

HUGS Pipeline Project Frequently Asked Questions

Lochard Energy understands that neighbours and the community may have questions and concerns regarding the proposed Heytesbury Underground Gas Storage (HUGS) project.

To assist with addressing these concerns, Lochard Energy has compiled a list of frequently asked questions and answers. If your question or concern is not addressed, please contact Lochard Energy for further assistance via the contact details provided.

Why is the proposed project called HUGS?

HUGS is an acronym of the proposed project's full name, "Heytesbury Underground Gas Storage" project, and makes it easier and quicker to reference. Using acronyms is common practice for project names as they are often lengthy and referenced often.

What does the proposed HUGS Project involve?

The proposed HUGS Project involves identifying depleted underground gas fields to be used as underground gas storage. If suitable underground gas fields are identified, new gas storage wells will be required at purpose built wellsites to inject and produce gas from the fields.

The gas will then be transported back to the Iona Gas Storage Facility via the HUGS pipeline and Lochard's existing gas pipelines for processing and distribution to the Victorian energy market.

Does the proposed project include hydraulic fracturing of the subsurface rock ("fracking")?

No, this activity is banned in Australia.

What is underground gas storage?

Underground gas storage is a key part of the Victorian and south-eastern Australian gas supply network. The process involves injecting natural gas into depleted underground gas reservoirs from where it can be accessed when demand peaks, particularly in winter, helping to supplement normal supplies.

Is underground gas storage a common practice for storing gas?

Yes, where suitable. Depleted gas fields around Port Campbell in south-west Victoria have been used for gas storage for more than two decades and around the world for more than 100 years.

What is the duration of the project and when does it start?

The proposed HUGS Project is currently in the early planning stages and subject to approval. However, the proposed construction timeframe is for some works to start in early 2023, with construction scheduled to be completed in mid-2024.

Construction of the HUGS Pipeline is targeted for the summer period of 2023/24. Dates and schedules will be confirmed once project approvals have been secured. Landowners, occupiers and the community will be kept up to date with project progress.

There is some potential that the construction could be delayed by 12 months depending on market requirements.

Who can I speak to about the proposed project?

All care and due diligence are taken in the preparation and implementation of any activity related to Lochard Energy's operations. We take community feedback very seriously and welcome the opportunity to directly discuss any queries about the proposed HUGS Project or Pipeline.

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