

the pipeline would be buried and the vegetation re-established. Inspection of the pipeline, by air or ground during operations would occur on a regular basis but this would be at minimum intervals of a month during the first year and six-twelve months there after.

5.4.2 Social

Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage

Heritage is addressed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* in NSW. The Project will engage with the relevant Traditional Owners and work with them to study the route with the primary aim of avoiding items of cultural heritage value. In the event that full avoidance is not practicable the Project will seek to agree management strategies of any values that may be impacted. The assessment will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the DECC document 'Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation'.

European heritage will be studied and the values determined and subsequently managed in accordance with the relevant legislation for each State.

Visual

The construction of the pipeline will create a cleared corridor of 30m in width. This area would be highly visible in pasture and grazing land until grasses and or crops are re-established. Depending on the season, this may take up to 6-9 months. In timbered areas the visual affect would be of longer duration. However the route is being selected to minimise the clearing of timber.

Traffic

The Project has the potential to impact roads and road users during the construction phase. As discussed in Section 3.4 up to 700 loaded pipe trucks would need to access the route throughout the construction period. However these truck movements will be spread out along the route of the pipeline progressing at a rate of approximately 2-3 km per day.

In addition to the pipe trucks there would be the need to mobilise and demobilise construction plant and equipment to and from the pipeline route at the commencement and completion of construction. This could involve up to 40 heavy vehicle movements.

On a day to day basis there would be local traffic movements associated with the transport of workers to and from the construction area.

5.5 Views of Other Agencies, Local Councils and Community

Consultations during the concept design and assessment phase of the Project will be focused on State and local government authorities and on those stakeholders most likely to be directly affected by the Project such as landowners and occupiers. To date, initial contact has been made with the Department of Water and Energy and

the Department of Planning in regards to the project..

Stakeholder feedback has been positive to date and APA intends to carry out a comprehensive consultation program during the environmental assessment process to build on this base.

5.6 Key Issues

This section provides a summary of the key issues associated with the construction and operation of a gas pipeline.

Key Issue	Proposed Assessment and/or Management
Vegetation Clearing	The key environmental issue with any pipeline is the clearing of vegetation during the construction phase. Assessment will identify key vegetation communities and their abundance and identify any key management measures required. This may include avoidance. Rehabilitation of the route post construction should enable the majority of the vegetation types to be re-established across the route.
Fauna Habitat Disturbance	Clearing of vegetation during construction has the potential to disturb fauna habitat. Assessment will identify key fauna species for the area, their potential to be present on the route, important habitats for breeding and key management measures required.
Erosion Control	Clearing of stabilising vegetation can lead to dust and erosion issues. Soil types and their management measures along the route will be identified.
Human Amenity	Key issues for human amenity are noise and dust generation, increased traffic movements, on-going land use and general inconvenience during construction. The operational pipeline will be buried and normal land use can resume post construction. Impacts should be short-term and only construction related.
Risk Management	Design of the pipeline will be in accordance with the requirements of AS2885 which requires a risk based design approach.

Key Issue	Proposed Assessment and/or Management
Infrastructure	The pipeline route may need to be located within, or cross, road, powerline or rail easements. Where this occurs the relevant agencies and their permitting requirements will be identified and adhered to.