

Project overview

Infrastructure Corridor | Tennant Creek to Darwin

The Northern Territory (NT) Government is investigating an infrastructure corridor from Tennant Creek to Darwin. A prefeasibility study has identified a preliminary corridor alignment which will be further refined and developed during consultation with stakeholders.

The proposed corridor is to provide for future services including the potential for multiple high-pressure pipelines, as well as other services including water, communications and power.

This is an early planning and investigation phase as part of a long term project to support the growth of multiple industries in the Territory, including natural gas, hydrogen energy, digital infrastructure and utilities.

The current phase of the project will further consider the potential social, cultural and environmental impacts of the proposed corridor, including sacred site investigations, along the corridor alignment.

Consultation

Consultation will now commence with landowners, occupiers and traditional owners about the preliminary corridor alignment. Consultation on the proposed corridor will continue throughout 2022.

The aim of consultation is to engage stakeholders about the proposed corridor and to better understand its potential impacts on land use.

Consultation with the broader community will also occur throughout 2022, following initial engagement with landowners, occupiers and traditional owners.

Outcomes from this early planning and investigation phase of the project will help to inform future decision making by Government and industry as to how the corridor might be secured, developed and managed.

Corridor route identification

The preliminary alignment of the route was selected based on analysis of key factors such as locating the route alongside existing linear infrastructure where possible, environmental and cultural values and current and future land uses. This preliminary alignment was identified through a prefeasibility study by CNC Project Management. The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has further refined the proposed alignment following a detailed tenure review at a desktop level to minimise, as far as possible, the number of potentially affected properties and existing infrastructure.

The 'best fit' preliminary alignment takes into account the following other key considerations:

- engineering: elevation, slope, ground conditions and stream / river crossings
- environmental: habitat, endangered flora and fauna and vegetation
- social impact: zoning, land use, cultural heritage, protected sacred sites and tenure
- infrastructure: built environment, utilities and roads
- cost: the most cost effective alignment is a straight route to consider value for the Territory.

The final preferred corridor route will be subject to engagement with all relevant landowners and key stakeholders and further detailed site investigations, including sacred sites survey.

Consolidation of infrastructure services minimises potential impacts on land that could occur through development.

Future use of corridor

This project is about identifying a corridor that may contain a number of products and services to support future development and emerging industries.

The infrastructure corridor will consider co-location of a range of potential infrastructure services.

The prefeasibility study found that the corridor could potentially include the following infrastructure assets:

- gas pipeline
- natural gas liquids pipeline
- oil pipeline
- hydrogen pipeline
- utility and services including water, electricity and other mains
- communications – including but not limited to fibre optic.

Safety of proposed corridor infrastructure

Pipeline infrastructure can be built through most terrain with the appropriate design, for example the existing gas pipeline retained its integrity during the earthquake in the Tennant Creek region in 1988. Detailed studies on the constructability of the proposed corridor have not yet been undertaken.

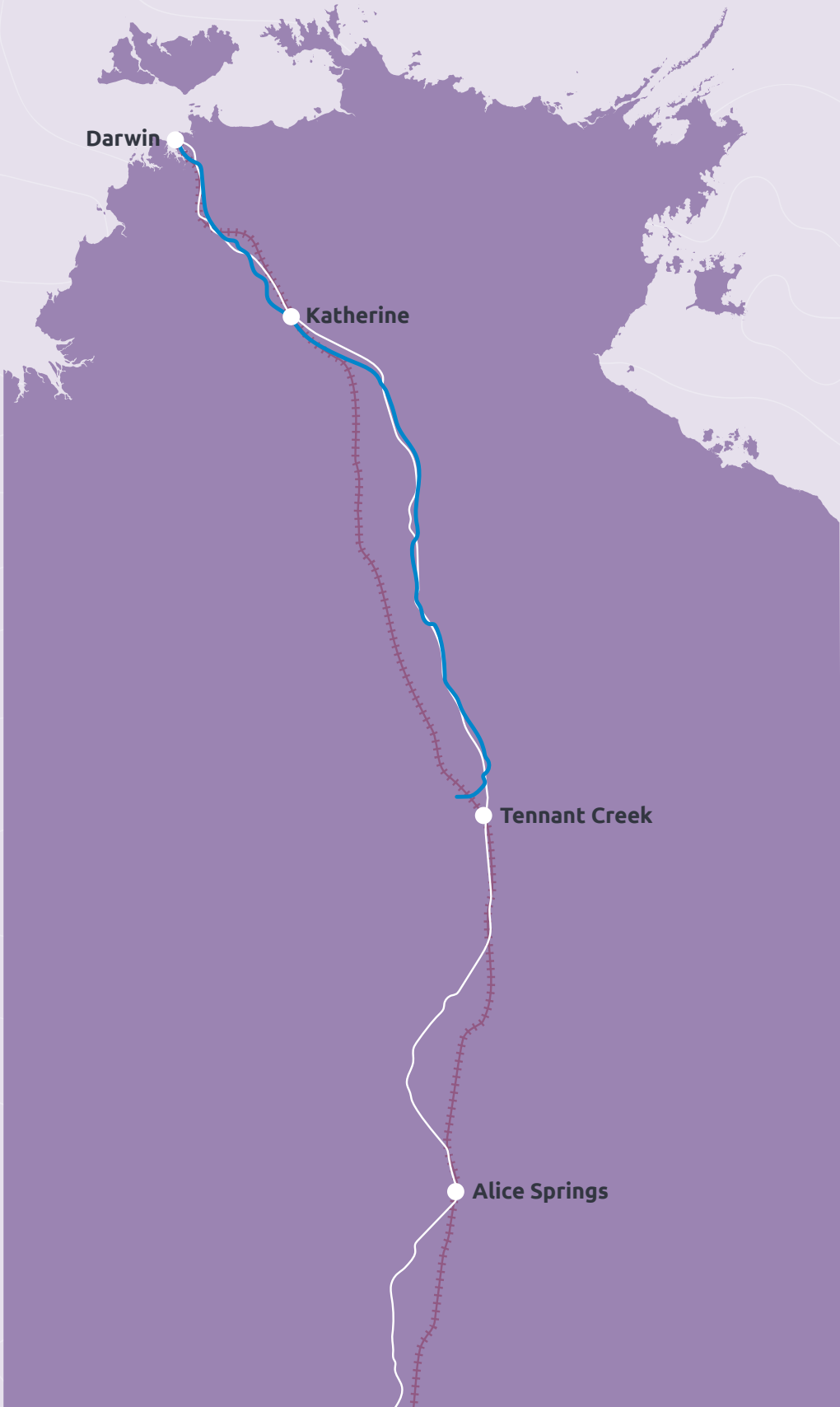
Risk assessments

The prefeasibility studies have undertaken a qualitative risk assessment on the preliminary 'best fit' alignment, and risk assessments will continue to be undertaken through the planning, design and operation.

Timing for construction of the infrastructure corridor

This important investigation work will facilitate investment in new industry development, consistent with the Northern Territory Government's goal for a \$40 billion economy by 2030.

It is too soon to predict exactly when the infrastructure corridor will be built. There is a lot more work to be done prior to securing the corridor, and then infrastructure will only be built as need warrants.



Subject to change

- Preliminary Corridor Alignment
- Stuart Highway
- - - Railway