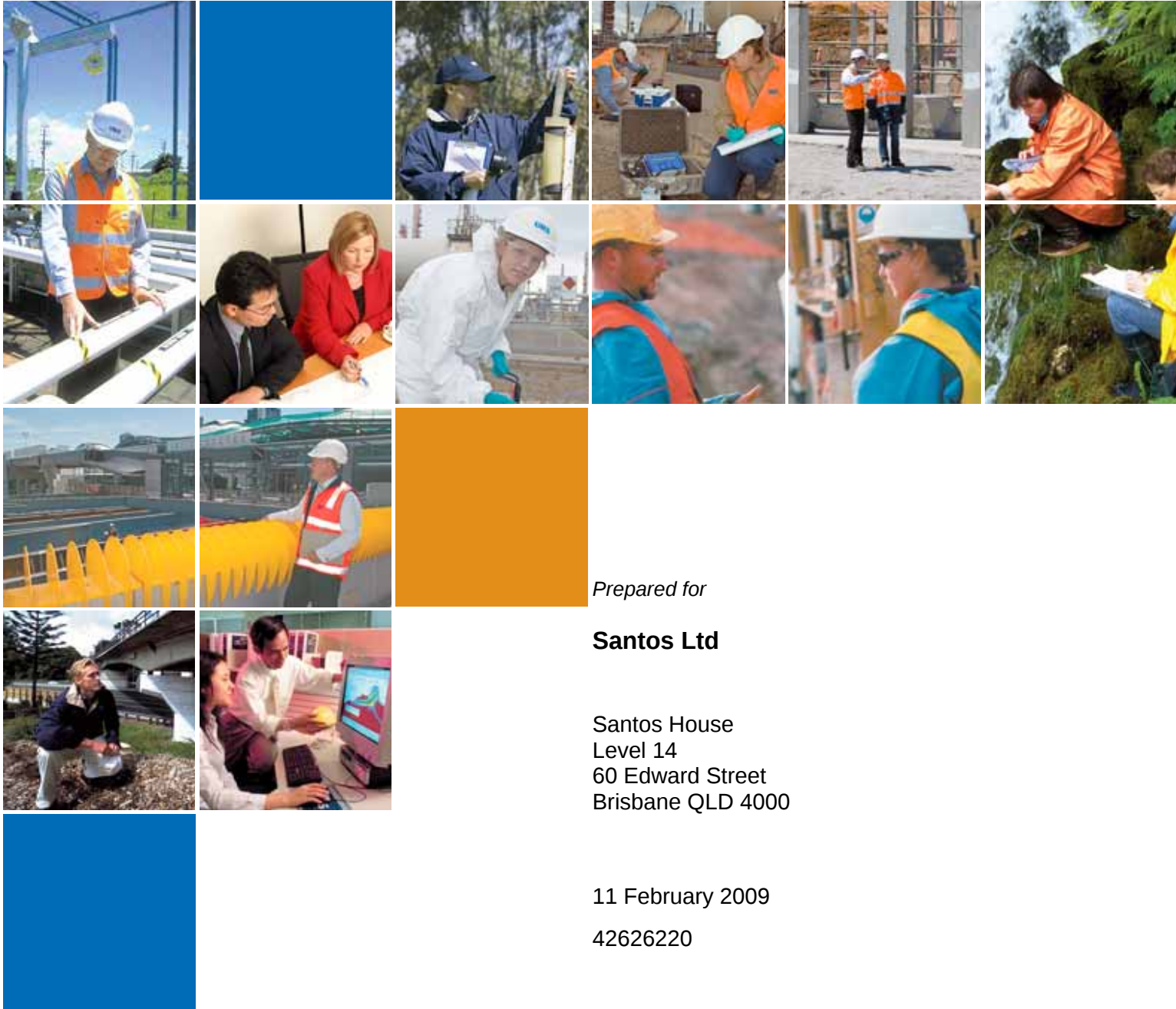


FINAL REPORT

GLNG Environmental Impact Statement - Gas Transmission Pipeline Terrain Soils and Land Capability



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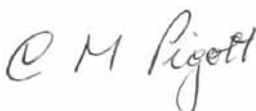


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Executive Summary

As part of the EIS being undertaken for the Santos GLNG Project, a terrain evaluation study was carried out for the proposed gas transmission pipeline corridor that links the Santos coal seam gas fields in inland Central Queensland with a proposed LNG facility to be constructed in the south western sector of Curtis Island.

Methodology

The terrain analysis has essentially involved a detailed desktop assessment of terrain conditions along the route as a basis for the identification and description of geological, landform and soil conditions, including areas of high engineering geological constraints and/or any potential environmental impacts that may result from construction of the gas transmission pipeline.

Terrain mapping has been carried out with reference to existing regional (1:250,000 scale) and more detailed (1:100,000 scale) GSQ geological data. Topographic information (5 m contour interval) and regional CSIRO land systems and soils information was also utilised, using SPOT geo-referenced satellite imagery as a base for the identification and mapping of *Terrain Units* that occur within the gas transmission pipeline corridor.

The identification of terrain units provides a basis for the description of the physical environment and as mapped, show the occurrence and distribution of geological regimes, landform units and associated soil types which occur along the gas transmission pipeline corridor. Detailed descriptions of the terrain units identified together with an assessment of engineering/environmental attributes and constraints for construction and on-going operations of the gas transmission pipeline and associated infrastructure are included in **Appendix A** of the report.

Fieldwork involving excavation of test pits and soil sampling was undertaken within the LNG plant site area and along the final sector of the gas transmission pipeline corridor that terminates at the LNG facility site on Curtis Island. Fieldwork involving drilling and soil sampling operations were also undertaken as part of an acid sulfate soils investigation within the coastal and estuarine areas in the vicinity of and to the south of the proposed bridge crossing in the vicinity of Laird Point on Curtis Island and on the estuarine flats to the south-west of Friend Point on the mainland (refer to **Appendix L4**). A drive-through reconnaissance survey of parts of the western and southern sectors of the gas transmission pipeline corridor, including parts of the southern CSG fields, was also carried out to gain an overall general appreciation of terrain and soil types in the general area.

More detailed field investigations including drilling and soil sampling operations are proposed to be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction of the pipeline, in particular in those areas identified in this study as potential “high constraint” areas, to determine appropriate construction and potential environmental impact management strategies.

Topography and Regional Geology

A comprehensive description of the main topographic features along the gas transmission pipeline corridor is provided in Section 1.2. In summary, the corridor commences in the dissected sandstone plateau lands to the south of the Fairview area and heads to the north via the Arcadia Valley to the vicinity of the Dawson Highway. The alignment then heads in an easterly direction, crossing the Expedition, Dawson, Cooper, Callide, Calliope, Mt. Alma and Mt. Larcom Ranges en route to the proposed LNG plant site on Curtis Island via a proposed bridge crossing of Port Curtis between Friend Point and Laird Point. Townships, roads, rivers and major tributary streams are identified along the route.

The geology within the corridor as mapped by the Geological Survey of Queensland (GSQ) in the Geoscience Datasets (2005) for the 1:100,000 Gladstone map sheet covers the eastern sector of the alignment, including

Executive Summary

Curtis Island. GSQ Regional Mapping of the Bowen Basin covers the central and western sectors of the alignment and the southern sector of the route corridor is covered by the mapping of the Surat Basin.

As mapped in the GSQ Geoscience Datasets, several of the geological mapping units identified have similar characteristics in terms of age and rock type. To simplify the mapping process certain of these mapping units have been combined and re-defined as *Geological Regimes*. The occurrence and distribution of geological regimes and associated terrain units as mapped within the gas transmission pipeline corridor are shown in **Figure 2a, 2b and 2-1 to 2-24**.

Soils and Land Capability

A suite of 9 broad soil groups and associated soil types have been identified and used as a basis for mapping of soils and/or soil associations along the gas transmission pipeline corridor. A description of these soils is included in Section 1.5 below. The description and assessment of terrain units and associated soil groups and soil types included in Appendix A of this report provide the basis for the identification of problem soil area occurrences within the corridor. They also provide the basis to assess the suitability and availability of topsoil resources and to characterise and map the land in terms of its pre-construction agricultural land capability. This in turn will provide a means for establishing land rehabilitation targets upon decommissioning of the gas transmission pipeline and associated facilities.

Soil Erosion Potential

Construction of the gas transmission pipeline will involve clearing and earthworks in the general vicinity of the pipeline trench, in areas where temporary and permanent access roads are proposed and in associated infrastructure areas. Potential environmental impacts that may result from construction activities primarily relate to the erosion potential of the land in areas that are subject to clearing or are disturbed during the development process. The occurrence, distribution and cumulative distance of terrain units intersected along the gas transmission pipeline alignment and the associated erosion potential ratings have been determined on a route sector by sector basis and for the alignment as a whole. General erosion control measures outlined in Section 2.3.1 and in **Appendix B** are recommended and will be implemented where appropriate to minimise the potential effects of erosion during the construction and the on-going operational life of the of the gas transmission pipeline and associated facilities.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Descriptions of the terrain units, together with an assessment of engineering and environmental constraints and by association, potential environmental impacts for pipeline construction relate primarily to the following: includes:

- Topographic constraints;
- Excavation conditions - relates to the ease or difficulty of excavation within the typical trench depth;
- Erosion potential – where the land is subject to clearing or disturbance associated with construction;
- Drainage status – relating to surface drainage conditions and susceptibility to flooding or tidal inundation;
- Problem soils - the occurrence of reactive soils, sodic, dispersive and/or saline soils, acid sulfate soils; and
- Agricultural land classes – changes to agricultural land capability.

Where identified, these potential impacts have been addressed in Section 2.0 and management strategies have been recommended to mitigate the potential environmental impacts.

Introduction

Section 1

1.0 Introduction

As part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being conducted for the proposed Gladstone Liquefied Natural Gas (GLNG) project, a terrain, soils and land capability analysis was undertaken along the 429 km length of the proposed gas transmission pipeline corridor. This pipeline corridor links Santos' coal seam gas fields in Central Queensland with its LNG facility on Curtis Island. The gas transmission pipeline corridor commences in the vicinity of Santos' Fairview CSG field, and runs north through the Arcadia Valley to the western footslopes of the Expedition Range just south of the Dawson Highway. The corridor then heads in an east-north-easterly direction towards Gladstone, closely paralleling the alignment of the existing Queensland Gas Pipeline (QGP), to a proposed bridge crossing of the waterway of Port Curtis between Friend Point on the mainland and Laird Point on Curtis Island, approximately 13 km to the north-west of Gladstone. On Curtis Island the corridor continues in an easterly direction for approximately 3 km, then heads in a southerly direction (traversing the south western section of Curtis Island) to link with the LNG facility site in the vicinity of Hamilton Point.

The Terms of Reference for this study require that a terrain analysis of the proposed gas transmission pipeline corridor be carried out as a basis for the description of the physical environment in terms of geological regimes, landform and associated soil conditions. Additionally, the study is to serve as a means of identifying potential engineering and environmental impacts that may result from the construction activities and on-going operational issues associated with the development. Measures required to mitigate any such impacts were also to be identified.

The scope of works required for the terrain, soils and land capability assessment study were as follows:

- Describe the topography and general geomorphology along the gas transmission pipeline corridor including any significant features of the landscape and areas of high conservation values;
- Describe the geological regimes that occur along the pipeline corridor and identify any geological hazards or features that may impact on construction or be impacted by construction;
- Landforms and associated soils to be mapped and described at an appropriate scale with soils described according to the Australian Soil and Field Survey Handbook McDonald et al. 1990 and the Australian Soil Classification (Isbell 2002);
- Describe and map the soils that occur along the pipeline corridor with comments on the likely availability of topsoil resources for rehabilitation of disturbed areas;
- Describe the likely physical and chemical properties of the soils and associated terrain types as a basis for determining the erosion potential and any likely impact on agricultural land productivity;
- Provide an assessment of soil stability including dispersion characteristics and suitability for construction of the pipeline and associated infrastructure facilities;
- Identify and comment on any areas that may contain acid sulfate soils (ASS); and
- Identify the occurrence of good quality agricultural lands (GQAL) with respect to potential cropping and grazing enterprises.

Section 1

Introduction

1.1 Method of Assessment

1.1.1 Desktop Assessment

The terrain within the gas transmission pipeline corridor has been assessed in terms of geological regimes, landform types and associated soils. The area assessed initially comprised a 5 km wide corridor (2.5 km each side of the designated centreline) and included various potential alternative routes. This was subsequently reduced to a 2km wide corridor (1 km each side of the centreline) as shown for the route finally adopted for the EIS. Terrain mapping has been carried out with reference to existing geological, topographic and soils information. This information was compiled using the background data sources listed below which have provided the basis for identifying *Terrain Units* that occur within the gas transmission pipeline corridor.

As mapped, a terrain unit comprises a single or recurring area of land that is considered to have a predictable combination of physical attributes in terms of bedrock, surface slope and form, and soil/substrate conditions. Accordingly, engineering and environmental characteristics determined at one location may be extrapolated to other occurrences of the same terrain unit.

The features along the gas transmission pipeline corridor are described in this report in relation to kilometre points (Kp's), where the start point (Kp 0) is approximate 2 km to the south of Hutton Creek in the Fairview area and the end point (Kp 429) is at the proposed LNG facility site on Curtis Island.

1.1.2 Data Sources

The following data were reviewed and/or used for the mapping, description and assessment of the physical environment along the gas transmission pipeline corridor:

- Colour aerial photography – The State of Queensland (NRM&E) Series QAP 5719 flown 02/05/99 at a nominal scale of 1:40,000 for the Curtis Island segment of the gas transmission pipeline corridor; colour 06.ECW (SPOT) imagery provided by Santos Ltd. for the mainland sectors of the pipeline corridor.
- Route corridor topographic data with 5 m Lidar Contours provided by Santos Ltd. covering the majority of the main route corridor; with Geoscience Australia (100k) 20 m Contours, supplemented by reference to Google Earth 3D imagery, in the southern sector of the corridor and in various route alternative corridor sectors considered.
- Geological mapping derived from Regional Geological Map Sheets of the Surat Basin and the Bowen Basin and the Gladstone 1:100,000 Series Geological Mapping, included in the Geoscience Data Set compiled by the Geological Survey of Queensland (July 2004).
- Land resources digital data sets including CSIRO Land Research Series No. 19 (1967) – Lands of the Isaac-Comet Area Queensland; Land Research Series No. 21 (1968) – Lands of the Dawson Fitzroy Area – Queensland; Land Research Series No. 34 (1974) – Lands of the Balonne-Maranoa Area Queensland.
- Land Resources and Evaluation of the Capricornia Coastal Lands (CCL) – Sheet 3 Calliope area, NRW Data (1995).
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW – 2004)) regional compilation of and mapping (1:250,000) Central West Region - Good Quality Agricultural Lands (GQAL).
- Denison Trough Gas Project – Gladstone Option. Results of Terrain Analysis and Field Investigations, prepared by Terrain Analysis QLD Pty Ltd on behalf of CSR Oil and Gas Division (1984).

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1.1.3 Field Investigations

The terrain analysis undertaken for the gas transmission pipeline corridor has essentially involved an in depth desktop assessment of terrain conditions along the route as a means of identifying geological, landform and soil conditions, as well as areas of potential high engineering/geological constraints for pipeline construction, including areas of potentially high environmental impact that may result from construction of the gas transmission pipeline in particular locations. Fieldwork including soil sampling was undertaken within the LNG plant site area and along the final sector of the gas transmission pipeline corridor that terminates at the LNG facility site on Curtis Island. Fieldwork involving drilling and soil sampling operations were undertaken as part of an acid sulfate soils investigation within the coastal and estuarine areas on the south-west coast of Curtis Island and on the estuarine flats to the south-west of Friend Point on the mainland (see Appendix L4). A drive-through reconnaissance survey of parts of the western and southern sectors of the gas transmission pipeline corridor, including parts of the southern CSG fields, was also carried out to gain an overall general appreciation of terrain and soil types in the general area.

More detailed field investigations including drilling and soil sampling operations are proposed to be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction of the pipeline, in particular in those areas identified in this study as potential “high constraint” areas, to determine appropriate construction and potential environmental impact management strategies.

1.2 Topography and Geomorphology

1.2.1 Major Topographic Features and Drainage in the Pipeline Corridor

The gas transmission pipeline corridor shown on Figure's 1-1 to 1-5 represents the proposed corridor current at the time of completion of the route corridor mapping in November 2008. The corridor commences at Kp 0 km in the dissected plateau country of the Great Dividing Range to the south of Hutton Creek, located approximately 38 km east-north-east of Injune. The topography on the plateau of the Jurassic sandstone rock types comprises locally near flat to undulating, in places strongly undulating to low hilly uplands. The plateau is cut in many places by steep-sided scarps and ravines within which the soils are mostly sandy surface duplex soils or uniform loamy soils or gradational red and yellow earth soils. These soils often very shallow and stony, with areas of sandstone rock outcrop on the upper margins of the plateau and on the steeper bounding scarp slopes. Drainage of these dissected plateau uplands is generally in an easterly direction via Hutton Creek and Baffle Creek and by the upper reaches of the Dawson River, each of which are intersected by the pipeline corridor in the vicinity of Kp 3 km, Kp 26 km and Kp 39 km respectively. The pipeline corridor descends from the upland plateau area via the northern bounding escarpment of the Carnarvon Range, which features near-vertical sandstone precipices with very steep to steep mid to lower slopes in sandstone, siltstone and mudstone rock types.

At the foot of the escarpment (Kp 39 km), the corridor crosses the narrow sandy floodplain of the upper reaches of the Dawson River and proceeds northward through the Arcadia Valley. The Arcadia Valley comprises locally near flat to gently undulating alluvial plains and drainage flats in the vicinity of the crossing of Arcadia Creek near Kp 76 km, on the alluvial plains associated with Brown River and approaching the pipeline crossing of Clematis Creek near Kp 120 km. Along the eastern margin of the valley, Cainozoic colluvial fan deposits containing some sandy-surfaced duplex soils (Chromosols, Sodosols and Kurosols) and areas of medium to heavy clays (Dermosols) form a discontinuous gently to moderately sloping transition to the dissected footslopes of the Expedition Range. The broad alluvial plains of the Brown River and other streams within the Arcadia Valley are dominated by cracking and non-cracking uniform clay soils (Vertosols and Dermosols).

Introduction

Section 1

Table 1-1 Geological Regimes

Geological Regime	Map Symbol	Description
Quaternary (Holocene) Estuarine Sediments	Qe	Delta and coastal marine deposits comprising saline silty clays, clays, saline muds and sands;
Quaternary alluvium	Qa	Comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits;
Cainozoic Sediments	Czs	Sand plain, residual soils and older alluvial deposits, mainly sandy sediments, some gravel and clay;
Tertiary Sediments	Ts	Undivided sediments and as mapped includes Biloela Formation); sub-labile to quartzose sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, minor conglomerate coal and limestone;
Tertiary Volcanic rocks	Tb	Volcanic rocks, predominantly mafic; basalt, trachyte, rhyolite;
Early Jurassic Hutton Sandstone, Bundamba Group	Jh	Sub-labile to quartzose sandstone, siltstone, mudstone; minor conglomerate and coal;
Early-Middle Jurassic Evergreen Formation, Bundamba Group	Je	Labile and sub-labile sandstone, carbonaceous mudstone, siltstone and minor coal; local oolitic ironstone;
Jurassic Precipice Sandstone, Bundamba Group	Jp	Thick bedded, cross bedded pebbly quartzose sandstone, minor lithic sublabile sandstone, siltstone, mudstone;
Triassic Moolayember Formation, Mimosa Group	Rm	Micaceous lithic sandstone, micaceous siltstone;
Early-Middle Triassic Clematis Group	Rc	Quartz-rich sandstone, conglomerate, siltstone, mudstone;
Triassic Arcadia Formation, Rewan Group	Ra	Lithic sandstone and green to reddish brown mudstone and minor conglomerate;
Permian Sediments	Ps	Clastic sediments: - As mapped includes: - the Blackwater Group and Back Creek Group - comprising sandstone, siltstone, shale, mudstone, tuff and conglomerate. As mapped includes Lakes Creek Formation - siltstone and lithic sandstone and Berserker Beds - siltstone and litho-feldspathic sandstone;
Permian Volcanics	Pv	Intermediate extrusive/intrusive rocks; - As mapped includes:- Inverness Volcanics - trachyte to dacite, volcanic breccia; - Chalmers Formation (Berserker Group) - rhyolitic to andesitic volcanoclastic breccia, siltstone and lithic sandstone; - Camboon Volcanics (Back Creek Group) - andesite, basalt, dacite, rhyolitic flows; - Smoky Beds - andesitic conglomerate, sandstone; Youlambie Conglomerate - polymictic conglomerate, volcanoclastic sandstone, dacitic to rhyolitic ignimbrite
Late Permian-Early Triassic Felsic Intrusives	Pfi	As mapped includes - Voewood Granite, Granodiorite, Bocoilima Granodiorite (part of) Galloway Plains Igneous Complex, Rocky Point Granodiorite, Redshirt Granite - Littlemore Suite, Targinie Quartz Monzonite -collectively comprising granite, granodiorite & quartz monzonite rock facies;
Late Permian-Early Triassic Intermediate Intrusive Rock-types	Pii	As mapped includes - Hornblende Diorite, Galloway Plains Igneous Complex, Zig-zag Granodiorite, Craiglands Quartz Monzodiorite, (Pgdu) Dumgree Tonolite, Gabbro, (Pgma) Manersley Granodiorite - collectively comprising quartz diorite, tonolite, monzodiorite, gabbro rock facies;
Carboniferous Torsdale Volcanics	Ct	Dacitic to rhyolitic ignimbrite, volcanoclastic rocks and lava, subordinate andesitic rocks and volcanilithic conglomerate and sandstone;

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Geological Regime	Map Symbol	Description
Carboniferous Rockhampton Group	Cr	Mudstone, siltstone, volcanoclastic sandstone, polymictic conglomerate, oolitic limestone;
Carboniferous Wandilla Formation	Cw	Mudstone, lithic sandstone, siltstone jasper, chert, slate and schist;
Late Devonian - Early Carboniferous Intermediate Extrusives and Volcanoclastic Sediments	Dcs	As mapped includes - Mount Alma Formation; - Three Moon Conglomerate; - Yarwun Beds; - Doonside Formation, Curtis Island Group; - Balnagowan Volcanic Member; collectively comprising andesitic to basaltic volcanoclastic rocks, altered basalt, sandstone, siltstone and conglomerate, chert, mudstone and limestone;
Silurian-Devonian Volcanoclastic Rocks	Sf	As mapped includes - Erebus Beds and - Mount Holly Beds; collectively comprising dacitic to rhyolitic and basaltic to andesitic volcanoclastic sandstone and conglomerate, with minor siltstone and fossiliferous limestone.

The occurrences and distribution of the geological regimes as mapped within the gas transmission pipeline corridor are shown in **Figure's 2a, 2b, 2-1 to 2-24**.

1.3.1 Seismic Activity and Ground Stability

Queensland is seismically active, with the highest hazard region lying along the populated eastern coast and near offshore regions. Most Australian earthquakes occur in the crustal layers of the region, and in the north-east of Australia the average earthquake focal depth has been determined to be 10 km (± 0.5 km). The largest earthquakes recorded in Queensland occurred offshore of Gladstone in 1918 (Richter Magnitude (ML) 6.3) and near Gayndah in 1935 (ML 6.1). Structural damage to buildings was reported in the Rockhampton region during the Gladstone earthquake. In the Rockhampton area, the earthquake was determined to have a Modified Mercalli Intensity of VI (denotes how strongly an earthquake affects a specific place and ranges between I and XII). Modified Mercalli Intensities of VII and VIII, which are capable of causing serious damage, were also noted on Quaternary floodplain alluvium in the Rockhampton area.

In Queensland, earthquakes with the potential to cause serious damage or fatalities (ML >5) have occurred on average about every five years during the last century, with several near misses to the State's large population centres. A high level of seismic activity runs through a belt just inland of Bundaberg spanning downwards from Gladstone through Gayndah and beyond. The recorded earthquake activity in the region is concentrated principally in two areas, namely the offshore Capricorn Group of islands and a zone extending from north of Biloela to near Monto (Anon, 1990 and McCue *et al.*, 1993). In addition, several isolated earthquake epicentres have been recorded throughout the region.

The most recent, moderate sized earthquake within the broader region of the project site struck about 40 km from Bundaberg in 1985 and recorded an ML of 3.1.

As shown in Plate 1-1, the GLNG Project area extends over a considerable distance, with some areas of the project falling within different expected earthquake intensities. The area with the highest earthquake risk is near Gladstone due to its close proximity to an earthquake source zone as defined in Gaull *et al.*, 1990. From the coast, approximately 200 km inland to the west along the pipeline corridor, including the area to the south through the Roma and Scotia CSG field tenements, the intensity is V on the Modified Mercalli Scale. The portions west of these areas containing the western and southern sectors of the gas transmission pipeline and all of the other CSG fields are categorised as IV (Gaull *et al.*, 1990).

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Section 1

1.3.2 Geological Structural Features and Faults

As mapped by the GSQ (2005) on the Regional Surat and Bowen Basin Map Sheets, the 100,000 Bajool Sheet (9050) and the Gladstone Sheet (9150), major fault lines and other geological structural features that occur in close proximity to, or that intersect the gas transmission pipeline corridor are shown in **Figure 2a, 2b and 2-1 to 2-24**. These structural features may potentially comprise a zone of weakness in the earth's crust that may be subject to differential movement if subjected to the impact of a significant seismic event in the general area. The approximate locations of major structural features and inferred faults that intersect or occur in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline corridor are described below.

The Arcadia Anticline which is in the vicinity of the corridor runs along the western margin of the Arcadia Valley at the base of the escarpment of the Carnarvon Range, intersecting the corridor near Kp 45 km. A major fault line (the Hutton Fault) runs parallel to the pipeline corridor approximately 20 km to the west in this same general vicinity. A fault line intersects the corridor in the vicinity of Kp 75 km and the Arcadia Anticline again intersects and closely parallels the corridor between Kp 75 to Kp 80 km. This feature again intersects the corridor at Kp 111 km. and at Kp136 km, where the corridor changes direction to the east.

A feature identified as the Mimosa Syncline crosses the corridor in the vicinity of Kp 214 to Kp216 km. An inferred fault line along the valley of Bell Creek intersects the corridor in the vicinity of Kp 330 km. A group of inferred fault lines have also been identified to occur mainly associated with internal scarps within the Callide Range to the south-east of the corridor between Kp 330 to Kp 341 km. Further to the east, the corridor crosses an inferred fault line which corresponds with the eastern escarpment of the Callide Range in the vicinity of Kp 353 km. A further inferred fault line is shown to intersect the corridor in the vicinity of Kp 390 approximately.

A series of inferred sub-parallel faults have been identified in the Mt Alma Range area that intersect the corridor in the vicinity of Kp 398 km, 399 km, 402 km and 403 km approximately. Further to the east the corridor crosses two north-north-west trending major fault lines at Kp 403 km, identified as the Boyne River Fault and in the vicinity of Kp 413 km along the eastern footslope of the Mount Larcom Range.

A major north south trending inferred fault line runs parallel to the western coastline of "The Narrows" waterway, which crosses the pipeline corridor in the vicinity of Friend Point at Kp 420 km. Approximately 3 km east of Laird Point on Curtis Island, the gas transmission pipeline corridor follows a north-north-west trending narrow, (possibly fault controlled) valley, en-route to the LNG facility site. A series of six east west trending fault lines have been identified along this sector which trend towards or intersects the pipeline corridor between Kp 422 to Kp428 km.

Introduction

1.4 Terrain Units

As discussed in **Section 1.1**, the identification of terrain units provides a basis for the description of the physical environment and as mapped, terrain units serve to show the occurrence and distribution of geological regimes, landform units and associated soil types which occur along the gas transmission pipeline corridor.

Terrain units were identified along the gas transmission pipeline corridor initially within a 5 km wide corridor which included various potential alternative routes. Accordingly not all of the terrain units identified occur within the 1km wide corridor for the route finally adopted for the EIS. The terrain units that occur within the adopted pipeline corridor are shown in **Figure 2-1 to 2-24** where they are coloured on the basis of the geological regime in which they occur. The map sheet layout is shown in **Figure 2a** and a key to the identification of terrain units is provided in **Figure 2b**. Detailed descriptions of the terrain units together with an assessment of some more important engineering/environmental attributes and constraints for construction and on-going operations of the gas transmission pipeline and associated infrastructure are included in **Appendix A** of this report.

1.5 Soils

1.5.1 Major Soil Groups

The Key to the Identification of Terrain Units (**Figure 2b**) is to be read in conjunction with **Figures 2-1 to 2-24**. This key includes a generic suite of 9 broad Soil Groups that occur within the project area (as also described in Table 1-1 below). The soil groups identified cover a broad range of Australian soils including:

- Uniform and gradational coarse-textured (sandy);
- Medium-textured (loamy) soils,
- Texture contrast (duplex) soils and
- Gradational or uniform fine-textured (non-cracking and cracking clay) soil profile forms.

The soil groups are generally characterised by increasingly finer (more clayey) texture and higher plasticity in the subsoil layers with increasing soil group number. Wherever possible, soils have been characterised in terms of the following soil classification schemes:

- Handbook of Australian Soils (Stace *et al.*, 1968);
- Principal Profile Form (PPF) of Northcote (1974);
- Australian Soil Classification (ASC) (Isbell, 2002); and
- Australian Engineering Soil Classification (AS 1726-1993).

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Table 1-2 Description and Classification of Major Soil Groups

Soil Group	Summary Soil Description	Soil Classification			
		Aust. Soil Group ⁽¹⁾	P.P.F. ⁽²⁾	U.S.C. ⁽³⁾	A.S.C. ⁽⁴⁾
1	Skeletal, rocky or gravelly soils (>60% coarse fragments) with sandy, silty, loamy or clayey soil matrix	Shallow rocky soils	K- Uc1, Um1, Gn1, Uf1	GW, GM, GP, GC	Lithosolic/Colluvic Rudosols
2	Sand soils; shallow to deep uniform or weakly gradational profiles; includes stratified alluvial soils, residual sand soils, earthy sands;	Siliceous sands Earthy sands	(Ucl-Uc6) ⁽²⁾	SP, SM,SW	Rudosol, Tenosol Podosol Soil Orders ⁽³⁾
3	Coarse to medium-textured soils; uniform or gradational profiles; predominantly sandy earths with sand, silty or clayey sand over clayey sand-sandy clay soil profiles	Sandy Earths Sandy Red-Yellow Earths	(Uc4-5, Uml-3) Gn2.11, Gn2.12	SP-SC/SC-CL /CL SC/SC-CL	Tenosols or Podosol Soil Orders.
4	Medium-textured sandy, sandy loam or silt to clay loamy surface uniform or gradational profiles with clay loam, light clay or medium clay subsoils, in places with siliceous stone and/or ferruginous gravelly lenses included	Shallow Loams Gravelly Loams Red and Yellow Massive Earths Lateritic Red-Yellow Earths	Um2.12 K-Um2.12 Um4.11 Gn2.12 Gn2.22	CL/GC-CL/GC GC-CL/GC	Tenosols, Kandosols or Ferrosol Soil Orders.
5	Sand, loamy sand, sandy loam or loamy surface duplex soils over acidic to locally strongly acidic, in places neutral or slightly alkaline sandy clay to medium to heavy clay subsoils;	Red, Yellow & Brown Podzolic Soils ; Grey & Brown Soloths	Dr2.12, 2.22 Dy3.42, 3.22 Dy3.12, 3.32 Db1.41	SP-SC/CL or CL-CH	Ferric Red-Brown Chromosols; Sodic Yellow & Brown Kurosols
6	Fine sandy, silty or clay loamy surface duplex soils with neutral to alkaline often calcareous, sodic and locally saline medium to heavy clay or heavy clay subsoils;	Yellow, Brown, Red-brown Solodic Soils; Solodized Solonetz	Db1.33, 1.13 Dr2.13, Dy2.23, Dd1.13	ML-CL/CL-CH or CH SM-ML/CL-CH or CH	Subnatic Brown Sodosols, Chromosols, Sodosols or Calcarosols Soil Orders
7	Shallow uniform often gravelly fine-textured soils, medium to deep uniform fine-textured (non-cracking) clay soils or gradational often stony or gravelly clay loam or light clay surface soils over alkaline medium to heavy clay subsoils, locally sodic and saline in the deeper subsoils – some deep incipient cracking clays;	Alluvial Soils Dark brown Grey-brown or Dark Reddish-brown (Non-Cracking) Clay Soils, some Solonchaks	U		

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Soil Group	Summary Soil Description	Soil Classification			
		Aust. Soil Group ⁽¹⁾	P.P.F. ⁽²⁾	U.S.C. ⁽³⁾	A.S.C. ⁽⁴⁾
9	Deep to very deep, very soft, uniform gradational or weak duplex soil profiles, with organic silty clay to silty clay loam surface soils and seasonally or permanently saturated subsoils, typically gleyed saline clays, clayey silt, silty sand or sandy mud	Humic Gley Soils Solonchaks	Uf6.41 Dg2.11 Uf6.61	CL-ML/OL-OH	Intertidal and Supratidal Hydrosols; Redoxic Hydrosols
Notes: - (1) - Common Soil Group Name (Stace et.al. 1968); (2) - Principal Profile Form (Northcote 1974); (3) - Australian Engineering Soil Classification (AS 1726-1993); (4) - Australian Soil Classification (Isbell, 2002).					

Descriptions of terrain units and associated soils that occur along the gas transmission pipeline corridor are included in **Appendix A**. Soil profile characteristics have been identified from various sources including the findings from the Acid Sulfate Soils Investigation (**see Appendix L4**) and from the results of the test pits excavated as part of the field investigation program for the LNG facility development area included in **Appendix L3**. Additional soils data was obtained from reference to and interpretation of the Land Systems and Soils mapping by CSIRO (1967, 1968 & 1967) and NRW (1995), which collectively cover the general project area. Reference was also made to the data obtained as part of the field investigation of sections of the pipeline proposed for the Denison Trough Gas Project – Gladstone Option, prepared by CSR Oil and Gas Division (1984).

1.5.2 Soil Types

With respect to the major soil groups identified in **Figure 2b** and described in **Section 1.5.1** above, the scheme allows for one or more soil profile variants (soil types) to be described within a particular soil group in order to differentiate between similar soils which have somewhat differing soil profile characteristics. A general description of the soil types identified in the terrain unit descriptions in **Appendix A** of this report is as follows:

Soil Types in Soil Group 1 – Group 1 soils comprise mainly shallow to medium deep stony, gravelly and rocky soils, typically with >60% coarse fragments in a sandy, silty, loamy or clayey soil matrix. Only the one general soil type was identified within this group.

Soil Types in Soil Group 2 – Group 2 soils comprise uniform or weakly gradational coarse-textured sandy soil profiles. Three soil types identified within the group areas follows:

Soil Type 2.1 - These soils occur mainly on the eroded plateau margins, on steep dissected scarps and hilly lands mainly in the sandstone plateau areas and comprise mainly shallow (<0.5 m) acidic sands and gravelly sands underlain by weathered sandstone or colluvium derived there-from. In terms of Australian Soil Taxonomy (Great Soil Groups), these soils are classified as – Lithosols; Principal Profile Form (PPF –Northcote 1974) - Uc1.21; Australian Soil Classification (ASC Isbell 1996) – *Acidic Paralithic Rudosols*.

Soil Type 2.2 - These soils

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Section 1

1.6.2 Topsoil Management

Useable topsoil resources are mainly confined to the surficial (A) horizon materials and in places in the upper part of the subsurface (B1) horizons, which contain seed-stock, micro-organisms, organic matter and nutrients necessary for plant growth. Soil microbial activity, organic matter content and other parameters affecting soil productivity and fertility, tend to decrease with depth.

In general, topsoil resources that occur along the gas transmission pipeline right-of-way (ROW) will be salvaged from areas likely to be subject to disturbance as a result of clearing and the provision of temporary construction or permanent access tracks. Where possible, the pre-stripped topsoil material will be temporarily stockpiled within the ROW for subsequent rehabilitation of areas disturbed by construction activities. Topsoil resources along the immediate gas transmission pipeline centreline will be stripped and placed in stockpiles separate from the underlying trench spoil for subsequent replacement during the final stages of the construction period.

Table 1-3 Indicative Topsoil Resources & Stripping Depths

Soil Group	Summary Soil Description	Soil Type	Indicative Stripping Depth (m)	Remarks
1	Skeletal, rocky or gravelly soils (>60% coarse fragments) with sandy, silty, loamy or clayey soil matrix	1	0	Skeletal to shallow rocky soils and rock outcrop
2	Sand soils; shallow to deep uniform or weakly gradational profiles; includes stratified alluvial soils, residual sand soils, earthy sands;	2.1	0.1	Utilise seed stock and organics
		2.2	0	Potential source of bedding sand
		2.3	0.25	Humic surface soil, strongly acidic subsoils
3	Coarse to medium-textured soils; uniform or gradational profiles; predominantly sandy earths with sand, silty or clayey sand over clayey sand-sandy clay soil profiles	3.1	0.2	Strongly acidic subsoils (>0.2 m)
		3.2	0.3	Texturally suitable (0.3-0.6) but low levels of soil nutrients
4	Medium-textured sandy, sandy loam or silt to clay loamy surface uniform or gradational profiles with clay loam, light clay or medium clay subsoils, in places with siliceous stone and/or ferruginous gravelly lenses included	4.1	0.2	Excess gravel/stone below 0.2 m
		4.2	0.3	Texturally suitable (0.3-0.6) but high gravel content may occur
		4.3	0.3	Texturally suitable (0.3-0.6), but low soil nutrients
5	Sand, loamy sand, sandy loam or loamy surface duplex soils over acidic to locally strongly acidic, in places neutral or slightly alkaline sandy clay to medium to heavy clay subsoils;	5.1	0.2	Strongly acidic, locally sodic in the deeper subsoils
		5.2	0.3	Bleached erodible (A2) horizon (>0.3 m), possible source of bedding sand (0-0.6 m)

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Section 1

1.10 Load Bearing Capacity of Marine Plains

Variable shallow to deep and in parts very deep occurrences of saturated soft sediments have been found to occur on the marine/estuarine plains in terrain units Qe0/9 and Qe1/7-9. Depending on site-specific locations and their proximity to the landward margins of the terrain units, these areas may be prone to substantial settlement under load – e.g. fill emplacement. The load bearing capacity of marine plain soils has been addressed as part of site acid sulphate soil investigation in **Appendix L4**.

Section 2

Potential Impact and Mitigation Measures

2.0 Pipeline Construction - Constraints and Impacts

A terrain analysis of a 5 km wide gas transmission pipeline corridor was initially carried out, to assess the engineering and/or environmental constraints with respect to the location and construction of a pipeline and various possible alternatives being considered. A series of terrain units were identified for each of the main geological regimes identified within the gas transmission pipeline corridor based on landform characteristics (surface form and slope) and associated soils. Subsequently, a 2 km wide corridor was adopted for the EIS of the proposed pipeline route. The occurrences of terrain units within that corridor are shown in **Figures 2-1 to 2-24**. Descriptions of the terrain units, together with an assessment of the more important engineering/environmental constraints and by association, potential environmental impacts for pipeline construction, are provided in **Appendix A** of this report. The assessment includes:

- Topographic constraints;
- Excavation rating - relates to the ease or difficulty of excavation within the typical trench depth;
- Erosion potential - if the land is subject to clearing or disturbance associated with construction;
- Drainage status - assessment of area drainage conditions and susceptibility to flooding/tidal inundation;
- Problem soils - the occurrence of reactive soils, sodic, dispersive and/or saline soils, acid sulphate soils; and
- Agricultural land classes – changes to agricultural land capability.

Discussion relating to the above engineering/environmental constraints together with a summary of findings and comments with respect to mitigation of potential environmental impacts is provided as follows:

2.1 Topographic Constraints

Topographic constraints and their impact on the level of difficulty with respect to the construction of the pipeline, relate primarily to the steepness of slopes, in particular the steepness of cross slopes and the degree of dissection along the pipeline centreline. In general, terrain units that have overall surface slopes up to 3% have been rated as presenting a low (L) level of constraint. Terrain units with surface slopes between 3-5% and locally between 5-12%, depending on the local internal relief and degree of dissection, have been rated as presenting a low to moderate (L-M) level of constraint. Strongly undulating to low hilly lands with surface slopes up to 25% and including some of the larger tributary stream crossings, have been rated as presenting a moderate (M) level of constraint. The steeper hilly and high hilly lands and steep escarpment slope areas, with slopes 25-50% or steeper, together with the major stream and river crossings along the pipeline route, have been rated as presenting a high (H) level of topographic constraint for pipeline construction.

