

Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline

Environmental Assessment Report

CESsoils was commissioned by the Lock the Gate Alliance to conduct a systematic review of the proposed route of the Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline using environmental mapping and data analyses with a focus on soil and environmental constraints.

The proposal would involve construction of a high-pressure gas pipeline from Wallumbilla, Queensland, to Newcastle, NSW, a project considered State Significant in 2009.

We conducted a spatial analysis of the 620km length of the pipeline in NSW focusing on potential impacts on biodiversity, cultural heritage, geographic and topographic features, socio-economic and land-use planning attributes.

We reported on quantitative results for the whole length of the pipeline in NSW as well as for the ten Local Government Areas that the pipeline traverses and made recommendations on potential discordance with the Conditions of Approval. We also presented a case study on how an individual property would potentially be affected by the proposal.

Our analysis used publicly and freely available spatial datasets from the NSW Government and associated agencies.

Our comprehensive report concluded that the proposed construction corridor of the pipeline would pose impacts on areas with high soil fertility, erosional soils, flood prone land, acid sulphate soils, koala habitat, native vegetation, threatened flora and fauna, water courses and wetlands, and de-value land deemed Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land and Critical Industry Cluster Land.

