

4

CONSULTATION

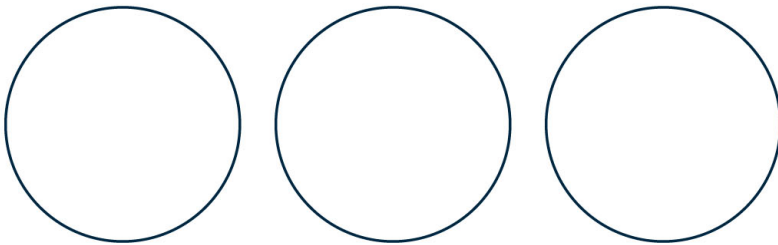


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4 CONSULTATION

This section describes the stakeholder consultation program that was undertaken as part of the EIS process.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive stakeholder consultation program was undertaken as an integral part of the 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 are addressed as part of the EIS process.

This section provides an overview of the consultation process and its objectives. It also provides a detailed description of the different consultation phases, the key activities undertaken and communication tools used, as well as findings from the process.

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 EIS process and/or project planning.

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

4.3 CONSULTATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

The following section provides an overview of the three main phases of the consultation process. Each phase is then discussed in detail in Sections 4.4 to 4.6.

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 project proposal and the EIS process;
- initiate and maintain open communication with stakeholders; and
- identify stakeholder issues and concerns in relation to the project.

4.3.3 Issue Response and Feedback

During the third phase the objectives were to:

- proactively respond to all relevant issues raised; and
- work with stakeholders to develop appropriate solutions and strategies to manage impacts associated with the project.

4.4 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

A comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed through background research on the project area and surrounds and by networking with different parties and organisations. Over 60 stakeholders were identified and grouped into the following categories:

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

Category	Stakeholder
Neighbouring Landowners	18 landowners with properties adjacent to the Ensham Mine or properties with river frontage to the Nogoia River (5 km upstream or downstream of the Ensham Mine).
Federal Government	Department of Environment & Heritage (DEH)
State Government and Government Owned Corporations	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Representatives of the Environmental Operations Division (Brisbane) and the Regional Office (Emerald) were consulted.
	Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water (NRMW) Representatives of Integrated Resource Management, Natural Resource Services and Bureau of Mining and Petroleum were consulted.
	Department of Communities
	Department of Housing
	Department of Main Roads
	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
	Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation
	Education Queensland
	Queensland Health
	Queensland Transport
SunWater	
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerald Shire Council • Peak Downs Shire Council • Broadsound Shire Council • Nogoia River Flood Plain Board

Category	Stakeholder
Industry Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AgForce • Cotton Australia • Central Highlands Cotton Growers & Irrigators Association • Central Highlands Development Corporation • Fitzroy Basin Food & Fibres • Sunwater Customer Council
Environmental Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Highlands Regional Resource Use Planning • Fitzroy Basin Association/Waterwatch • Integrated Area-Wide Management • Lake Maraboon Landcare Group
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglicare • Centacare • Central Highlands Human Services Group • Central QLD TAFE - Central Highlands Campus • Central QLD University, Institute for Sustainable Regional Development • Emerald Chamber of Commerce • Domestic Violence Service of Central Queensland • Emerald Agriculture College • Lions Club of Emerald Inc. • Emerald Neighbourhood Centre • Rotary Club of Emerald • Rotary Club of Emerald Sunrise • Comet Public School • Denison State School • Emerald North State School • Emerald State High school • Emerald State Primary school • St Patricks School
Endorsed Aboriginal Parties <i>* consulted in relation to the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). (Refer to Section 17 – Cultural Heritage for detail.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garingbal and Kara Kara People • Kangoulu People

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, small group meetings and/or telephone interviews.

The purpose of these interviews was to provide stakeholders with background information about the project and the EIS 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:

Ensham Central Project Information Sheet I

A project information sheet was developed in September 2004 and was provided either personally at meetings or via post to stakeholders during the first round of consultation. The project information sheet gave a brief introduction to the proponent, an overview of the proposed project and the associated approval process, as well as the EIS and community consultation process. A copy of the project information sheet is included at the end of this section.

One-on-One Meetings

From September 2004 to January 2005 approximately 60 issue scoping meetings were conducted as one-on-one meetings with neighbouring landowners, local and federal government agencies, industry bodies, community groups and other interested parties. Project Information Sheet I was provided at the meetings. In addition to the individual meetings, a number of telephone interviews were conducted.

Small Group Meetings

Several small group meetings were held with representatives of the EPA, the NRMW and SunWater during the scoping phase and during the development of the EIS. The purpose of these meetings was to provide an overview of the project, give an update of the progress of the EIS process and to discuss issues of special interest to these agencies.

EPA Advisory Body Meetings

The EPA arranged and facilitated two meetings with the EPA Advisory Body on 11 January 2005 in Brisbane and 12 January 2005 in Rockhampton. The EPA Advisory Body is a group of key stakeholders, predominantly state government agencies. The EIS study team provided a presentation on the project at these meetings and sought issues from the EPA Advisory Body.

Ensham Central Project Information Sheet II

Project Information Sheet II was developed in February 2005 and posted to all stakeholders after the initial consultation round. The information sheet provided a summary of the key issues raised, a list of frequently asked questions and appropriate responses. A copy of the project information sheet is included at the end of this section.

The key issues identified during the scoping phase are detailed in Section 4.7.

4.6 ISSUES RESPONSE AND FEEDBACK

Ensham Feedback Workshop

After the initial round of consultation, a feedback workshop was undertaken with the proponent to present and discuss all issues raised by stakeholders. The workshop was held to ensure that all issues were understood and would be addressed in the EIS specialist studies. Any issues beyond the scope of the EIS were also provided for the proponent's attention.

Riverfront Landowners Focus Group

Through the ongoing consultation process it was identified that property owners with river frontage had common issues and concerns related to mining in the Nogoia River floodplain. In order to ensure that these specific issues were fully identified and adequately addressed in the EIS

studies, the proponent initiated the formation of the Riverfront Landowners Focus Group. This group comprises landowners in close proximity to Ensham Mine with properties that have river frontage on the Nogoia River.

An initial meeting was held on 7 April 2005 to:

- establish the group;
- provide information on the project background and the existing environment; and
- discuss all issues and concerns and the proposed EIS scope of work.

Following the establishment meeting, inspections of a number of properties with river frontage were undertaken. The purpose of these inspections was to understand the issue of property drainage and to further discuss individual issues regarding potential surface water impacts.

A second Riverfront Landowners Focus Group meeting was held on 28 July 2005 to present the project mine plan and to provide the opportunity for discussion and comments in relation to the plan.

Further meetings with the Riverfront Landowners Focus Group will be scheduled in the future to provide feedback on the EIS specialist studies.

Feedback to Stakeholders

One-on-one meetings and telephone interviews will be held with key stakeholders to provide feedback on:

- the results of the EIS specialist studies; and
- the way in which stakeholders' specific issues have been addressed in the EIS.

4.7 FINDINGS OF CONSULTATION PROGRAM

Key issues identified during consultation include the following:

- 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.
- 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.
- Surface subsidence from underground mining, particularly drainage issues associated with subsidence of the Nogoia River floodplain.
- Stability of the final backfilled floodplain.
- Impacts on vegetation, including loss of riparian vegetation and Brigalow, and any impact on habitat corridors.
- Impacts on good quality agricultural land.
- Post-mining land use and standard of rehabilitation in the floodplain.
- The potential for blasting to damage structures, such as houses and irrigation systems, and natural features such as the Nogoia River.
- Dust from mining operations and coal trains and associated air quality impacts.
- Noise from mining operations.
- Increased traffic and associated safety issues, particularly at the Duckponds Road/Capricorn Highway intersection, and along Duckponds Road.

- 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.
- Training and employment opportunities for the local community.

All of these identified issues have been addressed in the development of the project plan and in the EIS.

4.8 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 current program includes periodic consultation with neighbouring landowners and representatives of key state and local government agencies, industry bodies, environmental and community groups and endorsed Aboriginal parties.

ATTACHMENT 4-1
INFORMATION SHEET
SEPTEMBER 2004

SEPTEMBER
2004

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Ensham Resources Pty Ltd (Ensham) is an independent Queensland coal producer and operates the Ensham Mine located approximately 40 km east of Emerald in the Central Queensland coalfields.

Ensham Mine is a major open cut mining operation currently producing around 9 million tonnes per annum of thermal coal. Coal production at Ensham Mine commenced in 1993.

Ensham is proposing to access additional coal resources in the central area of the Ensham Mine. This project is known as the 'Ensham Central Project' and involves gaining access to an additional 60 million tonnes of open cut coal and 70 million tonnes of underground coal.

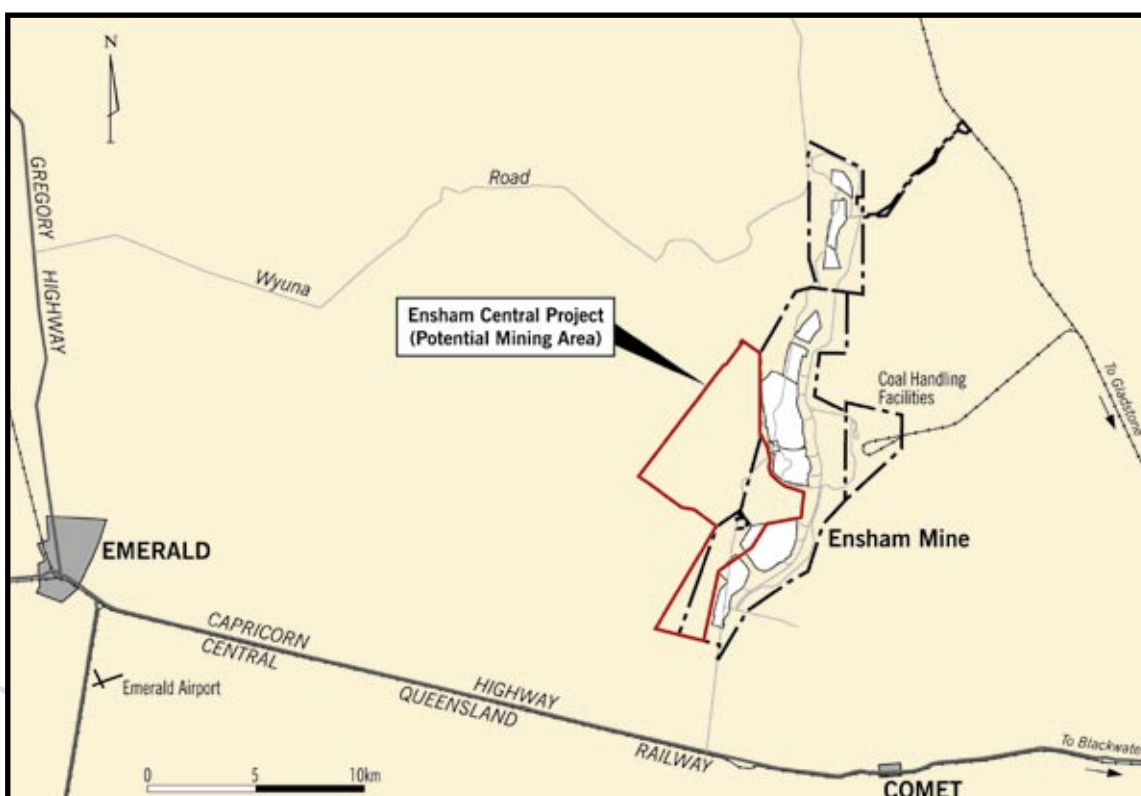
The Ensham Central Project consists of the following components:

- Extending the existing open cut mining operations;
- Constructing a new high capacity underground longwall mine; and
- Upgrading existing mine facilities, including construction of a new coal washery.

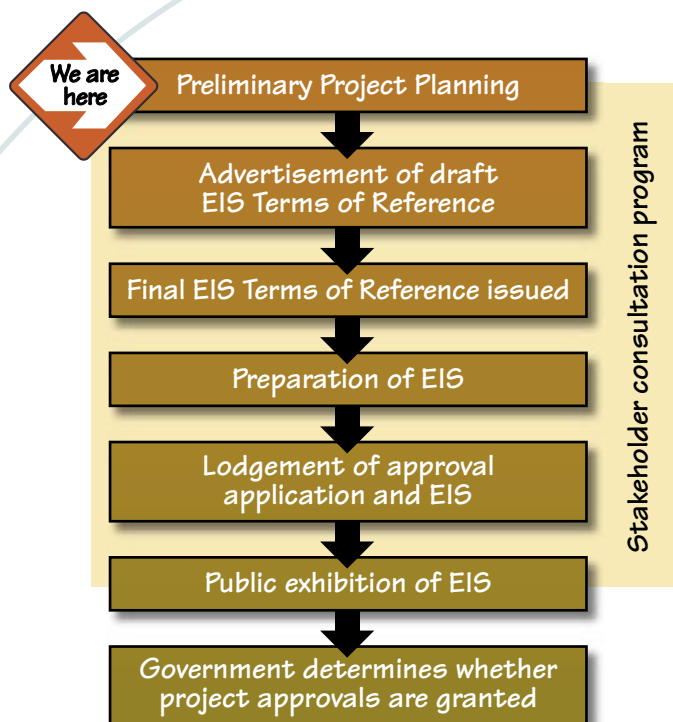
Subject to gaining the necessary approvals, it is anticipated that development of the Ensham Central Project will commence by 2007.

THE APPROVAL PROCESS

The Ensham Central Project requires approval from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* before it can be developed. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared as part of the development application.



The following flow chart provides a summary of the approval process for the Ensham Central Project. This process is expected to take in the order of two years to complete.



As indicated on the flow chart, Ensham is at the beginning of the approval process and is currently undertaking preliminary project planning. Draft Terms of Reference for the EIS will be publicly advertised and stakeholders will have an opportunity to make submissions to the EPA in relation to the Terms of Reference. The EPA will finalise the Terms of Reference following consideration of any submissions received. The final Terms of Reference will specify the environmental and social issues that are required to be addressed in the EIS.

The next step in the process is the preparation of the EIS. This will involve an independent and comprehensive assessment of all environmental and social impacts of the project. Ensham has appointed Hansen Consulting, a specialist mining environmental consulting firm, to prepare the EIS. Specialist studies will be undertaken as part of the EIS to assess the following issues:

- air quality
- noise and vibration
- flora and fauna
- cultural heritage
- surface water
- groundwater
- soils and land capability
- rehabilitation
- waste management
- socio-economics

The completed EIS will be submitted to the EPA and placed on public exhibition. During the public exhibition period stakeholders can make submissions to the EPA relating to the project approval application.

The EPA will consider any submissions as part of its assessment of the EIS and approval application. The government approval process will also involve the assessment of a new Mining Lease application and an application for an Environmental Authority for mining.

INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

To ensure that social and community issues are also incorporated in project planning, a comprehensive social impact assessment and stakeholder consultation program will be conducted throughout the EIS preparation phase. Coakes Consulting, a social impact and community consultation consultancy, has been appointed to undertake this program.

The main purpose of consultation is to ensure that stakeholders' issues are identified up-front in the process and considered during project planning and preparation of the EIS.

The first phase of consultation will involve meetings with stakeholders at local, regional and State levels to provide information about the project and the EIS process, and to identify any issues associated with the project. These meetings will take place during September and October 2004.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information about the EIS or consultation program, or would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the project, please don't hesitate to contact:

Jacqueline Stokes	Coakes Consulting	0417 454 727
Laura Knowles	Hansen Consulting	07 3226 0902
Peter Smith	Ensham Resources	07 3221 1201

We look forward to your input.



Ensham
RESOURCES

Facilitated by



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ATTACHMENT 4-2
INFORMATION SHEET
FEBRUARY 2005

FEBRUARY
2005

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET 2

Ensham Resources Pty Ltd (Ensham) is proposing to expand its existing open cut coal mining operations and develop a new underground longwall mine. This project is called the Ensham Central Project. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for the Ensham Central Project and a stakeholder consultation program is being undertaken as part of the EIS process. An overview of the project and the EIS process is provided in the September 2004 Project Information Sheet.

The first round of stakeholder consultation took place between September 2004 and January 2005. Approximately 50 interviews were undertaken with neighbouring landowners, State and Local Government agencies, community groups and other interested parties. The purpose of these interviews was to provide stakeholders with an initial overview of the Ensham Central Project and to identify issues associated with the project. This information sheet provides a summary of the key issues identified during the initial round of consultation.

STAKEHOLDER ISSUES

In general, most stakeholders were supportive of the project, citing its economic benefits.

'I think it will be a good thing for the local economy and the (Emerald) community'

Many stakeholders also expressed that they had a good relationship with the company.

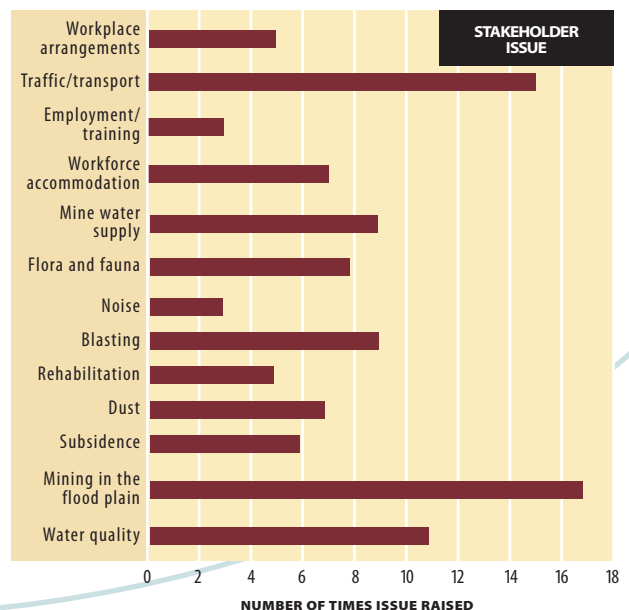
'Since I have lived here, Ensham has always been a good neighbour'

However, some stakeholders were not confident that the government's development approval process or the company would take account of their concerns, believing that the project would go ahead despite any community concern.



'The project will go ahead regardless of what the community says. Nothing agriculture can do stacks up to a coal mine – big wages, big exports. They think they can run operations without co-operation'

The following graph summarises the key issue themes raised by stakeholders during the initial round of consultation. As shown on the graph, the proposal to mine within the floodplain of the Nogoa River was a key issue for stakeholders, with related issues such as water quality, flora and fauna and rehabilitation also being prominent. Other key issues included blasting, dust, water allocation, surface subsidence due to underground mining, traffic/transport and workforce accommodation. Each of these issues is discussed in more detail below.



MINING IN THE FLOODPLAIN

This issue theme was the most prominent with the majority of stakeholders interviewed. Ensham's proposal to mine within the floodplain of the Nogoa River raised questions relating to increased flood levels, flow velocities and erosion. The impacts associated with any major flood event was of particular concern:

'Nobody can say what will happen when the area is in flood – you just can't predict those things'

Stakeholders were particularly concerned about the impacts of the project on upstream and downstream water users, the removal of the river anabranch, creek diversions and any loss of water from the river and the regulated water supply scheme.

WATER QUALITY

The impact of mining on water quality was a key issue for many stakeholders. Increased sediment loads, contamination of the river from mine pit water, and groundwater contamination were highlighted as potential impacts associated with the Ensham Central Project.



Stakeholders raised the need for adequate impact assessment to ensure that downstream water users were not affected by the project.

BLASTING

A number of neighbouring landowners believe that they currently experience impacts from blasting at Ensham Mine, including cracking of walls and irrigation pipes. These landowners were concerned that the project would increase the frequency of blasting and any related impacts.

MINE WATER SUPPLY

A number of stakeholders enquired as to whether the project would increase Ensham's water demand. Stakeholders requested further information on where any additional water would be sourced from and whether there would be any impact on existing water users.



FLORA AND FAUNA

A number of stakeholders raised the issue of flora and fauna impacts and expressed concern about any loss of riparian vegetation.

DUST AND NOISE

A small number of neighbouring landowners stated that they currently experience dust and can hear noise from the existing Ensham Mine. It was suggested that the project may increase the potential for further dust and noise impacts.

SUBSIDENCE

Issues associated with surface subsidence from longwall mining were raised by stakeholders. This issue was of particular concern to neighbouring landowners. Stakeholders were uncertain as to where underground mining would extend in the future and some neighbouring landowners were concerned about the potential for their properties to be undermined and subsided in the future.

REHABILITATION

Stakeholders were interested in the post-mining rehabilitation and final land use proposed for the floodplain, particularly given that the floodplain is productive agricultural land. Stakeholders also raised concerns in relation to the issue of the stability of the rehabilitated floodplain.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Stakeholders raised concerns in relation to current traffic safety at the intersection of Duckponds Road and the Capricorn Highway. Many stakeholders believe that the intersection is currently unsafe and are concerned that the safety hazard will increase due to increased traffic flows.

'I'm surprised there have been no major accidents up to now'

WORKFORCE ACCOMMODATION

Stakeholders raised concerns in relation to the provision of housing in Emerald for additional Ensham employees and contractors.

'Housing is scarce in Emerald – if more people come into the area it will make accommodation even more expensive'

It was highlighted that an increase in the Emerald population could place demands on social infrastructure and services, including childcare, schooling and medical services. As a result, it was requested that details related to project workforce numbers and accommodation arrangements be provided in the EIS.

WORK PLACE ARRANGEMENTS

The impact of shift arrangements on family life was raised by a number of stakeholders.

'Shifts put strains on relationships and families'

EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING

A number of stakeholders indicated that increased employment in the region would have a positive impact on the local Emerald economy and the region more broadly.

'Jobs are important and coal is the lifeblood of the region'

Local community stakeholders expressed a desire to see local employment opportunities maximised through improved training and apprenticeship positions. There was a perception that if local skills could be developed and enhanced in the Emerald community, employment opportunities for local residents would increase.



COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

During the initial round of consultation, stakeholders raised a number of questions in relation to the Ensham Central Project. Some of the most frequently asked questions are listed below with answers provided by Ensham. Further information on particular questions will be available as the EIS process progresses.

What is the life of the mine?

The life of the mine, including the Ensham Central Project, is up to 35 years.

Will the company rehabilitate the land after mining?

Land will be progressively rehabilitated following mining. The rehabilitation concept for the Ensham Central Project will be developed as part of the EIS process and will take into account the results of the EIS specialist studies and the issues raised during consultation. The rehabilitation concept will be described in the EIS.

What is the buffer zone around the river?

The mine plan is currently being developed through an integrated mine planning process, which includes consideration of environmental issues. The buffer zone will be determined as part of this process and will take into account the results of the EIS specialist studies, including surface water, groundwater and flora and fauna.

What effect will the levees have on the flood profile?

Extensive modelling is being undertaken to assess the impact of levees on flood levels upstream and downstream of the site. The results of these studies will be presented in the EIS.

How will mining impact on water quality?

EIS specialist studies will assess all water quality impacts. Environmental management measures will be developed to ensure that the environmental value of the river is protected and that there are no adverse impacts on downstream water users.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Will blasting affect properties?

A specialist blasting study will be undertaken as part of the EIS to assess this issue. The study will predict the level of blasting impacts on neighbouring properties and specify any necessary mitigation measures.

Where will Ensham's underground mine be located?

The underground mining operation will be located to the west of the open cut mining operation, beneath land owned by Ensham. The underground mine will be designed to ensure that there is no subsidence of the main channel of the Nogoia river and no subsidence of any privately owned land.

How do we know that Ensham won't change its mind and undermine other areas without us knowing?

The Ensham Central Project does not involve any undermining or subsidence of land not owned by Ensham. Ensham would be required to obtain landowner agreements in accordance with the Mineral Resources Act before any mining under privately owned land in the future.

Will bore water be affected?

A groundwater study is being undertaken as part of the EIS to determine any impact of the project on bore water.

Where will the mine get its water supply from?

Ensham has an existing water supply allocation for mine water supply. This allocation will be supplemented by purchasing water allocations, as necessary, for additional project water demands.

How many jobs will the expansion create?

The existing Ensham mine currently employs approximately 400 people on site and initial indications are that the Ensham Central Project would increase total employment to approximately 700 people.

Where will the workforce live?

Workforce accommodation arrangements will depend on a number of factors which will be assessed as part of the EIS. There will be ongoing consultation with Emerald Shire Council and other relevant stakeholders in relation to workforce accommodation arrangements. This will ensure that any effect of the project workforce on local housing and community services is planned and managed.

NEXT STEPS

Future consultation will focus on addressing the stakeholders' issues discussed in this information sheet. This will include, where relevant, providing feedback to stakeholders on the results of EIS studies.

FEEDBACK

We have enclosed a 'Fax feedback form' with this information sheet to obtain any additional comments or feedback that you may have on the information presented. If you feel we have omitted any issues, please note your issue/concern on the form and fax it to Coakes Consulting on 02 4862 3936. The information you provide will be included as part of the formal Social Impact Assessment process.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Thank you to all the stakeholders who gave up their time to discuss their issues with Peter, Laura or Jaqueline.

Should you require further information on the project or the environmental impact assessment process, please do not hesitate to contact us directly:

Jacqueline Stokes Coakes Consulting 0417 454 727
Laura Knowles Hansen Consulting 07 3226 0902

We look forward to further contact in relation to the project



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