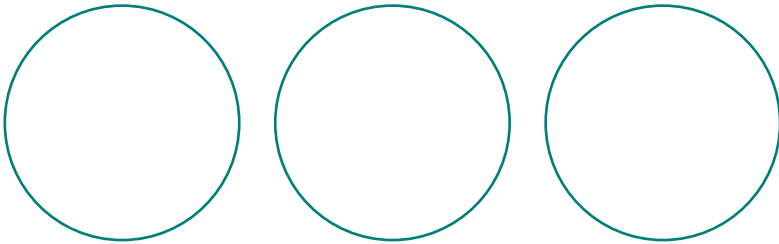


# 4

## CONSULTATION



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## 4 CONSULTATION

*This section describes the stakeholder consultation program that was undertaken as part of the Supplementary Report process.*

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive stakeholder consultation program was undertaken as an integral part of the Ensham Central Project (ECP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. It included consultation with neighbouring landowners, local, state and federal government, industry bodies, community groups and other interested parties. The aim of the consultation was to identify stakeholders' issues in relation to the project and ensure that these issues were addressed as part of the ECP EIS process.

An additional stakeholder consultation program has been undertaken for the Revised Central Area Mining Methodology (RCAMM) since the completion of the stakeholder consultation program for the ECP EIS. This section provides an overview of the stakeholder engagement program and findings. Section 4 – Consultation of the ECP EIS provides the findings from the 2006 stakeholder consultation program.

### 4.2 CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

The consultation process was designed as an issues-driven program. The objectives of the program were to:

- identify stakeholders and their issues; and
- ensure that all issues were addressed as part of the Supplementary Report process and/or project planning.

The program was undertaken in two phases, which are detailed below.

### 4.3 CONSULTATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

The following section provides an overview of the two main phases of the consultation process. Each phase is then discussed in detail in Sections 4.4 to 4.5.

#### 4.3.1 Identifying Stakeholders

The objective of the first phase was to identify all relevant stakeholders in order to be able to involve them early on in the process.

#### 4.3.2 Issue Scoping

The objective of the second phase of issue scoping was to:

- provide information on the RCAMM and the Supplementary Report process;
- initiate and maintain open communication with stakeholders; and
- identify stakeholder issues and concerns in relation to the RCAMM.

### 4.4 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

A list of relevant stakeholders was developed based on previous consultation from the ECP EIS. Stakeholders were identified and grouped into the following categories:

**Table 4-1  
List of Ensham Central Project Stakeholders**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>
Neighbouring Landowners	Landowners with properties adjacent to the Ensham Mine or properties with river frontage to the Nogoa River (5 km upstream or downstream of the Ensham Mine).
Federal Government	Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)
State Government and Government Owned Corporations	Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) Representatives of the Environmental Services Division (Brisbane) and the Regional Office (Emerald) were consulted.
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) Representatives of the Mines and Energy group were consulted.
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Highlands Regional Council</li> <li>• Isaac Regional Council</li> <li>• Rockhampton Regional Council</li> <li>• Nogoa River Flood Plain Board</li> </ul>
Industry Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Highlands Cotton Growers &amp; Irrigators Association</li> <li>• Central Highlands Development Corporation</li> <li>• Fitzroy Basin Food &amp; Fibres</li> </ul>
Environmental Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Highlands Regional Resource Use Planning</li> <li>• Fitzroy Basin Association</li> <li>• Capricorn Conservation Council</li> <li>• Three Rivers Catchment Committee</li> <li>• Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchment Group</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee</li> <li>• Lifeline</li> <li>• Central Highlands Development Corporation</li> </ul>

Details on consultation and key activities undertaken with each stakeholder group are described in the next section.

#### 4.5 ISSUES SCOPING

During the issues scoping phase consultation was generally conducted through one-on-one interviews and community information sessions.

The purpose of these interviews was to provide stakeholders with background information about the project and the RCAMM and the Supplementary Report process, and to identify any issues and concerns associated with the project.

Key activities and communication tools used during the issues scoping phase consisted of the following:

##### *One-on-One Meetings*

A series of one-on-one meetings were conducted with senior State Government Ministers, Regional Councillors, Senior State and Local Government officials, key stakeholder groups and neighbours. At these meetings presentations were provided on the RCAMM, projected environmental impacts and benefits to Queensland.

### Community Information Sessions

A series of community information sessions were held in Emerald, Dingo and Rockhampton during March 2009. The purpose of these meetings was to provide an update of the status of the Ensham Central Area Project, give an overview of the RCAMM and to discuss any issues of special interest to meeting attendees.

The key issues identified during the scoping phase are detailed in Section 4.6.

## 4.6 FINDINGS OF CONSULTATION PROGRAM

Stakeholder feedback on the RCAMM for the ECP has been positive. Stakeholder groups and neighbours have been supportive of the removal from the ECP EIS mining methodology of approximately 830 ha of open cut mining from the central floodplain area and the use of underground longwall mining and bord and pillar mining to reduce landscape impacts.

In addition to the RCAMM, the significant change in production profile from the projected 20 Mtpa to a maximum production capacity of 8 - 12 Mtpa means that many of the projected impacts such as increased dust, noise and broader social impacts are no longer significant issues.

Many of the issues raised in the initial consultations on the project have been addressed through the adoption of RCAMM. These are outlined in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-2  
Stakeholder Issues and their Status under the RCAMM**

<b>Issues raised in original consultation</b>	<b>Status of issues with revised mining methodologies</b>
Impacts related to mining in the floodplain of the Nogoia River. Specific issues of concern included impacts on the Nogoia River, anabranch and Winton Creek, the potential for flooding of upstream and downstream properties, erosion and scouring in the floodplain and water quality issues.	See Section 12 – Surface Water of the Supplementary Report.
Groundwater related impacts, specifically impacts related to any potential connection between groundwater and surface water (particularly water in the Nogoia River). Issues related to loss of water and contamination of water.	See Section 10 – Groundwater Resources of the Supplementary Report.
Surface subsidence from underground mining, particularly drainage issues associated with subsidence of the Nogoia River floodplain.	See Section 7 – Rehabilitation and Section 10 – Groundwater Resources of the Supplementary Report.
Stability of the final backfilled floodplain.	No open cut mining will occur in the flood plain, negating the need for extensive backfilling.
Impacts on vegetation, including loss of riparian vegetation and Brigalow, and any impact on habitat corridors.	See Section 16 – Ecology of the Supplementary Report.
Impacts on good quality agricultural land.	See Section 21.12 – Land of the Supplementary Report
Post-mining land use and standard of rehabilitation in the floodplain.	See Section 7 – Rehabilitation of the Supplementary Report for post-mining land use.

Issues raised in original consultation	Status of issues with revised mining methodologies
The potential for blasting to damage structures, such as houses and irrigation systems, and natural features such as the Nogoia River.	See Section 15 – Blasting of the Supplementary Report.
Dust from mining operations and coal trains and associated air quality impacts.	See Section 13 – Air Quality of the Supplementary Report.
Noise from mining operations.	See Section 14 – Noise of the Supplementary Report.
Increased traffic and associated safety issues, particularly at the Duckponds Road/Capricorn Highway intersection, and along Duckponds Road.	Despite not increasing the annual output of the Mine Ensham Resources has recently completed the upgrade of the Duckponds Road/Capricorn Highway intersection.
Social issues related to an increased workforce, particularly issues related to housing and community services, and the potential for shift work to place strains on relationships.	See Section 19 – Socio-Economics of the Supplementary Report.
Training and employment opportunities for the local community.	See Section 19 – Socio-Economics of the Supplementary Report.

#### 4.7 FUTURE PROJECT CONSULTATION

The proponent has an established stakeholder consultation program for the approved Ensham mining operations. This program will continue throughout the operational phase of the project and will facilitate consultation in relation to the expanded operations. The program will include periodic consultation with neighbouring landowners and representatives of key State and Local Government agencies, industry bodies, environmental and community groups and endorsed Aboriginal parties.

The proponent is committed to the sustainable development of the Ensham Coal Resource. Members of the public will be provided with two formal opportunities to provide feedback to the RCAMM as noted below.

##### *Section 556(3) – Public Notification*

The proponent is undertaking a Section 556(3) public notification process to provide an additional opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the RCAMM and to gain a better understanding of the reduced impacts of the Ensham Central Project.

##### *Draft Conditions for Environmental Authority and Mining Lease*

Draft conditions for the Ensham Environmental Authority will be developed by the DERM. These draft conditions will be placed on public display in conjunction with the Mining Lease Applications to provide further community and stakeholder input.