Young to Wagga Wagga Looping Pipeline

Project Description Report

APA Group

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East Australian Pipeline Pty Ltd (EAPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of APA Group, is proposing to loop the existing 12" Young to Wagga Wagga Pipeline with an 18" Pipeline. The existing pipeline is licensed by the Department of Water and Energy as Licence 19. The new pipeline would be approximately 131 km in length and would be built in stages to suit the requirements.

APA Group, comprised of Australian Pipeline Trust and APT Investment Trust, is a major ASX-listed energy transmission company in Australia with interests in almost 12,000 km of natural gas pipeline infrastructure, and over 2,300 km of gas distribution networks in Australia.

The Project is estimated to cost approximately $80 - $90 million and is intended to be laid entirely within the easement of the existing pipeline. The staged development of the new pipeline will be directly related to the system requirements for gas and it is currently expected for either 30km or 50 km to be required initially.

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The Young to Wagga Wagga Pipeline provides gas to the towns in the central south of NSW including the Riverina, Cootamundra, Young and Wagga Wagga, whilst also providing an interlink between the NSW gas supply network through to Victoria. The pipeline is bi-directional enabling Moomba gas from South Australia to flow to Victoria and Bass Strait gas from Longford to flow to Sydney.

More recently the pipeline has also operated as storage facility to enable the supply of natural gas high peak flow rates as a base fuel to a new power station at Uranquinty.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The initial requirement for the looping pipeline is to enable expansion of the operating capability of the pipeline, and the provision of more flexible transportation services in EAPL's pipeline network.

There are currently two initial scenarios being considered, 30 km of looping providing an additional 15TJ/day of capacity or 50 km of looping providing an additional 25 TJ/day of capacity.

Ultimately the whole pipeline from Young to Wagga Wagga could be looped, which would provide EAPL with greater additional capability to move gas interstate between the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline and the Victorian supply system.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The pipeline will be a buried, high pressure (10.2MPa) gas transmission pipeline which initially would be operated at 8.5 MPa attached to the existing system. The pipe is expected to be supplied in 18m lengths which will be welded together on site and buried with at least 750mm depending upon terrain and prevailing land use.

PLANNING PROVISIONS AND LEGISLATIVE REGIME

The Project has been designated a Major Project by the Department of Planning under Part 3A of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 on the grounds of Major Projects SEPP Schedule 1, Clause 6 (2) (b) "Development for the purpose of Petroleum related works that has a capital investment value greater than $A30 million."

The project is not expected to cause a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) as it will be entirely located inside the existing easement. The pipeline construction will though require a working width slightly wider than the easement and as there exists the potential, however unlikely, to impact on threatened species a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act* (EPBC) will be made.

The relevant Local Environmental Plans and Regional Planning Instruments associated with the proposed pipeline route include the:

- Young Local Environmental Plan
- Cootamundra Shire Local Environmental Plan
- Harden Shire Local Environmental Plan
- Junee Shire Local Environmental Plan
- Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan
- Western New South Wales Regional Environmental Plan.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

No key opportunities or constraints associated with Regional Strategies or Environmental Planning Instruments have been identified to date. This will be further investigated during the assessment process.

Re-use of the existing gas pipeline easement will simplify the environmental processes.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

East Australian Pipeline Pty Ltd (EAPL), is proposing to loop the existing 12" Young to Wagga Wagga Pipeline with an 18" Pipeline. The existing pipeline is licensed by the Department of Water and Energy as Licence 19. The new pipeline would be approximately 131 km in length and would be built in stages to suit the requirements.

The Project is estimated to cost approximately $80 - $90 million and is intended to be laid entirely within the easement of the existing pipeline. The pipeline will have a staged development, directly relating to the requirements of gas users, but it is currently anticipated to be either 30km or 50 km of pipeline heading north east from Bowmen initially.

1.2 The Proponent

EAPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of APA Group. APA Group is comprised of Australian Pipeline Trust and APT Investment Trust, is a major ASX-listed energy transmission company in Australia with interests in almost 12,000 km of natural gas pipeline infrastructure and over 2,300 km of gas distribution networks.

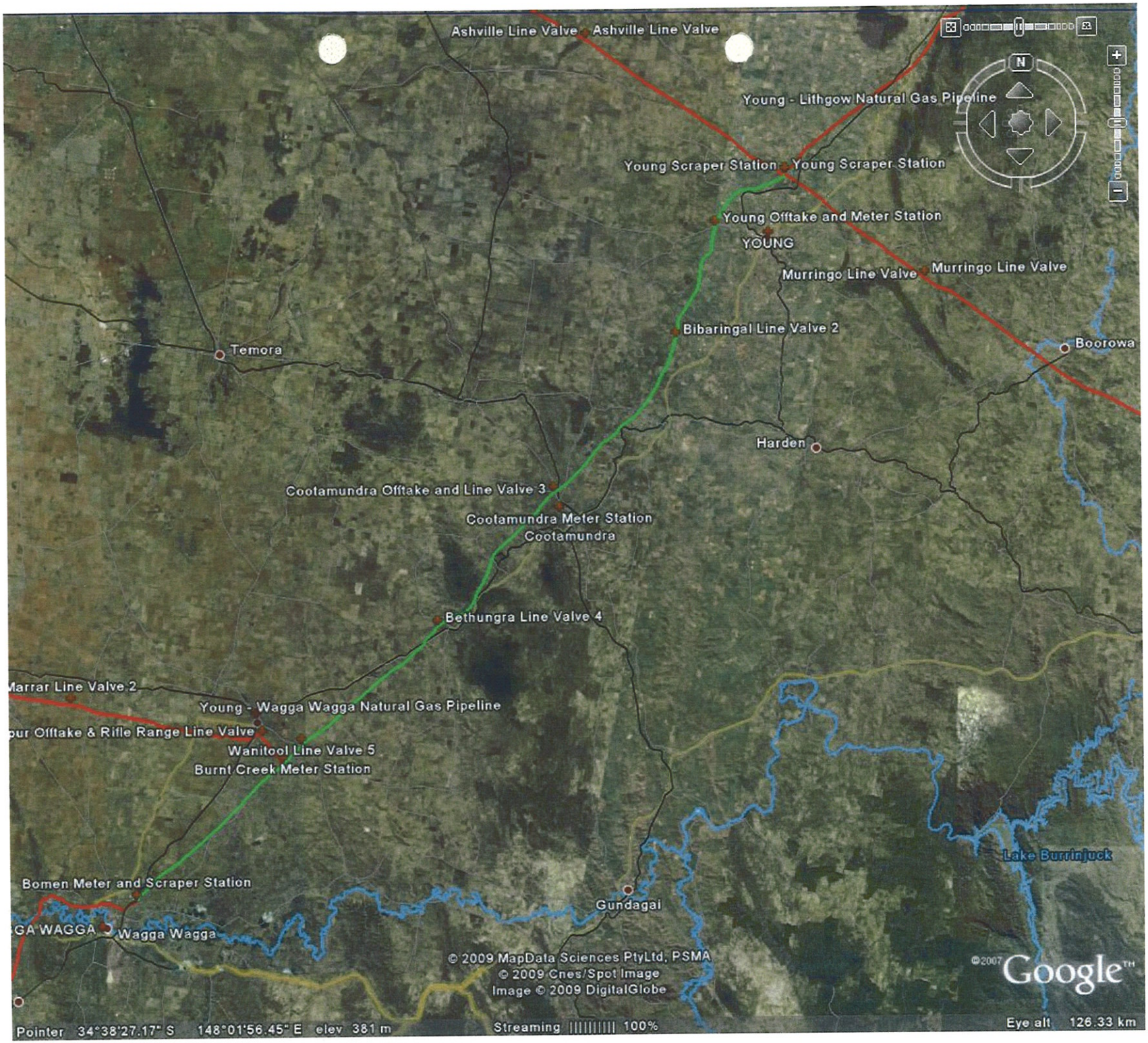
APA manages and operates all its assets and also provides management and operation services to gas distribution and transmission company Envestra and other energy infrastructure companies.

APA employs over 1,100 people.

1.3 Purpose and Scope of the Document

The purpose of this document is to provide a description of the proposed Young to Wagga Wagga Looping Pipeline to enable the NSW Government to determine the environmental assessment criteria to be applied to the Project as a Major Project for which Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) will apply.

Figure 1-1 : Young to Wagga Wagga Looping Pipeline


Ashville Line Valve
Ashville Line Valve
Young - Lithgow Natural Gas Pipeline
Young Scraper Station
Young Scraper Station
Young Offtake and Meter Station
YOUNG
Murringo Line Valve
Murringo Line Valve
Bibaringal Line Valve 2
Temora
Boorowa
Harden
Cootamundra Offtake and Line Valve 3
Cootamundra Meter Station
Cootamundra
Bethungra Line Valve 4
Marrar Line Valve 2
Young - Wagga Wagga Natural Gas Pipeline
our Offtake & Rifle Range Line Valve
Wanitool Line Valve 5
Burnt Creek Meter Station
Bomen Meter and Scraper Station
GA WAGGA
Wagga Wagga
Gundagai
Lake Burrinjuck
© 2009 MapData Sciences PtyLtd, PSMA
© 2009 Cnes/Spot Image
Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe
©2007 Google™
Pointer 34°38'27.17" S 148°01'56.45" E elev 381 m
Streaming 100%
Eye alt 126.33 km

2.0 NEED FOR THE PROJECT

2.1 Justification

The Young to Wagga Wagga Pipeline provides gas supply to the towns in the central south of NSW including the Griffith, Cootamundra, Young and Wagga Wagga. The pipeline is bi-directional also enabling Moomba gas from South Australia to flow to Victoria and Bass Strait gas from Longford to flow to Sydney.

More recently the pipeline has also operated as storage facility to enable the supply of natural gas high peak flow rates as a base fuel to a new power station at Uranquinty.

2.2 Objectives

The key objectives of this proposal are to:

- Provide increased capability to provide transportation services including that required by power stations.
- Facilitate the increased use of a cleaner burning fuel source for power generation in NSW.
- Enhancing the security of gas supply by strengthening the link between Victoria and New South Wales

The key objectives of the construction methodology will include:

- Construct a pipeline that has the minimum practicable impact on both the natural and built environment by utilising the existing easement;
- Utilise regional skilled labour in the construction and subsequent operation of the Project.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Route

The proposed pipeline will run north east from the Bowmen Meter Station towards the Young Compressor Station. Initially only part of the pipeline will be constructed, the length required being determined through consultation with the gas users.

The pipeline route traverses the Young, Cootamundra, Harden and Junee Shire Council areas in NSW. The area is predominantly used for grazing and cropping.

3.2 Route selection criteria

The strategic objectives in selecting the proposed pipeline route included:

- Economical construction;
- Operability considering environmental, access, stakeholder and cost

impacts;
- Acceptable development costs; and
- Reduced environmental impacts by utilising an existing easement
- The location of the power station.

Table 3-1: Criteria for selection of Pipeline Length

Length	Rationale
30 km	Provides an addition 15 TJ/day capacity
50 km	Provides an addition 25 TJ/day capacity
131 km	Provides additional capacity in the lateral whilst significantly enhancing the interconnection between Victoria and NSW

3.3 Pipeline

The pipeline would be a buried class 600, steel pipe with a proposed maximum allowable operating pressure 10.2MPa. The pipeline would be designed and built to AS2885 Pipelines Gas and Liquid Petroleum. It is anticipated that 18" pipe will be used throughout.

Above ground structures are expected to include four scraper stations at each end with four mainline valves (MLVs), marker posts and cathodic protection inspection points. The cathodic protection test points would most likely coincide with those of the existing pipeline.

3.4 Construction Activities

Pipeline construction is linear production-line-work with each crew targeting similar daily production rates for their specific activity, which for a Project of this size would be in the order of 2 km per day. Activities are carried out sequentially with each crew typically being separated by approximately 1 week.

Typical activities to be undertaken include:

Temporary Facilities - A range of temporary facilities will be required during pipeline construction. These include work areas for equipment, pipe delivery and storage and borrow pits to source additional fill material (if required). The location of the temporary facilities will be based upon logistical requirements.

Pipe haulage – Pipe will need to be transported to site and it is anticipated that this would be by road. Pipe is typically supplied in 18m lengths transported on extended semi-trailers with a capacity to carry around 0.5km of pipe per truck. Therefore 50 km of pipeline could involve approximately 100 loaded truck movements, however due to the linear nature of the development these truck movements would not be likely to all occur in one location.

Access - During construction, access tracks will be required to areas such