

PIPELINE EASEMENT MYTH BUSTING

Santos is working to provide information to the community about our Hunter Gas Pipeline project.

Below are some common myths and the facts.

MYTH	MYTH BUSTED
 “The whole 200m corridor will be cleared”	 Santos is working to finalise the easement within the approved 200 metre corridor. The width of the final easement will be reduced to just 30 metres. In some cases, additional temporary work areas may be needed during construction. Landholders will be compensated for the use of this extra space and any associated disturbance.
 “You can’t fence over the pipeline easement”	 Fencing is allowed over the easement and we encourage landholders to talk to Santos about their specific fencing requirements. The easement does not need to be fenced or gated (except where it crosses the boundary between properties).
 “You can’t crop or graze stock over the pipeline”	 Most crops along the HGP route are annual and perennial crops with soft, fibrous roots (e.g. cereals, lucerne, legumes, grasses, cotton). Their shallow or flexible root systems pose minimal risks and can be grown near and over the pipeline. Additionally, most normal agricultural activities including grazing, dry land cropping and irrigation can continue.
 “Landholders will lose access to the easement on their property”	 Landholders will have full access to the easement post construction. Santos will require access from time to time to undertake operation and maintenance requirements in accordance with the easement agreement.
 “You can’t drive over the pipeline easement”	 Normal vehicles, farm implements and road registerable machinery can be driven over buried pipelines. Heavy vehicle crossing points may be installed in places where unusually large or heavy equipment is used.
 “Landholders won’t be able to get insurance”	 Landholders who currently host gas infrastructure on their properties across NSW and QLD can secure insurance policies. Landholders do not need to cover Santos’ activities or infrastructure –that will be covered by Santos’ insurance. Santos will also cover landowners for any loss they suffer in the unlikely event of property damage or personal injury that Santos causes.
 “Santos will own and control the pipeline corridor on your land”	 The 30-metre easement allows Santos access to construct, operate and maintain the pipeline. Ownership of the land remains with the landholder.

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 “Santos insists on a caveat to stop landholders selling their land”	 There is nothing to stop a landholder from selling their property. There is a caveat in the easement agreement that informs potential buyers that Santos has an Option for Easement on the lot.
 “Compensation offered is less than the land value”	 Santos has a generous compensation package in place for landholders that includes an offer of double the property value determined by independent valuers. In addition, landholders are entitled to compensation for the granting of the easement, as well as for any loss of production during construction and ongoing operations. Santos will also contribute towards landholders’ reasonable legal and valuation costs incurred from reviewing and receiving independent advice on the agreement. This financial contribution is obligation-free and is not contingent on the landholder entering into an agreement with Santos.
 “Santos will tell landholders what they can and can’t do on their properties”	 Santos spends considerable time working with landholders to develop a unique co-operative management plan for their individual property. The plan is focused on minimising impacts to landholders and ensuring there is no impact to property use.
 “If we don’t talk to Santos, they can’t build the pipeline on my property”	 Early works construction has commenced and Santos is currently finalising the pipeline route and securing the remaining approvals required. If you are a landholder, we encourage you to engage with us. We want to understand how you use your property, any important features we should be aware of, and any preferences you’d like us to consider in the pipeline design. In many cases, we have been able to adjust the pipeline alignment in response to landholder feedback. Santos will take all reasonable steps to reach voluntary agreement with landholders. If voluntary agreement cannot be reached, as an instrument of last resort, the easement may be acquired and vested in Santos under government approval of the pipeline licence.

CONTACT DETAILS

To find out more information about the project:

Free call: 1300 427 546

Email: info@huntergaspipeline.com.au

Website: huntergaspipeline.com.au

Address: 125 Maitland Street, Narrabri NSW 2390

Santos is a global energy company with operations across Australia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the United States. For 70 years, Santos has been working in partnership with local communities, providing jobs and business opportunities, safely developing natural gas resources to power industries and households.