

Statutory Authorities

Yallourn Gas Pipeline |
June 2026



EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

EnergyAustralia Pty Ltd ABN 99 086 014 968 (EA) is proposing to construct a new high-pressure gas pipeline to transport natural gas from the Longford to Dandenong Pipeline (LDP) to the Yallourn Power Station site. The pipeline would supply gas to a proposed gas-fired power station that EnergyAustralia is assessing at the site, as part of the Yallourn Energy Security Precinct.

The following information is intended to inform you of the statutory authorities involved in the proposed Yallourn Gas Pipeline, and the key approval steps and timeframes that apply to the project.

Role of DEECA and ESV

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is responsible for regulating the pipeline industry in Victoria. DEECA provides advice to both pipeline proponents and land owners and occupiers regarding pipeline projects and associated issues. DEECA undertakes this work through the administration of the Pipelines Act 2005 (Vic), including setting environmental standards, requiring monitoring, and ensuring that industry operations meet community expectations. Pipeline licences to construct and operate a pipeline are issued by the Minister for Energy and Resources.

EA must obtain a licence to construct and operate the gas pipeline in accordance with the requirements of the Pipelines Act 2005 (Vic). The licence is administered by DEECA on behalf of the Minister.

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) must satisfy itself that the pipeline can be constructed and operated safely, and that appropriate safety and emergency response procedures are in place to deal with any incidents. DEECA and ESV co-regulate licensed pipelines in Victoria.

Prior to granting consent to construct, DEECA must be provided with evidence of the following:

- Options to acquire all necessary easements have been agreed to by all affected property owners
- Cultural Heritage requirements have been satisfied
- Native Title requirements have been satisfied

In addition to the proposed construction details, the following documents are required by the authorities before a pipeline can be constructed:

Construction Environmental Management Plan

Accepted by DEECA. The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) sets out the procedures to be followed in constructing the pipeline to minimise environmental impacts and ensure successful rehabilitation. Procedures for dealing with incidents and complaints are included in the plan, along with monitoring and audit requirements.

Construction Safety Management Plan

Accepted by Energy Safe Victoria. The Construction Safety Management Plan (CSMP) describes the methods used to safely construct the pipeline, identifies safety risks to personnel and the public, and sets out how those risks will be managed and audited. It includes an emergency response plan that applies during the construction phase.

Operations Safety Management Plan

Prior to granting consent to operate the pipeline, ESV must be satisfied that compliance with this plan has been achieved. The Operations Safety Management Plan (SMP) sets out technical details about the pipeline, how it will be operated safely, and how the integrity of the pipeline will be maintained during operation. It identifies safety risks to personnel and the public and how they will be managed, and includes details of auditing and maintenance functions and an emergency response plan that applies during the operation phase.

Terminology

While EA will explain the project in plain language wherever possible, technical terms will inevitably arise. To ensure a common understanding of these terms, a list of commonly used words and their meanings is provided in the separate Abbreviations and Glossary brochure (Appendix 4).

Other Relevant Legislation

In addition to the Pipelines Act 2005 (Vic), the following key legislation (not an exhaustive list) is applicable to the proposed Yallourn Gas Pipeline:

Legislation	Jurisdiction
Native Title Act 1993	Commonwealth
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	Commonwealth
Pipelines Act 2005	Victoria
Planning and Environment Act 1987	Victoria

Legislation	Jurisdiction
Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006	Victoria
Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988	Victoria
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004	Victoria
Gas Safety Act 1997	Victoria
Environment Protection Act 2017	Victoria
Climate Action Act 2017	Victoria
Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988	Victoria

Victorian legislation is available at www.legislation.vic.gov.au. Commonwealth legislation is available at www.legislation.gov.au and www.austlii.edu.au.

Timeline

A guide to the key project milestones and response times is set out below. It refers to the formal interactions that EA must make with government, land owners and occupiers under the relevant legislation.

Notices under the Pipelines Act 2005 (Vic)

Notice / Step	Time frame
Sec 18 — Consultation Plan created detailing how all parties will be informed and kept informed as the proposed pipeline licensing process is followed. Plan submitted to the Minister for approval.	Minister considers the plan and a decision to approve or not is made within 21 days of the plan being submitted.
Sec 19 — Notice of Intention to Enter Land provided in writing to land owners and occupiers.	Notices provided after the consultation plan is approved by the Minister.
Sec 20 — Agreement and consent to enter for survey with land owners and occupiers.	Conditions of entry negotiated with the land owner or occupier.
Sec 22 — Application made to the Minister where agreement cannot be reached over entry to land.	14 days from the Sec 19 Notice to enter land before an application can be made to the Minister.
Sec 23 — Copy of application to the Minister seeking notice to enter, given to land owners and occupiers along with a statement of rights.	7 days for the land owner to make submissions to the Minister on why access to the land should be denied.
Sec 25 — Minister's decision to grant entry to land or not.	28 days from the date of application under Sec 22 for the decision to be provided by the Minister.
Sec 26 — Minister's consent granted and copy provided to the land owner or occupier.	The consent remains in effect for 12 months; the land owner or occupier is informed.
Sec 27 — Notice of Pipeline Corridor provided to land owners and occupiers.	The notice remains in effect for 12 months. The proponent negotiates easement agreements during this period.
Sec 32 — Notice of pipeline application provided to land owners and occupiers.	Submission date set by the Minister to receive written advice from land owners and occupiers.
Sec 37 — Request made to the Minister for a decision on the application.	Request can be made after the submission date. The Minister has 28 days to decide whether to refer submissions to a panel or to determine the application.
Sec 39 — Minister refers the submissions to a panel.	The panel may call submitters to speak to their submissions. The panel must report its findings and recommendations to the Minister within 60 days of receiving the submissions, or a time set by the Minister.
Sec 53 — Minister determines the application.	28 days from the date the request was received to determine the application under Sec 37, or from receipt of the panel's report if submissions were referred, together with comment from the Environmental Effects Minister and clearance under the Native Title Act.

Notice / Step	Time frame
Sec 60 — Commencement of pipeline construction.	Construction must commence within 1 year of the licence being approved. The Minister may extend this period.
Sec 61 — Completion of pipeline construction.	The pipeline is to be completed within 2 years of construction commencing, unless an extension is given by the Minister.
Sec 90 — Application made to the Minister for compulsory land acquisition.	An application can be made to the Minister 6 months from the date the Notice of Pipeline Corridor is provided to the land owner.
Sec 91 — Notice provided to the land owner or occupier that an application for compulsory access has been made to the Minister.	Submission date set by the Minister to receive written advice from land owners and occupiers.

Notices under the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (Vic)

Notice / Step	Time frame
Sec 19 — Notice of Acquisition gazetted and served upon all interested parties in the land.	Vesting of the easement occurs upon gazettal.
Sec 26 — Notice provided to the land owner or occupier of the date of entry into possession.	7 days' notice where the land is not a principal place of residence or business. 3 months where the land is a principal place of residence or business (with 7 days' notice) if agreement for entry into possession cannot be reached.
Sec 31 — Notice given to the land owner or occupier of an offer of compensation.	Within 14 days of gazettal of the Notice of Acquisition.
Sec 32 — Response by the claimant accepting the offer of compensation, or a counter-offer made by the owner.	Within 3 months of the formal offer of compensation from the proponent.
Sec 36 — Response to the owner's claim by the proponent to the owner's counter-offer of compensation.	3 months from receiving a counter-offer, the proponent must respond to the land owner or occupier.

Relevant standards and publications

- AS 2885.0:2018 Pipelines — Gas and liquid petroleum: General requirements
- AS/NZS 2885.1:2018 Pipelines — Gas and liquid petroleum: Design and construction
- AS 2885.3:2022 Pipelines — Gas and liquid petroleum: Operation and maintenance
- APGA Code of Environmental Practice — Onshore Pipelines
- APGA/VFF Pipeline Easement Guidelines
- **Pipelines Act 2005 (Vic) and Pipelines Regulations 2017 (Vic)** — available at www.legislation.vic.gov.au

Further Information

If there is any information you would like clarified, please contact the EnergyAustralia Yallourn Gas Pipeline project team using the details below.

Contact us

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