





# **Bulloo Interlink Pipeline**

## **Scoping Report**

APA Group

10 April 2025



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# Abbreviations and glossary of terms

Term	Definition
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
APA	APA Group Pty Ltd
AS	Australia Standards
CROW	Construction Right of Way
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (formerly DPE)
EIS	Environmental impact statement
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
FTE	Full time equivalent
NSW EPA	New South Wales Environment Protection Authority
PCT	Plant community type
POEO Act	<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>
Pipeline alignment	The route of the pipeline.
Project area	The area likely to be physically disturbed by the project during construction.
SEARs	Secretary's environmental assessment requirements
Study area	A 500 metre buffer applied to either side of the indicative project area for the purposes of the desktop assessment undertaken as part of this Scoping Report.
The project	The New South Wales (NSW) portion of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

APA Group (APA) own and operate gas pipelines across Australia, including the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline extending from Moomba (South Australia) to Wilton (New South Wales), and the South West Queensland Pipeline in southern Queensland. The 2025 *Gas Statement of Opportunities* (Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), 2025) projects potential gas supply shortfalls during peak demand periods in Australia. Without further gas supply, an annual gas supply gap is forecast to emerge by 2028 on Australia's east coast and grow over time. AEMO emphasises the importance of progressing key gas infrastructure projects to minimise shortfall risks.

To address potential gas supply shortfalls and ensure the reliability of energy supply as Australia increases its reliance on renewable sources, APA is planning to develop the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline. The Bulloo Interlink Pipeline is an underground high-pressure gas pipeline that would link the South West Queensland Pipeline in Queensland with the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline in NSW.

The Bulloo Interlink Pipeline, which is about 336 kilometres long, would provide a more direct route for natural gas to travel from Australia's northern production areas to southern gas markets. The Bulloo Interlink Pipeline consists of about 231 kilometres of pipeline located in Queensland and about 105 kilometres in NSW, as shown in Figure 1.1.

The section of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline located in NSW (referred to as 'the project' for the purposes of this document) is State significant infrastructure, requiring assessment and approval in accordance with Part 5, Division 5.2 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act).

As State significant infrastructure, the project is subject to approval by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. The application for approval needs to be supported by an environmental impact statement (EIS), prepared in accordance with the Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs).

Approval for the Queensland section of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline will be sought under a separate approval process in accordance with Queensland legislation and approval requirements.

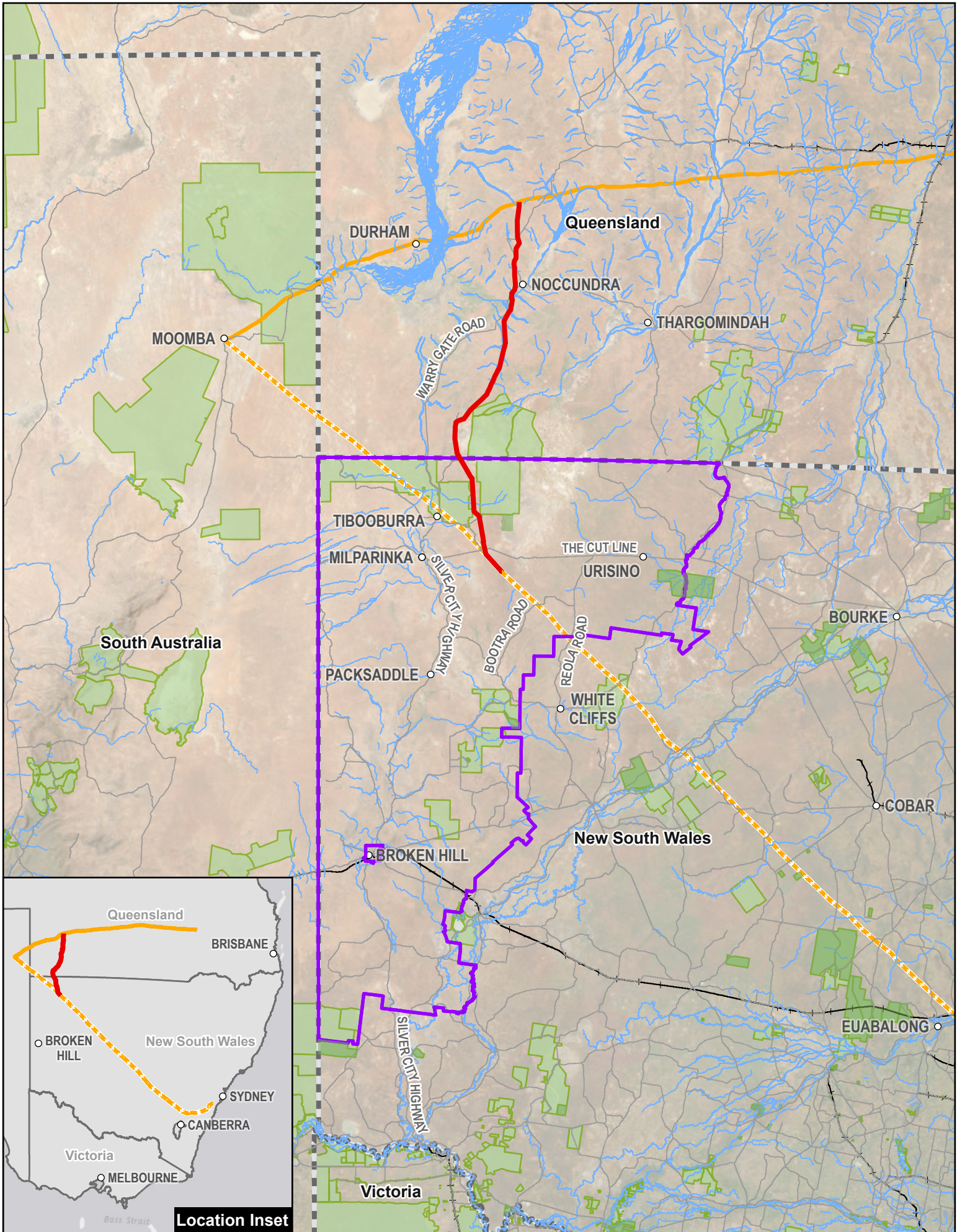
## 1.2 Project overview

The project involves constructing, operating, and decommissioning about 105 kilometres of underground high pressure gas pipeline and associated above ground infrastructure in NSW.

### 1.2.1 Location

The project is located entirely within the Far West Unincorporated Area, passing in the vicinity of the townships of Tibooburra and Milparinka. The project extends south from the Queensland-NSW border for about 85 kilometres then traverses south-east for about 20 kilometres running parallel to the southwestern side of the existing Moomba to Wilton Pipeline easement before reaching a tie-in point with the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline about 71 kilometres southeast of Tibooburra.

The location of the project is shown in Figure 1.2.



**Figure 1.1 Bulloo Interlink Pipeline overview**

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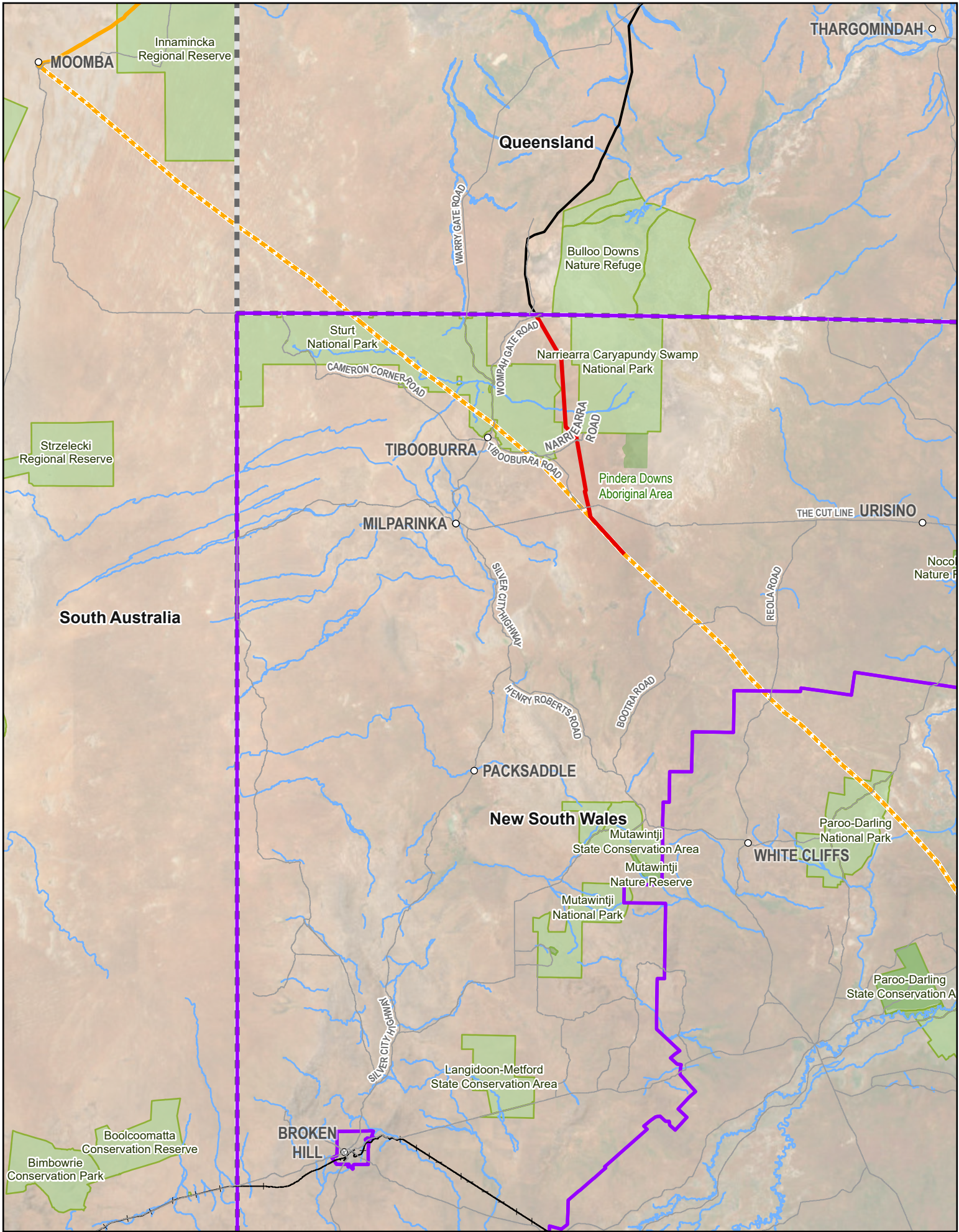
- Bulloo Interlink Pipeline
- Moomba to Wilton Pipeline
- South West Queensland Pipeline
- State border
- Far West Unincorporated Area
- NPWS Reserve
- Major waterway
- Major road
- Railway
- Protected Areas
- Population centre


**Scale:** 0 25 50 75 100 Kilometres

**Location Inset:** Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Brisbane, Broken Hill, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Bass Strait.

**Data source:** Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat: © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Earthstar Geographics; World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS; World Hillshade: Esri, USGS.

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- Indicative project alignment
- Moomba to Wilton Pipeline
- South West Queensland Pipeline
- Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (QLD - out of scope)
- State border
- Far West Unincorporated Area
- Protected Areas
- NPWS Reserve
- Major waterway
- Major road
- Railway
- Population centre

**Figure 1.2 Project location**

0


10

20

30

40

Kilometres



Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat: © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Earthstar Geographics; World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS; World Hillshade: Esri, USGS

## 1.2.2 Key features

The project would be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the Australian Standard (AS) *AS 2885 Pipelines – Gas and Liquid Petroleum* series of standards (AS 2885) and the *Code of Environmental Practice – Onshore Pipelines* (Australian Pipelines and Gas Association (APGA), 2022) (the APGA Code of Environmental Practice).

The key operational features of the project include:

- an underground high pressure, steel gas transmission pipeline with a length of about 105 kilometres
- a nominal operational easement of up to 30 metres
- supporting above ground infrastructure, including:
  - an end of line facility which would include a connection to the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline
  - standalone main line valve(s)
  - pipeline marker signs
  - temperature control station
  - anode beds.

Key ancillary facilities and infrastructure outside the construction right of way (CROW) would include:

- temporary workforce accommodation and associated construction compound to support construction
- potential smaller workforce accommodation camps to support construction of above ground infrastructure, specifically the temperature control station and end of line facility
- up to two pipe stockpile areas.

Further information about the project is provided in Chapter 3.

## 1.2.3 Timing

It is anticipated construction in NSW would start Q3 2027, subject to obtaining all necessary approvals and would take about nine months to complete. The project is expected to be operational from mid-2028.

## 1.3 The proponent

APA owns and/or manages and operates a diverse \$26 billion portfolio of energy assets, including gas, electricity, solar and wind assets. APA currently delivers around half of Australia's domestic gas through 15,000 kilometres of gas pipelines that APA own, operate and maintain.

The proponent's details are as follows:

Proponent Name: APA Bulloo Interlink Pipeline Pty Ltd  
Address: Sydney, NSW 2000  
ACN: 684765142

## 1.4 Purpose and structure of this report

This Scoping Report has been prepared to support a State significant infrastructure application for the project, and to assist the formulation of the SEARs, in accordance with sections 5.15 and 5.16 of the EP&A Act.

It provides preliminary information on the project and identifies relevant environmental matters and impacts for assessment. It has been prepared with regard to the *State Significant Infrastructure Guidelines* (DPHI, 2024) (in particular *State significant infrastructure guidelines – preparing a scoping report* (DPIE, 2022)).

The report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 1 – provides an introduction to the project and content of the Scoping Report
- Chapter 2 – describes the strategic context of the project, the project need and alternatives
- Chapter 3 – provides a description of the project
- Chapter 4 – provides the statutory context for the project
- Chapter 5 – outlines the stakeholder engagement process
- Chapter 6 – identifies the potential impacts of the project and summarises the proposed approach to assessing these impacts.

## 2. Strategic context

### 2.1 East Australian gas market

Gas supply shortfalls are predicted to occur from as early as 2029 if no sufficient alternatives are introduced. The supply and demand of natural gas depends on factors such as weather, electricity market conditions, infrastructure maintenance, and any relevant policy changes (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, 2024).

The 2025 *Gas Statement of Opportunities* (AEMO, 2025) projects potential gas supply shortfalls during peak demand periods in Australia as early as 2028, with a more pronounced seasonal gap by 2029. Without further gas projects, and enabling infrastructure, an annual gas supply gap is forecast to emerge by 2028 on Australia's east coast. AEMO emphasises the importance of progressing key infrastructure projects to minimise shortfall risks, including APA's East Coast Grid Expansion plans to transport gas to southern demand centres.

Additionally, the Australian Government's *Future Gas Strategy* (Department of Industry, Science and Resources, 2024) underlines a coordinated, nation-wide approach to mitigate supply challenges by expanding gas infrastructures and moving gas across significant distances, using pipelines, and the management of storage.

The project will meet the objectives of the Australian Government's *Future Gas Strategy* (Department of Industry, Science and Resources, 2024) which maps the Australian Government's plan for how gas will support our economy's transition to net zero in partnership with the world.

### 2.2 Need for the project

Australia must urgently unlock and prioritise domestic gas to support energy security and to put downward pressure on energy prices and emissions. The Australian Government's *Future Gas Strategy* (2024) highlights the role gas must play to ensure a reliable, affordable and lower emissions energy system. The critical need for more domestic gas supply was reinforced by AEMO's 2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities, which showed risks of shortfalls in the years ahead if appropriate measures are not taken. By 2030, southern gas production is forecast to have declined by approximately 60 per cent compared to 2025, highlighting the need for more gas to move north to south to meet east coast gas demand.

Over the past four years, APA has invested around \$700 million to expand the East Coast Gas Grid to ensure transport capacity has been available to customers. It can continue to be expanded cost-effectively and incrementally over the next five years to ensure infrastructure capacity is available to meet customer demand and to avoid the long-term need for more expensive and higher emissions imported LNG.

Once operational, the project would provide a more direct connection to the southern markets. The reduced transportation distance will eliminate the need for additional compressor stations and allow natural gas to flow more efficiently, while increasing capacity and reducing energy losses and carbon emissions. The project will provide longer term operational life to the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline and provide increased gas flow in peak demand periods.

The project plays an important role in ensuring long-term energy security for Australia while supporting the transition to more sustainable and renewable energy sources. By increasing gas capacity in the southern markets, the project enhances the overall energy infrastructure and helps maintain stability in the energy market as renewable energy becomes a larger part of the energy mix.

## **2.3 Alternatives considered**

### **2.3.1 Do nothing**

If the project does not progress or obtain approval, then the benefits of establishing the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline will not materialise. APA will continue to transfer gas from Queensland to the NSW markets using the South West Queensland Pipeline and connection at Moomba to the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline as is the current operating conditions, with augmentation of the existing pipeline to increase capacity through the addition of midline compressors.

### **2.3.2 Site selection**

Several options for site selection for permanent infrastructure and ancillary facilities and infrastructure as follows.

#### **Pipeline alignment and above ground infrastructure**

The proposed alignment is indicative and has been selected based on desktop assessment of publicly available data to minimise impacts on landholders, community and the natural environment.

The pipeline alignment, and location of above ground infrastructure, will continue to be refined as detailed technical studies and pipeline design works progress in consultation with affected landowners, stakeholders, engineering, ecology and constructability specialists. The pipeline alignment and location of above ground infrastructure will be confirmed in the EIS.

#### **Ancillary facilities and infrastructure**

Ancillary infrastructure is described in section 3.6.2. The location of ancillary facilities and infrastructure will be informed by logistics investigations which are currently underway and the engineering design phase, and in consultation with landowners, stakeholders and technical specialists. The location of ancillary facilities and infrastructure will be confirmed in the EIS.

# 3. Project

## 3.1 Project area

The project commences at the Queensland-NSW border and extends south for about 85 kilometres to the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline easement near Tibooburra. The project then runs parallel to the southwestern side of the existing easement, to a tie in point with the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline. The indicative project area to inform this Scoping Report is shown in Figure 3.1. The CROW for the pipeline would be generally 40 metres wide, however would be reduced to 35 metres in constrained areas. Once operational, the pipeline would be located in a new easement, up to 30 metres wide. Above ground infrastructure would generally be located adjacent to or in close proximity to the easement. Where the pipeline runs parallel to the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline, the new easement would be immediately adjacent to the existing easement.

The location of ancillary facilities and infrastructure, including temporary workforce accommodations, water bores and pipe stockpile areas will be identified in the EIS and the project area will be revised accordingly. Additional areas which may be required for specific uses, such as access tracks or work spaces such as turning areas, will also be identified in the EIS.

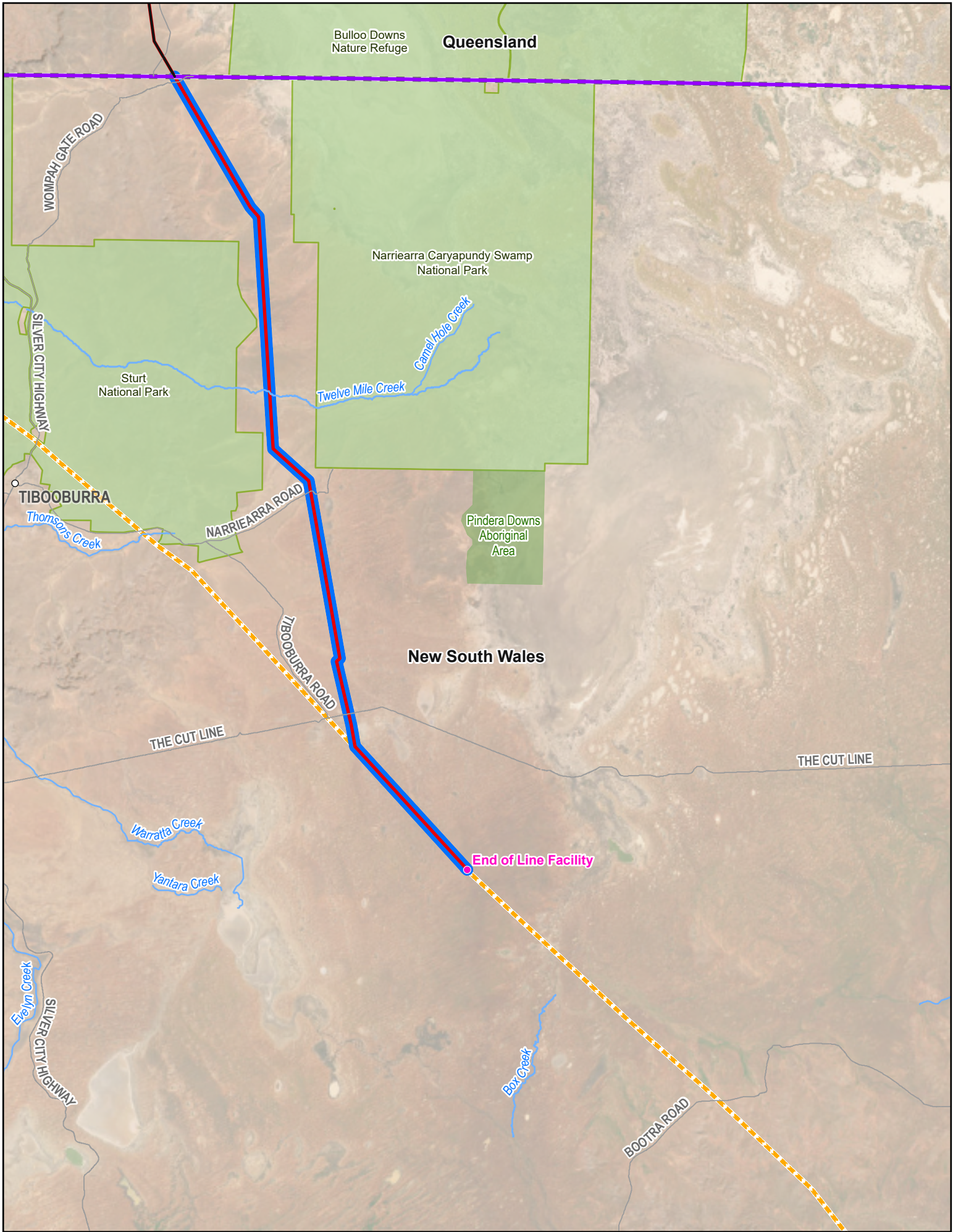
## 3.2 Overview

The project involves constructing, operating, and decommissioning about 105 kilometres of underground natural gas transmission pipeline and associated above ground infrastructure in NSW as part of the larger Bulloo Interlink Pipeline project.


A summary of the key operational features of the project is provided in Table 3.1. A description of the proposed infrastructure, construction methodology, operation and decommissioning is provided in sections 3.3 to 3.8.

**Table 3.1** Project infrastructure and operation (NSW)

Pipeline design element	Specification
Pipeline length (approximate)	105 kilometres
Pipeline diameter	711 millimetres
Nominal wall thickness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Standard wall 14.7 millimetres</li> <li>– Heavy wall 17.55 millimetres</li> </ul>
Pipe material	API 5L Grade X70 steel line pipe
Pipe nominal capacity	800 terajoules per day
Gas type	Natural gas compliant with AS 4564-2011
Specified minimum yield strength	483 MPag
Minimum pipeline burial depth from the surface (depth of cover)	Minimum 750 millimetres
<b>Above ground infrastructure</b>	
End of line facility connecting to the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline	Approximately 250 metres by 250 metres site at the end of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline and adjacent to the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline.
Main line valve (MLV)	Where standalone, area of 0.1 hectare with impressed cathodic protection located adjacent to the MLV. Remote vent to be installed approximately 100 metres from the MLV. Exact location to be determined following further assessment and consultation with landholders.
Marker signs	To be installed in accordance with AS2885.1 and generally at 500 metre intervals or line of sight within pipeline easement.
Temperature control station	Approximate 150 metres by 150 metres site. Location will be subject to land suitability, and will incorporate a MLV.
Anode beds	Approximately 50 metres by 5 metres and set off up to 200 metres from the pipeline. Located at end of line facility and possible intermediate location (subject to corrosion protection study).



**Figure 3.1 Indicative project area**




**LEGEND**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">—</span> Indicative project area</li> <li><span style="color: black; font-weight: bold;">—</span> Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (QLD - out of scope)</li> <li><span style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">- - -</span> Moomba to Wilton Pipeline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> State border</li> <li> Protected Areas</li> <li> NPWS Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: grey; font-weight: bold;">—</span> Major road</li> <li><span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">—</span> Major waterway</li> <li><span style="color: grey; font-weight: bold;">○</span> Population centre</li> <li><span style="color: magenta; font-weight: bold;">●</span> Indicative above ground infrastructure location</li> </ul>
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0 3.5 7 10.5 14

Kilometres



Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat: © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Hillshade: Esri, CGIAR; World Imagery: Earthstar Geographics; World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS. N:\AU\Sydney\Projects\21\12658961\GIS\Maps\Deliverables\12658961\_ProjectDescription\_Alignment\_V2.aprx\12658961\_PD003\_ProjectArea\_A

## 3.3 Permanent project infrastructure

### 3.3.1 Pipeline

The gas transmission pipeline would be about 105 kilometres in length, and 711 millimetres in diameter. It would be installed underground along the indicative route shown in Figure 3.1. The majority of the pipeline would be installed about 0.75 metres below ground. The pipeline would be buried deeper where it crosses beneath roads or tracks (about 1.2 metres below ground), or watercourses (1.5 to 5 metres below ground, depending on the size of the watercourses and construction methodology).

The pipeline would transport natural gas from north to south at a nominal capacity of up to 800 terajoules per day. It would be constructed of steel line pipe with a wall thickness suitable for transporting gas at high pressures. The max allowable operating pressure of the pipeline is designed to be 15,320 kilopascal gauge.

The planned design life of the pipeline is 40 years.

### 3.3.2 Above ground infrastructure

The underground pipeline would be supported by above-ground infrastructure that would provide pipeline control and access for maintenance during the operational phase of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline.

#### End of line facility

The above ground infrastructure for the pipeline would include an end of line facility at the tie-in point with the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline. The site of the facility would encompass an area of about 250 metres by 250 metres and house various supporting infrastructure including:

- connection to the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline
- scraper trap
- site power generation (grid, solar, batteries and gas engine backup)
- gas filtration
- flow measurement
- main line valve
- pressure regulation
- overpressure protection.

Due to the remote location, the end of line facility would also potentially include short-term accommodation and a helipad in case emergency maintenance is required.

The scraper station would allow in-pipe gauging, cleaning and in-line inspection during the pipeline's commissioning and operation. During operation scraper stations are used to launch and receive intelligent pigging tools into and out of the pipeline which helps to maintain the pipeline's integrity by inspecting for any issues without stopping the flow of gas.

#### Main line valve

A standalone main line valve would be located on a fenced site about 0.1 hectares in size, with the location to be determined during the engineering design phase. The main line valve would be used to minimise gas loss in the event of a significant leak or rupture. Impressed cathodic protection may be supplied at the main line valve.

#### Temperature control station

A temperature control station, inclusive of a main line valve, would be located on a site about 150 metres by 150 metres, with the location to be determined during the engineering design phase. The temperature control station would include a series of control valves in parallel to provide an upstream pressure cut to reduce the required gas heating downstream at the end of line facility.

## Pipeline marker signs

Pipeline marker signs would be installed generally every 500 metres or within line of sight, and in accordance with AS 2885 to indicate the presence of the underground pipeline and reduce the risk of inadvertent damage to the pipeline. Pipeline marker signs would generally be located within the operational easement of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline.

## 3.4 Indicative construction methodology

An outline of the indicative approach to construction is provided below.

### 3.4.1 Site establishment

Site establishment work ahead of the pipeline construction would include:

- establishment of ancillary facilities and infrastructure including a temporary workforce accommodation and associated construction compound, and installation of power supply, water and any other utilities
- establishment of smaller temporary workforce accommodation facilities for construction of above ground infrastructure, specifically the temperature control station and end of line facility
- establishment of pipe stockpile areas in proximity to the CROW. It is anticipated that up to two stockpile areas will need to be established
- survey of the pipeline CROW
- installation of temporary fences and gates to facilitate construction access.

New access tracks to facilitate construction access to the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline would only be constructed if required. Where possible, existing tracks and public roads would be utilised to minimise additional vegetation clearing and civil works. It is likely that existing access tracks would need to be widened and upgraded.

To prepare for the pipeline construction works, the pipe would be delivered by rail for temporary storage, before being transported by pipe trucks to pipe stockpile areas in proximity to the CROW.

### 3.4.2 Pipeline construction

Pipeline construction would be carried out in a linear progression from north to south. The project would use typical construction methods for constructing gas pipelines, including:

- Clearing and grading: Graders, bulldozers and excavators would be used to clear and prepare the CROW, ready for construction to commence. Topsoil and vegetation would be stockpiled separately to assist in restoration works after pipeline construction is completed. Environmental management controls, including erosion and sediment controls would be installed during ground disturbance activities within the CROW.
- Stringing and bending: Pipeline lengths transported from pipe stockpile areas would be laid end to end within the CROW, adjacent to where the trench would be excavated. Pipeline lengths would be bent to conform to site terrain and route direction.
- Welding, testing and coating: Pipeline lengths would be welded together into pipe “strings”. The weld joints would be tested for quality and integrity by non-destructive testing, and then the weld joints would be coated for corrosion protection.
- Trenching: Trenches would be excavated using specialised trenching machines and excavators. Rock hammers may be required to facilitate excavation in hard rock. It is unlikely that blasting would be necessary. Excavated subsoil would be placed adjacent to the trench and kept for backfilling.
- Lowering and padding: The pipe would be lowered into the trench using side booms. Fine grade material (padding) would be placed into the trench to protect the pipeline coating from abrasion damage.
- Backfilling: The trench would be backfilled with the excavated subsoil material and compacted to prevent settlement of the trench during operation.
- Hydrostatic testing: Pipeline sections would be filled progressively with water and then pressurised as a method of confirming the strength and integrity of the pipeline.

Trenchless construction methods would be used in particular areas to avoid surface disturbance. Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is a trenchless method of excavation used for major watercourse crossings. A hole is drilled beneath the ground surface feature and the pipe is then pulled back through the drilled hole. Road crossings may be bored to reduce impacts on traffic flow and to ensure no damage to road pavement integrity. Boring is a low impact technique involving drilling short distances from below ground within an enlarged trench area (borepit) either side of the road within the CROW.

Areas of additional workspace would be required intermittently adjacent to the CROW for turn around areas and stockpiling of soil, vegetation or additional materials. These areas are typically associated with watercourse and road crossings, as well as areas of significant side slope, heavy vegetation or other construction constraints.

Construction of the pipeline would occur in accordance with AS 2885. Further details of the construction methods, including the locations of trenchless construction, will be confirmed in the EIS.

### 3.4.3 Reinstatement and rehabilitation

As soon as practicable after pipe laying and backfill, the CROW and temporary workspaces would be cleared of all construction equipment, materials and waste, stabilised, and rehabilitated. The objectives of the rehabilitation works would be to:

- return the easement land to as close as possible to its pre-existing state within a reasonable timeframe
- re-establish topsoil cover and stability as soon as possible
- re-establish pre-existing topographic contours and drainage patterns
- establish erosion control measures (e.g. contours banks, filter strips) in erosion prone areas
- re-establish vegetation.

Re-instatement of vegetation would be designed so as not to compromise the pipeline operation (e.g. trees would not be planted above or near the pipeline alignment, preventing roots from interfering with the pipeline).

All construction and rehabilitation activities will be undertaken in accordance with the *Australian Pipeline and Gas Association Code of Environmental Practice, Onshore Pipelines (2022)*.

Following reinstatement and rehabilitation of the pipeline easement marker signs would be installed in accordance with AS2885.1 to delineate the pipeline.

Given the pipeline would be underground, landowners would be able to continue regular land use activities above the pipeline provided they do not undertake excavation activities or erect structures in the pipeline easement once construction is complete.

Temporary workforce accommodation facilities would be demobilised and disturbed areas rehabilitated.

### 3.4.4 Pipeline commissioning

Commissioning activities would include:

- instrument calibration
- gas filling
- testing and commissioning of stations and valves.

### 3.4.5 Above ground infrastructure

Site establishment works for construction of above ground infrastructure, including the temperature control station and end of line facility would generally include site bulk earthworks including excavation for buried services and cut/fill to establish levels for infrastructure installation. Detailed construction activities will be detailed in the EIS.

## 3.5 Construction timing and staging

Construction of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline would take about 14 months to complete. In NSW, construction is likely to take nine months to complete, with an additional period of up to two months for commissioning. This construction period would include mobilisation of plant and equipment, easement rehabilitation and demobilisation of plant and equipment.

Project scheduling would be based on one mainline crew commencing and progressing in a sequential, methodical manner. Construction of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline would first commence in Queensland. Works in NSW would commence on the Queensland border, with workers initially staying at a temporary workforce accommodation facility in Queensland before relocating to the NSW workforce accommodation. A smaller workforce accommodation facility may be required to support construction of above ground infrastructure.

## 3.6 Construction resources, access and facilities

### 3.6.1 Workforce

A workforce of up to 400 full-time equivalent personnel is anticipated for the construction phase of the project.

### 3.6.2 Construction ancillary facilities and infrastructure

A temporary workforce accommodation facility and associated construction compound would be established in NSW to accommodate the workforce for most of the pipeline construction stage. The facility, comprising demountable buildings, would include facilities such as:

- rooms and areas for sleeping, food storage and preparation, eating and recreational activities
- materials storage
- generators to power the camp
- firefighting systems
- project management offices, reception, lockers and training rooms
- amenities
- parking area including parking for 4WD vehicles
- plant and equipment laydown areas
- mechanical workshop
- vehicle washbay and hygiene station
- bunded hazardous material storage/vehicle fuel store and refuelling area
- water production bores
- water storage dams
- water treatment facility or septic system and wastewater irrigation field
- waste storage areas for waste generated by the workforce accommodation facility
- plant and laydown area.

It is likely that a smaller construction compound would be located at the end of line facility site. This area would be included within the footprint of the end of line facility or CROW.

The identification of potential sites for the workforce accommodation facility and pipe stockpile would focus on areas of pre-existing disturbance, including an old airstrip or in areas with low woody vegetation. Due to distance, a smaller workforce accommodation facility for approximately 20 to 40 personnel may be required to support construction of the above ground infrastructure, specifically the temperature control station and end of line facility.

The construction ancillary facilities and infrastructure will be identified and assessed as part of the EIS.

### 3.6.3 Traffic and access

The project would require the use of roads and access tracks for construction of the pipeline. Where possible existing roads and tracks would be used to avoid additional vegetation clearing and civil works. Track upgrades are expected to be required for heavy vehicle use.

Where no existing access tracks are available new tracks would be formed. Permanent accesses would need to be established along the pipeline corridor to provide access during operation of the project.

Specific roads to be used by heavy and light vehicles, including from the temporary workforce accommodation facility and transport to and from pipe stockpile areas, will be identified and assessed in the EIS.

### 3.6.4 Equipment and resources

#### Plant and equipment

A variety of plant and equipment would be used during construction. This would include a range of large machinery, such as cranes, excavators, trucks, compactors, dozers, trenchers, bending machines, graders, side-booms, and tractors.

Smaller plant and equipment would include generators, welding equipment, bobcats, hydrotest equipment, pigs for hydrotesting, trench shields/sheet piles, and small hand/personal tools.

#### Construction materials

Typical materials for construction would include but not be limited to:

- line pipe
- valves
- pre-fabricated pipe bends
- consumables (e.g. welding rods, grinding discs, etc.)
- field joint coating materials
- sand, gravel and concrete
- sand bags
- garnet for sand blasting
- marker posts/CP system
- fuels and lubricants.
- timber skids (for positioning welded pipe)
- fencing materials
- gates
- cattle grids
- culverts and flume pipes
- signage
- soil ameliorations
- re-vegetation materials (seeding, tubestock, etc.)
- erosion and sediment control consumables (geofabrics, jutemesh stakes, polymers, haybales, etc.)
- office consumables.

#### Water

Water would be required during construction of the project for:

- general use
- dust suppression
- vehicle wash-down
- access track construction and maintenance
- hydrotesting.

The EIS will assess water sources that would be used as part of the project as well as the likely volumes of water to be used. The EIS will include the details of any new bores proposed including their location and how much water they would provide.

Water would be sourced from existing bores as far as possible. If sufficient volumes of water cannot be sourced from existing bores, then drilling of new bores would be considered. Water storage (turkey next dam or similar) will be established as required adjacent to each bore or water source.

## Gravel sourcing

Upgrades of existing tracks and formation of new access tracks would require suitable gravel. Gravel would also be required for the temporary workforce accommodation facilities and laydown areas to create hardstand areas.

Existing quarries and borrow pits would be preferentially selected to source gravel, subject to necessary consents. If new borrow pits are required to source suitable materials, this will be discussed in the EIS.

## 3.7 Operation

Once construction is complete, the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline would be commissioned and operated remotely from APA's Integrated Operations Centre control room in Brisbane for 24 hours per day. The pipeline would be continuously monitored from the control room, which allows for managing necessary operational adjustments, tracking gas flows, and emergency response.

Any on site operation activities would be carried out during daylight hours unless an emergency requires work being carried out at night. Typical operational activities include:

- minor maintenance (testing, cleaning, and equipment performance checks)
- systems assessment, along with calibrations and adjustments where necessary
- equipment repair, as needed.

Permanent access tracks established during the construction stage would be regularly used during operation of the pipeline for surveillance and maintenance of infrastructure, as required.

## 3.8 Decommissioning and rehabilitation

The planned design life of the pipeline is 40 years. The decommissioning phase would occur at the end of the pipeline's design life and may involve removal of infrastructure followed by rehabilitation of disturbance areas back to their original state, which may include filling excavated areas.

A decommissioning plan would be prepared prior to decommissioning. The plan would be prepared in consultation with regulatory authorities and landholders and in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements and best practice guidelines at the time of decommissioning.

## 4. Statutory context

The key requirements of the EP&A Act and other statutory instruments in relation to the approval and assessment of the project are summarised in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Summary of statutory requirements for the project

Matter	Comment
<p><b>Power to grant consent</b></p>	<p>The project is State significant infrastructure by operation of Division 5.2, section 5.12 of the EP&amp;A Act and section 2.13(1) of State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 (the Planning Systems SEPP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Section 5.12(2) of the EP&amp;A Act provides that a State environmental planning policy may declare any development, or any class or description of development, to be State significant infrastructure.</li> <li>– Section 2.13(1) of the Planning Systems SEPP provides that development is State significant infrastructure if it is permissible without development consent under Part 4 of the EP&amp;A Act and it is specified in the categories of development in Schedule 3 of the Planning Systems SEPP. Schedule 3, clause 5(a) of the Planning Systems SEPP defines State significant infrastructure as development for the purpose of a pipeline in respect of which a licence is required under the <i>Pipelines Act 1967</i> (the Pipelines Act).</li> </ul> <p>As the project is permissible without consent and requires a licence under the Pipelines Act (see below), it is declared State significant infrastructure. As declared State significant infrastructure, the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is the approval authority for the project in accordance with section 5.14 of the EP&amp;A Act.</p>
<p><b>Permissibility</b></p>	<p>Section 2.75(1) of State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 (the T&amp;I SEPP) provides that development for the purpose of pipeline may be carried out without consent on any land if the pipeline is subject to a licence under the Pipelines Act.</p> <p>In addition, section 2.75(4) provides that a reference to development for the purpose of a pipeline includes construction works.</p> <p>It is noted that section 2.75(3) of the T&amp;I SEPP places additional requirements for development on land in Zone C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves or an equivalent land use zone. The project would not affect land of this type, so the requirements of this section do not apply.</p>
<p><b>Other approvals</b></p>	<p><b>Approvals that must be applied consistently</b></p> <p>In accordance with section 5.24 of the EP&amp;A Act, approvals under other specified NSW legislation (listed in section 5.24(1)) that may apply to the project cannot be refused and must be applied consistently with the approval for the State significant infrastructure. Those approvals potentially relevant to the project are considered below.</p> <p><b>Licence under the Pipelines Act</b></p> <p>Part 3 of the Pipelines Act provides the licensing requirements for pipelines. In accordance with section 11, a licence is required to construct, alter, reconstruct and operate a pipeline.</p> <p>A Pipelines Act licence would be required to construct and operate the project. Project approval under the EP&amp;A Act is required prior to the pipeline licence application being considered.</p> <p><b>Consent under section 138 of the Roads Act 1993</b></p> <p>Consent under section 138 of the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> from the relevant road authority to disturb, erect a structure, or carry out a work in, on or over a public road is not required as a result of section 138(5), which provides that section 138 does not apply to anything done under the provisions of the Pipelines Act.</p> <p><b>Environment protection licence (EPL) under Chapter 3 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act)</b></p> <p>Schedule 1 of the POEO Act lists scheduled activities for which an EPL is required. Construction and/or operation of pipelines are not listed in Schedule 1 and therefore an EPL is not required.</p> <p><b>Approvals not required for approved State significant infrastructure</b></p> <p>In accordance with section 5.23 of the EP&amp;A Act the following approvals, which may otherwise have been required, are not required for State significant infrastructure and are therefore not relevant to the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– a permit under sections 201, 205 and 219 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i></li> <li>– an approval under Part 4 or an excavation permit under section 139 of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i></li> <li>– an Aboriginal heritage impact permit under section 90 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i></li> </ul>

Matter	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– a water use approval under section 89, a water management work approval under section 90, or an activity approval (other than an aquifer interference approval) under section 91 of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Construction of the project may require an aquifer interference approval. This will be considered in the EIS.</p> <p><b>Other approvals</b></p> <p><b><i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i></b></p> <p>In accordance with the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act), proposed actions with the potential to significantly impact matters protected by the EPBC Act must be referred to the Australian Minister for the Environment and Water to determine whether they are controlled actions and require approval from the Minister. A referral for the whole Bulloo Interlink Pipeline project will be submitted in parallel to the EIS process. The project in NSW will not be assessed under the Assessment Bilateral Agreement.</p>
<p><b>Pre-conditions to exercising the power to grant approval</b></p>	<p><b>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</b></p> <p>Part 7 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act) applies to approvals under the EP&amp;A Act. Section 7.9 provide that an application for approval of State significant infrastructure must be accompanied by a biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR) unless the proposed development is not likely to have a significant impact on biodiversity values. A BDAR will be prepared to support the EIS (see section 6.2).</p> <p>Section 7.14 provides that, when determining an application in accordance with the EP&amp;A Act, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces must take into account the likely impact of a proposed development on biodiversity values as assessed in the BDAR.</p>
<p><b>Mandatory matters for consideration</b></p>	<p>Mandatory considerations are the matters the approval authority is required to consider in deciding whether to grant approval. These considerations include those defined in the following sections of the EP&amp;A Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– section 1.3 – The objects of the EP&amp;A Act are guiding principles that need to be considered by planning authorities when making decisions under the Act</li> <li>– section 5.17(1) – Provides that the proponent must submit an EIS for approval to carry out State significant infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>The EIS will need to meet the minimum form and content requirements prescribed by Part 8 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (the EP&amp;A Regulation). Divisions 4 and 5 of Part 8 of the EP&amp;A Regulation provide requirements for environmental assessment of State significant infrastructure and requirements for EISs. These will be addressed by the EIS.</p>

# 5. Engagement

## 5.1 Introduction

Consultation with key stakeholders would occur throughout the EIS and engineering design phase, and construction stages of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline, and as needed through the commissioning, operation, and decommissioning stages.

Consultation would support:

- compliance with statutory requirements and expectations
- an informed community and key stakeholders
- understanding and incorporating community feedback and key issues into the design and delivery of the project.

## 5.2 Stakeholder identification

APA has undertaken initial stakeholder review and identified that key groups may include, but are not limited to, those outlined in Table 5.1.

*Table 5.1 Stakeholders identified for consultation*

Government	Commercial	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)</li> <li>– NSW DCCEEW</li> <li>– NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Industry</li> <li>– Qld Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</li> <li>– Qld Department of Transport</li> <li>– Heritage Council NSW</li> <li>– Aboriginal Affairs NSW</li> <li>– Western Local Land Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Landholders and representative bodies</li> <li>– Service providers and NGOs</li> <li>– Asset owners and operators, including Telstra</li> <li>– Industry associations</li> <li>– Customers and shareholders</li> <li>– Media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– First Nations People – individuals and communities</li> <li>– First Nations People representative groups, land councils</li> <li>– Private landholders</li> <li>– Local community members and businesses</li> <li>– Environmental and special interest groups</li> <li>– Unions</li> <li>– Research bodies</li> </ul>

Consultation with the First Nations people would be undertaken in accordance with NSW DCCEEW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*.

## 5.3 Engagement approach

Communication and engagement activities will be guided by project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which identifies key stakeholders, documents their likely interests and concerns and outlines the proposed communication approach, tools and stakeholder consultation schedule. The SEP will be actively monitored, reviewed and updated as the project progresses and details are refined to ensure engagement remains relevant and responsive.

Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation. APA has objectives to be transparent, involve diverse stakeholders, and facilitate positive relationships in their approach to consultation.

Early consultation has commenced for the project with key stakeholders. Initial public notification occurred in March 2025. APA will deliver tailored engagement activities to support public notification which may include community information sessions, project webpage, factsheets and stakeholder briefing sessions.

# 6. Proposed assessment of impacts

## 6.1 Overview

The study area adopted for the desktop assessment undertaken to inform the Scoping Report includes the indicative CROW and an additional 500m buffer either side. Existing environmental conditions and features were examined in the study area for the purposes of analysing the potential impact of the project and scoping an appropriate level of environmental assessment to be undertaken in the EIS.

The scoping process involved preparing a scoping worksheet and identifying activities that could impact the relevant environmental, social and economic matters listed in the *State significant infrastructure guidelines – preparing a scoping report* (DPIE, 2022) (refer to Appendix A). Key factors considered included the sensitivity of the existing receiving environment and the scale and nature of the proposed project activities during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

The proposed level of assessment outlined in this section are categorised with reference to the *State significant infrastructure guidelines* (DPHI, 2024) and *State Significant Infrastructure guidelines – Preparing a Scoping Report* (DPE, 2022) as requiring either:

- *Detailed assessment* – the project may result in significant impacts on the matter, including cumulative impacts, or involve uncertainties, and the assessment of the impacts will therefore require detailed studies and investigations carried out by technical specialists; or
- *Standard assessment* – the project is unlikely to result in significant impacts on the matter, including cumulative impacts, and the impacts are likely to be typical for similar projects and capable of being mitigated to comply with relevant standards; or
- *No further assessment is required* – the project will have no impact on the matter or the impacts on the matter will be so small that they are not worth considering.

Based on this scoping exercise, the matters that will require detailed assessment of impacts, including potential cumulative impacts are:

- Biodiversity (terrestrial biodiversity, threatened species and communities, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and waterbirds and migratory species).

The following sections provide an overview of the potential issues for the matter groups identified by the scoping report guidelines. Key features of the existing environment are noted, potential issues and impacts identified (including those identified as an outcome of the issues scoping process) and the indicative scopes of the EIS assessments are provided.

## 6.2 Biodiversity (threatened species and communities)

### 6.2.1 Existing environment

The existing environment of the study area was determined through a desktop assessment and a rapid field assessment undertaken over seven days in February 2025 by Arcadian Ecology.

The study area is part of the Channel Country and Mulga Lands bioregions which includes a small area of NSW but also extends into Queensland, Northern Territory and South Australia. The climate is extremely arid, characterised by hot temperatures and low, erratic rainfall of only about 215 millimetres per year.

The study area is close to two National Parks – the Sturt National Park to the west and the Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park to the east. The Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park contains the internationally significant (Ramsar) Caryapundy Swamp wetland. South of the wetland and outside the extent of the National Park is the Bulloo Overflow. In wet years, the Bulloo River floods into huge, semi-permanent lakes in the swamp and the overflow, attracting large numbers of water birds. The swamp and overflow areas are the terminal basins of an inland system of wetlands.

## Native vegetation

Based on desktop mapping, the study area has been identified to traverse a diverse range of native vegetation types including the following broad vegetation formations:

- freshwater wetlands
- forested wetlands
- saline wetlands
- grasslands
- semi-arid woodlands (grassy sub-formation)
- arid shrublands (acacia and chenopod sub-formation).

These six vegetation formations contain a total of 27 Plant Community Types (PCTs). The PCTs mapped as being present within the study area are shown in Figure 6.1.

Plant community types (PCTs) mapped as occupying large proportions of the study area include:

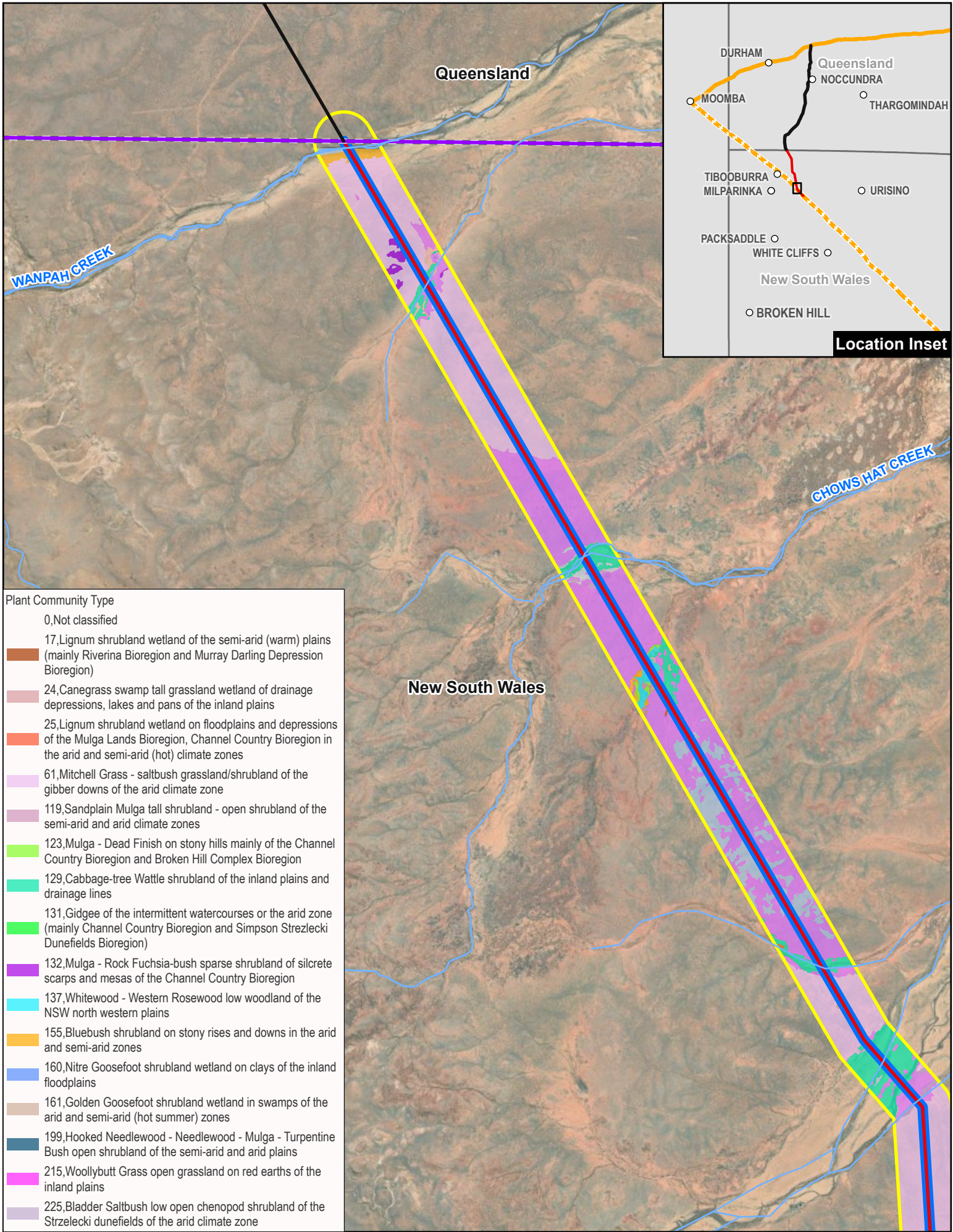
- PCT 61 Mitchell Grass – saltbush grassland/shrubland of the gibber downs of the arid climate zone
- PCT 119 Sandplain Mulga tall shrubland – open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid climate zones.
- PCT 123 Mulga – Dead Finish on stony hills mainly of the Channel Country Bioregion and Broken Hill Complex Bioregion
- PCT 155 Bluebush shrubland on stony rises and downs in the arid and semi-arid zones
- PCT 198 Sparse saltbush forland wetland of the irregularly inundated lakes of the arid and semi-arid (persistently hot) climate zones
- PCT 129 Cabbage-tree Wattle shrubland of the inland plains and drainage lines
- PCT 137 Whitewood – Western Rosewood low woodland of the NSW north western plains.

Within the study area there are two threatened ecological communities listed under the BC Act that have the potential to occur based on the PCTs mapped. These include:

- the *Acacia loderi* shrublands (an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC))
- the Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin (a Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC)).

The *Acacia loderi* shrublands EEC is associated with nine of the PCTs that are likely to occur in the study area. The Artesian Springs Ecological Community in the Great Artesian Basin CEEC is associated with five of the PCTs mapped as occurring in the study area.

The Caryapundy Swamp wetland is listed as a Ramsar wetland. This wetland is ephemeral in nature, where it is dry most of the time, with rare and irregular wet phases. During the wet phases, the wetlands provide shelter and foraging habitats for migratory birds and threatened fauna species.



- Plant Community Type**
- 0, Not classified
  - 17, Lignum shrubland wetland of the semi-arid (warm) plains (mainly Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion)
  - 24, Canegrass swamp tall grassland wetland of drainage depressions, lakes and pans of the inland plains
  - 25, Lignum shrubland wetland on floodplains and depressions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion, Channel Country Bioregion in the arid and semi-arid (hot) climate zones
  - 61, Mitchell Grass - saltbush grassland/shrubland of the gibber downs of the arid climate zone
  - 119, Sandplain Mulga tall shrubland - open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid climate zones
  - 123, Mulga - Dead Finish on stony hills mainly of the Channel Country Bioregion and Broken Hill Complex Bioregion
  - 129, Cabbage-tree Wattle shrubland of the inland plains and drainage lines
  - 131, Gidgee of the intermittent watercourses or the arid zone (mainly Channel Country Bioregion and Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields Bioregion)
  - 132, Mulga - Rock Fuchsia-bush sparse shrubland of silcrete scarps and mesas of the Channel Country Bioregion
  - 137, Whitewood - Western Rosewood low woodland of the NSW north western plains
  - 155, Bluebush shrubland on stony rises and downs in the arid and semi-arid zones
  - 160, Nitre Goosefoot shrubland wetland on clays of the inland floodplains
  - 161, Golden Goosefoot shrubland wetland in swamps of the arid and semi-arid (hot summer) zones
  - 199, Hooked Needlewood - Needlewood - Mulga - Turpentine Bush open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid plains
  - 215, Woollybutt Grass open grassland on red earths of the inland plains
  - 225, Bladder Saltbush low open chenopod shrubland of the Strzelecki dunefields of the arid climate zone

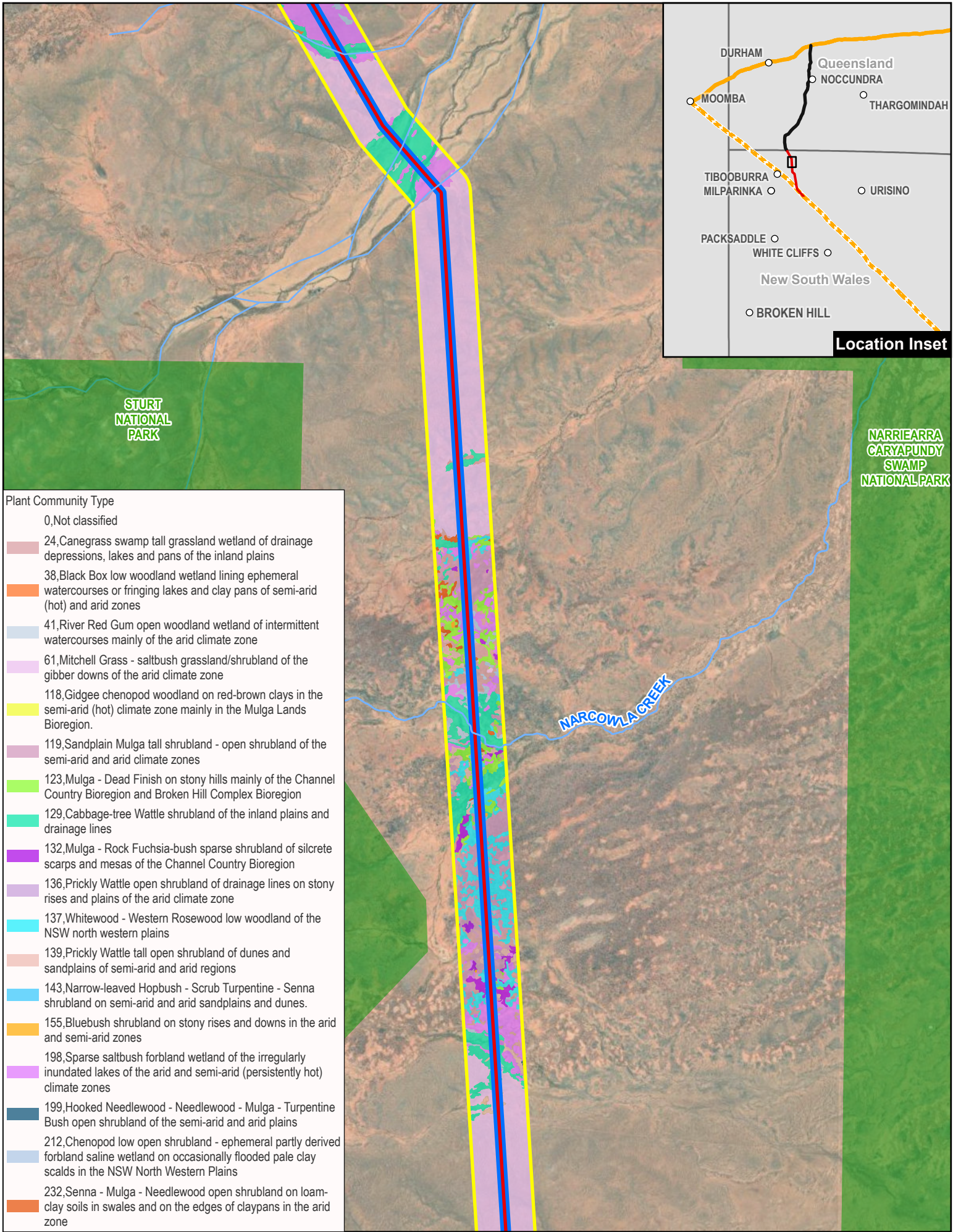
**LEGEND**

- Study area
- Indicative project area
- Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (NSW)
- State border
- Far West Unincorporated Area
- Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (QLD - out of scope)
- Major Watercourse

**FIGURE 6.1a Plant Community Types**

0 0.55 1.1 1.65 2.2  
Kilometres

Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community; World Hillshade: Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS; World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS.

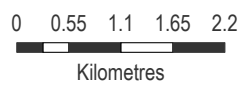


- Plant Community Type**
- 0, Not classified
  - 24, Canegrass swamp tall grassland wetland of drainage depressions, lakes and pans of the inland plains
  - 38, Black Box low woodland wetland lining ephemeral watercourses or fringing lakes and clay pans of semi-arid (hot) and arid zones
  - 41, River Red Gum open woodland wetland of intermittent watercourses mainly of the arid climate zone
  - 61, Mitchell Grass - saltbush grassland/shrubland of the gibber downs of the arid climate zone
  - 118, Gidgee chenopod woodland on red-brown clays in the semi-arid (hot) climate zone mainly in the Mulga Lands Bioregion.
  - 119, Sandplain Mulga tall shrubland - open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid climate zones
  - 123, Mulga - Dead Finish on stony hills mainly of the Channel Country Bioregion and Broken Hill Complex Bioregion
  - 129, Cabbage-tree Wattle shrubland of the inland plains and drainage lines
  - 132, Mulga - Rock Fuchsia-bush sparse shrubland of silcrete scarps and mesas of the Channel Country Bioregion
  - 136, Prickly Wattle open shrubland of drainage lines on stony rises and plains of the arid climate zone
  - 137, Whitewood - Western Rosewood low woodland of the NSW north western plains
  - 139, Prickly Wattle tall open shrubland of dunes and sandplains of semi-arid and arid regions
  - 143, Narrow-leaved Hopbush - Scrub Turpentine - Senna shrubland on semi-arid and arid sandplains and dunes.
  - 155, Bluebush shrubland on stony rises and downs in the arid and semi-arid zones
  - 198, Sparse saltbush forbland wetland of the irregularly inundated lakes of the arid and semi-arid (persistently hot) climate zones
  - 199, Hooked Needlewood - Needlewood - Mulga - Turpentine Bush open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid plains
  - 212, Chenopod low open shrubland - ephemeral partly derived forbland saline wetland on occasionally flooded pale clay scalds in the NSW North Western Plains
  - 232, Senna - Mulga - Needlewood open shrubland on loam-clay soils in swales and on the edges of claypans in the arid zone

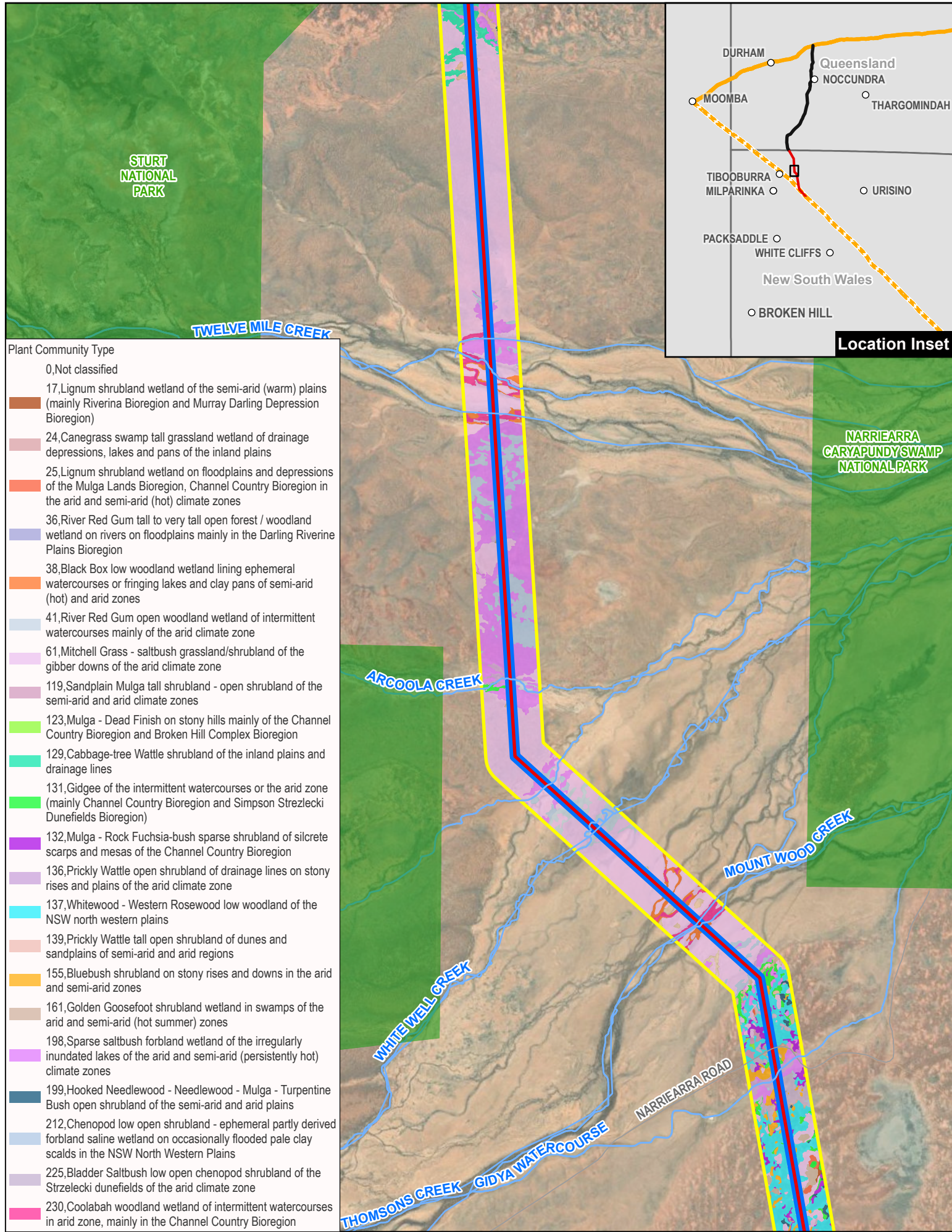
**LEGEND**

- Study area
- National Park
- Indicative project area
- Major Watercourse
- Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (NSW)

**FIGURE 6.1b Plant Community Types**



Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community; World Hillshade: Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS; World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS.

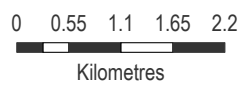


- Plant Community Type**
- 0, Not classified
  - 17, Lignum shrubland wetland of the semi-arid (warm) plains (mainly Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion)
  - 24, Canegrass swamp tall grassland wetland of drainage depressions, lakes and pans of the inland plains
  - 25, Lignum shrubland wetland on floodplains and depressions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion, Channel Country Bioregion in the arid and semi-arid (hot) climate zones
  - 36, River Red Gum tall to very tall open forest / woodland wetland on rivers on floodplains mainly in the Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion
  - 38, Black Box low woodland wetland lining ephemeral watercourses or fringing lakes and clay pans of semi-arid (hot) and arid zones
  - 41, River Red Gum open woodland wetland of intermittent watercourses mainly of the arid climate zone
  - 61, Mitchell Grass - saltbush grassland/shrubland of the gibber downs of the arid climate zone
  - 119, Sandplain Mulga tall shrubland - open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid climate zones
  - 123, Mulga - Dead Finish on stony hills mainly of the Channel Country Bioregion and Broken Hill Complex Bioregion
  - 129, Cabbage-tree Wattle shrubland of the inland plains and drainage lines
  - 131, Gidgee of the intermittent watercourses or the arid zone (mainly Channel Country Bioregion and Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields Bioregion)
  - 132, Mulga - Rock Fuchsia-bush sparse shrubland of silcrete scarps and mesas of the Channel Country Bioregion
  - 136, Prickly Wattle open shrubland of drainage lines on stony rises and plains of the arid climate zone
  - 137, Whitewood - Western Rosewood low woodland of the NSW north western plains
  - 139, Prickly Wattle tall open shrubland of dunes and sandplains of semi-arid and arid regions
  - 155, Bluebush shrubland on stony rises and downs in the arid and semi-arid zones
  - 161, Golden Goosefoot shrubland wetland in swamps of the arid and semi-arid (hot summer) zones
  - 198, Sparse saltbush forland wetland of the irregularly inundated lakes of the arid and semi-arid (persistently hot) climate zones
  - 199, Hooked Needlewood - Needlewood - Mulga - Turpentine Bush open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid plains
  - 212, Chenopod low open shrubland - ephemeral partly derived forland saline wetland on occasionally flooded pale clay scalds in the NSW North Western Plains
  - 225, Bladder Saltbush low open chenopod shrubland of the Strzelecki dunefields of the arid climate zone
  - 230, Coolabah woodland wetland of intermittent watercourses in arid zone, mainly in the Channel Country Bioregion

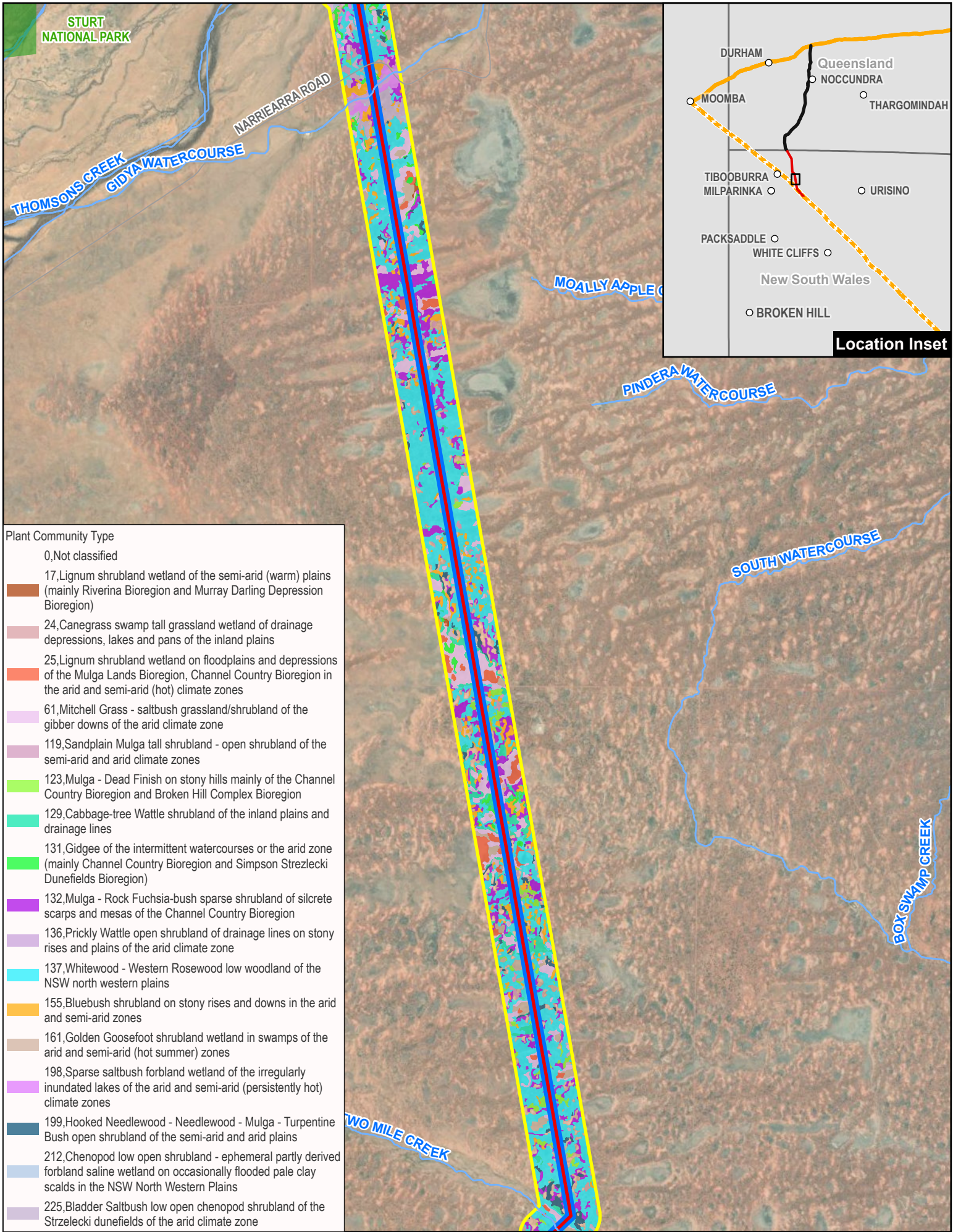
**LEGEND**

Study area	National Park
Indicative project area	Major Watercourse
Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (NSW)	Major road

**FIGURE 6.1c Plant Community Types**



Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community; World Hillshade: Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS, World Light Gray Canyon Base, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS.



- Plant Community Type**
- 0, Not classified
  - 17, Lignum shrubland wetland of the semi-arid (warm) plains (mainly Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion)
  - 24, Canegrass swamp tall grassland wetland of drainage depressions, lakes and pans of the inland plains
  - 25, Lignum shrubland wetland on floodplains and depressions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion, Channel Country Bioregion in the arid and semi-arid (hot) climate zones
  - 61, Mitchell Grass - saltbush grassland/shrubland of the gibber downs of the arid climate zone
  - 119, Sandplain Mulga tall shrubland - open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid climate zones
  - 123, Mulga - Dead Finish on stony hills mainly of the Channel Country Bioregion and Broken Hill Complex Bioregion
  - 129, Cabbage-tree Wattle shrubland of the inland plains and drainage lines
  - 131, Gidgee of the intermittent watercourses or the arid zone (mainly Channel Country Bioregion and Simpson Strezlecki Dunefields Bioregion)
  - 132, Mulga - Rock Fuchsia-bush sparse shrubland of silcrete scarps and mesas of the Channel Country Bioregion
  - 136, Prickly Wattle open shrubland of drainage lines on stony rises and plains of the arid climate zone
  - 137, Whitewood - Western Rosewood low woodland of the NSW north western plains
  - 155, Bluebush shrubland on stony rises and downs in the arid and semi-arid zones
  - 161, Golden Goosefoot shrubland wetland in swamps of the arid and semi-arid (hot summer) zones
  - 198, Sparse saltbush forland wetland of the irregularly inundated lakes of the arid and semi-arid (persistently hot) climate zones
  - 199, Hooked Needlewood - Needlewood - Mulga - Turpentine Bush open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid plains
  - 212, Chenopod low open shrubland - ephemeral partly derived forland saline wetland on occasionally flooded pale clay scalds in the NSW North Western Plains
  - 225, Bladder Saltbush low open chenopod shrubland of the Strzelecki dunefields of the arid climate zone

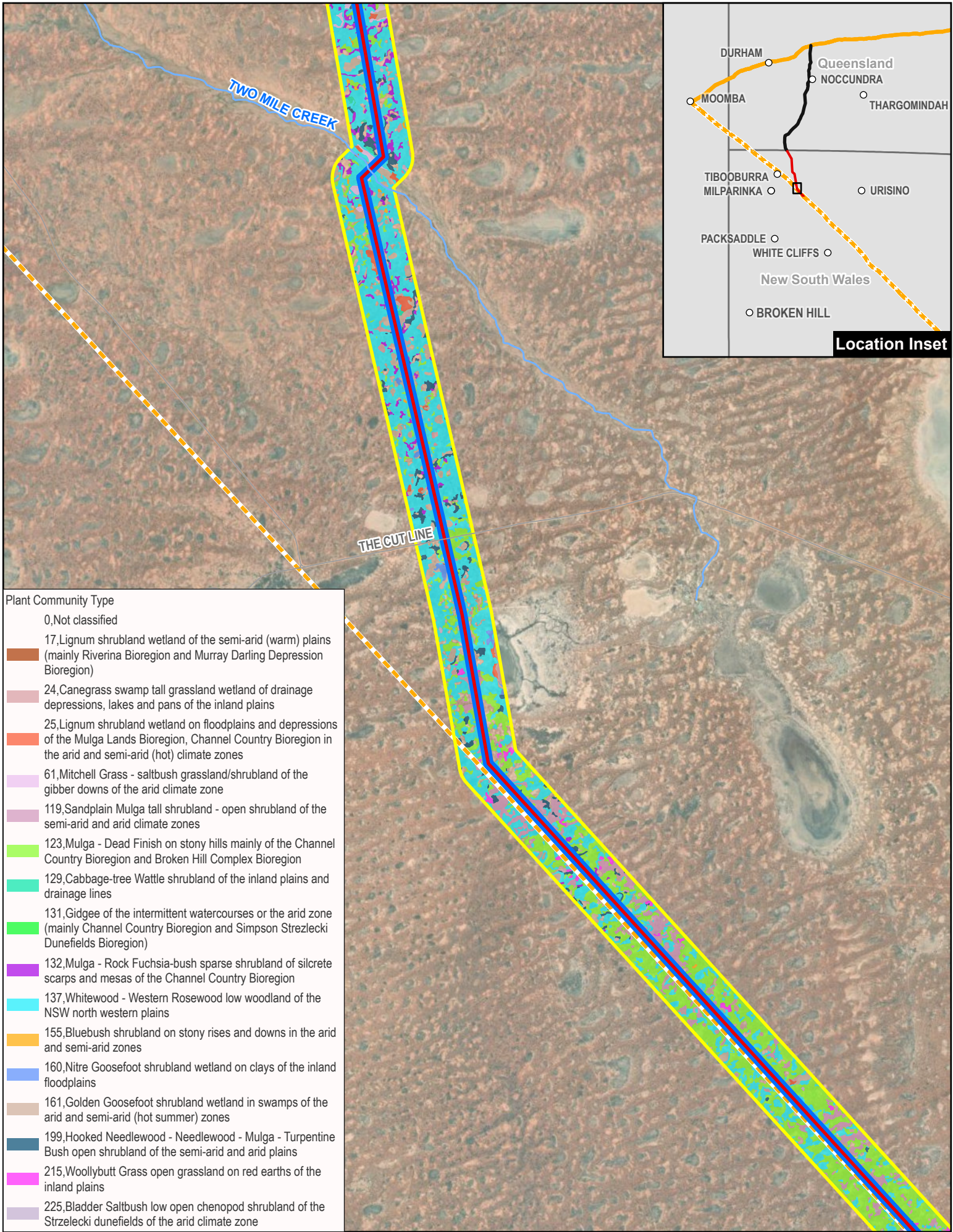
**LEGEND**

- Study area
- Indicative project area
- Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (NSW)
- Moomba to Wilton Pipeline
- National Park
- Major Watercourse
- Major road

**FIGURE 6.1d Plant Community Types**

0 0.55 1.1 1.65 2.2  
Kilometres

Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community; World Hillshade: Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS; World Light Gray Casuarina Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS.



- Plant Community Type**
- 0, Not classified
  - 17, Lignum shrubland wetland of the semi-arid (warm) plains (mainly Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion)
  - 24, Canegrass swamp tall grassland wetland of drainage depressions, lakes and pans of the inland plains
  - 25, Lignum shrubland wetland on floodplains and depressions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion, Channel Country Bioregion in the arid and semi-arid (hot) climate zones
  - 61, Mitchell Grass - saltbush grassland/shrubland of the gibber downs of the arid climate zone
  - 119, Sandplain Mulga tall shrubland - open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid climate zones
  - 123, Mulga - Dead Finish on stony hills mainly of the Channel Country Bioregion and Broken Hill Complex Bioregion
  - 129, Cabbage-tree Wattle shrubland of the inland plains and drainage lines
  - 131, Gidgee of the intermittent watercourses or the arid zone (mainly Channel Country Bioregion and Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields Bioregion)
  - 132, Mulga - Rock Fuchsia-bush sparse shrubland of silcrete scarps and mesas of the Channel Country Bioregion
  - 137, Whitewood - Western Rosewood low woodland of the NSW north western plains
  - 155, Bluebush shrubland on stony rises and downs in the arid and semi-arid zones
  - 160, Nitre Goosefoot shrubland wetland on clays of the inland floodplains
  - 161, Golden Goosefoot shrubland wetland in swamps of the arid and semi-arid (hot summer) zones
  - 199, Hooked Needlewood - Needlewood - Mulga - Turpentine Bush open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid plains
  - 215, Woollybutt Grass open grassland on red earths of the inland plains
  - 225, Bladder Saltbush low open chenopod shrubland of the Strzelecki dunefields of the arid climate zone

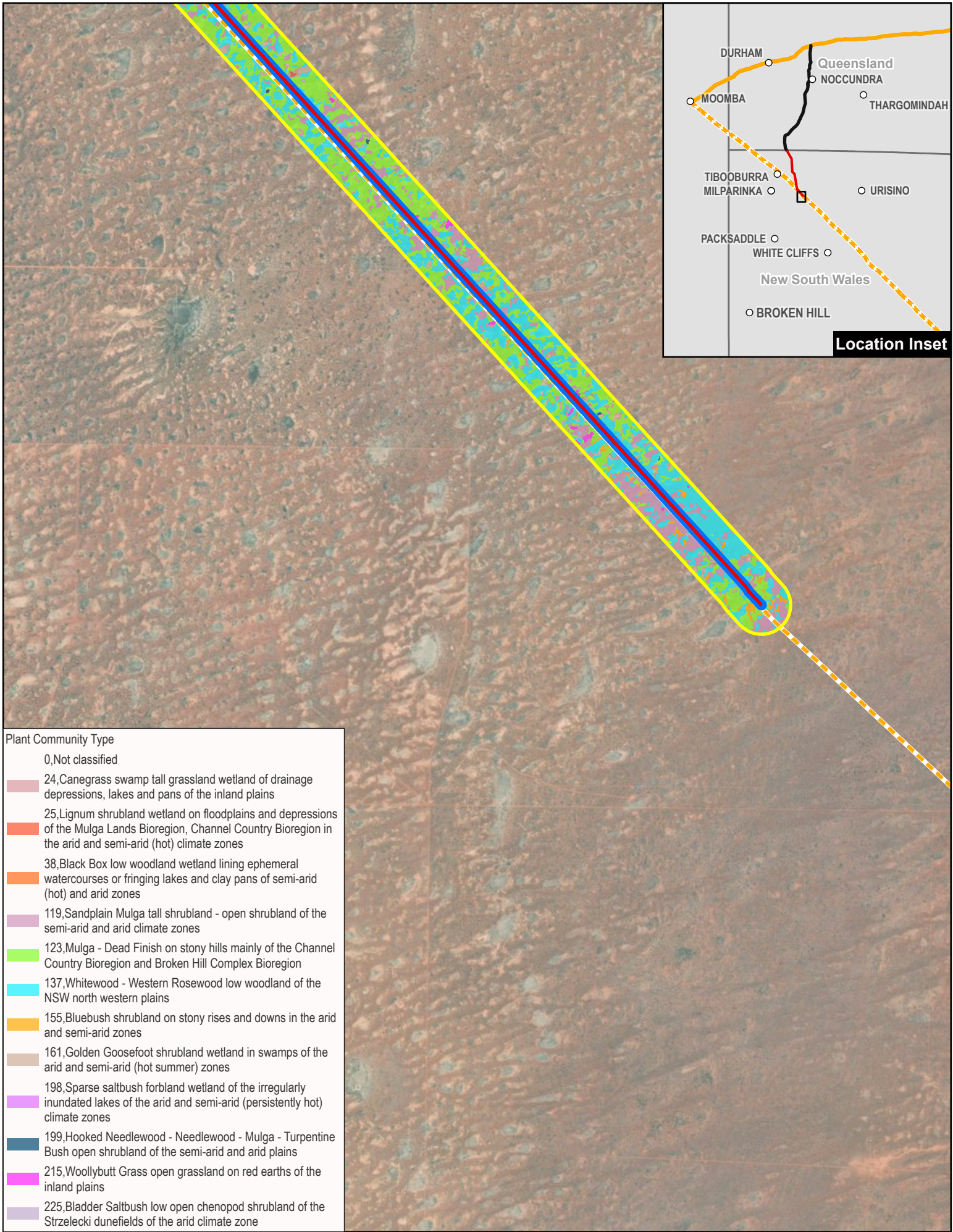
**LEGEND**

- Study area
- Moomba to Wilton Pipeline
- Indicative project area
- Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (NSW)
- Major Watercourse
- Major road

**FIGURE 6.1e Plant Community Types**

0 0.55 1.1 1.65 2.2  
Kilometres

Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Earthstar Geographics; World Hillshade: Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS; World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS; \ghdnet\ghd\AU\Sydney\Projects\21\12658961\GIS\Maps\Deliverables\12658961\_EnviroConstraints\_Alignment\_V2.aprx\12658961\_EC001\_EnvironmentalConstraints\_PCT\_A

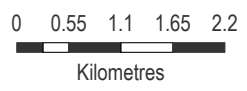


- Plant Community Type**
- 0, Not classified
  - 24, Canegrass swamp tall grassland wetland of drainage depressions, lakes and pans of the inland plains
  - 25, Lignum shrubland wetland on floodplains and depressions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion, Channel Country Bioregion in the arid and semi-arid (hot) climate zones
  - 38, Black Box low woodland wetland lining ephemeral watercourses or fringing lakes and clay pans of semi-arid (hot) and arid zones
  - 119, Sandplain Mulga tall shrubland - open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid climate zones
  - 123, Mulga - Dead Finish on stony hills mainly of the Channel Country Bioregion and Broken Hill Complex Bioregion
  - 137, Whitewood - Western Rosewood low woodland of the NSW north western plains
  - 155, Bluebush shrubland on stony rises and downs in the arid and semi-arid zones
  - 161, Golden Goosefoot shrubland wetland in swamps of the arid and semi-arid (hot summer) zones
  - 198, Sparse saltbush forbland wetland of the irregularly inundated lakes of the arid and semi-arid (persistently hot) climate zones
  - 199, Hooked Needlewood - Needlewood - Mulga - Turpentine Bush open shrubland of the semi-arid and arid plains
  - 215, Woollybutt Grass open grassland on red earths of the inland plains
  - 225, Bladder Saltbush low open chenopod shrubland of the Strzelecki dunefields of the arid climate zone

**LEGEND**

- Study area
- Indicative project area
- Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (NSW)
- Moomba to Wilton Pipeline

**FIGURE 6.1f Plant Community Types**



Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat: © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Earthstar Geographics; World Hillshade: Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS; World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, \ghdnet\ghd\AU\Sydney\Projects\21\12658961\GIS\Maps\Deliverables\12658961\_EnviroConstraints\_Alignment\_V2.aprx\12658961\_EC001\_EnvironmentalConstraints\_PCT\_A

## Threatened flora

Within the study area, 12 threatened flora species listed under the BC Act were identified to have a moderate or higher likelihood of occurrence. Of the threatened flora species identified with potential to occur within the study area, the following are also 'serious and irreversible impact' (SAIL) entities under the BC Act:

- Purple-wood Wattle (*Acacia carneorum*)
- Bindweed (*Convolvulus tedmoorei*)
- *Dipteracanthus australasicus* subsp. *corynothecus*
- Flame Spider-flower (*Grevillea kennedyana*)
- Silky cow-vine (*Ipomoea polymorpha*)
- *Nitella partita*
- *Polycarpaea spirostylis*
- Yellow-keeled swainsona (*Swainsona flavicarinata*).

Of the identified threatened flora species listed under the BC Act with a moderate or high likelihood of occurrence, one species, Flame Spider-flower (*Grevillea kennedyana*) is also listed under the EPBC Act.

## Threatened and migratory fauna

Within the study area, 48 threatened fauna species listed under the BC Act were identified as having a moderate to high likelihood of occurrence. Of the threatened fauna species identified with potential to occur, the following are also SAIL entities under the BC Act:

- Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
- Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*).

Desktop reviews also identified nine migratory species under the EPBC Act with a moderate to high likelihood of occurrence within the study area including:

- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)
- Caspian tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)
- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)
- Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*).

Of the identified threatened fauna species listed under the BC Act with a moderate or high likelihood of occurrence, 14 species are also listed under the EPBC Act.

## Aquatic ecology

Key Fish Habitat within the study area is mapped along Twelve Mile Creek (DPI, 2025). While the landscape is typical of a dry and arid environment, during wet years and high rainfall events temporary flooded land may provide limited, ephemeral moist habitat for aquatic species, particularly where subsurface clay loams occur.

## 6.2.2 Issues for consideration

A number of threatened native flora and fauna species, TECs, migratory species, important habitat values and sensitive environments occur or have the potential to occur within the study area.

The primary ecological concerns relate to clearing of native vegetation, including riparian areas and removal of habitat for listed threatened species, populations and communities. The disturbance for construction of the new pipeline and ongoing changes to vegetation communities within the operational easement would result in cumulative fragmentation of habitat for affected species when considered with existing fragmentation from the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline. Clearing of native vegetation would also have the potential to increase sedimentation, resulting in the runoff of soil into nearby wetland areas. Direct mortality of (particularly) ground-dwelling species by machinery, vehicles or other activities might also occur during construction.

Indirect impacts may also occur from dust, noise, lighting or from sediment/contaminant runoff from construction sites. No works are proposed within the boundaries of the Sturt National Park, the Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park or the Bulloo Overflow.

## 6.2.3 Assessment approach

Biodiversity	
<b>Proposed level of assessment</b>	Detailed (construction)
<b>Relevant guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Biodiversity Assessment Method</i> (BAM) (DPIE, 2020)</li> <li>– NSW Threatened Species Survey and Assessment Guidelines (various)</li> <li>– Matters of National Environmental Significance <i>Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1</i> (Commonwealth of Australia, 2013)</li> <li>– Commonwealth Department of the Environment – Nationally Threatened Ecological Communities and Threatened Species Guidelines (various)</li> <li>– Commonwealth Department of the Environment – Survey Guidelines for Nationally Threatened Species (various)</li> <li>– <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation, 2002)</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed approach to assessment</b>	<p>A biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR) will be prepared in accordance with the BAM (DPIE, 2020) to accompany the EIS. The BDAR will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– identification of the flora, fauna, and any matters of national environmental significance likely to be located within the EIS footprint</li> <li>– a description of the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework</li> <li>– assessment of potential impacts on State and Commonwealth listed terrestrial species, populations, ecological communities or their habitats, including any cumulative impacts with the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline</li> <li>– assessment of potential impacts to matters of national environmental significance that would trigger assessment under the <i>Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1</i></li> <li>– identification of measures that will be implemented to mitigate the impacts of the project on species, populations, ecological communities and their habitats, if applicable</li> <li>– assessment of any biodiversity offsets required by NSW DPIE's BAM in relation to the project.</li> </ul> <p>The BDAR will be prepared by an accredited assessor in accordance with the NSW BC Act and BAM. The assessment (and supporting field surveys) will be guided by the following government.</p>

## 6.3 Hazards and risks (major hazardous development and bushfire)

### 6.3.1 Existing environment

#### Potentially hazardous industry

The Moomba to Wilton Pipeline is classified as a potentially hazardous industry in accordance with Chapter 3 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 due to the presence of gas as a hazard and the potential impacts of fire and explosion from damage to the pipeline or infrastructure malfunction. The Moomba to Wilton Pipeline is the only other major hazardous facility which passes close to and within the study area for the project at its southern end. There are no other transport or commercial infrastructure or dangerous goods transport, storage or uses occurring within 25 kilometres of the study area.

The proposed pipeline would carry natural gas which is a hazardous substance and could trigger a major event if an uncontrolled release were to occur in the presence of an ignition source.

#### Bushfire

The study area occurs entirely within land mapped by the NSW Rural Fire Service as a designated bushfire prone area. Vegetation is mapped as vegetation category 3 which is considered as medium bushfire risk, commonly occurring in grasslands and semi-arid woodlands (NSW RFS, 2015).

### 6.3.2 Issues for consideration

#### Potentially hazardous industry

Construction would occur adjacent to the easement of the existing Moomba to Wilton Pipeline which transmits high pressure natural gas. Accidental damage to the pipeline could result in an uncontrolled release of gas or a major event in the case gas is ignited by construction activities.

During operation the pipeline would have a capacity to transmit large volumes of natural gas and constitute a major hazardous facility which will need to be appropriately designed and constructed to reduce potential safety and environmental risks to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP). The risks to be considered would need to include the buried pipe as well as surface facilities and connection points to other infrastructure.

The cumulative risk of potential propagation from the project to the nearby Moomba to Wilton Pipeline would need to be appropriately considered also.

The pipeline would be operated and maintained in accordance with the relevant AS2885 standards, the conditions of approval and the Pipeline License. This would include any measures to reduce risks to ALARP.

#### Bushfire

Construction has potential to cause accidental ignition of vegetation, which could escalate to a bushfire, in hot and windy conditions. Potential ignition sources include the discarding of cigarettes and domestic rubbish (such as glass bottles) by construction workers, and the generation of sparks through hot works such as welding, grinding or from an excavator bucket making contact with rock.

The design and construction of construction ancillary facilities, particularly the temporary workforce accommodation facility, would need to consider the potential for bushfire, including the need for asset protection zones.

During operation the pipeline would be buried with only limited above ground infrastructure. The above ground infrastructure would consider the likelihood of bushfire and be designed to reduce risks to within acceptable levels.

### 6.3.3 Assessment approach

Hazard and risk	
<b>Proposed level of assessment</b>	Major hazardous facility – standard (construction and operation) Bushfire – standard (construction)
<b>Relevant guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No 4 Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning</i> (Department of Planning, 2011)</li> <li>– <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No 6 Hazard Analysis</i> (Department of Planning, 2011)</li> <li>– <i>AS 2885.6:2018 Pipelines – Gas and liquid petroleum - Pipeline safety management</i></li> <li>– <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection A guide for councils, planners, fire authorities and developers</i> (NSW RFS, 2019)</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed approach to assessment</b>	<p>The EIS will document the proposed approach to safety management in the design, construction and operation and maintenance of the project in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines including AS 2885.</p> <p>A bushfire assessment will be undertaken that considers the potential impacts from bushfires during construction, particularly on the temporary workforce accommodation facility.</p>

## 6.4 Access (traffic and parking)

### 6.4.1 Existing environment

It is anticipated that the primary access to the project area would be from the Silver City Highway (B79) in the far west of NSW, which is a State road and runs north from Wentworth on the VIC/NSW border through to Tibooburra. The Silver City Highway extends further north from Tibooburra to the Queensland-NSW border as an unclassified road.

Key regional roads that extend east from the Silver City Highway and either intersect or pass within close to the study area and would be used to access the project area are shown in Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 and include:

- Wompah Gate Road – which runs in a northerly direction from where Silver City Highway crosses Twelve Mile Creek and over the Queensland-NSW border
- Tibooburra Road/ Narriearra Road – which runs in an easterly direction from Tibooburra town centre to directly adjacent to the project area
- The Cut Line which extends west about 160 kilometres from Wanaaring to intersect the project area and then continues on to join the Silver City Highway south of Milparinka.

The above roads are all unsealed and along with other unnamed roads and access tracks would be used for access to the project area.

The nearest airport, Tibooburra Aerodrome, is located about 26 kilometres west of the study area.

The nearest railway station is Broken Hill approximately 330 kilometres south of Tibooburra.

### 6.4.2 Issues for consideration

Construction of the project would result in a temporary increase in traffic associated with the transport of materials and equipment, as well as the construction workforce.

Pipes stockpiled in Broken Hill would be transported by semi-trailers to up to two nominated pipe laydown areas in proximity to the CROW. These deliveries would occur in the early stages of construction and prior to site preparation works within the CROW. Oversize and/or overmass (OSOM) loads would be required to transport machinery such as large cranes, trenching machines and other plant required for horizontal directional drilling. These movements would be undertaken in accordance with relevant permits and approvals from Transport for NSW and NSW Police. Movements would be predominantly at night but subject to safety considerations. The Silver City Highway and the Unincorporated Area of NSW are approved for restricted access vehicles and OSOM loads.

Site staff travelling to and from the project area from nearby towns and between the temporary workforce accommodation facility are expected to temporarily increase traffic levels during construction, however the low anticipated usage of the existing transport infrastructure is likely to offset the level of worker usage. Estimates of truck and vehicle usage and anticipated timing of these movements will be described in the EIS.

Existing access tracks to sections of the study area may be inadequate for the delivery of some material, plant and equipment. As part of the project, some access tracks would therefore need to be upgraded, and new accesses constructed.

Access to existing properties is not anticipated to be substantially affected by construction, however some minor impacts may occur where roads are being crossed, or new or realigned accesses are required. In these instances, suitable alternatives such as detours or partial closure may be required. The anticipated low volume of traffic movements on accesses close to the study area is expected to result in minimal impacts on other road users.

A small number of workers (less than 10) would be required to perform routine maintenance including visual inspections along the pipeline. No traffic impacts are expected as a result of these activities.

### 6.4.3 Assessment approach

Access	
<b>Proposed level of assessment</b>	Standard (construction)
<b>Relevant guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (Transport for NSW, 2024)</i></li> <li>– <i>Guide to Traffic Management Part 3: Traffic Studies and Analysis Methods (Austroads, 2020)</i></li> </ul>
<b>Proposed approach to assessment</b>	<p>A traffic impact assessment will be prepared and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– an assessment of the likely transport impacts of the project on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the local and State road network</li> <li>– details of traffic types and volumes likely to be generated by the project, including OSOM loads, relevant traffic routes and intersections for access to and from the project area</li> <li>– a description of the measures that would be implemented to mitigate and manage potential traffic impacts.</li> </ul> <p>Where possible, background traffic estimates would be sourced from Transport for NSW or other parties.</p>

## 6.5 Heritage (Aboriginal)

### 6.5.1 Existing environment

#### Aboriginal heritage and cultural values

The project is located approximated 35 kilometres east of the town of Tibooburra which has a population of around 135 people.

The Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area is located about 12 kilometres east of the study area. The area is the traditional country of the Wongkumara Aboriginal people. The Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area forms an important part of the cultural landscape for the Wongkumara Aboriginal people including connections between people, land and spirit (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2018). The area includes protected Aboriginal sites, such as stone arrangements and artefact scatters, and is managed to protect habitat for a diversity of arid zone native plants and animals. This includes ephemeral floodplains of the Bulloo River Overflow, gibber and riverine chenopod shrublands and sandplain mulga shrublands (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2018).

Sturt National Park is located about one kilometre west of the study area at its closest point and is also within the traditional country of the Wongkumara Aboriginal people. The Wongkumara Aboriginal people made use of waterholes, permanent soaks and an array of useful plants and animals within the park and surrounding areas (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2018).

## Registered Aboriginal sites

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System was undertaken to gain a preliminary understanding of the number of recorded Aboriginal artefacts with the study area. A total of 109 sites were reported with sites concentrated in the southern portion of the study area. The majority of sites were found to be located around roads or tracks, with a few being located around watercourses. This is considered a relatively low number of sites relative to the 105 kilometre length of the pipeline, however the lack of recorded sites may not necessarily reflect the sensitivity of the area but rather the number of archaeological surveys that have been previously performed in the area.

## Native title

A search of the National Native Title Tribunal (CoA, 2014) undertaken on 13 February 2025 identified one active Native Title Claim (Tribunal No. NC2022/002), the Malyangapa Combined Proceedings, which was accepted for registration in November 2022 and intersects with the study area in the central and southern extent.

## 6.5.2 Issues for consideration

Construction works for the project have the potential to affect known and previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites during clearing and ground disturbance works for the pipeline and its ancillary facilities. Construction may also indirectly affect known and previously unrecorded sites by mechanisms such as vibration, changes to the visual connection with an item or from erosion and sedimentation arising from surface water drainage or site runoff.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report prepared for the EIS will be supported by stakeholder engagement following the process outlined in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), 2010). APA have begun Aboriginal community consultation to identify relevant Aboriginal stakeholder groups and / or individuals in the area who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects or places within the Unincorporated Far West Area (Stage 1). This consultation group will assist in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR).

## 6.5.3 Assessment approach

Heritage	
<b>Proposed level of assessment</b>	Aboriginal heritage – standard (construction)
<b>Relevant guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW</i> (OEH, 2011)</li> <li>– <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents</i> (DECCW, 2010)</li> <li>– <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales</i> (DECCW, 2010)</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed approach to assessment</b>	<p>An Aboriginal Heritage Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) will be prepared in accordance with the <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales</i>. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– be prepared in consultation with the local Aboriginal community</li> <li>– document the significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people</li> <li>– include results of a survey undertaken by a qualified archaeologist to inform the need for targeted test excavation</li> <li>– demonstrate attempts to avoid impacts upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes.</li> </ul>

## 6.6 Social (community)

### 6.6.1 Existing environment

The study area is located in the Far West Unincorporated Area of NSW. According to the 2016 census data, the Far West Unincorporated Area had a population of 656 people.

Key socio-economic aspects include the following:

- Indigenous population (3.5 per cent) similar to NSW as a whole (3.4 per cent)
- slightly older median age (45 years) compared to all of NSW (39 years)
- moderate level of advantage based on the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas rating (ABS, 2021)
- median individual weekly household income (\$1,638) lower than NSW (\$1,829)
- labour force participation was higher (68.1 per cent) than NSW (58.7 per cent)
- main industries of employment include cattle farming, accommodation, and government administration.

The nearest residential/commercial area is the town of Tibooburra about 35 kilometres from the study area, which has a population of about 135 people. It is frequently visited by tourists on their way to Sturt National Park or on the way to or from Innamincka in South Australia and Birdsville in Queensland. Facilities in Tibooburra are relatively limited and all significant social and support services e.g. medical, dental, hospital, retail, mechanical, commercial are based in Broken Hill.

The Far West Unincorporated Area offers tourist attractions, such as campgrounds and historical museums based around early expeditions and settlement of the area in towns such as Tibooburra and Milparinka (Destination NSW) (2025a and 2025b). The area is also frequented by caravanners, who pass through during travel to and from Queensland and South Australia.

The Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp and Sturt National Parks are more than one kilometre from the study area at their closest points.

### 6.6.2 Issues for consideration

Construction of the project may require a workforce of up to 400 people during the peak construction period. Construction of the pipeline in Queensland and NSW is likely to take 14 months. In NSW, construction is likely to take nine months to complete, with an additional period of up to two months for commissioning. There may be an increase in vehicle traffic and visitors to Tibooburra (or other nearby villages), however workers would be accommodated in temporary workforce accommodation in Queensland and NSW, and it is expected that the majority of their time would be spent at the work site or otherwise in these facilities.

Given the small population and facilities available in these towns, the needs of even a small amount of workers may put a strain on local resources.

### 6.6.3 Assessment approach

Social	
<b>Proposed level of assessment</b>	Standard (construction)
<b>Relevant guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects</i> (DPE, 2023)</li> <li>– <i>Technical Supplement – Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects</i> (DPE, 2021)</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed approach to assessment</b>	A social impact assessment will be prepared in accordance with the <i>Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State significant Projects</i> and will consider the likely impacts on the local community and community infrastructure.

## 6.7 Water (water availability and quality)

### 6.7.1 Existing environment

#### Surface water

The study area is located within the Bulloo River (northern end) and Lake Bancannia (southern end) catchments and partly in the Channel Country bioregion which is a region of extensive stream systems draining into Lake Eyre in South Australia. Multiple river channels, very wide floodplains and large waterholes crisscross this subdued landscape of gibber plain, low stony rises and dunefields.

A range of named and unnamed, ephemeral watercourses traverse the study area. Most named creeks are located towards the north. Mapping of the stream order within the study area is provided in Figure 6.2. Stream order 1 streams start at the top of the catchment. Higher order streams usually have wider channels, deeper water and move slower, and provide habitat for more biodiversity. Stream order 3 and higher watercourses that traverse the study area include:

- Fishers Creek/Wanpah Creek
- Chows Hat Creek
- Narcowla Creek
- Twelve Mile Creek
- Arcoola Creek
- North White Well Creek
- White Well Creek
- Mount Wood Creek
- Thomsons Creek
- Gidya Watercourse
- Two Mile Creek.

Some of the nearest natural lakes include Lake Whyjonta (three kilometres east), Tolbra Lake (eight kilometres west), Lake Altiboulka (13 kilometres northeast), and Bulloo Overflow (15 kilometres east) of the study area. Other unnamed, ephemeral watercourses and man-made waterbodies also lie within similar distances to the study area. Caryapundy Swamp lies to the east of the study area within the Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park.

#### Groundwater

The study area falls within the Great Artesian Basin Central Shallow (North Western) Groundwater Source managed under the *NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow Groundwater Sources 2020* (DPIE, 2020). The Great Artesian Basin underlies the study area and is Australia's deepest and largest aquifer extending across the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and about 25 per cent of NSW. There are 8,000 bores tapping the Great Artesian Basin in NSW – nearly half have stopped flowing, reducing landholder access to water.

There are a number of groundwater bores recorded within the study area, with the closest being Jenkins Bore, located about 230 metres east of the pipeline and 13 kilometres east of the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline at its nearest point. The Australian Groundwater Atlas indicates that groundwater quality in the region would likely have a pH of about 7.6, a sodium concentration of around 800 mg/L and a total dissolved solids level of about 2500 mg/L.

The study area is not mapped as being on groundwater vulnerable land.

### 6.7.2 Issues for consideration

#### Water sourcing

Water would be required for general construction activities e.g. for dust suppression and hydrotesting, including potable water for the temporary workforce accommodation facility. Given the arid climate and location, it is expected that the community would be highly sensitive to any impacts on local water supplies.

Particularly large volumes would be required for hydrotesting, although this would be undertaken in discrete sections and water would be reused. Each section would require construction of a surface water storage (turkey nest dam or similar) adjacent to each fill point. Existing bore locations would be targeted for use or, if none exist, a new bore would need to be established. Chemical dosing of the hydrotest water would be required to protect the integrity of the pipeline.

A water supply strategy would be developed and included as part of the EIS. The strategy would be focussed on groundwater usage along the project area through either targeting existing bore locations or via the construction of new groundwater bores.

## Water quality

Construction of the project, in particular, vegetation clearing, stockpiling and trenching activities occurring within the project area would result in the disturbance of a very small, linear area relative to the overall size of the catchments. Impacts to watercourses (quality and quantity) during construction during average and dry years are considered unlikely, particularly when taking into consideration the arid environment, the limited number of surface water resources and the ephemeral nature of most watercourses. Additional and watercourse-specific controls may be required during wetter years to enable the continuation of construction and minimise the potential for water quality impacts in nearby watercourses. No impacts are likely where trenchless construction methods would be used to install the pipeline beneath selected watercourses.

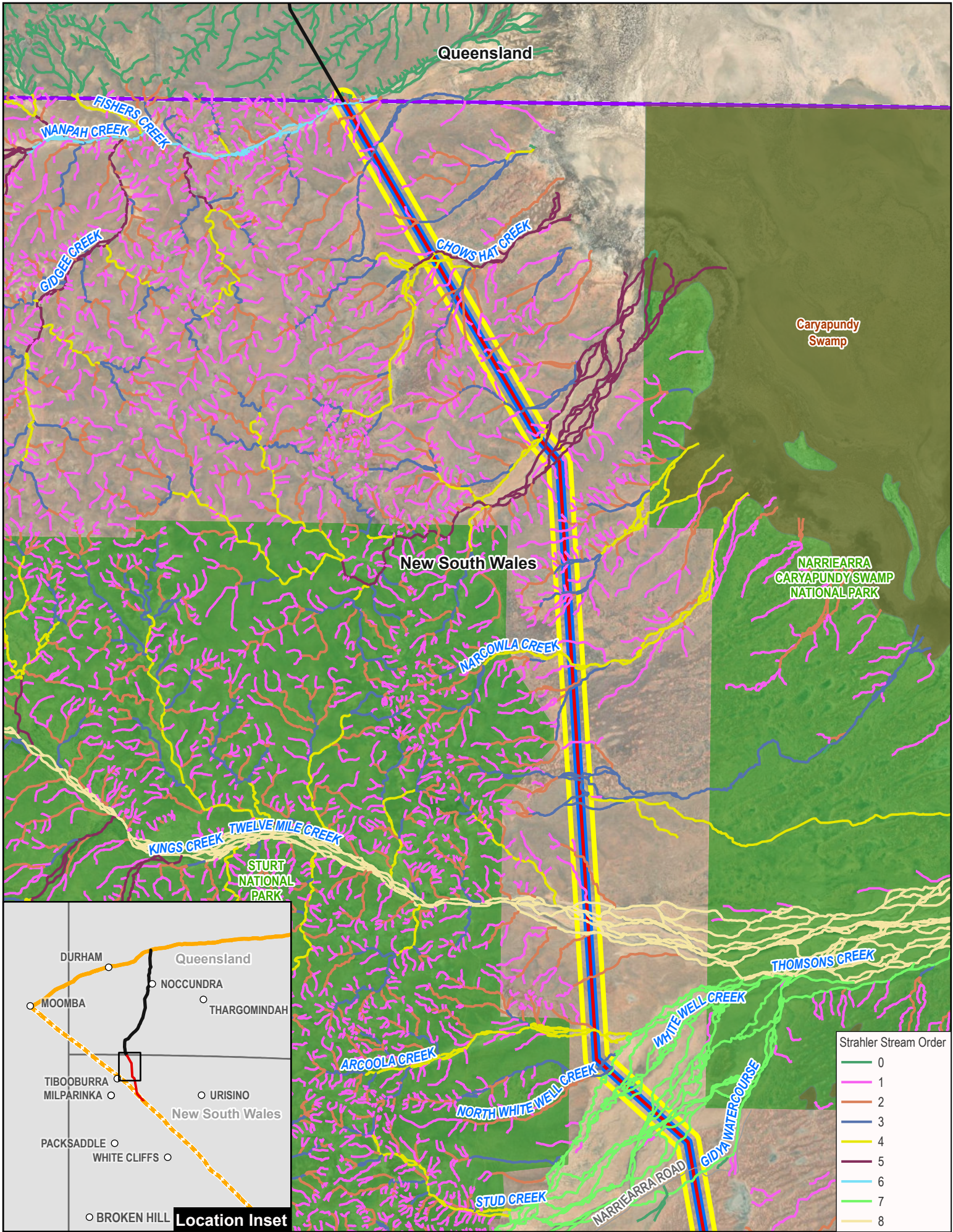
## Groundwater

The pipeline depth of cover would vary depending on location with deeper placement under roads and other infrastructure crossing locations agreed with the asset owner, which will include Telstra. The depth of excavation required for the pipeline would be less than five metres and given the depth to groundwater in the Great Artesian Basin is greater than 50 metres, groundwater interactions from general construction works are not considered likely.

Extraction of groundwater, if proposed as part of the water supply strategy, may have an impact on availability of water for other users. Review and assessment of existing water entitlements and legislative requirements would be undertaken as part of the assessment of the project water supply strategy in the EIS.

### 6.7.3 Assessment approach

Water	
<b>Proposed level of assessment</b>	Standard (construction)
<b>Relevant guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>NSW Aquifer Interference Policy</i> (Office of Water, 2012)</li> <li>– <i>Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> (Australian and New Zealand Governments (ANZG), 2018)</li> <li>– <i>NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives</i> (DECCW, 2006)</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed approach to assessment</b>	<p>A water assessment will be prepared which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– a description of the water demands and identification of a water supply for the life of the project, including any water licensing requirements and other approvals required under <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> and measures to minimise water use</li> <li>– an assessment of the likely impacts of the project water supply on surface and groundwater resources and values (as relevant).</li> </ul>



Strahler Stream Order

0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

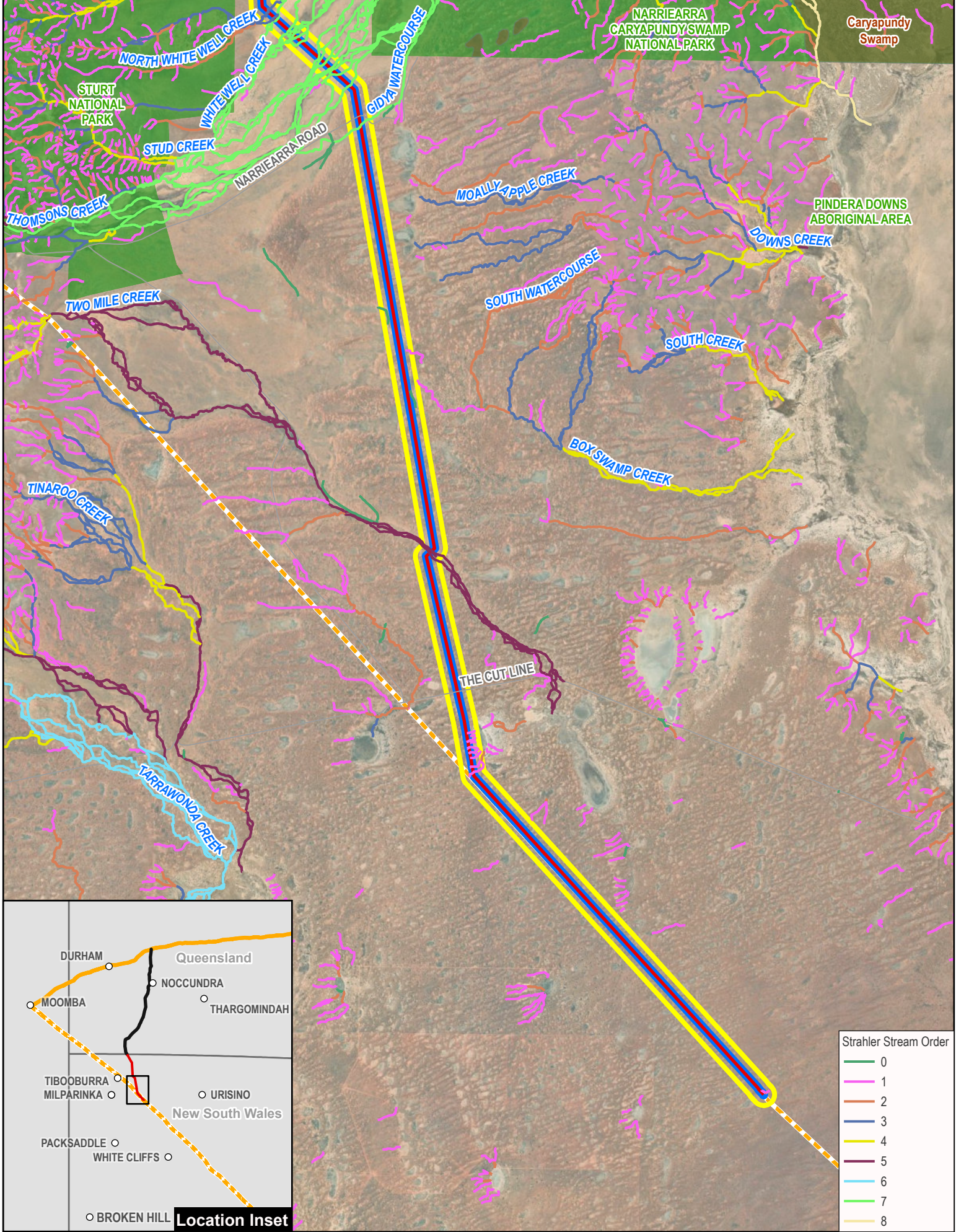


- LEGEND**
- ▬ Study Area
  - ▬ Indicative project area
  - ▬ Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (NSW)
  - ▬ Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (QLD - out of scope)
  - ▬ Moomba to Wilton Pipeline
  - State border
  - Ramsar Wetland
  - National Park
  - Far West Unincorporated Area
  - Major road

**FIGURE 6.2a Hydrology**



Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat. © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Earthstar Geographics; World Hillshade: Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS; World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS. \ghdnet\ghd\AU\Sydney\Projects\21\12658961\GIS\Maps\Deliverables\12658961\_EnviroConstraints\_Alignment\_V2.aprx\12658961\_EC002\_EnvironmentalConstraints\_Hydrology\_A

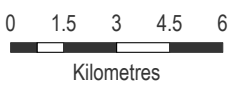


Strahler Stream Order	
0	Green
1	Pink
2	Orange
3	Blue
4	Yellow
5	Dark Purple
6	Light Blue
7	Light Green
8	Light Yellow



- LEGEND**
- Study Area
  - Moomba to Wilton Pipeline
  - Indicative project area
  - Bulloo Interlink Pipeline (NSW)
  - Ramsar Wetland
  - National Park
  - Major road

**FIGURE 6.2b Hydrology**



Data source: Roads, Rail, watercourses - DCS2024; State Forest - Forestry 2024; Gas pipelines - APA 2025; Google Maps Sat. © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA; World Imagery: Earthstar Geographics; World Hillshade: Esri, Geoscience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS; World Light Gray Canvas Base: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, \ghdnet\ghd\AU\Sydney\Projects\21112658961\GIS\Maps\Deliverables\12658961\_EnviroConstraints\_Alignment\_V2.aprx\12658961\_EC002\_EnvironmentalConstraints\_Hydrology\_A

## 6.8 Amenity (construction noise and vibration)

### 6.8.1 Existing environment

The study area is located within a remote area of NSW. The nearest residential and commercial area, the town of Tibooburra, is located about 35 kilometres from the study area. The pipeline alignment passes between two national parks used for tourism and camping.

The nearest potential sensitive receivers would include:

- Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp and Sturt National Parks about one kilometre away at their closest point
- Wompah Gate Outpost landmark, about eight kilometres southwest of the pipeline alignment towards the north
- Mount Wood Summit walking track 13 kilometres west of the pipeline alignment towards the north.

### 6.8.2 Issues for consideration

During construction, road traffic noise would be generated from heavy vehicles transporting pipes from the pipe stockpile locations to the project area. Construction vehicles would use various public roads (named and unnamed) to access the project area. Noise generated by traffic during construction and operation of the project has the potential to impact sensitive receivers situated in proximity of the nominated haulage routes.

The project would involve various permanent and mobile noise sources, including a temporary workforce accommodation facility. However, with the exception of the potential for noise from road traffic, noise and vibration impacts from construction works in the project area are anticipated to be negligible due to the distance between the project area and the nearest sensitive receivers.

### 6.8.3 Assessment approach

Construction road traffic noise	
<b>Proposed level of assessment</b>	Standard (construction)
<b>Relevant guidelines</b>	<i>Road Noise Policy</i> (DECCW, 2011)
<b>Proposed approach to assessment</b>	A road traffic noise assessment will be prepared in accordance with the Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011) and will include identification of reasonable and feasible in-principle mitigation measures to minimise impacts at sensitive receivers, if required, depending on haulage routes.

## 6.9 Issues requiring no further assessment

The following matters have been considered to warrant no further assessment in the EIS. A brief outline of the issue, potential impacts and justification for this outcome is provided in Table 6.1. These matters will be described in a chapter of the EIS, with mitigation measures provided where relevant.

Table 6.1 Issues requiring no further assessment

Existing environment	Potential impacts	Assessment approach
<b>Air (particulate matter and atmospheric emissions)</b>		
<p>The study area is surrounded by an arid landscape with sparse areas of vegetation. The closest residences to the study area are in Tibooburra about 35 kilometres west of the study area. There are no industrial or commercial industries in the vicinity of the study area.</p> <p>Due to the nature of land use within the study area, there is unlikely to be a large concentration of greenhouse gases currently emitted within the study area. There are also no pollutant sources nearby.</p> <p>The monthly climate statistics observed at the Tibooburra Airport Weather Station (Station ID 046126) indicates hotter summers and colder winters. The weather data suggests that the average number of weather days with one millimetre or more of rain recorded per year was 23.6 days over about the last 15 years.</p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>Dust (particulate matter) from vegetation clearing, earthworks, vehicle movements and wind action across exposed surfaces as well as gaseous emissions from the operation of mobile and stationary construction plant and equipment would be the primary sources of air pollutants during construction. These sources are typical of many major construction projects and would be managed with standard dust control measures including application of water on unsealed access roads to suppress dust generation.</p> <p><b>Operation</b></p> <p>The proposed surface infrastructure is not expected to generate material air quality emissions during general operation.</p> <p>Routine maintenance and visual inspections would be undertaken and involve movement of light vehicles along the alignment, typically on a monthly basis. These activities are not anticipated to generate noticeable increases in atmospheric dust or cause a deterioration in local air quality.</p> <p>Pipeline cleaning would be undertaken approximately every five years and require controlled depressurisation of the pipeline and release of small quantities of gas at each end of the pipeline. Operation of the pipeline is not anticipated to generate sufficient emissions that would trigger assessment under the <i>NSW Guide for Large Emitters</i> (NSW EPA, 2025).</p>	<p>No further assessment.</p>
<b>Amenity (visual and operational noise and vibration)</b>		
<p>The study area is located within a remote area of NSW. The nearest residential and commercial area, the town of Tibooburra, is located about 35 kilometres from the study area.</p> <p>The pipeline alignment passes between two national parks used for tourism and camping and would be located about one kilometre distant at its nearest point.</p> <p>The nearest potential sensitive receivers would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp and Sturt National Parks about one kilometre away at their closest point</li> </ul>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>Construction works would require a variety of machinery, equipment and materials which would move around the project area over the nine month construction period. This plant and equipment would be visible where they approach various public roads and access tracks but generally, given the distance from towns and villages and the National Parks (&gt;1 kilometre) would not be observable. The locations of any temporary accommodation facilities would be selected to minimise viewpoints from key locations in National Parks.</p>	<p>No further assessment.</p> <p>The location of temporary ancillary facilities and access tracks will be identified in the EIS. Photos of typical surface facilities would also be included.</p>

Existing environment	Potential impacts	Assessment approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Wompah Gate Outpost landmark, about eight kilometres southwest of the pipeline alignment towards the north</li> <li>– Mount Wood Summit walking track 13 kilometres west of the pipeline alignment towards the north.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Operation</b></p> <p>The main operational activity with the potential to generate noise is pigging, which is conducted infrequently and involves gas venting. Given the distance to receivers, operational noise and vibration impacts would be negligible.</p> <p>Minimal permanent above-ground infrastructure would be introduced, and predominately at each end of the pipeline. However, given the absence of sensitive receivers and the locations of these facilities remote from public infrastructure and viewpoints, impacts are not expected.</p>	
<b>Built environment (private property and public infrastructure)</b>		
<p>The project would be located within the Unincorporated Far West Area of NSW. Tibooburra, the closest town to the pipeline, is about 35 kilometres to the west of the pipeline and has a population of about 135 people. Milparinka is a small settlement south of Tibooburra with a population of 77 people.</p> <p>The dominant land use in the region is broad-acre cattle grazing on large-scale pastoral properties (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2018; Meridian Urban, 2024). Average property sizes in this area are reported to be around 6,686 hectares (for land parcels larger than 10 hectares).</p> <p>A search of the MinView database did not identify any mining/production leases within 10 kilometres of the study area. About 37 kilometres at the southern end of the study area is located within an Exploration Licence area (EL9728) held by Starlight Exploration. No other Exploration Licences are located within 10 kilometres of the study area.</p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>Land required for construction would be temporarily leased from landowners. Precise land requirements would be determined as design progresses. It is anticipated that land within 18 lots would be impacted by the project.</p> <p>Access to active work areas would be temporarily restricted for reasons of public safety. This would interrupt any grazing activities (or other land uses) while work is ongoing. These impacts are expected to be limited however, given the size of private properties and as construction would be completed progressively, access would be made available once work in an area is completed.</p> <p>Construction may have the potential to temporarily impact existing infrastructure which may include services and utilities (e.g. water, telecoms, etc.) and local roads. Arrangements would be made with asset owners regarding the need to protect or relocate any affected infrastructure and any interim measures needed to minimise service disruption.</p> <p>Any conflicts with EL9728 activities would be investigated at the EIS stage through consultation with the license holder. However, as the portion of the study area which traverses this EL is partially located adjacent to the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline, significant additional impacts are not anticipated.</p> <p><b>Operation</b></p> <p>A 20 metre wide easement would be acquired over the pipeline. Once the pipeline is commissioned, there would be limited ongoing impacts to existing land uses. Cropping and grazing activities are permitted within the pipeline easement so minimal impacts are expected.</p>	<p>No further assessment.</p> <p>The EIS will document the land areas required either temporarily or permanently for the project and existing land owners and uses. Consultation with land owners has already commenced and will be ongoing during the design phase. Any feedback from these consultation activities will be reported as part of the EIS.</p>

Existing environment	Potential impacts	Assessment approach
<b>Economic</b>		
<p>The agricultural gross commodity value for the Unincorporated Far West area was \$31.6 million in 2021. Over 90 per cent of principal agricultural commodities in the Far West consist of livestock (Meridian Urban, 2024).</p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>The project would have an estimated capital cost of greater than \$250 million. The majority of this cost would be for the manufacture and transport of the pipes which will be imported from overseas.</p> <p>Up to 400 workers are anticipated to be directly employed at the peak of the construction phase. Specialist plant and equipment would be transported to the work site in NSW most likely from Queensland.</p> <p><b>Operation</b></p> <p>As the pipeline would be operated remotely from APA’s existing control centre, an ongoing crew of less than four workers would likely be required for maintenance purposes, with some of these staff being existing APA employees.</p> <p>The grading and minor upgrades of unsealed access tracks required to support the movement of machinery and equipment to the project area will provide an ongoing benefit to residents who use these roads/tracks.</p>	<p>No further assessment.</p> <p>The estimated construction cost and number of construction and operation workers required would be documented in the EDC report.</p>
<b>Hazard and risk (biosecurity, dangerous goods, flooding, contamination, waste)</b>		
<p><b>Biosecurity</b></p> <p>Major biosecurity risks in this region include the spread of invasive pest animals, outbreaks of livestock diseases as well as the introduction of problematic weeds.</p> <p><b>Contamination</b></p> <p>No contaminated land records were found during a search of search of the NSW EPA record of contaminated land notices.</p> <p><b>Flooding</b></p> <p>The study area intersects land that has been mapped as subject to infrequent flooding, particularly around Chows Hat Creek and Twelve Mile Creek.</p> <p><b>Waste</b></p> <p>There are no waste generating or waste management facilities in proximity to the project.</p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>Biosecurity risks would be addressed in the project BDAR and form part of the management measures included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <p>Contamination would be managed in accordance with an unexpected finds/ contingency event plan included in the CEMP.</p> <p>Construction ancillary facilities required for the nine month construction program would be sited outside the 1% AEP flood level and not in the vicinity of the identified creeks.</p> <p>The largest waste stream generated would be for cleared vegetation which will be disposed of in a manner to be outlined in the EIS (likely by chipping and respreading across the CROW). Waste streams from the temporary accommodation facility would be managed in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines including a packaged wastewater solution for sewer and recycling requirements for other general waste streams.</p> <p><b>Operation</b></p> <p>No issues are anticipated during infrequent maintenance activities for the project. Biosecurity risks would be managed in accordance with APA’s operational management processes and project-specific Biosecurity Management Plan.</p>	<p>No further assessment.</p>

Existing environment	Potential impacts	Assessment approach
<b>Heritage (historic)</b>		
<p>The study area is located within the Far West Unincorporated Area, renowned for its history of pastoral activities and natural features.</p> <p>The nearest non-Aboriginal heritage item is 'Mount Wood Station' (State Heritage Register Listing No. 01001). The site is a landscape element and comprises the same area as the Sturt National Park. The curtilage is about three kilometres west of the study area at its closest point, while the Mount Wood Homestead is about 15 kilometres west of the alignment.</p> <p>There are no other local or state heritage items located within 10 kilometres of the study area.</p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>There would be no construction activities undertaken within the Sturt National Park. Narriearra Road runs east to west through the southern tip of Sturt National Park and is a public road that would be used to access the project area. Narriearra Road will require maintaining by grading and watering regularly, however there are unlikely to be any direct or indirect impacts on this heritage item as a consequence of these activities and use.</p> <p><b>Operation</b></p> <p>There would be no permanent facilities established within the national park and therefore no impacts are expected.</p>	No further assessment.
<b>Land (topography, capability and chemistry)</b>		
<p>Land and soil capability mapped at the study area varies between moderate to extreme limitations, indicating the soils present as a poor quality natural resource. Soil development is limited to shallow, stony, gritty loams on the bedrock hills.</p> <p>No strategic agricultural land, including biophysical strategic agricultural land was identified in or near the study area, most likely due to the lack of sufficient rainfall and water supplies.</p> <p>No acid sulfate soils risk land or soil salinity has been mapped at the study area.</p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>The project would involve removal of vegetation, trenching to install the pipe and backfilling and compaction with the same materials in a linear strip along the CROW. Any excess material would be re-spread back across the CROW prior to rehabilitation occurring and no observable changes to topography would be created.</p> <p><b>Operation</b></p> <p>The project would be located predominantly underground with limited surface facilities. Existing accesses tracks would be used for maintenance purposes and no impacts are anticipated. No changes to topography would result from the project.</p> <p>With the exception of any uses which may affect the integrity of the buried pipeline, the capability of the land would remain the same as prior to construction.</p>	No further assessment.

## 7. Conclusion

APA is seeking approval for the construction and operation of a high-pressure gas pipeline, referred to as the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline, to connect the South West Queensland Pipeline in Queensland and the Moomba to Wilton Pipeline in NSW to provide a more direct route to transport natural gas from Queensland to southern markets.

The project involves constructing, operating, and decommissioning a 105 kilometres section of underground gas pipeline and associated above ground infrastructure in the NSW section of the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline.

The key operational features of the project include:

- an underground high pressure, steel gas transmission pipeline with a length of about 105 kilometres
- a nominal permanent easement of 30 metres
- supporting above ground infrastructure.

Key temporary ancillary facilities and infrastructure during construction would include:

- a temporary workforce accommodation facility and associated construction compound
- up to two pipe stockpile areas.

Once construction is complete, the pipeline will operate beneath ground for an estimated 40-year design life.

The key environmental issues identified for the project, which will be assessed during the preparation of the EIS are:

- biodiversity (threatened species and communities)
- hazards and risks (bushfire and major hazardous development)
- access (traffic and parking)
- heritage (Aboriginal)
- social (community)
- water (water availability and water quality)
- amenity (construction noise and vibration).

Upon receipt of the SEARs APA will prepare the EIS and submit it to DPHI as part of the application for approval. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with Division 5.2 of the EP&A Act, Schedule 2 of the Regulation, and the SEARs. The EIS will include:

- a detailed description of the project including its components, construction activities and operational arrangements
- a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of the project, including a description of the existing environment, and an assessment of the potential direct and indirect construction and operation impacts, with a focus on the key issues identified by this report
- a description of measures to be implemented to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor the potential impacts
- information on the consultation and engagement undertaken, the issues raised, and how these issues have been and/or would be addressed during and prior to construction and operation.

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# **Appendix A**

## **Scoping summary table**

Table A.1 Scoping summary table

Level of assessment	Matter	Cumulative impact assessment?	Engagement	Relevant government plans, policies and guidelines	Scoping report reference
Detailed	Biodiversity threatened species and communities	Yes	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Biodiversity Assessment Method</i> (DPIE, 2020)</li> <li>– NSW Threatened Species Survey and Assessment Guidelines (various)</li> <li>– Matters of National Environmental Significance <i>Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1</i> (Commonwealth of Australia, 2013)</li> <li>– Commonwealth Department of the Environment – Nationally Threatened Ecological Communities and Threatened Species Guidelines (various)</li> <li>– Commonwealth Department of the Environment – Survey Guidelines for Nationally Threatened Species (various)</li> <li>– <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation, 2002)</li> </ul>	Section 6.2
Standard	Hazards and risks – major hazardous development, bushfire	Yes	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No 4 Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning</i> (Department of Planning, 2011)</li> <li>– <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No 6 Hazard Analysis</i> (Department of Planning, 2011)</li> <li>– <i>AS 2885.6:2018 Pipelines – Gas and liquid petroleum - Pipeline safety management</i></li> <li>– <i>Planning for Bush Fire Protection A guide for councils, planners, fire authorities and developers</i> (NSW RFS, 2019)</li> </ul>	Section 6.3
Standard	Access – traffic and parking	No	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Guide to Transport Impact Assessment</i> (Transport for NSW, 2024)</li> <li>– <i>Guide to Traffic Management Part 3: Traffic Studies and Analysis Methods</i> (Austroads, 2020)</li> </ul>	Section 6.4
Standard	Heritage – Aboriginal	No	Specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW</i> (OEH, 2011)</li> <li>– <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents</i> (DECCW, 2010)</li> <li>– <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales</i> (DECCW, 2010).</li> </ul>	Section 6.5

Level of assessment	Matter	Cumulative impact assessment?	Engagement	Relevant government plans, policies and guidelines	Scoping report reference
Standard	Social – community	No	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects</i> (DPE, 2023)</li> <li>– <i>Technical Supplement – Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects</i> (DPE, 2021)</li> </ul>	Section 6.6
Standard	Water – hydrology, water quality, water availability	No	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>NSW Aquifer Interference Policy</i> (Office of Water, 2012)</li> <li>– <i>Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> (ANZG, 2018)</li> <li>– <i>NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives</i> (DECCW, 2006)</li> </ul>	Section 6.7
Standard	Amenity – construction noise and vibration	No	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Road Noise Policy</i> (DECCW, 2011)</li> </ul>	Section 6.8
No further assessment	Air – particulate matter and atmospheric emissions	No	No	N/A	Section 6.9
No further assessment	Amenity – operational noise and vibration, visual	No	No	N/A	Section 6.9
No further assessment	Built environment – private property and public infrastructure	No	No	N/A	Section 6.9
No further assessment	Economic	No	No	N/A	Section 6.9
No further assessment	Hazard and risk – biosecurity, dangerous goods, flooding, contamination, waste	No	No	N/A	Section 6.9
No further assessment	Heritage – historic	No	No	N/A	Section 6.9
No further assessment	Land – topography, capability and chemistry	No	No	N/A	Section 6.9



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