Yallourn Gas Pipeline
Construction and Operation

June 2026

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 EA is assessing at the site, as part of the Yallourn Energy Security Precinct.

Construction

Overview

Most of the gas pipeline will be installed using an open-cut trench, where a trench is dug, the pipe is placed inside, and the trench is filled in again. Horizontal directional drilling will be used to drill under the Latrobe River crossing to avoid disturbing the riverbanks and minimise environmental impacts. Trenchless construction such as thrust bore or HDD will be utilised for major road crossings and to avoid sensitive ecology areas.

Preparing the Corridor

Workers first survey and mark the route, and temporary fencing is installed where needed, including around areas of cultural or ecological significance. Vegetation is cleared only where necessary.

Digging the Trench

Most of the pipeline would be installed using open-cut trenching. Trenches are typically 1m wide and around 1-2m deep. The trench will be excavated using a range of specialised equipment which may include wheel ditchers, excavators and rock saws. Topsoil is set aside so it can be returned once construction is finished.

Laying and Joining the Pipe

Steel pipe sections are welded together along the trench, inspected, coated, and then lowered in using machinery.

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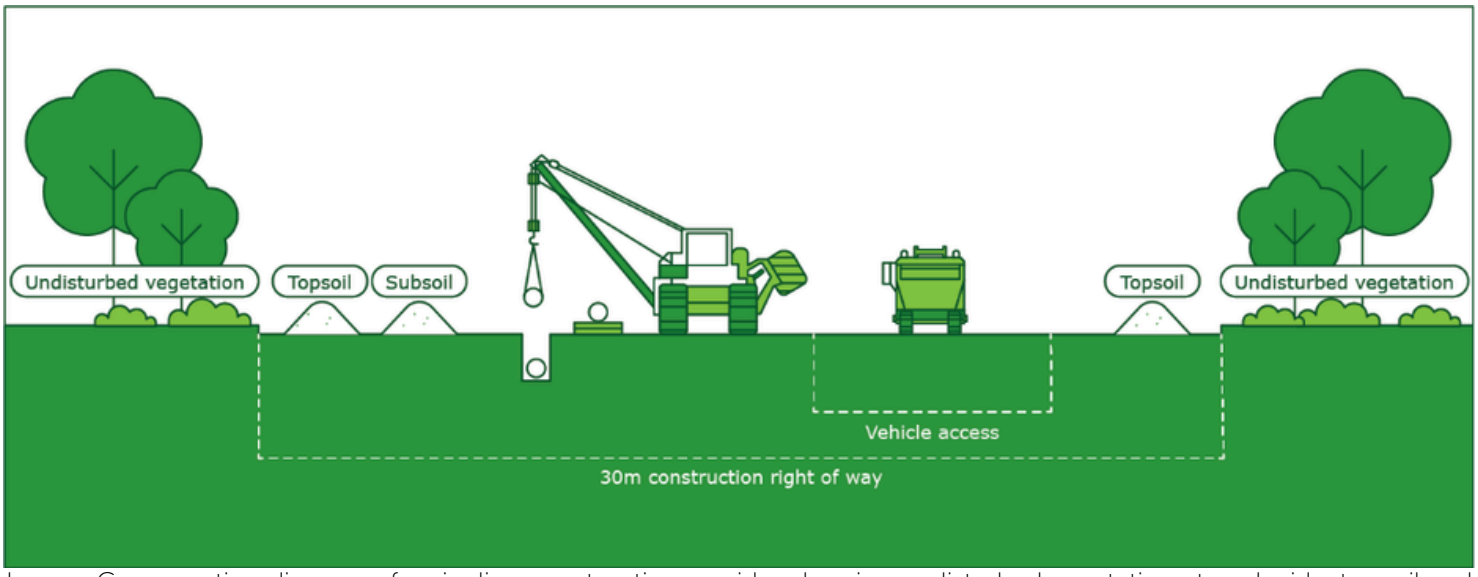

Image: Cross-section diagram of a pipeline construction corridor showing undisturbed vegetation at each side, topsoil and subsoil stockpiles, excavation equipment in the centre, and vehicle access, all within a 30 metre construction right of way.

Crossing the river

Rather than crossing the Latrobe River above ground, the pipeline would be tunnelled under the river using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). This requires a launch pit and an exit pit to be dug on the riverbanks. A small bore is then launched with the size of bore getting bigger in each pass until the size of pipe is reached. A pipe is then pushed through the bore.

Restoring the Land

Once the pipeline is installed, the topsoil will be replaced and levelled. Grasses will be replanted and any other vegetation replaced. Little evidence of the buried pipeline will be visible. Pipeline marker posts at various intervals along the alignment will be installed for safety.

Operation

Routine inspections and maintenance of the pipeline easement will be carried out by EnergyAustralia personnel or specialist contractors. Pipeline patrols may be conducted weekly. These patrols may be driven, drone flight or by walking. Pipeline maintenance activities include, maintenance of the easement, clearing vegetation and managing erosion if present. The pipeline must be internally inspected to verify the condition every 5 years and involves using pipeline inspection tools, often referred to as "Intelligent Pigs", that are passed through the pipe to inspect the integrity of the pipeline.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Project, please get in touch through the contact details below. Visit us in person at our Community Hub - 228 Commercial Road Morwell Open Wednesdays, 10am-3pm, or by appointment.

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