

The Golden Beach Gas Project

Contaminated Land and Acid Sulfate Soils

The Golden Beach Gas Project (Project) involves the development of the Golden Beach Gas Field in the Gippsland Basin to provide critical gas supply and storage infrastructure that will materially benefit the Victorian energy market.

Once in operation, the Project will initially increase the domestic gas supply before transitioning to storage operations which will enhance the energy market security and efficiency while supporting Victoria's transition to renewables.

Environmental Effects Statement Process

The Minister for Planning determined that an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is required for the Golden Beach Gas Project under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The EES process is underway and is assessing any potential environmental, social, economic and planning impacts of the Project. An EES will be prepared setting out these assessments and our approach to mitigating any impacts.

As part of the EES process, an assessment of the impact of the Project on contaminated land and acid sulfate soil has been undertaken. GB Energy has prepared this fact sheet to explain the contaminated land and acid sulfate soil assessments and we welcome any feedback. The final report will be made available for comment through the EES public exhibition process anticipated in late 2020.

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Specialists have completed an assessment of the potential contaminated land and acid sulfate soil impacts associated with the Project. The study will provide guidance on how to minimise negative impacts. The impact assessment involved a site walkover along the study area to view the condition of the study area and to observe current land use practices. A soil sampling program which included drilling and logging 39 soil bores and opportunistic soil sampling during the installation of eight groundwater monitoring wells across the study area to assess for the presence of contamination and acid sulfate soil.

Key findings

- The key findings of the contaminated land and acid sulfate soil impact assessment include:
- The Project works are considered to present limited risk of impact to soil, groundwater and receiving surface water, due to the limited extent of contamination in the study area.
 - The potential environmental impacts associated with acid sulfate soil is limited by the shallow depth of trenching, the short duration of stockpiling and avoidance of trench dewatering activities (where groundwater is intersected in areas of acid sulfate soil).
 - The proposed construction methodologies would confine potential impacts within the Project area and have very limited effect upon the surrounding area.
 - The potential impacts on human health via direct and secondary contact with soils, groundwater and surface water were assessed as minor, and can be mitigated with recommended mitigation measures and standard construction techniques.

