

Territory Energy Link

Feasibility stage investigation activities

What to expect during on ground investigations

As part of early planning for Territory Energy Link, on-ground investigations will be carried out. These activities are part of the feasibility stage and do not involve construction of a pipeline or other infrastructure.

Type of investigations

Access to land within the study area is required to carry out surveys and investigations necessary to assess the suitability of land for Territory Energy Link to:

- understand below ground conditions (geotechnical investigations, including test pits, core samples and low-impact seismic survey)
- identify and assess Aboriginal and historical heritage values (heritage survey)
- understand the plants and animals in targeted areas (flora and fauna survey).

The information collected helps the Northern Territory Government plan a suitable infrastructure corridor safely and responsibly. Not all investigations will need to be conducted on each property along the proposed corridor alignment.

Land access notification

The project team will let landowners know of the planned activities before they happen. Landowners will be advised:

- who will require access
- types of activities/investigation works
- duration of the investigation works
- specific site access requirements.

Site access requirements will be recorded in consultation with landowners and shared with consultants to ensure they are met.

Existing tracks and access routes will be used, where possible, and any new access required will be discussed with the landholder before investigations activities start.

The project team will:

- maintain strict hygiene by ensuring all vehicles, equipment and clothing are clean and comply with site-specific biosecurity and weed management requirements at all times.
- follow site access controls and uphold required standards to prevent the spread of weeds, pests and diseases.

Geotechnical investigations

Geotechnical investigations help to understand below ground conditions and technical suitability for future pipeline construction.

What it involves:

- Small samples of soil and rock are taken from selected locations so engineers can assess factors such as soil / rock type, ground strength and rock depth.

What it will look like:

- Drilling will be carried out using a small to medium-sized geotechnical drill rig, typically mounted on a truck or tracked vehicle suitable for rural and pastoral conditions.
- The drill rig is positioned over a single point to take a core sample. Core holes will be up to about 150mm in diameter and extend to a maximum depth of 15m.
- Test pits will be up to 0.75m wide and 5m long, excavated using a backhoe or mini excavator to a maximum depth of 3m, to directly observe the subsurface and allow samples to be collected.
- All test locations will be backfilled immediately following excavation using the excavated soils, and compacted at the ground surface.
- There may be some localised disturbance to vegetation on site and landowners will be notified before any disturbance occurs.

Equipment on site:

- Small / medium drill rig or backhoe / excavator
- 4WD vehicle or light truck to support the drill crew
- Small water tanks
- Hand tools and safety equipment

Estimated timeframe (depending on property size):

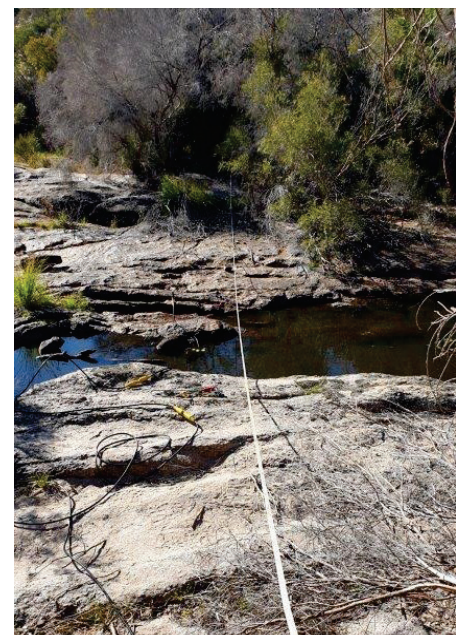
- 1 - 2 days to drill each test core
- 1 - 2 hours to dig each test pit



Support vehicles and site setup



Example of excavated test pit prior to backfilling



Typical seismic testing



Drill rig

Flora and fauna

Ecologists will carry out simple, low impact checks to understand the plants and animals in targeted areas along the corridor. This will identify the locations of protected species and their habitat so the project design responds to matters of national environmental significance.

What it involves:

- The team will walk through the survey area on foot to look for plants, animal tracks and other signs of wildlife.
- Surveyors will look closely at trees, shrubs, ground cover and general habitat condition, recording features such as hollows, nests or burrows, but they will not remove any vegetation unless this has been agreed beforehand.

What it looks like:

- In some locations, small motion activated cameras may be temporarily installed to help understand wildlife activity.
- These devices are strapped to trees or posts at low levels using soft ties (never nails or screws) and are clearly marked and removed once monitoring is complete.
- The cameras are pointed towards the ground to capture wildlife activity and landowners will be consulted about suitable locations.
- No machinery is used during these surveys and there is no disturbance to the ground.

Estimated timeframe: Approximately over 1 week (depending on property size)

Heritage surveys

Surveys will be undertaken to identify and assess Aboriginal and historical heritage values within the investigation area along the entire corridor.

What it involves:

Survey areas will be access via existing tracks where possible via 4WD vehicle with no anticipated disturbance.

This will identify avoidance, mitigation and management measures to inform project design and protect heritage values.

Estimated timeframe: 1 – 3 days (depending on property size)

Working hours and noise

Works are generally carried out during daylight hours, typically between 6:00am and 6:00pm, subject to weather and site conditions.

Some noise will be generated from the drill rig and supporting equipment. This noise is similar to agricultural or construction machinery and is temporary.

Important to remember

These investigations are early planning activities only. They do not confirm a final corridor alignment or indicate that construction will occur. Landowner input remains an important part of the Territory Energy Link planning process.

For more information

If you have any questions about the investigation works or would like to discuss access arrangements on your property, please contact the Territory Energy Link project team:

☎ 1800 921 301

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🌐 infrastructure.nt.gov.au/project/territory-energy-link