16 PIPELINE REHABILITATION AND DECOMMISSIONING

16.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides responses to submissions received on the Draft EIS related to rehabilitation and decommissioning of the pipelines.

Where changes to the project description, as detailed in *Volume 2, Chapters 8* and *12*, have impacted rehabilitation and decommissioning, these impacts, and measures to mitigate impacts are described.

16.2 RESPONSES TO SUBMISSIONS

A summary of the submissions received on rehabilitation and decommissioning for the pipelines and a response to those submissions is provided in *Table 2.16.1*

Table 2.16.1 Responses to Submissions on the Draft EIS

Issue Raised	QCLNG Response	Relevant Submissions(s)
One of the proposed options for decommissioning is to abandon the pipeline and leave it to corrode in situ. Given the proposed pipe has a diameter of 1 metre there is the potential for ground subsidence also resulting in overland flow concentration, erosion, and hazards to stock and people.	Refer to Section 16.3	32

16.3 DECOMMISSIONING

As stated in the draft EIS decommissioning of the pipelines will be carried out in accordance with the legislative and environmental regimes in place at the time of decommissioning.

All licensed pipelines in Australia are designed, constructed and operated in accordance with Australian Standard 2885 *Pipelines – Gas and liquid petroleum*. Part 3: *Operation and maintenance* of this standard provides among other details the requirements for abandonment of a pipeline. These requirements call for the removal of all above ground infrastructure associated with the pipeline and making safe the buried pipeline. This includes minimising the likelihood of ground subsidence and the risk of soil or ground water contamination.

A decommissioning plan will be prepared closer to the end of the life of the Project so that it takes into account the most current environmental and legislative requirements. QGC proposes a risk based approach to decommissioning that would take into account the implications of abandoning a one metre plus diameter pipe in-situ. The process will look at the key pathways for deterioration of an abandoned pipeline (e.g. water migration leading to corrosion) and the potential for subsidence to occur. The pipeline is proposed to have both an external and an internal coating and whilst the internal coating is primarily aimed at reducing friction to the flow of the gas, the lining will also provide internal corrosion protection thus minimising long term corrosion potential.