

Memorandum



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From:	Britanny Crescentino (Britanny.Crescentino@ecoz.com.au)
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Subject:	EZ23143 – Community Engagement Report 05 March 2024

1 Purpose of this memo

To provide a of the summary of the early community engagement undertaken in Wurrumiyanga (Nguiu), Bathurst Island by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) regarding the proposed new housing subdivision development, in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority (NT EPA) *Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Guideline*.

2 Background

DIPL is working under the housing investment package: *Our Community. Our Future. Our Homes.* to develop a new subdivision of land in the Wurrumiyanga township for the purpose of public residential housing (the project). Previous early engagement for the project has been ongoing since 2017 when the Wurrumiyanga Area Plan was released and identified the proposed subdivision area and surrounding land for the purpose of residential use. Initial early engagement has been driven through the establishment of the Housing Reference Group (HRG) forum in 2020 which is a face-to-face meeting on-country and via video link if necessary chaired by Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (DTFHaC) and the Housing Program Office (HPO) with assistance from DIPL. Prior to the establishment of the HRG, the HPO began first engagement with the community regarding the subdivision in 2019.

The HRG members for Wurrumiyanga include a combination of Traditional Owners of the land and representatives from each family living in the township. The ongoing engagement of the HRG group has allowed for opportunity for inputs into the subdivision location, housing design improvements and number of houses required. Using the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) principles that guide good community engagement, this engagement was conducted at the levels of inform, consult, involve and collaborate information, into the detailed design phase. As a result, a location for the subdivision has been decided and endorsed by the Traditional Owners of the land, with inputs into the detailed designs of the types of housing dwellings to be constructed and internal floor layout also being decided.

During the early design works for the project, DIPL identified the residents of Wurrumiyanga as a key stakeholder that require consultation and engagement about the project. DIPL engaged with the Tiwi Island Regional Land Council (TIRLC), and the TIRLC proposed an expo style forum be arranged for DIPL and other NTG Departments and private agencies (i.e. Catholic Care NT and Tiwi Island Employment and Training) to have an opportunity to consult and engage directly with residents of Wurrumiyanga.

Details of the community consultation and DIPL's overarching goal and objectives of the consultation are provided below in section 3.

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3 Community consultation and engagement

This section provides an overview of the DIPL's overarching goal and objectives of the community engagement, and details of the engagement and methodology.

3.1.1 Goal

The goal of community consultation and engagement was to proactively and effectively inform, consult and involve the community in the early stages of the development in a culturally appropriate manner and seek community feedback (negative and positive) and any further traditional knowledge for input into the development design.

3.1.2 Objectives

The key objectives guiding this community consultation include:

- Inform, consult and involve the Wurrumiyanga community, as a key stakeholder, on the development of the subdivision.
- Provide the community an opportunity to openly be involved in providing input early in the development stage.
- Meeting the stakeholder and community consultation requirements for the environmental assessment under the NT *Environment Protection Act 2019*.

3.1.3 Guiding frameworks

The following guiding frameworks informed the stakeholder consultation methodology:

- International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) engagement spectrum and standards
- NT EPA requirements including the guidance of *Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation* and objects of the *Environment Protection Act* that acknowledge Aboriginal peoples' ongoing stewardship of their land and seas.
- NTG *Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy* guidance

Noting that as a minimum all HPO staff involved in engagement undertake IAP2 and Remote Engagement Coordination training prior to involvement in engagement.

3.1.4 Details of consultation

An exhibition style consultation forum and barbeque lunch was proposed as a consultation method to DIPL by the TIRLC for the purpose of community consultation and engagement. The format was proposed to occur as a trial monthly over the next six months, with the purpose. to encourage consultation, engagement and knowledge sharing of the role and services of NTG agencies, private and non-for-profit companies with the community (i.e. NT Catholic Care, Tiwi Island Training and Employment Services) on-country. The TIRLC is a remote local government body that has represented the peoples of Bathurst and Melville Island, including Wurrumiyanga, since 2001.

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Time and location

The forum was set up in the township of Wurrumiyanga on Tuesday 05 March 2024 at 10am under the community gathering trees next to the Nua Supermarket. The area chosen is a central community location here there are no set family groupings, meaning that everyone is welcome in the area and can talk freely. No set end time was proposed for the forum to allow for respectful active listening and information sharing. The DIPL team was on-county until approximately 12:30pm once the number of community members reduced significantly.

Attendees on behalf of DIPL

The following attendees attended the forum and engaged with the community on behalf of the DIPL Land Servicing and Engineering Housing Program Office. Each attendee has various experience of stakeholder engagement and consultation.

Table 3-1. List of attendees

Name	Employee/Role	Information expertise
Mammas Kokkinomagoulos	DIPL – Consultant Project Manager – Land Servicing and Engineering Housing Program Office	Subdivision development
James Li	DIPL - A/Manager Infrastructure Program Land Servicing and Engineering Housing Program Office	Subdivision development
Kirsty McInnes	DIPL - Construction Manager Land Servicing and Engineering Housing Program Office	Construction delivery and environment
Racquel Timney	DIPL - Regional Program Manager – Top End Tiwi West Housing Program Office	History of development of subdivision, house designs etc. Long history of consultation for housing in Wurrumiyanga, and an understanding of local township, land knowledge and traditional protocols.
Britanny Crescentino	EcOz Environmental Consultant – Senior Environmental Consultant - Referral Lead	Environmental surveys undertaken to date and environmental assessment.

3.1.5 Methods

The level of engagement was based on the IAP2 Spectrum (IAP2 2018) and ranged from inform, consult and involve.

Information provided

A combination of visual and two-way verbal communication was used to communicate details of the proposed subdivision, the environmental studies undertaken to date and to address any questions or concerns raised about housing in general and the subdivision.

DIPL set up a table with A1 printed satellite maps of the subdivision area, which provided visual context of:

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- the proposed location subdivision
- concept subdivision design plan (including internal roads, stormwater infrastructure, housing lots and public open spaces)
- *Typhonium mirabile* survey efforts within the subdivision boundary and in the wider surrounding environment
- Electronic images of *T. mirabile* to convey the species of plant
- Areas outside of the subdivision that have been excluded from the subdivision area, due to previous consultation.

The following information was conveyed verbally and allowed for two-way communication with stakeholders asking questions:

- Purpose of the subdivision
- Concept design plan
- DIPL and DTFHaC roles in providing the housing for the community
- Design and layout of the houses (i.e. proposed 57 new houses with a combination of 1-bedroom to 5-bedroom dwellings to be constructed in the subdivision and 44 older houses removed and rebuilt under the current housing program (not subject of this referral)
- Environmental surveys undertaken and the results of the surveys and what this means in the context of the surrounding environment
- Environmental approvals process and requirements of DIPL to engage with process

How culturally appropriate

The use of visual and two-way verbal communication in an on-country setting was proposed by the TIRLC during early engagement in preparation with consulting the community. Interpreters were not deemed applicable for this type of consultation as English is a secondary language on the island.

4 Engagement results

4.1 Stakeholders

40 people were recorded as being actively engaged with by the team. The people engaged with had backgrounds ranging from Wurrumiyanga residents both indigenous and non-indigenous, Traditional Owners and local HRG representatives, NTG employees, non-NTG employees and interstate tourists that were on a day visit to the island.

4.2 Stakeholder feedback

. A summary concerns and information raised by stakeholders is provided in Table 6-1 below.

Table 4-1. Key themes and concerns raised at community consultation

Key themes and engagement outcomes	DIPL Response/outcomes
Housing overcrowding	
More housing required to address overcrowding issue was	57 new houses are proposed to be initially built in the new subdivision.

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Key themes and engagement outcomes	DIPL Response/outcomes
raised by most community residents.	Ensure names are on the housing wait list, if yourself or family wants housing.
Family members have been on the waitlist for a house for 5 years.	
Existing housing issues (not related to proposed development)	
Renovations required on existing dwellings	As part of the wider Wurrumiyanga housing project (not subject to the Wurrumiyanga subdivision), 44 of the oldest dwellings will be removed and rebuilt.
Some existing older dwellings are extremely run down and sinking from lack of soil stability.	As part of the wider Wurrumiyanga housing project (not subject to the Wurrumiyanga subdivision), 44 of the oldest dwellings will be removed and rebuilt. The location of the house with lack of soil stability will not be rebuilt as not suitable for development.
Dwelling designs	
1-bedroom dwellings for older single residents are required.	Broad range of housing mix will be constructed including 1-bedroom dwellings. Ensure names are on the housing wait list, if yourself or family wants housing.
Are the designs of the new houses going to be the same as the last round of houses built in Forestry suburb?	Layout designs of houses are similar to the newest houses built, not the older design. The design incorporates more open plan living space, with more space in communal areas such as the living/dining room. Split system air conditioners will be installed in the living/dining rooms, with available PowerPoints in bedrooms for box air conditioners to be installed in bedrooms by residents at a later date. Outside storage rooms are not provided, however, there are limited designs which include an external storeroom to the dwelling (within the dwelling footprint – NOT a separate shed). All laundries in the new homes are internal
Air conditioning in the houses	Air conditioning split systems will be installed in the communal living/dining areas, with the option for box air conditioners to be installed in bedrooms post completion of construction. If stakeholders think of any further questions/concerns, they are able to direct these queries directly to the Housing Office on the island or HRG representative for their family.
What will be the housing mix for the subdivision?	Proposed for 1-bedroom ranging to 5-bedroom dwellings will be constructed. Housing Program Office will undertake community consultation on this topic in the future.
Employment opportunities	
What will the employment opportunities associated with the early works and construction of the subdivision be?	DIPL are able to assist with employment opportunities with construction contractors Part of tender requirement is for 40% of workforce to be Aboriginal "
Timeframes on when houses available	
What will the subdivision commence? It has been waiting for long time.	Proposed construction to commence Q2 (dry season) 2025. Ensure names are on the housing wait list, if yourself or family wants housing.

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Key themes and engagement outcomes	DIPL Response/outcomes
General development of subdivision	
Unaware there was a plan for subdivision development to commence.	Generally interested in the subdivision and the work both environmental approvals, construction and environmental that DIPL were undertaking
How will the names of roads be decided upon?	The HRG (consisting of TOs and family representatives) will be consulted and names will be decided through this consultation phase closer to development.
Could a new service station to be included in the subdivision?	Housing Program Office is only responsible for housing development. The new service station would have to request through Tiwi Island Regional Council or Tiwi Land Council.
Traditional Owners involvement	
Have Traditional Owners been approached/consulted in regard to location of the subdivision, and have they approved the area.	Traditional Owners of Wurrumiyanga (and one representative from each family) are on the Housing Reference Group (HRG) board, which have been consulted by Territory Families and DIPL since 2020 in regard to the location, design and other inputs into the subdivision.
Loss unmaintained Airport Road	
Loss of unmaintained Airport Road. Residents use this track as a walking track to access land around the Airstrip.	Will be an impact to this area during early works and construction. Once subdivision is completed, roads will be able to be used to walk to and from the Airstrip area via the subdivision that will connect to remaining section of the Airport Road. Driving to the Airport via Kerinauia Drive (sealed road) will not be impacted.
What will happen to the dirt road/Airport Road (from airport to Wurrumiyanga) that would be cut off by future subdivision?	The subdivision will provide a formalised road that will provide a better and safer access for Wurrumiyanga people.
<i>Typhonium mirabile</i>	
Are there opportunity to translocate <i>Typhonium mirabile</i>	The success rate of translocating the species is underdeveloped and not very well understood. Trials are being undertaken currently to determine the success for translocating the species on the mainland (for <i>Typhonium praetermissum</i> subspecies).
Not aware of <i>Typhonium mirabile</i> in the proposed development area	651 individual <i>Typhonium sp.</i> plants present in proposed development area, over 8,000 in wider surrounding environment. As determined from targeted surveys by environmental consultants.
Not concerned with presence of species in proposed development area.	Noted that the people engaged during this engagement forum were not concerned with the proposed development area and the localised impact to the species.

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REFERENCES

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) (2018), *IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation* [online], Available at: https://iap2.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2018_IAP2_Spectrum.pdf [accessed 06 March 2024].