

SECTION 9

Public Involvement and Consultation



9 Public Involvement and Consultation

Stakeholder and community consultation is an integral part of the NT Environmental Impact Assessment Process, which aims to gain input into the Proposed Development both prior and after developing the PER (this Report). This sections provides a summary of the consultation process during the development of the PER and public exhibition.

The Guidelines (NRETAS, 2009) describe specific requirements for the public involvement and consultation, include:

- How public concerns were identified and how these concerns will influence the design and delivery of the proposal
- Public involvement and the role of government organisations should be identified
- Methods for community consultation and response should be outlined, with outcomes documented
- Document changes to the proposal resulting from community consultation
- Details of any ongoing liaison with stakeholders and the community
- Outline negotiations and discussions with local government and relevant NT Government Agencies.

The following sections provide information on the stakeholder consultation process employed by the Proponent, noting that stakeholder and public consultation is a dynamic process that may change to better inform the public and stakeholders about the Proposed Development.

9.1 Community Consultation and Communication Strategy

The Proponent developed a Community Consultation and Communications Strategy (the Strategy) to inform community stakeholders who are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposal. The strategy was developed to meet the needs of the Guidelines for works under the Proposed Development.

9.1.1 Objective of the Community Consultation and Communication Strategy

The objectives of the strategy are to:

- Gain insight into the concerns each stakeholder may have in regards to the Proposed Development
- Understand the issues stakeholders feel should be addressed as part of the PER
- Inform the stakeholders of the planning process.

Specifically, it will help ensure regular and accurate information is supplied to all stakeholders, via a number of mediums; it will help increase awareness among the target audience and provide opportunities for feedback and input into the process; serve to create a high level of awareness of the project to key stakeholders; and assist the Proponent in addressing community concerns by engaging with the community and incorporating, where possible, information or actions to allay these concerns.

9.1.2 Consultation Process

The consultation process for the PER is based on the following approach:

- That the purpose and expectations of the consultation exercise and anticipated outcomes is clear and understood by all participants
- Participants understand fully what they can and cannot influence
- Consultation mechanisms will maximise stakeholder's ability to participate
- Community and stakeholder consultation activities will be as inclusive as possible, in order to ensure they are not subject to manipulation or domination by particular interests
- Information will be provided at key project milestones to adequately inform participants' inputs

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- Adequate time, staff support and funds will be made available to support the participation process
- The early identification of any concerns and issues with the project in conjunction with working closely with stakeholders, in order to develop measures to address them
- Participants will be made aware of how their inputs will be used and how they will receive feedback on the outcomes
- Thorough and transparent review of the consultation process will occur at critical points throughout the engagement and at the project's conclusion.

A broad range of tools will be used to communicate various milestones of the project with stakeholders, including a mix of newspaper advertisements; information fact sheets on the internet which can also be used as handouts; media events; and signage in the East Point area during construction will serve to create a high level of awareness of the project to stakeholders.

9.2 Key Stakeholders and Selected Level of Consultation

A broad range of key stakeholders throughout the community will be consulted throughout the PER process for the Proposed Development, although to varying degrees. Table 9-1 provides a list of identified stakeholders and the selected consultation process for each. Although the Proponent will endeavour to identify and consult with all stakeholders, it is recognised that some stakeholders may not be included in the register below.

Darwin residents and other stakeholders will be updated regularly through newspaper ads, press releases and the Proponents website (www.powerwater.com.au). Darwin residents and other stakeholders will be invited through the media to attend community briefing sessions. Stakeholders are invited to contact the Proponent if further clarification or information on the project is required, or if they wish to register as a stakeholder through the website.

Table 9-1 Stakeholder Register and Level of Consultation

Level of Consultation	Stakeholders
An introductory letter was sent to the following stakeholders, advising them of the project and including details on where to seek additional information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Government Ministers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Member for Solomon, Natasha Griggs — Member for Lingiari, Warren Snowdon — Senator Trish Crossin — Senator Nigel Scullion • Northern Territory MLAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Chief Minister, Hon Paul Henderson — Leader of the Opposition, Mr Terry Mills — Shadow Minister for Essential Services, Mr John Elferink — Member for Fannie Bay, Mr Michael Gunner • Other organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Tourism NT — Larrakia Development Corporation — Australian National Sport Fishing Association (NT Branch) — Friends of East Point.
An introductory letter was sent to these stakeholders, with receive regular updates and receive a personal invite to attend community briefing sessions also provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Essential Services Minister, Hon Rob Knight — Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage, Mr Carl Hampton —

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Level of Consultation	Stakeholders
The following stakeholders will receive regular updates, be consulted as required throughout the PER development process and invited to attend community briefing sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal and Territory environmental agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport — Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.
An introductory letter was sent to these stakeholders, followed with regular updates and invited to attend a one-on-one meeting with the project team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darwin Port Corporation (Darwin Harbour shipping management) • Darwin City Council • Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (Community Representation) • Environmental Protection Authority • Amateur Fishing Association of the NT (Recreational fishing lobby group) • Environment Centre NT (Environmental lobby group) • Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (Traditional Owners) • Heritage Advisory Council (East Point Fortifications) • Ludmilla Landcare Group.

9.3 Consultation Program

The consultation program for the PER consisted of a number of activities, providing a range of entry points for stakeholders to obtain information and provide feedback. The program was designed to keep agencies and members of the community informed of the latest project developments, providing opportunities for input where possible and consisted of three phases:

- **Phase 1:** Consultation during the preparation of the draft PER. This phase of the project consists primarily of information distribution and meetings with key stakeholders to provide input into the PER
- **Phase 2:** Consultation during the public exhibition of the draft PER. This phase of the project includes website feedback, community information sessions and submissions to the PER. Feedback from Phase 2 will be collated in the Supplementary Report for the project
- **Phase 3:** Consultation during the public exhibition of the draft PER. This phase will include signage at the work sites and updates in the media of progress of the project. The contractor will be responsible under the contract to notify the public and other persons that could be impacted from the work prior to that work commencing. A complaints reporting system included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

9.3.1 Phase 1 Consultation

This section summarises the information gained from recent consultation with a range of community stakeholder groups, including commercial, recreational and government parties. The consultation took place over the period from June 2011 and October 2011. Discussion with stakeholder groups provided an opportunity for groups to express their considerations and concerns about the Proposed Development and the potential environmental, social and economic of concern. It is important to note that the feedback contained in this section:

- Cannot be construed as being statistically representative of opinion within the stakeholder groups
- Represents general comments made by key stakeholder groups, which were not in response to specific plans for the Proposed Development, but rather reflect their concerns and opinions
- Comments on the Ludmilla WWTP upgrade and proposed EPO extension project were not incorporated; however, the Proponent noted these comments.

Feedback collected during Phase 1 meetings is outlined in **Table 9-2**.

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Table 9-2 Stakeholder Comments, Issues and Concerns

Category	Comment	Reference within the PER
Physical Environment	<p>Stakeholders commented that the Proposed Development was considered an improvement on the current system of discharging macerated sewerage through the Larrakeyah Outfall. Specific issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for odour, mostly linked with the existing Ludmilla WWTP. • Acid Sulphate Soils occur along the alignment • Dust generation during construction of the Proposed Development. 	<p>Information on the existing environment, potential impacts and proposed mitigation measure are provided under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 4.1, Physical Environment • Section 5.1, Impacts on the Physical Environment • Section 6, Preliminary Risk Analysis • Section 7.1, Mitigation of Impacts on the Physical Environment • Appendix L, Acid Sulphate Soils Management Plan
Biological Environment	<p>Stakeholders commended PWC on selecting a development corridor that minimise the disturbance of fauna and flora. Key areas of concern included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential disturbance of fauna during construction activities • Removal of rehabilitated areas near Colivas Road • Biting insects occurring. 	<p>A discussion on the existing fauna and flora is provided given under Section 4.2, Biological Environment and Section 4.3, Biting Insects. Potential impacts are described in Section 5.2, with proposed management measure provided in Section 7.3, Mitigation of Impacts on the Biological Environment</p>
Built Environment	<p>Concerns raised by stakeholders in respect to potential impacts to areas of Cultural Heritage significance at East Point, in particular it was noted that the development corridor will be near WWII heritage sites.</p> <p>It was also noted that the alignment impact on sections of the bicycle track at East Point.</p>	<p>The built environment is discussed under Sections 4.4, Built Environment.</p> <p>Potential Impacts and Mitigation measures are provided under Section 5.3, Impacts on the Built Environment and Section 7.4, Mitigation of Impacts on the Built Environment.</p>
Socio-economic Environment	<p>Among issues raised by stakeholders were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larrakia stakeholders were interested in the potential to maximise indigenous employment. 	<p>PWC noted the request and will engage with the Larrakia people to optimise potential employment opportunities.</p>

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Category	Comment	Reference within the PER
Related Actions	Stakeholders requested clarification on the scope of the PER and related actions, i.e. Ludmilla WWTP, extending the EPO and closure of the Larrakeyah Outfall. Stakeholders also commented on the PER for Ludmilla Wastewater Treatment Plan and Associated Facilities.	Related actions are discussed under Section 2.4, Related Actions. As described under Section 1.1.3, Scope, Structure and the Draft PER, the Proposed Development relates to the duplication of the East Point rising main from the Ludmilla WWTP to a terminal man-hole. PWC is committed extending the East Point outfall to deeper water and separate environmental approval will be sought for this project under the EA Act and EPBC Act.

9.4 Consultation during Exhibition of this DEIS

The draft PER for the proposed duplicated East Point rising main will be open for public review and available at the following locations:

- Environment, Heritage and the Arts (EHA) Division (NRETAS), 2nd Floor, Darwin Plaza, 41 Smith Street Mall, Darwin
- Department of Lands and Planning, Ground Floor, 38 Cavenagh St, Darwin
- Northern Territory Library (NTL), Parliament House, Darwin
- Casuarina Public Library (casuarinalibrary@darwin.nt.gov.au; Ph: 8930 0200)
- Palmerston City Library, Goyder Square, Palmerston (Contact maeva.fournigault@palmerston.nt.gov.au, Ph 8935 9991)
- Darwin City Council Library, Darwin Civic Centre, Harry Chan Ave
- Charles Darwin University Library, CDU Casuarina Campus
- The Environment Centre (Unit 3, 98 Woods St, Darwin)
- Environment Hub, Rapid Creek (Shop 9 Rapid Creek Business Village, Pearce place, Millner)
- Member for Fannie Bay (Michael Gunner's) office, Parap Shopping Village, Parap
- Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Library, John Gorton Building, Parkes, Canberra.

The action officer is Bryan Baker from the EHA Division of NRETAS, phone (08) 8924 4047, facsimile (08) 8924 4053 or email: bryan.baker@nt.gov.au.