Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso) is a member of the ExxonMobil Australia group of companies.

Since 1969, Esso has operated the Bass Strait offshore oil and gas fields and associated production and processing facilities. Esso has a number of pipelines in service which transport crude oil and condensate and LPG from our Longford gas processing and crude oil stabilisation plants in Gippsland to our Long Island Point plant, situated near Hastings.

Esso is replacing the 187 kilometre pipeline that transports crude oil and condensate between our facilities. The replacement pipeline will be constructed adjacent to Esso’s existing pipelines. Construction of the replacement pipeline will commence in early 2016.

Who are the regulators of the Project?
The Victorian Government’s Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is responsible for the licensing of pipelines and environmental regulation of pipeline construction under the Victorian Pipelines Act 2005. Energy Safe Victoria is responsible for pipeline safety in Victoria, including for approval of Construction and Operational Safety Management Plans and the compliance of pipelines with the Australian Standard governing pipelines – Australian Standard AS 2885. For further information about their roles in relation to pipeline regulation, or to contact them, visit www.economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au and www.esv.vic.gov.au

What is the applicable Australian Standard for construction and commissioning of the Project?
Australian Standard AS 2885 governs engineering, environmental and safety requirements of Australian petroleum pipelines, including design, construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning.
Consent to operate the pipeline
Before the Minister provides written consent to operate the pipeline, Energy Safe Victoria will require that the relevant requirements of Australian Standard AS 2885 have been satisfied, including:
- all aspects to date have been in compliance with Australian Standard AS 2885;
- hydrotesting has been completed and documented satisfactorily;
- the maximum allowable operating pressure has been correctly established;
- welds have been correctly tested;
- all relevant personnel have been correctly trained;
- cathodic (corrosion) protection has been correctly applied;
- threat abatement and mitigation measures have been identified and applied;
- environmental and safety plans for pipeline operations are approved;
- a suitable inspection and maintenance plan is in place;
- an abandonment and rehabilitation plan is in place; and
- a records management system is in place.

There may also be additional, site-specific requirements.

Management of the old pipeline
The existing crude oil and condensate pipeline will continue to operate until the replacement pipeline has been constructed and is ready for operation. To reduce the need to disrupt landowners, occupiers and the broader community, after the completion of the construction work, Esso will clean and leave the existing pipeline in-situ, in accordance with Esso’s existing pipeline licence, Australian Standard AS 2885 and the Victorian Pipelines Act 2005.