

Section 11

Social Impact Assessment



11. Social Impact Assessment

11.1 Introduction

In order to gain an understanding of the potential social impacts associated with the development of the TTP, that is consistent with Alcan's approach to working with the communities in which it operates, a holistic approach is being taken to the identification and management of potential social impacts.

11.2 The Approach to Managing Social Impacts

The TTP sponsors have adopted a three phase approach to potential social impacts associated with the development of the TTP.

The first phase of the process involved an independent consultant compiling a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Report to assist TTP to identify potential social impacts in addition to providing valuable information to the statutory regulators responsible for overseeing the approvals processes. The overall purpose of the TTP SIA Report was to:

- Identify the nature and magnitude of any potential social impacts, both positive and negative.
- Contribute to a better understanding of the project by those potentially affected and those with responsibilities toward potentially affected groups and individuals.
- Facilitate the expression of views, concerns and aspirations about the project by those potentially affected.
- Assist TTP and potentially affected people, communities and organisations, to plan activities associated with the project in such a way as to optimise the potential positive impacts and mitigate potential adverse impacts on affected communities.
- Provide the basis for compiling a Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) for the project.

The second phase of the process involves the selected BOO consortium developing a SIMP in consultation with the affected communities and other key stakeholder organisations (government and non-government). The sponsors of the TTP have developed an outline SIMP framework included below.

The third phase of the process involves implementation of the SIMP by the selected BOO consortium, as well as establishing appropriate monitoring and review mechanisms.

11.3 Methodology Adopted - Phase 1

ImpaxSIA Consulting compiled the SIA Report. The SIA Team was comprised of Dr Annie Holden, economic anthropologist and team leader, and anthropologists Gay English and Justin Beal. Sensitivity to gender was reflected in the use of male and female consultants with anthropological training on the SIA Team. The NLC advised on the identity of affected Aboriginal people and provided field support in the form of field officers who assisted the SIA anthropologists with setting up meetings, introductions and arranging translation services.

The SIA team consultations commenced on 8 March 2004 and were undertaken over a fourteen week period. Consultations were initially focussed on the central and central west regions and then shifted to the eastern region and finished in the western region of the TTP. Consultations in relation to the TTP at Wadeye were undertaken simultaneously with the consultations in relation to the Blacktip Project at Wadeye. Approximately 360 people, primarily comprising traditional Aboriginal owners attended SIA consultations. The results for the consultations in relation to the Blacktip Project are presented in a separate report that relates to that project's EIS.

The SIA Consultants were accompanied at all times on Aboriginal Land by Aboriginal field officers from the NLC and, where possible, a local Aboriginal interpreter.

The methodology included:

- Visiting regional centres, major communities and outstations to conduct formal interviews and informal discussions with members of each of the traditional Aboriginal owner and native title claimant groups whose country will be directly affected by the project. The SIA team, with the support of NLC field staff ensured that senior representatives from each of the groups were present at each meeting.
- Convening community meetings at Bulman, Peppimenarti and Palumpa at the request of traditional Aboriginal owners.
- House to house visits conducted primarily to disseminate information to Aboriginal community members about the proposed project.
- Conducting interviews with Aboriginal staff and senior representatives and/or employees of the following local service and enterprise organisations:

■ Thamarrurr Regional Council	■ Wugularr Health Centre
■ Thamarrurr Rangers	■ Mardrulk Resource Centre
■ Thamarrurr Regional Housing Authority	■ Binjari Community Government Council
■ Mi Patha Takeway / Bakery	■ Kalano Community Association
■ Murrinpatha Nimmipa Store	■ Sunrise Health Services
■ Palumpa Station / Butcher	■ Wurli Wurlinjang Health Service
■ Murin Association	■ Katherine Town Council
■ Binjari Health Centre	■ Palumpa Cattle Station
■ Kanamkek-Yile-Ngala Museum	■ Wardaman Association
■ Wadeye Aboriginal Language Centre	■ Mardrulk Resource Centre
■ Library / Knowledge Centre, Wadeye	■ Fred Hollows Foundation
■ Kardu Dari Kardu Family Centre	■ Indigenous Employment Centre
■ Dirrmu Ngakumari Art Gallery	■ Waikan Employment and Training Centre
■ Nganmariyanga Community Inc.	■ Burridj Group Training Company

- Barunga / Manyallaluk Community Government Council
 - Dhimurru Land Management Council (staff)
 - Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation
 - Indigenous Employment and Training Unit – NLC
 - Nyirranggulong Mardruk Ngadberre Regional Council
 - Land and Sea Management Branch – NLC
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services
 - Gapuwiyak Community Government Council
 - Gulin Gulin Community Government Council
 - Nauiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council
 - Beswick Community Government Council
 - Our Lady of Sacred Heart School, Wadeye.
- Conducting interviews with the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land associated with the pipeline that live in or are associated with the following potentially affected communities:
 - Wadeye
 - Bulman
 - Palumpa
 - Weemol
 - Peppimenarti
 - Emu Point
 - Ngukurr
 - Nauiyu
 - Manyallaluk
 - Kybrook Farm
 - Kalano
 - Dhalinbuy
 - Mt Catt
 - Gapuwiyak
 - Rockhole
 - Mata Mata
 - Katherine
 - Bran Bran
 - Binjarri
 - Yirkala
 - Beswick
 - Nhulunbuy
 - Barunga
- Conducting interviews with the following NT Government Departments:
 - NT Health and Wadeye Health Clinic
 - NT Police, Wadeye
 - NT Correctional Services, Wadeye
 - NT Health, Gapuwiyak
 - NT Education Dept, Gapuwiyak
 - Power and Water Corporation
 - NT Business, Industry & Resource Development
 - NT Infrastructure, Planning and Environment
 - NT Community Development

- NT Department of Justice
- NT Treasury
- NT Department of Employment Education and Training
- NT Chief Minister's Office - Offices of Indigenous Policy and Territory Development
- NT WorkSafe
- Office of Territory Development
- Conducting interviews with the following Commonwealth Government Departments:
 - Department of Environment and Heritage
 - Department of Defence
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
 - Australian Fisheries Management Authority
 - Department of Transport and Regional Services
- Consultations with non-indigenous stakeholder organisations were also conducted:
 - Amateur Fishermen's Association Northern Territory (AFANT)
 - Northern Territory Seafood Council
 - Conservation Volunteers Australia
 - Environment Centre Northern Territory
 - Australian Marine Conservation Society
 - Northern Territory Green Party
 - Environmental Defenders Office
 - World Wide Fund for Nature
 - Timor Sea Support Group
 - Greening Australia
 - Top End Women's Legal Service

This list of NGOs, government departments and communities is regularly reviewed and where necessary revised to ensure that all parties with an interest in the Draft EIS are given the opportunity to participate in consultations.

A number of recent and current studies and reports provided to the SIA Team contained comprehensive and current descriptive information and socio-economic data for the region. The SIA team, therefore, did not duplicate this research, but instead relied on secondary sources for the compilation of historical and base line data for this Report. The SIA team focused its research on qualitative consultations with traditional Aboriginal owners and other affected Aboriginal people, and service and enterprise organisation employees resident in the affected communities.

The SIA consultations and feedback from respondents were limited by the following circumstances:

- Traditional Aboriginal owners and Aboriginal community members have no previous experience of, and therefore no point of reference for, a major infrastructure project.
- People who are not elected representatives of Councils and organisations or senior members of traditional Aboriginal owner groups, with few exceptions, told the SIA team that they had received no previous information about the project.
- Traditional Aboriginal owners and community members did not appear to be accustomed to being consulted and engaging in abstract debate.
- Traditional Aboriginal owners of affected estate groups stated that they did not really want to discuss possible impacts of the project until they have been presented with a financial offer by the sponsors and have had time to assess their position and make a decision, and until they have had more information about what other traditional Aboriginal owners along the proposed pipeline route are thinking.
- One group of traditional Aboriginal owners in the East stated that they had not had enough time to fully understand the TTP, its purpose and implications for their country, to undertake their own consultations with other custodians and then to form a position in relation to the proposed project.
- It appeared that some traditional Aboriginal owners felt that if they were to enter into discussion about the possible impacts of the project, were they to proceed, that this might be construed as agreement in principle to the project. Thus some individuals were reluctant to discuss the project at all until the community as a whole had made their decision.
- Aboriginal community members were reluctant to engage in discussions about the proposed project unless they were members of directly affected estate groups.
- A number of people told us that the issues were too complex to discuss and needed a lot of thought and consideration before they could provide comment.
- There were a limited number of local interpreters available to support the SIA team.

11.4 Impacts Identified in Phase 1

The TTP SIA Report identified the following potential social impacts and issues:

- Lack of understanding of the project details by traditional Aboriginal owners, the wider affected Aboriginal community and community organisations.
- Language barriers in communicating with the traditional Aboriginal owners/wider affected Aboriginal community.
- The importance of utilising an appropriate methodology in conducting face-to-face consultations – ie it may be best to conduct intense, small (possibly clan-based) group and one-on-one sessions.
- Unrealistic expectation of benefits to be delivered by the project, for example, free gas, quantum of ‘royalty’ money to be enough to buy vehicles and build-up homelands, infrastructure being left behind such as housing and better roads.

- Methodology and timing to communicate more specific information regarding potential opportunities and project milestone/timeline issues to affected community organisations/Aboriginal community in general to allow planning/development of a considered response.
- Expectations, capacity and take-up of potential employment and training opportunities.
- Expectations, capacity and take-up of potential business development/contracting opportunities.
- List of concerns expressed by interviewees during the course of the TTP SIA consultations – largely HSE related (documented in **Section 3** of this Draft EIS).
- In the interests of maintaining ongoing goodwill, there will be the need to develop comprehensive safeguard policies to minimise/avoid negative social impacts (and maximise positive social impact) during the life of the project.
- Community interaction with non-Indigenous workforce(s):
 - Due to lack of exposure to large-scale development, communities do not have an appropriate reference point to assist in responding to potential impacts.
 - Potential for communities to react violently/vandalise property due to its volatile nature to a negative social impact (in particular road accident that results in fatality/serious injury or potential sexual jealousy issues).
 - Alcohol and drug issues.
 - Culturally appropriate security services and communication/interaction with local police.
 - Level of female employment in construction workforce.
 - Access of construction workforce to recreational areas and town.
 - Granting of favours.
 - Communication in general.
- The need for the affected traditional Aboriginal owner groups to be sure that the wider affected Aboriginal community also support the proposed project before giving their consent.
- Issues arising from distribution of compensation payments to traditional Aboriginal owners, for example money being spent on alcohol resulting in further anti-social disruptions, the desire of the traditional Aboriginal owners to be educated in how to manage compensation money so it is done in a clear and transparent manner to avoid arguments.
- Potential negative impacts of possible upgrades to roads and increased traffic.
- Capacity of the community to respond to change and associated negative/positive social impacts resulting from the proposed development.
- Ongoing monitoring of social impacts.

11.5 Management Strategies Phase 2 and 3

In response to the issues identified in the SIA Report, a comprehensive SIMP will be developed by the selected BOO in close consultation with the affected communities and key stakeholders including (but not limited to) Community Government Councils, relevant Territory and

Commonwealth agencies and the NLC. Accordingly, it is the intention of the project to conduct an intensive two-day workshop in the central and eastern regions of the pipeline, to collaboratively develop potential responses to the issues identified in the SIA Report. Phase 3 – implementation and monitoring of the SIMP, will also be discussed at the workshop. Currently, the proposed Social Impact Workshop will be tentatively scheduled for the second quarter of 2005 with the selected BOO consortium and will include:

Phase 2: SI Management Planning

- Commencement of a communications campaign throughout the central and eastern regions affected by the TTP, in particular at Katherine and Nhulunbuy.
- Consultation with key stakeholders including (but not limited to) Community Government Councils, relevant Territory and Commonwealth agencies and the NLC.
- Conduct of an independently facilitated workshop in Katherine and Nhulunbuy to receive presentations on the SIA Report and to discuss and formulate potential mitigation / optimisation strategies.
- Development of final SIMP, including negotiations with key contributors and participants.
- SIMP in place and ready for implementation by project Final Investment Decision (FID).

Phase 3: SI Management Plan Implementation

- Progressive increase of SIMP development and implementation of the SIMP as the project moves toward FID.
- Full implementation during construction and operations phases of the project.
- It is expected that the SIMP may include the following type of strategies:
 - a) Project communications;
 - b) Cross-cultural exchange/awareness;
 - c) Cultural heritage management;
 - d) Indigenous training and employment;
 - e) Indigenous business development;
 - f) Community/project protection;
 - g) Traffic management;
 - h) Community partnerships.

Once developed, measures will be put in place to implement, monitor and if necessary review the SIMP. It is expected that this will be an ongoing and intensive process during the construction phase of the TTP. During the operations phase of the project it is expected that monitoring activity will be reduced to a level that is manageable within normal day to day relationships between the communities, the Community Government Councils and the project.