

## Living and working near pipelines

In many locations around the world, fuel and gas products are transported by pipeline. Pipelines are an efficient and environmentally friendly way to safely transport fuel and gas products and can be located above ground or underground.

If you live or work near a pipeline, it is important to take special precautions when carrying out any activities that could impact on the pipeline's safe operation.

ExxonMobil Australia is responsible for pipelines that transport crude oil, liquid fuels (including diesel, unleaded petrol, liquid petroleum gas and aviation fuel) and natural gas.

Our pipelines run within established pipeline easements or pipeline Right of Way. Some of these may have multiple pipelines and the pipeline can be anywhere within the easement or pipeline Right of Way, not necessarily only in the centre.

### Dial Before You Dig

Before ground-breaking activities or work near above ground pipelines can commence, it is important to utilise the Dial Before You Dig service. Dial Before You Dig is a free national referral service designed to assist in preventing damage and disruption to Australia's vast infrastructure networks.

For more information or to lodge an enquiry, visit [www.1100.com.au](http://www.1100.com.au) or call 1100 toll free during business hours.

### Working safely around pipelines

#### Responsibilities and obligations

The cooperation of people living and working close to pipelines is essential for the safe and reliable operation of the pipeline. Pipelines are legally protected and severe penalties can be imposed against individuals and companies who endanger or damage pipelines. Damage to a pipeline may result in liability for repair costs, product losses, injury to people, property damage and potential claims by end-customers. Pipelines are regulated under the Pipelines Act (2005) by Energy Safe Victoria (ESV).

Pipelines are constructed, maintained and operated in accordance to these regulations as per the Australian Standard AS2885.

One of the most common ways for pipelines to be damaged is during excavation or earth moving activity carried out close to a pipeline or crossing with a heavy load over a pipeline without the pipeline operator's knowledge. It is the responsibility of any person carrying out works close to a petroleum pipeline to inform and obtain an approval from the pipeline operator of the works to ensure that there is no accidental damage.

#### Identifying where a pipeline is located

Marker posts and signs are installed at regular intervals along pipeline easements, however they do not provide the exact location of the pipeline itself. The precise pipeline location must be requested from Dial Before You Dig or the pipeline operator before works in the vicinity of the pipeline can begin.

#### Easements

Most sections of pipeline are constructed within defined easements and registered against property titles which grant a Right of Way to the pipeline operator. A Right of Way allows access for any necessary inspections, repairs, maintenance or replacement of the pipeline.

If your property contains a pipeline easement or Right of Way, some basic guidelines to follow are:

- Buildings are not permitted over the pipeline or within the easement or Right of Way
- Tracks or roads for heavy equipment are not permitted within the easement or Right of Way, without written permission of ExxonMobil Australia
- There are limitations and guidelines about what can be planted on the easement or Right of Way.



You must seek the approval of ExxonMobil Australia for any activity that may affect the pipeline, such as installation of land drains/mole drainage systems, deep ripping and the levelling of ground. We will provide a representative to advise on safety or supervise any such works to ensure that they are completed safely and without any impact to the pipeline.

#### *When to contact us*

ExxonMobil Australia must be contacted prior to any of the following works commencing on or near the pipeline easement:

- Excavation, trenching, ripping, ploughing, boring or drilling
- Installation of buried services or piping
- Erection of all types of fencing and posts
- Erection of power or telegraph poles
- Lifting of equipment over pipelines
- Construction of roads, tracks and drains
- Heavy vehicular traffic inside easement
- Temporary flooding or washouts
- Blasting or seismic activity
- Planting of trees and shrubs
- Concrete work, foundations, paving, temporary or permanent buildings
- Alteration of the grade or contours
- Store and use of flammable or explosive materials
- Other activities which might impact the pipeline or easement.

An ExxonMobil Australia representative will then assist by providing detailed information on the pipeline, determining the exact pipeline location and depth and advising on restrictions to construction and earthworks in the vicinity of the pipelines.

#### **Preventing pipeline product theft**

Tampering with or tapping into a hydrocarbon pipeline is a dangerous and illegal act. When people tamper with pipelines to steal product, they endanger themselves and the community. If you suspect pipeline product theft may be happening in your area, you can report it to us.

Signs of theft include:

- Evidence of excavated dirt near a pipeline
- Tubes or hoses running from the pipeline
- An odour of leaking fuel

#### **Safety is our priority**

We place the highest priority on operating flawlessly in all aspects of our business. ExxonMobil Australia is at all times focused on ensuring that we operate our pipelines safely and efficiently.

To safely operate our pipelines, we follow an integrity management program that includes:

- Regular maintenance of our systems and equipment, such as cathodic protection, to prevent corrosion
- Inspection of pipelines at defined intervals to identify areas of damage or corrosion before a leak could occur
- Regular patrols of pipelines.

We work hard to prevent any incidents involving our pipelines. However, should a pipeline be damaged in any way, we have detailed emergency response procedures and strong relationships with emergency services to minimise any risk to the environment or the community.

#### **Environmental management**

We are committed to achieving and maintaining excellence in environmental care throughout our operations.

The community can assist by recognising the signs of a release. Signs of a release of a fuel or gas product from a pipeline include:

- By sight: Liquid on the ground, water bubbling or being blown into the air, vapour cloud, discoloured or abnormally appearing soil, an oily sheen on water surfaces, fire or explosion, dead vegetation
- By sound: Unusual noise such as hissing or roaring
- By smell: Unusual petroleum or chemical smell.

If a release occurs or you think there may be a release:

- Immediately and safely leave the area and move upwind of the release
- Call emergency services on 000 and contact ExxonMobil Australia at the number listed on the pipeline warning sign
- Do not touch, breath or make contact with the release
- Do not light a match, start any engine, use a phone or light switch or do anything close to the release which may create a spark
- Do not drive into a leak or vapour cloud area
- If you have concerns about your own health, contact your doctor immediately
- Do not attempt to operate any of the valves on the pipeline. It could worsen the situation.



For more information on our local operations and to advise us of any upcoming or planned works near our pipelines, visit [www.exxonmobil.com.au](http://www.exxonmobil.com.au).