

Engagement Summary Report

Amadeus Gas Pipeline 2026–31 Access Arrangement

30 June 2025



Emergency response exercise for pipeline repair at Darwin City Gate facility

Contents

About this document	3
Engagement approach	4
Engagement objectives	5
Stakeholders' priorities for the 2026–31 Access Arrangement	6
Engagement journey and next steps	7
What we heard and how we have responded	8
Engagement evaluation	17
Glossary	18

About this document

This document summarises the engagement journey APA has undertaken with stakeholders to prepare the 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2031 (**2026–31**) Access Arrangement for the Amadeus Gas Pipeline (**AGP**).

This report includes:

- AGP's engagement approach in developing the Access Arrangement
- A timeline of AGP's engagement activities to date and the next steps in relation to stakeholder engagement
- What was heard from stakeholders during the engagement activities and how APA responded to this feedback in developing the Access Arrangement
- A summary of the evaluation results from AGP's engagement activities

A high-level overview of the 2026–31 plans for AGP are set out in the 'Overview of the revised Access Arrangement' and more detail can be found in the 'Access Arrangement' and the 'Access Arrangement Information'.

We welcome customers and stakeholders' views on the revised Access Arrangement package.

Engagement approach

APA is committed to embedding quality stakeholder engagement into our business to ensure our actions are directly underpinned by the views of the consumers and communities we serve.

AGP's engagement approach for the development of the 2026–31 Access Arrangement was largely based on a series of online stakeholder group meetings.

Following a co-creation workshop that was offered both in-person and online, a broad group of stakeholders were invited to regular online meetings, rather than relying on a dedicated smaller stakeholder advisory group. This approach was taken to enable more stakeholders to participate in the engagement process, given it allowed for flexible attendance around competing work priorities and appropriately recognised the number of engagement processes taking place in the energy sector.

Overview of the functions of the stakeholder group

The functions of the stakeholder group included, but were not limited to:

- Providing independent feedback and challenge to APA on the degree to which the Access Arrangement addresses the needs and preferences of customers
- Co-designing the engagement program, including scope, timing, themes and engagement activities
- Inputting into the development of the Access Arrangement and challenging key components including operating expenditure and capital expenditure
- Assisting in improving AGP's understanding of the needs and expectations of different customer segments.

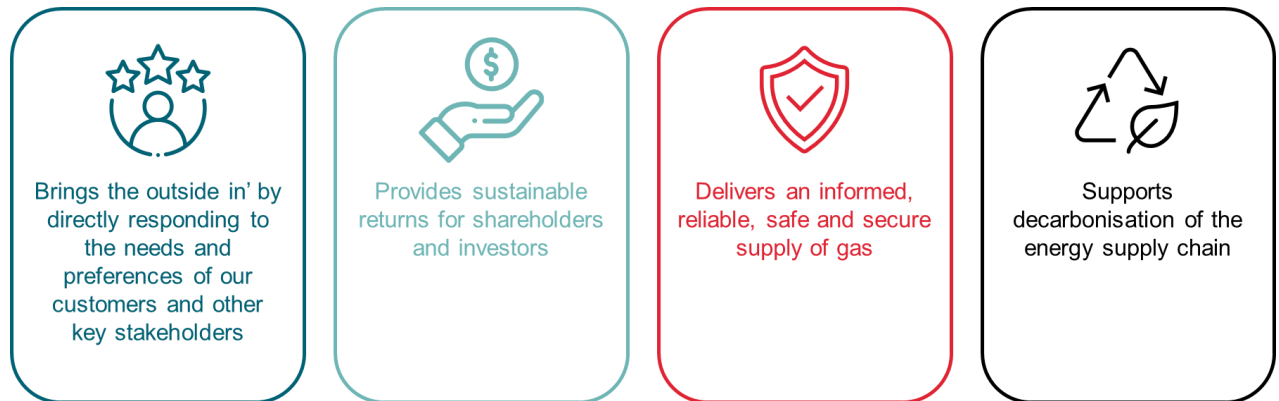
Organisations who attended the stakeholder group meetings were:

- Power and Water Corporation
- Energy Matrix Group
- Glencore
- Central Petroleum
- Origin Energy
- Empire Energy Group
- ENI
- Tamboran
- Incitec Pivot
- Daly Waters
- Northern Territory (NT) Government
- Council on the Ageing, NT
- St Vincent de Paul
- AER staff also attended the stakeholder group meetings as observers.

Engagement objectives






APA developed the engagement plan for the AGP 2026–2031 Access Arrangement in conjunction with stakeholders, beginning with a co-creation workshop held in February 2024. At this workshop, the engagement objectives were agreed with stakeholders.

The objectives of engagement were to deliver an Access Arrangement that:



Stakeholders' priorities for the 2026–31 Access Arrangement

The co-creation workshop identified the following as stakeholders' priorities for the 2026–31 Access Arrangement:

 <h3>Third party access</h3> <p>Third party access emerged as a key priority area for many stakeholders, including the following related issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Access of new users to the pipeline □ When capacity will extend beyond current arrangements □ Understand how a queuing system would work □ Access to existing users to both existing and expanded capacity 	 <h3>Future of AGP</h3> <p>The future of the AGP was also considered a priority area, including the below issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Supply capabilities of the pipeline in the future □ Beetaloo Basin □ Understanding expansion options □ Demand on the pipeline □ Sustainability and the energy transition 	 <h3>Reliability and security</h3> <p>Reliability and security of supply was raised by many stakeholders as a priority area.</p>	 <h3>Affordability</h3> <p>Affordability was also considered to be an important priority, with interest from stakeholders shown in priority topics of revenue and tariff setting, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Tariffs for new users □ Consumer risk, AA information and relevant costs □ Inclusion of all services within current reference tariffs □ Understanding how investments feed into tariffs 	 <h3>Gas specification and information</h3> <p>Gas specification and information, was also highlighted as a key interest area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Quality and gas composition □ Pressure regimes □ Community information about what happens on the pipeline from day to day
---	---	---	---	---

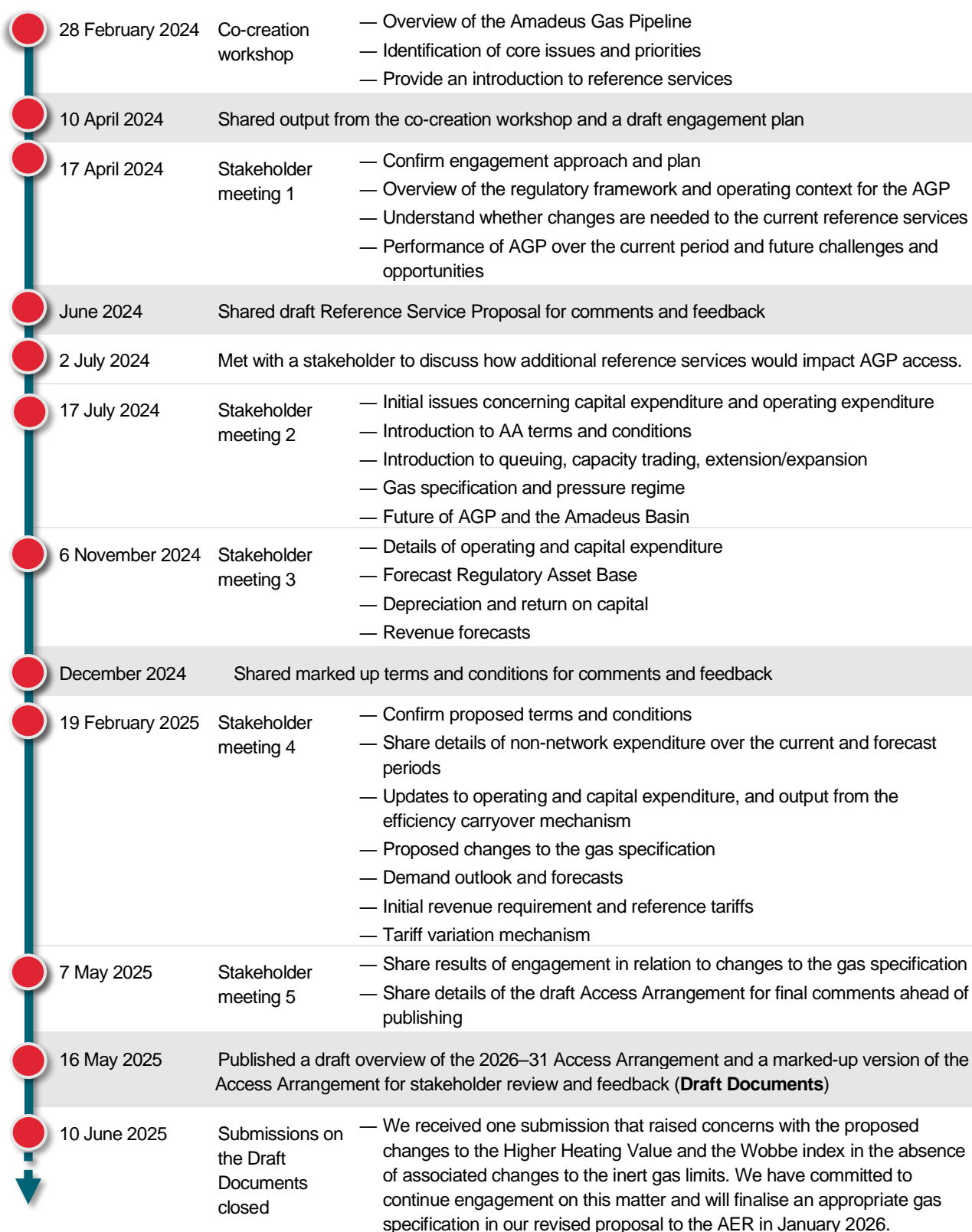
The engagement plan, that was subsequently reviewed and approved by stakeholders, addressed these priorities as well as the requirements of the Australian Energy Regulator's 'Better Resets Handbook'.

Engagement was focused on the issues where stakeholders could have the greatest impact and where their opinion would genuinely influence and guide the development of the Access Arrangement. APA's subsequent consultation with customers and stakeholders took place over a 15-month period and has ensured the Access Arrangement for the 2026–31 regulatory period addresses stakeholders' priorities and directly reflects consumer and stakeholder needs.

Engagement journey and next steps

So far, we have conducted a co-creation workshop and five stakeholder meetings. We are continuing engagement with stakeholders in relation to the gas specification ahead of submitting our revised proposal in January 2026. We will also reconnect with stakeholders following the AER's Draft Decision if it raises major issues that warrant further discussion or if there are other significant changes to our forecasts.

A timeline of the engagement interactions to date is shown below.
























What we heard and how we have responded







Priority theme	What we heard	How we have responded
Co-creation workshop		
Engagement approach	<p>Core issues & mapping</p> <p>Some stakeholders were keen to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — How access to the pipeline for new users is managed — When the asset will have capacity to extend services — How a queuing system works when an extension occurs — How organisations can access the asset. — How access generates cross-user liabilities. <p>Several stakeholders were interested to know more about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Potential extension/expansion options for the AGP in the future — How it might connect with the Beetaloo Basin. — What expansion will mean for existing producers. — The potential uncertainty of forward demand on the pipeline, particularly in relation to exports to the Northern Gas Pipeline (NGP). <p>Several stakeholders thought that reliability and security of supply was a high priority.</p> <p>Whilst affordability wasn't necessarily a direct concern for stakeholders, there was a clear interest in including all services within the current reference tariffs, understanding how investments feed into tariffs, tariff setting for new users and the inclusion of all services within the current reference tariffs.</p> <p>Gas quality and gas composition were noted as important issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders highlighted that day-to-day pipeline operation information is not shared with the community (e.g. when the source of gas changes), nor is there a communication between stakeholders (e.g. a forum where parties can inform each other of major changes in the system.) <p>Additional issues highlighted were: consumer risk, costs, the Access Arrangement information, depreciation rates, return on capital rates, sustainability and the energy transition, how APA's contract with Power and Water Corporation (PWC) compares with the mixture of all other commercially interested parties, the impacts from pressure regimes and coupled costs and how these are charged to customers.</p> <p>When asked to identify their top priority, stakeholders nominated reliability and security of supply, new user issues and access for existing users to both existing and expanded capacity.</p> <p>Stakeholders considered each issue in turn along with their ability to impact the decision and its impact on revenue as a way of charting the appropriate level of International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) engagement.</p> <p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Other potential stakeholders identified by the group included mine owners, end user generators. — Stakeholders agreed that indigenous groups and contacts were seen as important stakeholders. 	<p>The main issues formed the five top priorities around which the engagement process was shaped – these priorities were confirmed with stakeholders at the following meeting and are shown in the Stakeholder Priorities section above.</p> <p>APA highlighted that the following (2031–36) Access Arrangement will be impacted by the Beetaloo Basin projects/producers pursuing expansion, not the 2026–31 period.</p> <p>APA agreed that changes in gas supply have impacted the asset and APA's integrity management programs. Gas specification is an important aspect of APA's operation and connections and is highlighted in the Access Arrangement.</p>












Priority theme	What we heard	How we have responded
Co-creation workshop continued		
Engagement approach	Engagement Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders supported the publication of a draft Access Arrangement. — Stakeholders wanted to be engaged in shaping the Reference Services Proposal. — Stakeholders supported engaging an external contractor to write the independent consumer report on behalf of the group. 	<p>In the engagement plan, APA committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Sharing the details of proposed future engagement activities, noting that topics and activities would be adjusted along the way as required. — Publishing a draft Access Arrangement prior to submission for stakeholder feedback. — Sharing meeting minutes following stakeholder meetings. — Preparing an engagement summary report as part of the Access Arrangement and sharing meeting minutes so the group can ensure the accuracy of the report.
Engagement approach	Reference Service Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Third party access was raised as a key priority by many stakeholders. — The inclusion of all services within the current reference tariffs was requested by a stakeholder. — One stakeholder thought that interruptible park and loan would fall into the definitions set out in the Reference Services Proposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — In determining the reference services, we considered the priority areas raised by stakeholders. — We assessed each possible service against the assessment criteria. This assessment showed that Firm Transportation service met the criteria and should be maintained as a reference service. — Interruptible transportation only met one of the criteria, however, we proposed to continue to offer this as a reference service given it has a low regulatory cost, it helps support third party access and is an existing reference service. — Park and loan services were not proposed as they have a significant regulatory cost and, because the AGP is fully contracted, are unlikely to be able to be offered during this regulatory period. — APA outlined that there are only two services available on AGP, so the metrics would be nil. The AGP is fully contracted with interruptible services and park and loan services utilised by few users through their current transportation contracts. These services are not currently available to prospective users. — We have assessed in-pipe trade as a reference service and it does not satisfy the assessment criteria. — Pipeline expansion is not a service and is covered by Section 7.2 of the Access Arrangement. The services provided by expansion can be reference or negotiated services.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — One stakeholder was keen to understand the significance of each service by a set metric that would enable stakeholders to review – e.g., interruptible revenue vs firm revenue. This would allow stakeholders to determine whether more attention should be applied. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — One stakeholder requested that In-pipe trade and pipeline expansion should be included as reference services. 	









Priority theme	What we heard	How we have responded
Stakeholder meeting 1		
Engagement approach	Engagement plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders confirmed the priorities presented from the results of the co-creation workshop. — Stakeholders agreed with the issues mapping against the IAP2 engagement spectrum (ability to influence and impact on revenue/customer risk) from the co-creation workshop and the proposed schedule of topics and objectives for stakeholder meetings to deliver to this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The engagement plan was finalised, noting it was not “set in stone” and could be adapted to suit stakeholders’ needs and interests.
Engagement approach	Overview of the regulatory framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The group was comfortable with the level of information provided and did not consider that some components required more or less engagement than was already allowed for in the engagement plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders were invited to raise any questions or concerns at any time following the meeting.
 Third party access	Third party access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — There was interest in understanding who pays for extensions to the pipeline from new connections like Beetaloo, noting the intricacies of connecting a new pipeline to an old one. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed that any new lateral connection to AGP from Beetaloo is expected to be paid for by a third-party.
 Future of AGP	Performance of AGP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It was queried whether Darwin city’s reduction in gas demand was due to increased levels of rooftop solar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed that rooftop solar has led to a reduction in peak demand, but gas demand is not expected to disappear. If the reduction becomes normal, gas could be redirected to Warrego and on to the east coast via the Northern Gas Pipeline.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA were asked whether increased operating expenditure in the current period included negotiations with traditional landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed that land negotiations would impact extensions to AGP, but this has not eventuated yet.
 Future of AGP	Reference Service Proposal <p>The group supported the continuation of firm and interruptible reference services for the pipeline.</p>	<p>The Reference Service Proposal was submitted with just firm and interruptible reference services.</p>
 Future of AGP	Challenges and opportunities for 2026–31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — There was agreement with concerns around skills shortages, particularly in regional areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed that regional and local engagement is front of mind and the government relations team maintains engagement with regional bodies and programs.
 Future of AGP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA were asked to share some case study examples of expansion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA outlined that, due to confidentiality requirements, only hypothetical situations could be shared and confirmed this would take place at a future meeting.
 Reliability & security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It was queried whether, given all the developments happening in the NT, APA were able to undertake an intermediate review of the scope of services within the coming Access Arrangement period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed that because these services cannot be forecast, they cannot be set as a reference service but can be provided through a Gas Transportation Agreement.



Priority theme	What we heard	How we have responded
Stakeholder meeting 2		
 Reliability & security	First look at capital expenditure (capex) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA was asked to confirm that there were no plans to invest in compression as part of expansion capex. — There was interest in understanding how conservative the estimates were given potential new projects in the area. — There was a question regarding the average time taken to identify and deliver a compression opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed there are no plans to invest in further compression. — APA confirmed stay-in-business capex is generally consistent and no augmentation capex is planned in the absence of certainty. — APA confirmed there is no average time as it depends on the customer and compressor requirements, so each situation is different.
 Affordability		
 Reliability & security		
 Affordability	Forecast operating expenditure (opex) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — There were no issues with the AER's base trend step method, 1.1% p.a. labour growth, productivity of 0.5%p.a. and In-line inspections as a category specific forecast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — These expectations are captured in the proposed opex.
 Future of AGP	Terms & Conditions for the Access Arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — After presenting three hypothetical expansion scenarios (response to request in meeting 1), it was queried whether we will know what scenario we are facing by May 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed that any expansion capex would need to be included in the proposal submitted in July 2025 otherwise it would not be funded until the following access period.
 Third party access		
 Gas specification & information	Gas specification & pressure regime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The group accepted the pipeline pressure profile and regime. It was queried whether AS 4564 notes carbon content as zero. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA shared that AS 4564 is silent in relation to CO₂, rather it requires total inert gas to be under seven percent.
 Reliability & security	Future of the AGP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The group accepted the opportunities and challenges facing the AGP for the 2026–31 Access Arrangement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Access Arrangement was built with these factors in mind.
 Affordability	AER's Form of Regulation Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It was asked whether this could impact the non-scheme Bonaparte Gas Pipeline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA indicated the AER has not provided a list, but we understand larger pipelines will be reviewed first.
Stakeholder meeting 3		
 Reliability & security	Capex <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The ability of the pipeline to handle seismic activity was questioned, given earthquakes have occurred in the area in the past. — APA was asked how five new CP sites was determined as the right number and whether new CP sites require landholder permission and an environmental impact statement, recognising this would increase costs. — It was questioned whether, in addition to heat shrink sleeves, expansion joints are also required on sections of the pipeline to account for temperature variances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA monitors seismic activity, and issues work orders in response to any events — APA outlined that five sites is based on the historical average following CP surveys and soil resistivity testing. — APA confirmed that landholder permission and encumbrances must be managed for each site – this means the work involved differs across sites. — APA outlined that heat shrink sleeves can only be used on underground sections of pipeline, as they degrade with exposure to sunlight, whereas above ground facilities are coated in epoxy.
 Affordability		
 Reliability & security		

Priority theme	What we heard	How we have responded
Stakeholder meeting 3 continued		
 Affordability	Capex continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — There was curiosity as to why 'Facilities' expenditure is considered to be capex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA explained that expenditure is considered to be capex when it is a replacement or upgrade to modern equipment or work that extends the life of the asset.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It was queried as to how APA allocates funds for maintaining pipeline corridors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA explained that easement maintenance falls under operating expenditure (opex), not capex.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It was queried whether the capex forecasts include room for increases in labour and materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed that the estimates do include provisions for growth related expenditure, labour and other constraints, as well as CPI.
 Future of AGP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It was suggested that APA may want to include commentary around emission reductions and how this might impact the asset's life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA agreed but outlined that the operating landscape will change in the near-term and again in the longer-term. As a result, the focus is on maintaining the design operating pressure.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Concern was raised as to the shift in risk profiles for customers between a price cap and a revenue cap and the need for information, particularly demand forecasts, to be shared to appropriately consider the appropriateness of capex and the associated risk allocations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA agreed to provide more detailed demand information and impacts to other aspects of the Access Arrangement at the next meeting.
 Future of AGP	<p>APA was asked about how the pipeline configuration may need to change to accommodate a number of gas sources all wanting access within a relatively small length of pipeline and whether any provision has been made for any such upgrades.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed that no reconfiguration has been forecast, as no new access requests have been received. AGP is flexible to new offtakes and inlets as there is no internal compression and the bi-directional nature of the pipeline means gas will flow to meet demand. All potential scenarios for new delivery points are modelled, including any swap outs or required upgrades, as part of ensuring fair and equitable access.
 Affordability	Regulated Asset Base (RAB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The group was comfortable with the AER's models and calculation of the building blocks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The AER's models have been used to develop the proposed RAB and revenue requirement.
 Affordability	Depreciation and return on capital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The group was comfortable with the concept of depreciation, how regulatory depreciation is calculated, that accelerated depreciation is not being contemplated for AGP and the calculation for the return on capital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The AERs models and guidelines have been used to develop the Access Arrangement. — No accelerated depreciation is being put forward for AGP.
 Affordability	Opex <p>APA was asked why corporate costs had increased so much for the current access period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA explained that the cost allocation approach has not changed but that corporate spend has been higher in the most recent two years due to an uplift in Information Technology (IT) and physical security requirements to meet the requirements of the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act. — APA committed to provide more information on corporate costs at the next meeting.

Priority theme	What we heard	How we have responded
Stakeholder meeting 3 continued		
 Affordability	Opex continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It was asked whether corporate costs include the costs of the Brisbane Integrated Operations Centre (IOC). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA explained that a portion of the IOC labour costs would be allocated to AGP through corporate opex costs whilst the IOC building and spend would be allocated through corporate capex costs.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It was noted that a large portion of corporate capital costs related to fleet and it was queried whether these are leased assets and, if so, why they are also included in operating costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA agreed to explain the treatment of fleet costs at the next meeting, as part of the detailed discussion of corporate costs.
 Future of AGP	First look at revenue forecasts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA were asked to clarify whether the forecasts included Beetaloo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA noted that whilst there are a number of projects within the Beetaloo, no proponents have yet requested access to AGP, so we are not able to include any forecast for Beetaloo in the Access Arrangement.
 Future of AGP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A stakeholder raised concerns as to the impact on utilisation and demand for AGP services from Beetaloo in 2026–29 and whether the system will be capable of receiving the gas at that time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA explained that there is currently unused capacity in the AGP, driven by external market conditions. APA works with stakeholders to ensure gas can be successfully moved to the markets where it is required.
Stakeholder meeting 4		
 Affordability	Terms and conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders raised no concerns with the draft Terms and Conditions shared with the group in December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Terms and Conditions remain unchanged for the 2026–31 Access Arrangement.
 Affordability	Shared corporate costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA were asked whether the capitalisation of leases meant that they were not also being expensed as an operating cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed that leases were moved from opex to capex when the accounting change was made. Leased assets are depreciated over the life of the lease, and the annual depreciation expense is recognised as opex. There is no double counting of the costs.
 Affordability	Opex <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — It was queried whether In-line inspections were treated as a category specific forecast in the AER's decision for the current period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA confirmed this was the case. The proposed treatment for 2026–31 aligns with the approach and what was approved by the AER last time.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A stakeholder asked whether a new pipeline in the Northern Territory would impact the opex budget and how any additions or subtractions would be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA explained that a new pipeline would operate under a separate licence and as a separate asset, so would be considered outside of the AGP decision on opex.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The group was comfortable with the proposed penalty arising from the efficiency carryover mechanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Access Arrangement includes the efficiency carryover mechanism penalty for the current period's opex overspend.
 Affordability	Capex <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The group was comfortable with the latest capex forecast, noting there had been very little movement in the numbers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — APA outlined that capex was being finalised and that a final picture would be shared at the next stakeholder meeting.

Priority theme	What we heard	How we have responded
Stakeholder meeting 4 continued		
 Gas specification & information	Gas specification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was queried whether NT burners are capable at running at the Higher Heating Value (HHV) and Wobbe index and if the change meets local gas laws or specifications, for example in Alice Springs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA explained that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The gas coming into the Alice Springs network often touches the higher 42.3 HHV already and has done for some time. Most reticulated networks are designed to AS 4564, so aligning some elements is unlikely to affect customer appliances. APA outlined that engagement with end users and shippers was on-going and committed to providing an update on engagement outcomes and the final gas specification position at the next meeting.
 Gas specification & information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA were asked whether the liquids are in vapor phase on delivery or whether there is a reliance on knockout pots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA confirmed the free liquids will rely on knockout pots, with numerous liquid collection points along the AGP. Glycols or oils are typically around the vapor form.
 Future of AGP	Demand outlook and forecasts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was queried whether the forecasts envisioned Empire coming online and whether the contracted flow from Empire into the AGP was included. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA responded that we are trying to develop a plausible scenario that recognising that it will likely change.
 Future of AGP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was acknowledged that the flows from Wadeye have generally been at nil or very small for months and did APA know what is happening there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA indicated that ENI are presently drilling and we assume they will get back to contracted volumes.
 Future of AGP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A stakeholder queried whether the 90TJ/day constraint from the nitrogen removal facility on the NGP might be alleviated with new flows from Empire and the Sturt Plateau Pipeline (SPP) as the gas will start very close to the East Coast specification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA reiterated the uncertainty of the demand assumptions. Empire is a backstop to the current expectation and could augment supply to Darwin or Warrego.
 Future of AGP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was pointed out that a final investment decision (FID) for Arafura will likely be made before the Access Arrangement is finalised and could add 30 TJs to load and have almost no demand on pipeline capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APA acknowledged the demand uncertainties and that some change between now and our revised Access Arrangement is expected. We have indicated to the AER that large changes could be made to the demand forecasts and capacity.
 Future of AGP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was highlighted that if all the gas the NT is contracted to take comes online, there'll be pressure to increase the flow into NGP. 	
	Initial revenue requirement and tariffs	
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group raised no concerns with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The creation of a new asset class for IT related capex Moving the IT expenditure undertaken over the 2021–26 period from the 'O&M Facilities' into this new class for the start of the 2026–31 access period A proposed standard and tax life for this new asset class of 5 years and 4 years respectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Access Arrangement contains a new asset class 'Corporate Assets (IT)' with a standard life of 5 years and a tax life of 4 years.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group had no concerns with the AER's proposed approach to correctly capture leased asset additions from 1 July 2021 in a new asset class. No issues were raised with the proposed 15-year standard and tax life for this new asset class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Access Arrangement contains a new asset class 'Leased Assets post 2021' with a standard and tax life of 15 years.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders raised no concerns with the latest proposed revenue requirement, which included the forecast adjustment for the efficiency carryover mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revenue requirement has been updated for the latest opex, CPI and cost of debt forecasts.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group accepted the continued approach for calculating firm and interruptible reference service tariffs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tariffs have been updated to reflect the latest forecast revenue requirement.

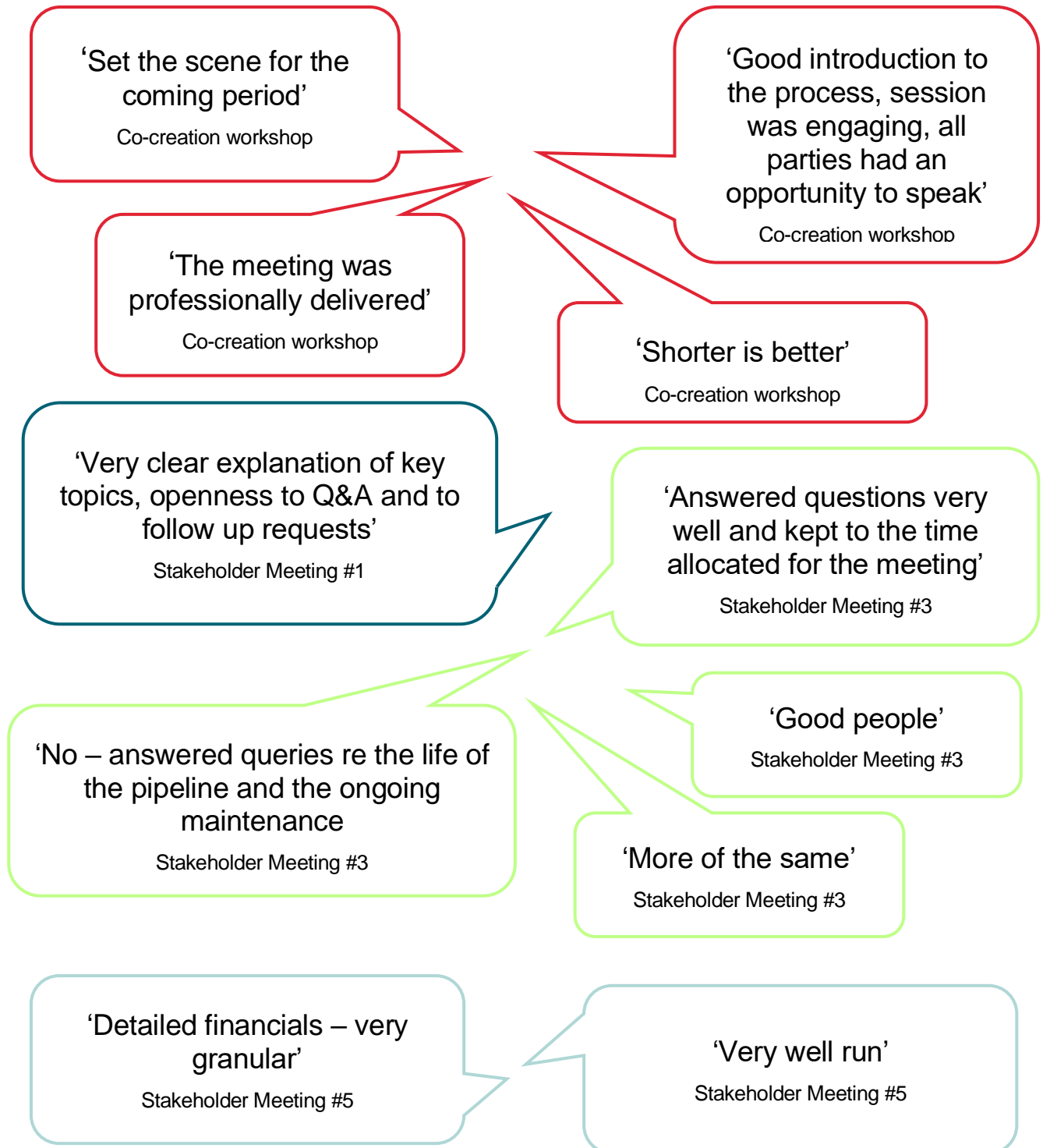
Priority theme	What we heard	How we have responded
Stakeholder meeting 4 continued		
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The group did not express a preference as to how revenue should be smoothed for the access period – either the AER’s default smoothing or to have a large increase in the first year and then keep tariffs flat in real terms or any other option in between. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Access Arrangement applies a large tariff increase in the first year with prices then kept flat in real terms as the final year tariffs are much closer to what can be expected in the first year of the next Access Arrangement period than under the default smoothing approach.
 Affordability	<p>Tariff variation mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders raised no concerns with continuing to vary annual tariffs by the three factors already allowed for, namely current inflation, return on debt and cost pass throughs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Access Arrangement retains the current mechanism for varying both the firm and interruptible service reference annual tariffs.
 Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders did not see any issues with continuing to apply the same 7 cost pass throughs already allowed for in the current Access Arrangement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Access Arrangement does not contain any new cost pass through events. Minor changes have been made to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align the definitions for ‘events’ and the ‘materiality threshold’ with recent AER Determinations and Draft Decisions. • Use consistent terminology – ‘Reference Service’ and ‘Cost Pass Through Event’ • Improve the consistency of wording in the Access Arrangement
Stakeholder meeting 5		
 Future of AGP	<p>Capex</p> <p>A stakeholder queried whether the capex forecast included an access request for the Sturt Plateau Pipeline.</p>	<p>APA confirmed no access requests had been received in relation to the Access Arrangement, so the forecast did not include anything related to the Sturt Plateau Pipeline.</p>
 Affordability	<p>Capex continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders raised no issues or concerns with the inclusion of new capex in 2026–31 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cathodic protection satellite data loggers • the acquisition of new easements for future cathodic protection sites to be installed in the 2031 to 2036 period, and • the deferment of coating repairs at Darwin City Gate from 2025–26 to 2026–27. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Access Arrangement includes these expenditures related to the cathodic protection and facilities programs.
 Reliability & security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders raised no issues or concerns with the reduction in forecast IT and operating technology (OT) capex over 2026–31. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Access Arrangement includes these reductions in IT/OT forecasts.
 Affordability	<p>Opex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders had no concerns or issues with the lower revised opex forecast arising from reductions in non-recurrent IT expenditure. This change lowered both base year opex and the forecast penalty from the application of the efficiency carryover mechanism in the current period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Access Arrangement includes the impacts of this lower opex forecast for IT/OT in both the adjusted base year opex and the forecast efficiency carryover penalty.
 Affordability		

Priority theme	What we heard	How we have responded
Stakeholder meeting 5 continued		
 <p>Affordability</p>	<p>Overview of the draft Access Arrangement, revenue requirement and tariffs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Stakeholders had no issues or concerns with the proposed Access Arrangement, the revised building blocks, revenue requirement, tariffs or the proposed revenue and price smoothing path. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Access Arrangement adopts the approaches shown to stakeholders. This includes the application of a large P0 price increase with tariffs then kept flat in real terms over the remainder of the 2026–31 period.
Submissions received on the Draft Documents		
 <p>Gas specification & information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — At the time of publishing our Draft Documents, stakeholders had raised no concerns with the proposed changes to the gas specification. — Following publication of the Draft Documents, one submission was received from a stakeholder who was concerned that the proposed changes to the HHV and the Wobbe index have failed to consider the calorific value of processed gas following the removal of nitrogen. It was thought the concentration of inert gas limits needs to also be considered and that full alignment to AS 4564 would better achieve the stated aims. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The concentration of inert gases will be influenced by the proposed changes to the HHV and Wobbe index. We will continue to engage with stakeholders to finalise an appropriate gas specification ahead of submitting our revised proposal to the AER in January 2026.

Engagement evaluation

At the end of each meeting, stakeholders were sent a short survey to complete rating the quality and content of the session.

Despite an average response rate of 22 percent, the number of meeting participants was too small for the results of the surveys to be considered statistically valid. As such, the verbatim quotes from the surveys have instead been included in this section as a form of evaluation – this includes feedback on what could be done better where the comments were not related to technology connection issues. No comments were received for meetings 2 and 4.



Glossary

Term	Meaning
2021–26	The current Access Arrangement period beginning 1 July 2021 and ending on 30 June 2026
2026–31	The Access Arrangement period beginning 1 July 2026 and ending on 30 June 2031
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
AGP	Amadeus Gas Pipeline
AS4564	General-purpose natural gas standard – sets out the requirements for providing natural gas, suitable for both transportation and general-purpose use and provides the range of gas properties consistent with safe operation of the natural gas appliances
Capex	Capital expenditure
Draft Documents	The ‘Overview of the draft 2026–31 Access Arrangement’ and marked-up version of the ‘Draft 2026–31 Access Arrangement’ that were published on our website and shared with stakeholder on 16 May 2025 for review and feedback.
HHV	Higher Heating Value
IOC	Integrated Operations Centre (based in Brisbane)
IT	Information technology
MJ/Sm ³	Megajoules per standard cubic metre
mL/TJ	Millilitres per terajoule
NGP	Northern Gas Pipeline
NT	Northern Territory
Opex	Operating expenditure
OT	Operating technology
TJ	Terajoule