

Darwin Pipeline Duplication Project

Overview

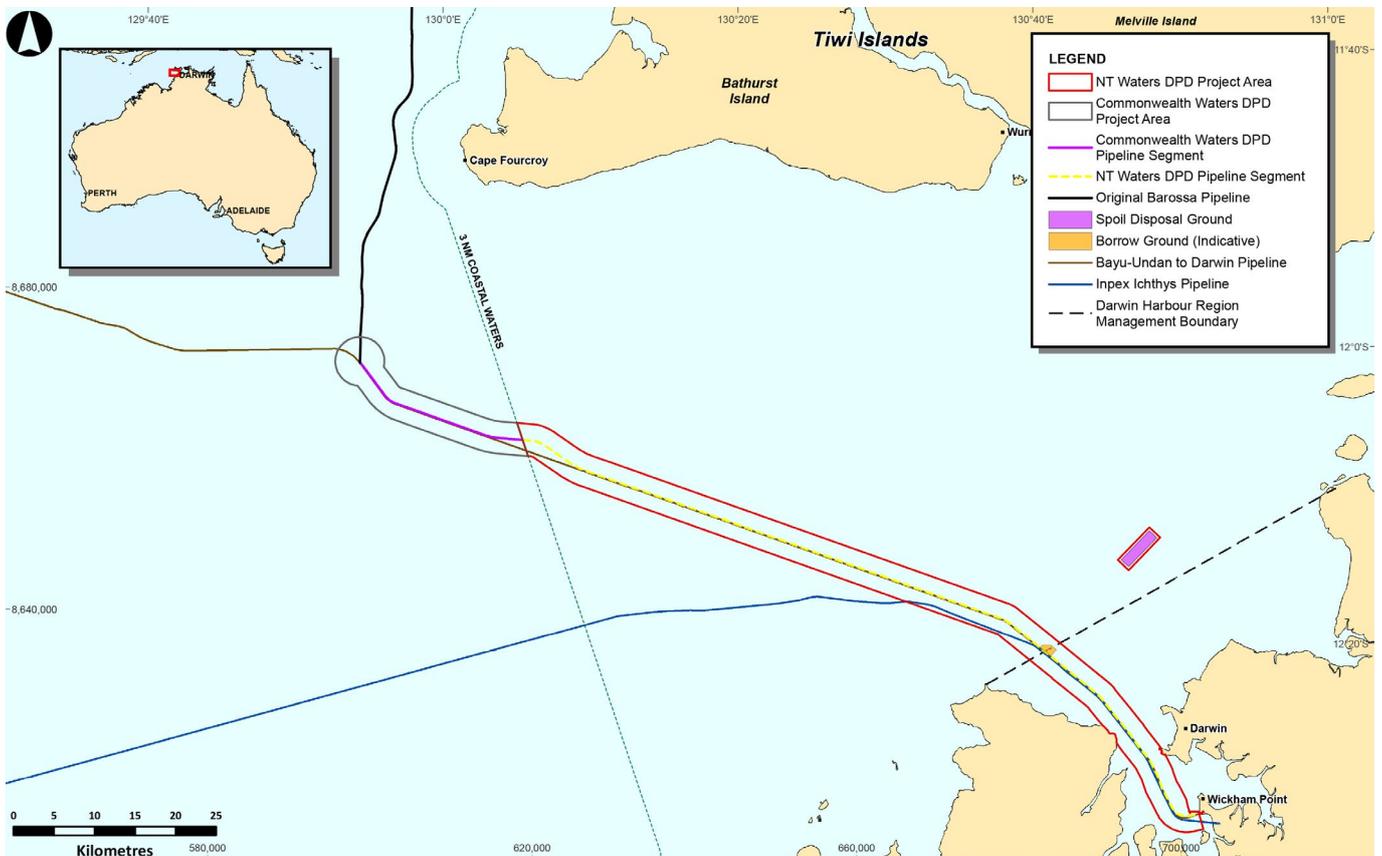
Santos, as Operator of the Barossa Joint Venture, is proposing to duplicate a 123-km section of the existing Bayu-Undan to Darwin Gas Export Pipeline.

The Darwin Pipeline Duplication (DPD) project will result in an uninterrupted gas export pipeline from the Barossa Field to the existing Darwin Liquefied Natural Gas Facility (DLNG) thereby preserving the existing Bayu-Undan to Darwin Pipeline for re-purposing opportunities into the future.

One of the re-purposing opportunities being investigated by Santos is to transport carbon dioxide to the Bayu-Undan gas field, which is approaching depletion, for offshore carbon capture and storage (CCS). CCS is a key part of the global climate change solution and is critical to Santos' plans to decarbonise.

Santos has commenced seeking necessary regulatory approvals for the DPD project from the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments with the aim of starting works in early 2023 to ensure Barossa gas can be delivered to DLNG in the first half of 2025.

Figure 1: Project Location map



Proposed works and timeframe

The DPD installation program is smaller in scale to previous gas export pipeline developments in Darwin Harbour.

Locating the pipeline within 100 metres north of the existing Bayu-Undan to Darwin Pipeline, with a shore crossing contained within the existing DLNG disturbance footprint, enables Santos to manage an installation program with minimal environmental and social impacts.

Where possible the pipeline will be laid direct on the seabed while trenching and stabilisation (e.g. rock backfill) will be required in some areas for pipeline protection. Trench spoil management will also be required with disposal proposed to occur adjacent to an already disturbed area. It is not anticipated that drilling and blasting will be required to install the pipeline.

Works would commence in early 2023 and be completed over an approximate 18-month period. During this period various construction vessels will be operating along the pipeline route and voyaging to/from the spoil disposal grounds.



The Darwin LNG Facility at Wickham Point is already undergoing life extension works to enable another 20 years of production and contribution to the local economy.

Environmental Management

The energy sector has a history of successfully managing construction projects in Darwin Harbour. The significant body of knowledge available together with implementation of mitigation measures provides confidence that the DPD can be delivered without significant environmental impact.

Based on detailed preparatory assessment work and initial stakeholder consultation, Marine Environmental Quality, Marine Ecosystems and Coastal Processes are the key environmental factors requiring detailed assessment and focused management.

Santos is progressing a number of technical studies to inform the management plans to be utilised during the installation campaign which will be publicly available.

Construction and operational environmental management plans will ensure impacts and risks are managed with the aim of achieving intended levels of impact that are as low as reasonably practicable. A marine environmental monitoring program will be implemented to validate the environment assessment.

Environmental Approvals

Pipeline duplication will occur within both Northern Territory and Commonwealth Waters. Santos has commenced the formal assessment process by submitting key documentation to the relevant regulatory bodies.

An Environmental Referral has been submitted to the NT Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) under Section 48 of the NT Environment Protection Act 2019 for the 100-km pipeline segment in Northern Territory waters and lands. The referral includes an assessment of the potential environmental impacts associated with the DPD Project. It is available on the NT-EPA website at ntepa.nt.gov.au/consultation/open-consultations.

A Revision to the accepted Barossa Pipeline Installation Environment Plan has also been submitted to NOPSEMA to enable installation of the additional 23-km pipeline segment (the new stage of the pipeline) in Commonwealth Waters. The submitted documentation is available on the NOPSEMA website at info.nopsema.gov.au/home/under_assessment.

Consultation

As Operator of the Bayu-Undan to Darwin Pipeline and the Darwin LNG facility, Santos has a thorough understanding of the surrounding environment, particularly Darwin Harbour, and relevant stakeholders.

Preparation of environmental documentation has involved initial consultation with a range of stakeholders which will continue through proactive and regular communication throughout all stages of the Project.

The current public comment phase on the NT EPA Referral is managed by the NT EPA with Santos providing detailed responses to the submissions received. Santos welcomes the opportunity to discuss any aspects of the Project.

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