

Preferred Route

What is it?

The preferred corridor is **not** the final alignment. The final alignment will be determined by the Minister for Planning.

The preferred corridor is a 100 metre wide corridor of land that the Sugarloaf Alliance considers the most suitable to align and construct the Sugarloaf Pipeline within, taking into account the social, environmental and technical considerations for each section of the pipeline. In some sections of the pipeline, there are several preferred corridors.

The preferred pipeline corridor directly impacts upon 170 properties however; in a number of places it still includes several options. This means that once the final alignment is selected, the number of impacted properties will be reduced.

The preferred corridor includes sections of road reserve, the Toolangi State Forest and the Melbourne Water pipetrack (Maroondah Aqueduct).

How was it determined?

The preferred corridor was identified following more than 35 000 hours of comprehensive research and field studies throughout the initial study area.

The initial study area was 4-5 kilometres wide (centred on the Melba Highway) and included a number of potential corridors. It was gradually refined through the careful assessment and study of issues including flora and fauna, cultural heritage and geotechnical.

This process also involved extensive communication with communities and landowners in and around the study area. These discussions continue, with the feedback and information gained helping to guide decisions within the preferred corridors.

What happens now?

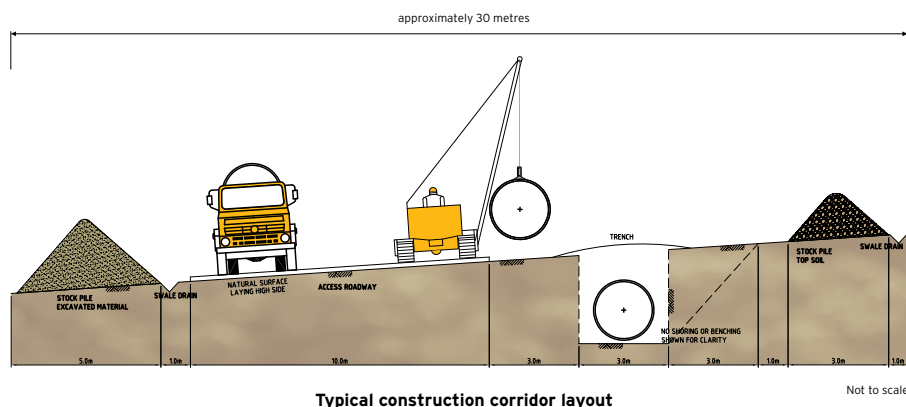
We are committed to working with landowners to understand their wishes and minimise impacts as much as possible. Design teams have begun visiting potentially affected landowners and occupiers within the preferred corridor in order to discuss their particular needs and wishes.

In these discussions landowners and occupiers are able to identify significant items or areas within the section of the preferred corridor on their property that they would prefer were not disturbed by pipeline works (eg buildings, trees, etc.).

These items will be considered along with any matters of significance identified during the environmental investigations and/or which are already protected by law or require consideration.

The Minister for Planning will make a decision on the final pipeline alignment and the appropriate mechanisms to facilitate this under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Once the alignment is determined, the pipeline will be built within a construction corridor approximately 25 - 30m wide (see diagram). It will have an ultimate easement width of approximately 15m, which will be acquired under the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*.



Sugarloaf Pipeline Project

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