

Quirindi community meeting summary

Snapshot

Date: 19th August 2025

Venue: Quirindi RSL

Number of people registered: 10

Number of people attended: 10

These notes should be read in conjunction with the presentation provided.

If something can be immediately addressed, we have put in a [Please note] after the question

Key takeaways overall

Concerns and questions focused on the Authority to Survey (ATS) process, including landholders' rights to a reply to a draft recommendation, whether the conditions under which a pipeline is proposed are appropriate (e.g. a floodplain), transparency of the information about their property shared with the Department, process time limits and renewals of ATSs.

Questions about compulsory acquisition related to the fairness of the Valuer-General determining land value and whether proponents should cover landholders' legal and valuation costs upfront, rather than at the conclusion of the process.

Regulations	What we heard
Gas Supply (Safety and Network Management) Amendment Regulation 2025	N/A
Pipelines Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2025	N/A

Draft Guideline	What we heard
Authority to Survey for Pipelines - Draft Guideline	• Question over whether the Guideline will apply retrospectively. • Clarification was sought regarding Step 6 in the ATS Guideline and how landowners could have a right of reply as an additional condition. • Step 5 – Questioning whether “good faith” applies if the Department does not also provide landowners with the information and evidence that the proponent had shared with the Department. • Clarification was sought whether the same evidence received by the Department is always sent to landowners. • Questions over how to make a complaint to the Department regarding the use of an ATS. Requested that a clear way of making a complaint be shared and that this process is easily accessible. • Question as to whether there is a time limit for an ATS application and their extension. Question as to how many renewals pipeline proponents are entitled to. • Clarification was sought over a landowners’ ability to request additional conditions for an approved ATS, e.g. when a proponent is working on a floodplain. The Draft Guideline doesn’t provide for this right-of-reply to a draft set of conditions. • Request for the guideline to specify where the ATS notifications are published on the NSW Government website. • Request for the guideline to clarify: legal fees are not always covered, noting a process where the proponent will not pay for advice that informs landowners not to sign an access agreement.
Compulsory Acquisition for Pipelines - Draft Guideline	• Question over whether the Guidelines will apply retrospectively. • Questioning whether valuation costs are covered by the proponent as landowners would like to ensure legal fees and valuation costs are covered before an agreement is reached.

Issues relating to the Quirindi area and other issues

- Question over whether a pipeline proponent has to physically access the property in order to conduct a survey. [**Please note:** The proponent needs to survey flora and fauna, geotech, soil conditions, etc. and much of this can only be done in person.]

- Question on whether an ATS has been invoked on a property thus far on the Hunter Gas Pipeline (HGP). [**Please note:** there has been no notification provided to the Department for the HGP to use the ATS to date.]
- Concern that the existing petroleum exploration licence along the route could enable gas exploration in the Liverpool Plains. Despite verbal assurances from the pipeline proponent that Quirindi will be excluded, written confirmation has not been provided.
- Question whether making a submission is the only way for landholders to have their voices heard in this process [**Please note:** these consultation sessions and meeting summaries are also feeding into the process to consider submissions].
- Request for environmental impact studies from 15 years ago to be redone on properties or that EIS ‘pockets’ be reviewed to consider landscape changes. [**Please note:** This issue would be considered by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure]
- Concern over pipeline routes being determined through desktop analysis without adequate on-the-ground assessments.
- Concern that people have been unaware of pipeline projects when purchasing land. An example was given where Council had pipeline location data but did not share it with prospective buyers. Agreements with Council about property reports are sought.
- Issues of a high level of pressure from a pipeline proponent on landholders regarding the intended use of an ATS.
- Criticism over a landowner being given two different dates for intent to access lands, both of which were breach of the Guidelines minimum 14-day notice periods.
- Question over the fairness that the Valuer-General is the arbiter to determine the compensation for compulsory acquisition.
- A request to extend the feedback deadline for this consultation process. [**Please note:** the six and half week consultation period will not be extended beyond 7 September 2025].

Next steps

The Department will provide presentation decks and meeting note summaries online and to participants who provided contact details.

Community members and landholders at these forums provided valuable feedback which is currently being considered by the Department. The Department wishes to thank all of the participants at the community forums for their time and insights.