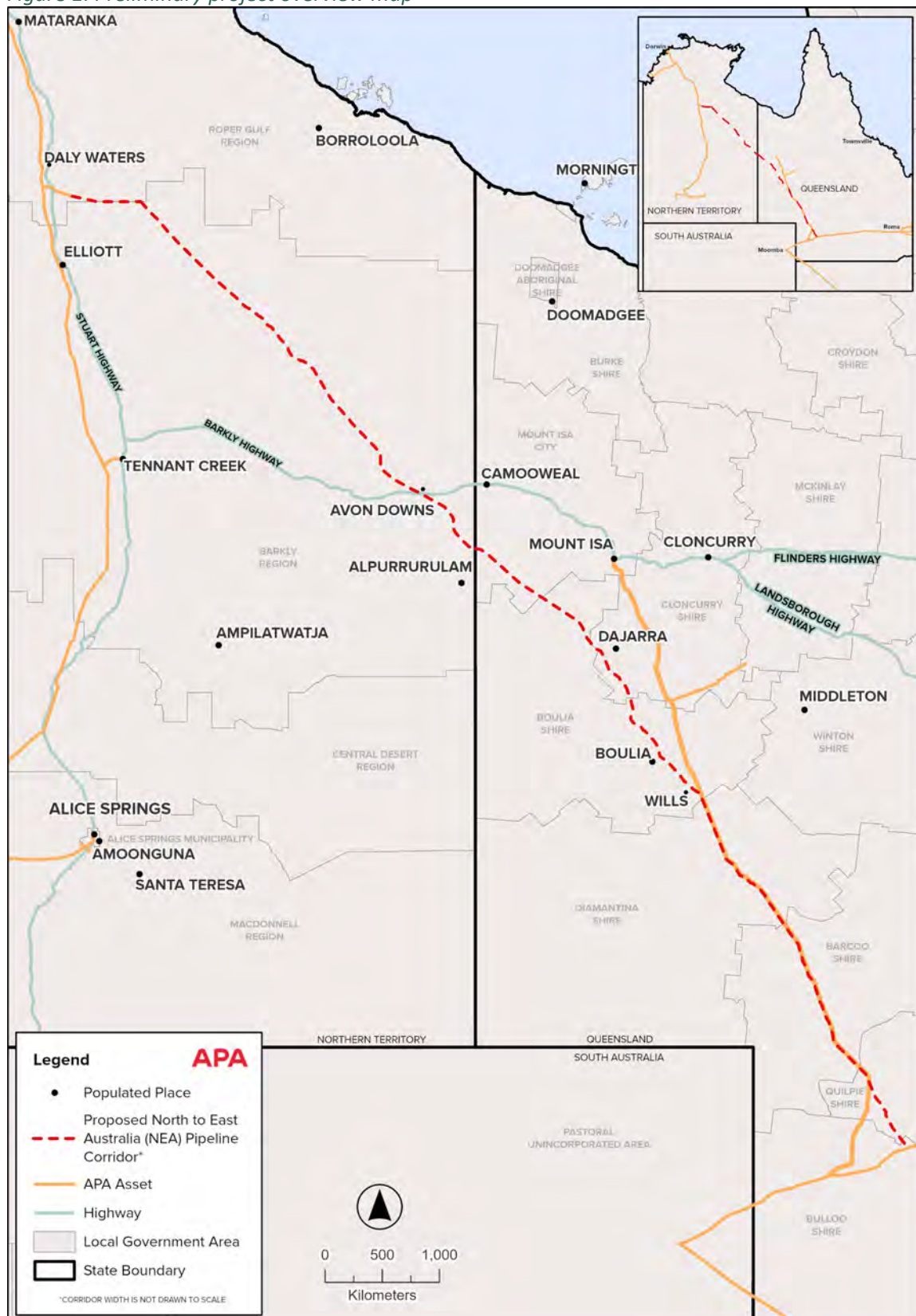
- about 80 km of collection header
- about 582 km of pipeline
- main line valves every 75 km
- two compressor stations approximately 350 km to 400 km apart
- scraper stations (co-located with compressor station facilities).

The ancillary project infrastructure during construction may include:

- up to five temporary accommodation facilities located approximately every 150 km, with associated water bores, laydown areas, offices and storage
- temporary and permanent access tracks
- additional water bores and turkey nests (dams)
- gravel quarrying (borrow pits) for use in the construction of access tracks
- anode beds.

The preferred pipeline corridor was chosen to minimise impacts to the environment and community, based on a desktop assessment using a multi-criteria assessment with subsequent refinement by APA's project team. The corridor will continue to be refined as the project progresses, following further assessment and continued discussions with landowners and occupiers and other key stakeholders.

Figure 1: Preliminary project overview map



1.2. Previous engagement, communication and community benefits

Prior to targeted engagement, stakeholder interaction regarding the NEA Pipeline was conducted by APA and primarily focused on regulatory agencies, local government, the NLC and affected land occupiers. This engagement was undertaken through initial project briefings, meetings and the distribution of project information materials to introduce the proposal and establish early awareness.

APA has recently completed engagement in the Roper Gulf and Barkly regions (Daly Waters and Elliott) to inform the community about construction of a separate APA pipeline project, Sturt Plateau Pipeline. Findings from engagement on the Sturt Plateau Pipeline were utilised at a high level to inform the approach to consultation in relation to the NEA Pipeline and to understand feedback to focus discussions, understand cumulative impacts, and, where possible, reduce consultation fatigue.

Government engagement

APA has met with government stakeholders at the local, Territory, and Commonwealth levels through meetings, briefings, and technical discussions. This engagement, which will inform feasibility studies, has focused on:

- regulatory pathways and approvals
- alignment with environmental and infrastructure planning
- workforce availability and regional development considerations
- logistics and transport, including road and port infrastructure.

Landowners and occupiers engagement

APA's engagement with landowners and occupiers is in its early stages, focusing on raising awareness of the project, establishing relationships, and presenting voluntary land access agreements. Engagement has been tailored to pastoral landowners and occupiers to consider current pressures such as seasonal conditions and workloads. APA is in the process of negotiating voluntary land access agreements and has reported that sentiment is broadly neutral to cautiously positive at this stage.

Sponsorship

APA's community benefit initiatives and commitments related to the NEA Pipeline include:

- Sponsorship of the Daly Waters Campdraft and Rodeo (NT)
- Sponsorship of the Keeroonloogoo Cup (QLD)
- Pledged support for First Nation Totems for the Eromanga Natural History Museum (QLD)

APA has also delivered grants in the region through funding rounds associated with the construction of the Sturt Plateau Pipeline. Grants were issued to the following organisations (fundings rounds are now complete):

- Elliott Health Centre
- Territory Cup Campdraft
- Elliott and NCW Sports and Recreation Association

- Elliott School
- Rover River Landcare
- Barkly Regional Arts
- Govies Gala
- Ringers Rugby 7s Rugby Tournament
- Daly Waters Campdraft and Rodeo
- Katherine School of the Air
- Marntula Aboriginal Corporation
- Mataranka Fishing Sport and Recreation.

1.3. Ongoing engagement

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (see Referral: Appendix B) has been developed to guide the next phase of engagement for the project and will be refined as the project progresses.

Ongoing engagement will prioritise continued dialogue with key stakeholders, including government, industry, landowners and occupiers and community representatives, as well as dedicated engagement with Traditional Owners facilitated through the NLC.

APA will continue to implement community benefit initiatives to support an early and proactive approach to benefit sharing. Further engagement with industry stakeholders will be undertaken with the aim of maximising local participation and economic opportunities for locals associated with the project.

1.4. Context for Consultation

This engagement was undertaken as part of a phased approach to support the environmental approvals process for the project and to inform the referral documentation being prepared for submission to the NT EPA.

The consultation was designed to gather local knowledge, identify issues and opportunities of interest to stakeholders, and better understand the social, community and economic context of the project area.

Information collected through this process has been used to undertake preliminary social impact scoping and to identify key themes, potential impacts and stakeholder concerns requiring further assessment and consideration. The findings presented in this report provide an evidence base to support the NT EPA referral process, demonstrate how stakeholder perspectives have informed project planning, and help guide future engagement and impact assessment activities as the project progresses.

2. Methodology

This section outlines the main engagement objectives, levels, and strategies to guide targeted efforts that inform the Project's referral process under the EP Act.

Engagement focused on providing initial and early engagement opportunities for a targeted group of impacted stakeholders, organisations, and industry bodies, and to understand the possible social impact associated with the project ahead of the referral to the NT EPA.

TNSA and APA acknowledge the importance of engaging with First Nations people and communities, Traditional Owners and Native Title Holders in relation to this project.

The NEA Pipeline corridor is subject to anthropological work led by the NLC to establish which individuals speak for Country along the corridor. As a result, this engagement did not include consultation with First Nations people, organisations or Traditional Owners.

Separate engagement will be conducted by APA in conjunction with the NLC and identified Traditional Owners. A culturally appropriate engagement program is being developed with the assistance of the NLC to inform any future studies.

2.1. Goal, objectives and approach

Early, meaningful and ongoing engagement is an authentic process of involving people in solutions and decisions, listening to understand their perspectives, providing an honest account of people's input and taking the lived experience of communities seriously.

TNSA engaged with stakeholders in person and online across Darwin, Elliott, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Daly Waters in April and May 2026, as part of the scoping process to support APA's referral to the NT EPA for the proposed NEA Pipeline.

The engagement aimed to provide key stakeholders with project information and to understand the project's potential benefits and negative impacts at an early stage to inform planning and approvals. The engagement sought to document local knowledge, understand the local context and to identify key issues to be considered in the referral and in broader project planning.

Targeted stakeholders included in this early engagement were chosen to gather initial feedback and represented a variety of organisations and industry groups. These stakeholders provided insights on a variety of aspects including the environment, workforce, transport, social cohesion, landowners and occupiers, business, council, and community.

This list is not exhaustive, and similar stakeholders or those represented by industry bodies may offer different feedback or concerns. Refer to Stakeholder Engagement Plan (see Referral: Appendix B) for an overview of how any future engagement will aim to inform and understand a broader stakeholder group and the community.

The objectives of the early engagement and scoping align with the broader objectives of engagement for this program of work and were to:

- provide timely, accurate, relevant and culturally appropriate information about the project
- understand stakeholder and community perceptions, ideas and concerns about the project
- understand stakeholder and community values about the project area and the project itself
- seek feedback from stakeholders – listen to and understand the priorities, values and perspectives.

The NLC provided advice as part of their statutory role to represent the interests of Traditional Owners for this early stage of engagement, including support for an early engagement approach that focused on general community engagement activities, such as BBQs and attendance at Local Authority meetings, to inform the referral and scoping.

Engagement level

Using the IAP2 principles, engagement was at the levels of *inform* (providing relevant information) and *consult* (listening to feedback). The level of engagement for each stakeholder was determined by the extent of their interest or concern, the impact the project is likely to have on them, and their influence on project outcomes.

Table 1: IAP2 Spectrum of Participation

Level of engagement	Promise to the public
Inform	<i>We will keep you informed</i>
Consult	<i>We will keep you informed, listen to your concerns and provide feedback on how the public's input influenced the decision</i>
Involve	We will work with you to ensure your concerns are reflected in the alternatives developed, and provide feedback on how the public's input influenced the decision
Collaborate	We will look to you for advice, ideas and solutions and incorporate those into the decisions as much as possible
Empower	We will implement what you decide
©International Association of Public Participation Australasia Limited T/A The Engagement Institute Level of Engagement, 2018	

2.2. Methods and tools

The following communication and engagement tools and tactics were used to support engagement in April and May 2026. Examples of these materials are available in Appendix A of this report.

Table 2: Methods and tools

Tools	Detail
Key messages, topic guide/s and Q&As	Key messages, topic guide and Q&As for internal use only were developed to ensure stakeholders were provided with accurate and consistent information about the project and early engagement and social impact scoping.
Fact sheets	Two fact sheets were developed for use during stakeholder engagement. One was tailored for organisational stakeholders including industry bodies and one for the broader community. These fact sheets were used as simple communication tools to explain the project in clear terms. The stakeholder fact sheet was shared ahead of social impact interviews to help participants understand the project before discussions and allow them to provide informed feedback. The community fact sheet provided general information so community members could easily understand the proposal, how it may impact them, and how they can provide feedback.
Briefings	A number of early stakeholder briefings were conducted by APA to provide key organisations with an overview of the project and to seek initial input. These briefings were undertaken prior to the formal stakeholder engagement program and were used to inform the approach to engagement and the referral process, rather than as part of the primary data collection for social impact scoping. APA's land access team also conducts landholder briefings, when required.
Social impact interviews	Face to face and online (Teams) interviews with key stakeholders were used to: - gather qualitative data as part of scoping social impacts including a community profile, background context, the likely social area of influence, information on current livelihood and land uses - gain an initial understanding of values, perceptions, issues and concerns of stakeholders - determine how communities and stakeholders want to be engaged in future.
Community BBQs and information sessions	Three community BBQs and information sessions were planned as informal, drop in opportunities for people to learn about the project, ask questions and share feedback. Two sessions were successfully delivered, with one postponed due to road closures to the community. The events were promoted through local community Facebook pages, printed posters placed in community (local offices, service-stations, health clinic), at the Local Authority meetings and emails sent to known stakeholders.
Maps	Standard maps of the project area were used as a visual tool to help stakeholders and the community understand the proposed alignment of the pipeline corridor.

Tools	Detail
	The maps supported discussions during the community BBQ and information sessions, were used in PowerPoint presentations delivered during the social impact interviews, including on fact sheets.
Flipbook	A flipbook was developed using a series of high-resolution photographs, printed in large (A3) format. The larger format was important to ensure the images were easy to see and detailed enough for all participants, including those that may have vision impairments. The flipbook showed the full pipeline construction process, from transporting material to site through to construction and final rehabilitation. This tool helped people clearly understand what the project might look like in practice, making it easier to grasp the scale and activities involved and support more informed feedback during engagement.
PowerPoint presentation	A PowerPoint presentation was used (and delivered by APA) at the start of social impact interviews and Local Authority meetings to provide a more detailed overview of the project. Often, the presentations built on the information in the fact sheet by adding further context and explanation, including information on current local benefits delivered by APA in the region. The PowerPoint ensured everyone had a consistent baseline of information ahead of TNSA conducting social impact type questions (without APA present).
Templates and records	A template was used to record minutes of all meetings, attendees, key issues raised, and commitments made.

3. Stakeholders

The following stakeholder groups were consulted as part of the targeted engagement:

- local government, including Local Authorities¹
- local service providers, organisations and businesses
- industry organisations and peak bodies
- other stakeholders and general community in Elliott and Daly Waters.

A list of stakeholders engaged as part of this early engagement to inform the referral is listed in Section 4: Findings.

A detailed list of stakeholders for any future engagement is provided in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (see Referral: Appendix B).

¹ Local Authorities in the NT sit under regional councils and provide advice on local priorities, community projects, and emerging issues to help ensure community needs are reflected in regional decision-making.

4. Findings

This section summarises the key feedback and issues raised by targeted stakeholders during engagement held in April and May 2026.

4.1. Results

The following stakeholders were approached and participated in formal briefings and initial interviews to understand potential social impacts. Additional stakeholders, including businesses, local service providers (health clinics, schools), and landowners and occupiers, attended community information sessions and BBQs.

Stakeholder emails were sent to key stakeholders during engagement, and they were provided with a fact sheet and offered a briefing on the project and a social impact scoping interview.

Table 3: Stakeholders and engagement methods

Stakeholder	Emailed	Offered briefing	Briefing held
Local government			
Barkly Regional Shire Council	✓	✓	✓
Alpururulam Local Authority		✓	✓
Elliott Local Authority		✓	✓
Roper Gulf Shire Council	✓	✓	
Emergency services			
NT Police – Elliott Station*	✓	✓	
Industry associations and peak bodies			
Northern Territory Road Transport Association (NT RTA)	✓	✓	✓
Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association (NTCA)	✓	✓	✓
Chamber of Commerce	✓	✓	✓
Other stakeholders			
Environment Centre Northern Territory (ECNT)	✓	✓	✓
RN Employment Services	✓	✓	✓

* Engagement with NT Police did not occur during the engagement period due to local staffing constraints.

Community BBQs and information sessions

As part of the engagement program, three community BBQs and information sessions were planned in Alpururulam, Elliott and Daly Waters. Two sessions were successfully delivered, while access constraints due to rain-related road closures required the postponement of the Alpururulam session. APA plans to hold a community BBQ in Alpururulam in October 2026.

The BBQs and information sessions provided communities near the project with an opportunity to engage, ask questions and provide feedback.

APA established a stall which consisted of:

- a table set up at central locations
- 2 x APA branded pull-up banners
- A0 sized maps
- large format flip books
- fact sheets
- merchandise.

The BBQs were managed by APA in terms of project overview, while TNSA was responsible for collecting early feedback, concerns and social data.

Approximately 12 people from local and regional businesses and community members attended the information session held at the Highway-Inn, Daly Waters. Approximately 7 people attended the community session in Elliott held at the local Basketball Court.

Factsheets

APA also distributed fact sheets via email or delivered them in person to several local businesses and organisations, such as Elliott School, Elliott Health Centre, Daly Waters Pub, Daly Waters Hi-Way Inn, and Elliott Store.

Internal briefings

Due to the nature of the project, the proposed pipeline corridor will cross multiple pastoral leases managed by different landowners and occupiers, as well as land associated with Traditional Owner group/s. APA has a dedicated land access team that engages with landowners and occupiers. The APA land access team have been undertaking engagement prior to this targeted engagement program, and feedback from their work has informed, and in some cases validated, the findings of this report. TNSA conducted briefings with the land access team to understand issues stated during early engagement with landowners and occupiers. Landholder feedback to the APA land access team has mainly centred on:

- biosecurity requirements
- cultural heritage and sacred site clearances and the unintended impacts on pastoral operations
- perceived equity in compensation arrangements
- potential impacts on landholder operations, such as roads and stock management
- land access and fatigue in negotiating agreements.

These matters will inform the next phase of engagement and the development of access agreements and aligns with feedback that was received during targeted engagement (refer to the feedback section below).

4.2. Feedback

Stakeholders and some community members asked questions and provided comments and feedback on a range of topics relating to the proposed project, its development and potential impacts. Overall sentiment was neutral to cautiously positive for stakeholders consulted as part of this engagement. This sentiment was also contingent on ongoing planning and engagement, especially with Traditional Owners and landowners and occupiers. Most risks raised are assessed as manageable if they are planned for and if communication is effective in maintaining expectations.

The top themes emerged across stakeholder interactions:

- the capacity of the existing infrastructure, including road and rail
- local jobs, training and workforce readiness
- land access and related impacts
- environmental management and rehabilitation
- local amenity and 'feel' of the region
- project certainty across the region
- community and regional benefits
- ongoing engagement.

Most stakeholders acknowledged that this is a relatively small project in terms of construction impacts compared with other projects earmarked for the region, including the Beetaloo Sub-basin.

The capacity of existing infrastructure

Infrastructure capacity was a major theme among most stakeholder groups and was seen as critical to both the successful delivery of APA's NEA Pipeline project and regional outcomes.

Stakeholders raised concerns about the current condition, safety, and reliability of key infrastructure, particularly roads, and the impact that increased heavy-vehicle movements could have on the integrity of the Northern Territory's major road networks including the Stuart Highway and Barkly Highway. Issues include poor road conditions and the impact of the 2025-26 wet season on road infrastructure. Stakeholders also raised concerns about the long-term issues that all road users could face if maintenance and upgrade programs are not planned and implemented effectively.

We need to be brutally honest about our road network. We need investment. The reality is it's really difficult. As projects get into the operational phase, it will only become more apparent.

Stakeholders highlighted that Alpururulam experiences significant isolation for up to six months each year during the wet season due to unreliable road access. This limited access also affected in-person engagement activities. The presence of black soil was identified as a contributing factor to the difficulty in addressing poor road conditions. Despite these challenges, stakeholders noted a potential opportunity for APA to consider improvements to nearby road infrastructure as part of project planning.

Stakeholders expressed strong support for coordinated planning and investment in regional infrastructure upgrades, extending beyond the NEA Pipeline project to reflect the scale of broader development planned in the Beetaloo and the broader Barkly region. Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of considering how rail transport, road transport and planned logistics hubs will operate together, noting that capacity constraints and integration across the logistics supply chain require careful planning.

The road transport industry was receptive to APA maintaining access roads and tracks but stressed it is equally important to hand back the road in better condition than before construction.

Local jobs, training and workforce readiness

There was a consistent interest across stakeholder groups in creating jobs for local people, including entry-level roles, training pathways and opportunities for established regional businesses.

Stakeholders emphasised that APA needs to conduct early localised planning to be successful in local workforce development. This includes clearly defining workforce needs, such as job types, required skills and timing, so that communities, businesses and training providers can prepare in advance.

Have a clear understanding of the training or trades experience APA are looking for, so they (local workers) can be well prepared for it.

There is some scepticism about whether local employment will occur, given past experience with projects and the need for a skilled and trained workforce over a relatively small construction period. Providing clear information and setting expectations about jobs and workforce requirements will be paramount moving forward.

If APA are really focused on employing local people, which we've heard so many times before, businesses come in and say they want to hire locals, but they never do, it is always FIFO workers that come in and take those jobs.

There are no long-term jobs or opportunities from this project. It could possibly give young people a short-term job opportunity.

Several stakeholders highlighted barriers to employment, including lower levels of work readiness, skills gaps, literacy and numeracy challenges and broader social factors.

Views varied on the scale of the opportunity. Some stakeholders see potential for local jobs and economic benefit, while others only expect short-term and limited employment outcomes.

Stakeholders were receptive to offering advice on how flexible work arrangements, on-the-job support and early training programs can enhance First Nations participation and outcomes in the project.

My suggestion is rather than to have full-time employment for long periods, break it down and have half-time employment, it is more doable.

APA are developing an engagement approach to maximise economic participation by locals and support sustainable employment, training and business development outcomes.

Land access and related impacts

Land access for technical studies and project development is a key area of concern for pastoral landowners and occupiers who attended community sessions, with many managing multiple projects across their leases. These stakeholders were generally supportive of APA's access team's engagement to date.

Related issues include 'engagement fatigue' and challenges in maintaining normal operations that come with managing access requirements for overlapping infrastructure projects.

Biosecurity is a key issue related to land access. Landowners and occupiers and the industry association highlighted risks such as the spread of weeds and animal disease, and the long-term cost of managing these impacts if an outbreak were to occur.

Biosecurity is huge. We are faced with multiple people trying to access the tenure. The cost is huge when you have a weed incursion. The cost of managing a weed or outbreak program is significant. It has a direct impact on land value, depending on the weed.

Animal disease – staff travelling to places like Bali. Projects need to manage how they transition back to work and not bring diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease² back.

APA's land access team will continue to engage with the Northern Territory Government and landowners and occupiers to ensure that land access and biosecurity concerns are well understood and management measures are developed in conjunction with relevant stakeholders during the planning phase of the project.

Environmental management and rehabilitation

Environmental management was raised by some stakeholders and land occupiers as a potential issue. Environmental stakeholders raised broader concerns about potential impacts on habitats, waterways, and ecosystems, particularly where detailed project information (including maps) is limited at this stage.

Rehabilitation expectations include restoring the land condition, controlling erosion and weeds, and enabling ongoing land use after the pipeline is constructed.

My recommendation would be rehabilitation with approved pasture and a program to keep out woody weeds. It would also allow for that easement to be used as a transit zone. I would say that people would be really supportive of a pasture species as a ground cover to control erosion.

² Stakeholder was referring to Foot and Mouth Disease, a viral disease that impacts livestock.

There were also broader concerns about cumulative land use impacts, including how multiple developments may affect long-term land productivity and use.

I'd be interested in the cumulative impact of land clearing. We've got a really vast land resource, people are pragmatic, and strict EPA requirements. We are relatively comfortable with the process, but it is unclear whether the cumulative impact of that clearing would affect the producer's ability to develop.

APA will detail rehabilitation or reinstatement requirements within a Property Management Plan (PMP), developed in consultation with each leaseholder. The PMP will outline property-specific management requirements and APA's commitments for reinstating disturbed areas following construction, with the aim of supporting the ongoing use and management of the property after construction is complete.

Local amenity and feel of the region

Local amenity and the unique character of communities such as Daly Waters were identified as important considerations. Stakeholders emphasised the need for contractors to behave respectfully particularly when there may be large transient workforce numbers if a number of proposed projects progress within the same timeframe. It was also noted that people do not want to see the town's atmosphere changed as it has the potential to impact tourism and visitor experience well into the future once projects are no longer in the construction phase.

Project certainty across the region

Uncertainty about project timing and delivery was a consistent theme across stakeholder groups. Based on past experiences, businesses and communities noted that unclear or changing timelines make it difficult to plan, invest or prepare for opportunities.

Stakeholders expressed a need for ongoing project information to be shared, including project schedules, staging and how opportunities will be delivered over time.

There was also a strong theme around coordination, including aligning the project with government planning, infrastructure investment and other major developments in the region. Early, coordinated and consistent planning was seen as important to managing impacts, reducing risks and maximising benefits for people and communities.

Community and regional benefits

Stakeholders identified a range of potential benefits, including job creation, regional economic activity and opportunities for local businesses.

There is interest in ensuring these benefits are shared locally, including through procurement, employment and investment in community initiatives. Suggestions included supporting local events (campdrafts, rodeos), investing in infrastructure or services (School of the Air, gathering places within Elliott) and contributing to long-term community outcomes.

However, some stakeholders expect that benefits may be limited or unevenly distributed, particularly in smaller or more remote communities.

Managing expectations and clearly communicating potential benefits were identified by stakeholders as important to maintaining trust. APA currently runs a grants program in the Daly Waters, Alpururulam and Elliott regions occurring every six months for one-off grants.

APA has developed a project stakeholder engagement plan that will be implemented and will include promoting community and regional benefits and ensuring transparent, accurate project communication.

Ongoing engagement

Stakeholders emphasised the need for early, consistent and transparent engagement, including clear discussions about land access, compensation and long-term impacts.

One stakeholder also raised a concern about the broader regulatory setting for projects of this nature and the expectation that proponents will go beyond minimum requirements and provide stakeholders with an opportunity to engage. Ongoing engagement was seen as important to maintaining community confidence over time.

The new legislation might exempt APA from consulting on a pipeline licence. These processes are important for the social licence for a project like this. APA should aim for the higher standards and embed public consultation in their processes and aim for transparency.

Additionally, a couple of stakeholders suggested that APA develop more detailed maps for future engagement efforts.

It is a provisional map, but in terms of the values, it should show the pipeline in relation to proximity and potential impacts to those social factors, including environmental or ecological pathways.

TNSA has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to guide engagement and communication for the regulatory consenting process. Additionally, APA has developed a project-specific stakeholder engagement plan to uphold community trust and APA's social licence to operate.

4.3. Adjustments to the project as a result of feedback

In response to stakeholder requests for greater transparency and clearer information about the route (including a more detailed map), APA has developed an interactive web map, which is now available on the project website.

A number of the concerns raised have already been considered as part of APA's planning for the project and its potential impacts.

APA is engaging with the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure about project logistics and timing with a view to enabling infrastructure development that would support the project and benefit regional road networks.

Additional management measures will be developed over the coming months as a more detailed assessment and refined design are progressed.

5. Recommendations

This engagement is designed to provide key stakeholders with early information about the project to inform project planning, as well as the referral to the NT EPA.

To ensure the concerns raised in this engagement are addressed and to build APA's social licence to operate in the region, it is recommended that:

- APA to utilise the newly developed detailed project maps for any future engagement
- engagement is undertaken to inform the regulatory consenting process, inclusive of a culturally appropriate engagement program with support of the NLC for Traditional Owners and First Nations communities near the project corridor
- APA commence industry engagement to inform and prepare businesses for upcoming opportunities, and proactively manages expectations about those opportunities
- APA continues to communicate in accordance with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan to achieve broader project engagement.

6. Conclusion

The stakeholder engagement undertaken for the proposed NEA Pipeline provides an early understanding of community and stakeholder views to inform the referral to the NT EPA and the project more broadly.

Engagement focused on early, targeted efforts to inform stakeholders about the project and also went a step further by contributing to scoping potential social impacts.

Overall, engagement indicated a generally neutral to cautiously positive sentiment toward the project, provided that ongoing engagement is transparent, well-coordinated, responsive to stakeholder concerns, and clear in managing expectations about potential positive impacts.

Stakeholders consistently emphasised the importance of infrastructure capacity, particularly road and logistics networks, noting concerns about current conditions and the potential impact of increased project-related traffic.

There is also strong interest in regional economic benefits, including local jobs, business participation and training opportunities. This interest is tempered by scepticism regarding the scale and accessibility of these opportunities without early planning, clear communication and targeted workforce development.

Land access, biosecurity and environmental management also emerged as important issues, particularly for land occupiers and industry groups. These concerns reflect broader cumulative pressures from multiple developments across the region and highlight the need for coordinated planning, robust mitigation measures and fair access agreements.

Uncertainty regarding project timing and delivery was identified as a key challenge, affecting communities' and businesses' ability to prepare for potential opportunities.

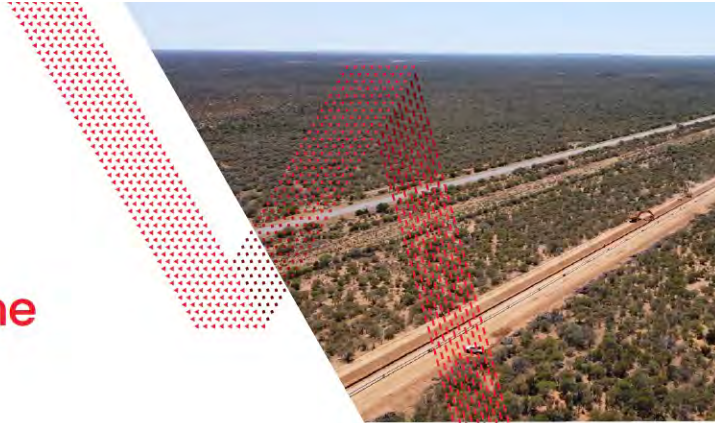
This engagement did not directly engage with First Nations people, organisations and Traditional Owners, which is acknowledged as a limitation of the current engagement process. APA plans to address this gap through a dedicated, culturally appropriate engagement program and understands that this will be a critical piece of work to inform any future work, anthropological studies, sacred site survey, and heritage survey.

Appendix A: Engagement materials

Stakeholder project factsheet



North to East Australia 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.

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.

About the proposed North to East Australia Pipeline

APA is investigating participation in a project which would involve the construction and operation of a 1600km pipeline to transport natural gas from the Northern Territory to the existing Southwest Queensland Pipeline in Queensland.

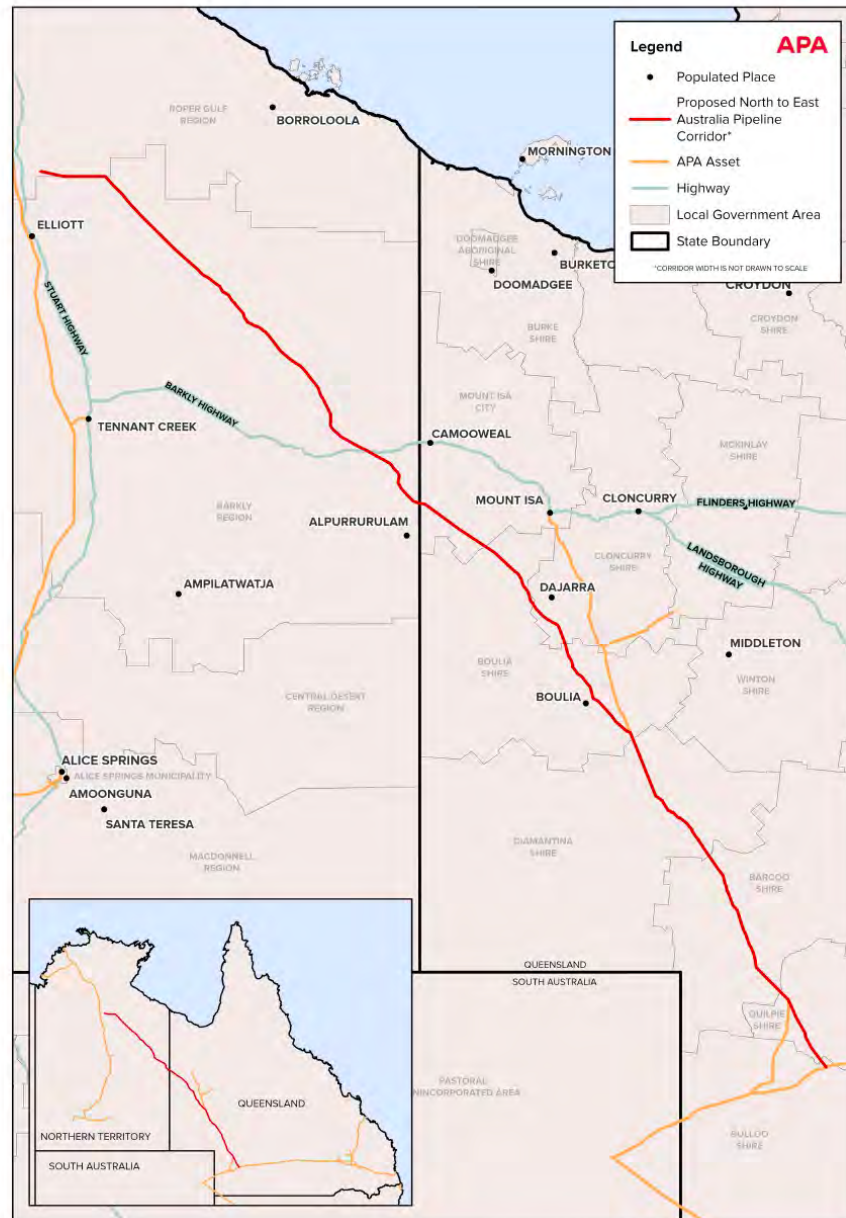
Following a preliminary desktop assessment, an initial preferred pipeline corridor was chosen to minimise impacts on landholders, communities and both the natural and built environments. As the project progresses, we will refine the pipeline corridor by incorporating feedback from landholders, Traditional Owners, the community and other key stakeholders. A map of the proposed pipeline corridor is found on the next page.

The North to East Australia 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).

The project is in its early stages, and final design and approval will be subject to consultation with landholders, Traditional Owners, the community and relevant regulatory authorities. Following approvals, final investment decision and final pipeline corridor selection, along with the proposed project's development, the project is anticipated to span approximately four years.

We are committed to working with our stakeholders as the proposed project is considered and developed. If you would like more information, please contact the project team on the details over the page.

APA.COM.AU



Want to know more

Contact us

If you have any questions, or would like further information about APA and our projects, we encourage you to connect with us at nea@apa.com.au or visit apa.com.au



Community project factsheet

North East Australia Project

When will construction start?
APA aims to start building the pipeline in 2030. Building the pipeline could take three years.

Before APA starts building the pipeline, they must get approvals. This includes approval from the Government, Traditional Owners and landholders.

Jobs
There will be jobs during construction. There will also be a small number of jobs after the pipeline is built.

During construction, jobs may include:

- work on machines
- helping to unload the pipes
- traffic control
- camp workers
- fencing
- cleaning up
- water cart driving
- vegetation clearing
- rehabilitation.

What happens next?
The project is in the early planning stage. APA will talk and listen to interested people to get their thoughts on the project.

APA will now:

- do more studies about impacts on plants, animals, water and people
- talk to Traditional Owners and communities
- apply to AAPA for an Authority Certificate and survey Sacred Sites.
- do a cultural heritage survey
- talk to landholders and other interested people.



North East Australia Project

Factsheet and FAQs



Who is APA?
APA Group (APA) is an Australian company. APA builds and runs energy infrastructure like natural gas pipelines, solar farms, wind farms, and overhead electricity lines.

APA has worked in the Northern Territory before and has built a gas pipeline south of Daly Waters and Dunmarra, called the Sturt Plateau Pipeline.

APA also has an office in Darwin, and about 30 people working in the Northern Territory.

The Beetaloo Sub-basin is an area in the Northern Territory where natural gas has been found. Other companies are exploring this area to see how much gas is there.

Gas from this area could be used to make electricity and support the transition to renewable energy, like solar and wind.

What is the project?
APA is looking at building a new pipeline. The pipeline would move gas from the Northern Territory to Queensland.

The project is called the North to East Australia (NEA) Pipeline. The project is still in the early planning stages.

Where would the pipeline go?
The pipeline would run from the Beetaloo in the Northern Territory and cross the Queensland border between Camooweal and Alpururulum.

See detailed map on page 3.



Want to know more

Contact us
If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback about the project, we encourage you to connect with us at nea@apa.com.au or call 1800 413 200 or visit apa.com.au

Translation and interpretation services?
If you require an interpreter, please contact us and we will arrange translation services.



What will the pipeline look like?

The pipeline will be buried under the ground but some structures will remain above ground.

These are called valves and compressor stations.

After the pipeline is buried in the ground, APA will return the land and have a ute track in case they need to look at anything once the pipeline is finished.

The soil will be put back, and the pipeline area made good to help plants grow back.

Signs will show where the pipes are under the ground.



How will the pipeline be built?

The pipeline will be built in stages.

Workers will need places to stay while they build the pipeline. APA will set up temporary camps for workers. The camps will move as the pipeline is built.



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7









First, workers will clear the land called the corridor.

The top layer of soil will be put to the side and stored, so it can be used later.

Some new roads or tracks may need to be built. There will also be small areas to store water, pipe, gravel and machinery during construction.

A truck will bring pipes to the site, and workers will unload them.

The sections of pipe are laid on the ground and welded together.

The pipe will be checked for safety.

A long trench will be dug in the ground.

The pipe will then be put in the trench.

The pipe will be buried underground and the top layer of soil will be put back to allow grass to grow back.

Flip book cover and example page



The pipes are lined up on the ground.

Community information session and BBQ flyer – Elliott