

23.0 Community Consultation

23.1 Introduction

Alcan Gove's community relations goals are to maximise the value that it provides to the community, and to ensure that its net impact is positive and sustainable in terms of economic wealth generation, environmental, health and social benefits. Achieving these goals will contribute to greater sustainability for the business, its employees and the community.

Alcan Gove pursues these goals through:

- A commitment to transparency through sharing information, consulting with community members, and taking their views into account in decision making;
- Respect for indigenous culture including traditional land ownership and values;
- Supporting initiatives to promote economic and social sustainability through indigenous education and training, and actively facilitating the development of employment and economic opportunities;
- Sponsoring and supporting projects that enrich the life of the community; and
- Developing awareness and support for these principles among employees, contractors, partners and stakeholders.

The community consultation and communications program undertaken as part of this EIS has been designed with the above goals in mind.

The consultation and communication strategy for the Third Stage Expansion began with a comprehensive community consultation program during the preparation of the draft EIS. It will continue during the approval, construction and operations phases with regular reporting to the community and regulatory authorities concerning the activities, impacts, performance and other issues relating to the project.

The program has been conducted as an integral part of the project's socio-economic impact assessment to ensure that the issues for the communities potentially affected are identified and given adequate consideration in the EIS process.

23.2 Objectives

It is Alcan's goal not only to ensure that the Third Stage Expansion provides a net benefit to the community but also to work with the community in achieving this outcome. The company will operate in an open and transparent way commensurate with commercial requirements.

In recognition of this goal, the key objectives of the community consultation program are to:

- Ensure an open, accountable and transparent consultation process;
- Initiate and maintain open communication with the community on all aspects of the project and the environmental impact assessment work;
- Identify community issues in relation to the proposed development; and
- Develop strategies to minimise negative impacts and to address community concerns.

23.3 Approach

Alcan Gove places importance on maintaining good relationships with the local community and in promoting an understanding of cross-cultural values. Communities also have increasing expectations of their role in the decision making process and are requesting more information on how particular developments will affect them and how impacts will be managed. Consequently, in developing the consultation program for the EIS, an issues-driven approach has been adopted. This approach allows for a greater focus on issues of relevance and importance to the community and enables the selection of more appropriate methods to address these issues.

In developing the consultation program, the following key elements were seen to be essential:

- Early recognition and involvement of stakeholder groups, including working with the two Community Reference Groups that Alcan Gove facilitated to assist engagement with the community;
- Early recognition of social and environmental issues;
- Provision of multiple mechanisms for community participation;
- Ongoing communication and feedback;
- Integration of social information and community feedback into the environmental assessment process; and
- Development and integration of mitigation measures to address the issues raised.

Alcan Gove has a flexible approach to communication and has tailored the communication strategy to the separate needs of the various stakeholder groups. This has included the preparation of information in both English and Yolngu Matha (language of the local aboriginal people) as well as personal verbal communication to help explain technical concepts to the local communities.

23.4 Key Stakeholders

In June 2002, prior to the launch of the proposed Third Stage Expansion and preparation of the EIS, an internal consultation workshop process was used to develop an initial list of stakeholders, and to develop the content and approach for the EIS consultation program and social assessment process.

Key stakeholders identified either during this workshop or subsequently during the implementation of the consultation program are summarised in Table 23.4.1.

Table 23.4.1
Key Stakeholders

Government Agencies (including EIS Advisory Agencies)	Local Indigenous Businesses and Organisations	Community and Interest Groups
Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD)	Aboriginal Area Protection Agency (AAPA)	Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Committee
Department of the Chief Minister	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC)	Environment Centre, NT
Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs	Dhimurru Aboriginal Land Management Corporation	ESS (formerly Eures)
Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET)	Gumatj Association	Friends of the Earth Climate Justice Campaign
Department of Infrastructure, Planning, and the Environment (DIPE)	Laynhapuy Homelands	KANSAS Transport

Government Agencies (including EIS Advisory Agencies)	Local Indigenous Businesses and Organisations	Community and Interest Groups
Elected Representatives (Territory and Commonwealth)	Marrgar Government Community Council	LJ Hooker, Nhulunbuy
Invest Australia	Mitwaj Health Corporation	Menzies School of Health
Marine Safety Branch of DIPE	Northern Land Council	Nhulunbuy Community Reference Group
Natural Resource Management of DIPE	Regional Community Reference Group (Indigenous)	Nhulunbuy Waterwatch
Northern Territory Health and Community Services	Rirratjingu Association	Nhulunbuy Corporation Pty Ltd
Northern Territory Housing	Yirrkala Dhanbul Council	Nhulunbuy Christian School
Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Yirrkala Landcare	Nhulunbuy High School
Office of Environment and Heritage	Yirrkala School	Nhulunbuy Petroleum Pty Ltd
Office of Territory Development	Yirrkala Business Enterprises (YBE)	Nhulunbuy Primary School
	YBE and Nabalco Operator Training School (YNOTS)	Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nhulunbuy
		Northern Territory Construction Agency
		Northern Territory Minerals Council
		Northern Territory Education and Training Authority (NTETA)
		Northern Territory University
		Rotary Club of Nhulunbuy
		St Johns Ambulance
		WWF Climate Change
		Environment Centre NT

23.5 Consultation Formats

A range of formats was made available to facilitate communication between the study team and the stakeholders during the preparation of the EIS. These activities included:

- Public display of the draft EIS Guidelines by the Northern Territory Government;
- Presentations to the two Community Reference Groups;
- Development of a stakeholder database;
- Preparation and distribution of newsletters;
- Feedback forms;
- Web site;
- Media releases and press advertisements;
- Freecall 1800 number;

- Meetings with key community groups;
- Meetings and/or discussions with service providers;
- Meetings with government agencies;
- Display of a three dimensional model of the Third Stage Expansion;
- Preparation of a booklet in Yolngu Matha explaining the Third Stage Expansion;
- Preparation of a EIS summary brochure; and
- Public display of the EIS.

23.5.1 Public Display of the draft EIS Guidelines

The Northern Territory Government placed an advertisement in the Northern Territory News and The Arafura Times inviting interested parties to review and provide written comment to the Government on the draft EIS Guidelines. The advertisements were placed in both papers on the 29 April 2003 and provided the public two business weeks to review and comment on the draft Guidelines.

The draft Guidelines were placed on the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment website www.lpe.nt.gov.au. A copy could also be obtained by calling the Department.

23.5.2 Community Reference Groups

The Nhulunbuy and Regional Community Reference Groups were established by early 2003 as part of the long-term stakeholder engagement and communication strategy for the Alcan Gove operations. The Nhulunbuy Community Reference Group represented the town community, local businesses, and special interest groups. The Regional Community Reference Group represented the local indigenous community, traditional land owners, local indigenous businesses, and associated organisations.

Each group was established through either invitations to specific organisations or advertising for individual membership applications in the Arafura Times. This was to ensure that each group had the widest community representation. To be eligible for reference group membership, individuals completed an application form and agreed to follow the terms of reference prepared by Alcan Gove for each group.

The reference groups were selected to represent the range of stakeholders who have an interest in the Alcan Gove operations and its effects on the surrounding Gove Peninsula. It was considered important by Alcan Gove that each reference group member could express the issues and opinions of the organisation that he or she represented and could also report back to that organisation on the reference group meetings.

The reference groups provided an avenue for Alcan Gove to communicate with both the non-indigenous and indigenous communities. Each group meets regularly and, during the preparation of the EIS, an update of the Third Stage Expansion project was a regular agenda item for each meeting.

Sub-Committees have been formed from these two reference groups to address specific social and cultural issues identified as matters of priority to the majority of reference group members. An example of this is the Harmony Group that was established to look at the issue of anti-social behaviour within the community. A discussion on the Harmony Group's activities is provided in Section 21.4.9.

23.5.3 Stakeholder Database

A stakeholder database was developed and is continuously updated. It contains contact details and the extent of communications undertaken with each stakeholder. It provided a means of registering all stakeholders interested in obtaining further information on the project and recording stakeholder feedback on the project to be included in the EIS. The database also ensured that stakeholders received information updates about the project during the EIS process.

At the time of publication of the draft EIS, the stakeholder database had 14 government stakeholders, 14 indigenous businesses or organisations registered, and had received feedback from 24 non-indigenous members of the community or interest groups based in Nhulunbuy, Darwin and Perth. All stakeholders asked to be kept informed of the project's development and to be sent any subsequent newsletters or distributed information on certain issues or concerns. An analysis of feedback received is provided in Section 23.6.

23.5.4 Newsletters

Two newsletters (Appendix K1) were distributed to all stakeholders on the consultation database as well as in the newspaper for distribution to the communities of Nhulunbuy, Yirrkala and Ski Beach. Copies of the newsletters were also made available at the Alcan Gove Community Affairs office and on the Alcan Gove website.

The first newsletter was distributed on 30 April 2003. It provided background information on Alcan Gove operations, the proposed locations of the Third Stage Expansion, an outline of the components of the expansion, and the EIS process. It also identified the opportunities available for the public to become involved in the consultation process.

The second newsletter was distributed on 12 September 2003. It provided information on the progress of the EIS to date. This included a more detailed description of the potential environmental effects and a summary of the findings of some of the specialist environmental studies. Again this newsletter identified opportunities for the public to become involved in the ongoing consultation process.

A feedback form accompanied each of the newsletters.

23.5.5 Feedback Forms

Eight feedback forms were received in response to the first newsletter. All respondents sought to register their interest in being kept informed of the project's progress and being involved in the ongoing consultation process.

Six feedback forms were received in response to the second newsletter. The majority of respondents replied to register their interest in being involved in the consultation process. All the responses were from local community members who lived in the Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala, and one represented Nhulunbuy Waterwatch.

The second feedback form also provided the opportunity for community members to have input into the social impact assessment by requesting information on their attitudes to the local area and perceived advantages and/or disadvantages of the proposed refinery expansion. The key perceived advantages of the expansion were as follows:

- Increased employment opportunities;
- Increased opportunities for service providers;
- A boost to the local economy; and
- Continued royalty payments to Yolngu owners.

The perceived disadvantages included the following.

- Increased population during the construction phase;
- Greater shipping numbers;
- Increased costs of living;
- Possible increased contamination of discharge to Melville Bay; and
- Large numbers of 'fly-in-fly-out workers' minimising long-term local business growth potential.

These items are listed in the issues summary in Table 23.6.1.

23.5.6 Website

The Alcan Gove website (www.alcangove.com.au) has had information about the EIS and the expansion project on-line and available for public access since April 2003. It features an introduction to the project, an outline of the EIS process, and provides access to the project newsletters and feedback forms. There is also a link to register interest, comment, and obtain further information.

Non-electronic contact details for the EIS study team are also provided including a freecall 1800 number, fax number and postal address.

23.5.7 Media Releases/Press Advertisements

Alcan released a media statement on 13 February 2003 to inform shareholders, workforce and the local community of the intention to undertake a feasibility study and environmental assessment on a proposed expansion of the refinery. It also provided information on how the community could become involved in the environmental assessment process. Other forms of media utilised in February 2003 to publicise the proposed expansion included radio interviews and a news segment in the 1pm, 2pm and 4pm news on ABC Radio. Other radio segments were on SBS Radio (14 February 2003) and TOP FM (14 & 20 February 2003).

Television coverage of Alcan's intention to undertake an expansion feasibility study and environmental assessment was on ABC News (Darwin) and Channel 9 News (Darwin), also on 13 February 2003.

Articles providing information on the proposed expansion were also published in other papers throughout Australia and internationally including the following:

- Northern Territory News (13 & 14 February 2003);
- Arafura Times, Nhulunbuy (19 February 2003);
- Australian Financial Review (14 February 2003);
- The Australian (14 February 2003);
- The Cairns Post (14 February 2003);
- Montreal Gazette (14 February 2003);
- The South-East Asian Times (February 2003); and
- Mining Chronicle (14 March 2003).

In addition, the public display of the draft EIS Guidelines was advertised by the Northern Territory Government in the following newspapers on 29 April 2003:

- The Arafura Times; and
- Northern Territory News

Other media releases have been published between March and October 2003, providing the public with updates on other projects that would feed into the refinery expansion, including the proposed new gas pipeline to Gove.

A number of articles have been published in the Alcan Gove employee newsletter called the Aluminator. This newsletter is distributed to the Alcan Gove workforce and provides updates of both the feasibility study and environmental assessment process.

An advertisement was also placed in the Arafura Times in April 2003 requesting public participation in the odour assessment component of the EIS from Nhulunbuy residents.

23.5.8 Freecall 1800 Number

A freecall inquiry line (1-800-199-283) was established to coincide with the distribution of the first newsletter. The 1800 number has operated throughout the preparation of the EIS. The purpose of the 1800 number is to provide a direct line of communication to the EIS study team at no cost for members of the public seeking information or wishing to discuss issues or concerns.

Between April and October 2003, no freecall inquiries were registered.

23.5.9 Meetings with Key Community and Business Groups

Initial meetings were held with the two community reference groups in February 2003. This was the second meeting of the reference groups and the first time the proposed expansion had been an agenda item. At these meetings an outline of the proposed refinery expansion was provided and the proposed EIS program and consultation processes were explained. Options for ongoing communication with the study team were explained. A number of environmental issues were raised and these issues have been summarised in Table 23.6.1.

The Nhulunbuy Community Reference Group (NCRG) included representatives from:

- Arhemland Pest Control;
- Department of Infrastructure Planning and the Environment;
- Department of Health and Community Services;
- Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- Nhulunbuy Corporation;
- Nhulunbuy High School;
- Nhulunbuy High School student;
- IGA Supermarket;
- Religious Minister; and
- Community members.

The Regional Community Reference Group (RCRG) included representatives from the following indigenous communities:

- Gumatj Association Incorporated;
- Rirratjingu Association;
- Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association;
- Laynhapuy Homelands Association Incorporated;
- ATSI Nhulunbuy;
- Marngarr Community Government Council;
- Yirrkala Dhanbul Landcare;
- Indigenous Education;
- Dhimurru; and
- Northern Land Council.

In April 2003, a second round of meetings were held with the two reference groups and other community groups including:

- Nhulunbuy Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- Nhulunbuy Rotary;
- Laynhapuy Homelands; and
- Yirrkala Dhanbul Aboriginal Council.

At the second round of meetings the groups were provided with an update of the EIS process, and a summary of the current status of the project's environmental assessment. A number of environmental and social issues were raised and these have been summarised in Table 23.6.1.

A third round of community meetings was held in August 2003 with both the reference groups and Marngarr Council. At these meetings the groups were given a further update on the expansion feasibility study and outcomes from the environmental studies undertaken as part of the EIS. A number of environmental and social issues were raised and these have been summarised in Table 23.6.1.

Meetings were also held in August 2003 with local service providers to obtain information to assist in the preparation of the social assessment. In addition to data collection, each service provider was given an update on the progress of the EIS and asked for feedback on any potential issues they could identify.

The key issues raised by the local community included concerns about impacts on air quality from the expanded operation, impacts on the town from the construction workforce, and potential impacts on the marine areas used as traditional fishing grounds by local indigenous people. The key issues identified by other interest groups included power generation and the current shortage in the area, employment opportunities, and capacity of the wharf to support expanded operations. The other major concern for local indigenous communities was that the expansion of the Alcan Gove refinery would cover the entire peninsula. It was explained that the existing footprint of the refinery would not be increasing and all additional equipment will be located within the existing plant boundary.

Additional consultation in the form of media releases, information displays and meetings are proposed during the public exhibition of the draft EIS during February-March 2004.

23.5.10 Meetings with Community Service Providers

As part of the social impact assessment process, meetings have been held with service providers and agencies in the areas of children's services, health, education, recreation and other community services sectors such as infrastructure, accommodation and housing to assess the impacts of the proposal on the social environment. An assessment of the project's effects on these services is given in Section 21.6.

23.5.11 Meetings with the Northern Land Council

Early in 2003, Alcan Gove committed to work closely with a project officer appointed by the Northern Land Council (NLC) to work specifically on the NLC's environmental interests associated with the Alcan Gove expansion project. The project officer has since visited most aspects of the operation at least once and has met with a wide range of personnel on site as part of a process to gain detailed understanding of current and proposed operations, as well as key environmental issues. Visits to site have been either monthly or fortnightly throughout the year.

23.5.12 Meetings with Alcan Gove Workforce

On-going consultation has also been undertaken with Alcan Gove employees. This has included presentations by management, regular articles in the monthly newsletter, and discussions during regular staff meetings.

An initial presentation and information session was provided to the Central Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Committee on the expansion, the EIS, and other related special interest topics including liquor purification project investigations. Membership of the EHS Committee extends across the refinery site and each committee member passes on relevant committee information to the various work area employees throughout the operations.

Establishment of the "Proposed Third Stage Gove Expansion" web page on the Alcan Gove intranet site provided additional access to information provided to the workforce. This included copies of presentations given to refinery section heads and the EIS steering committee, a copy of each community newsletter, and a link to the Alcan Gove external website which contains more detail on key aspects of the project.

Regular updates were provided with section heads through the usual weekly briefing meetings.

Regular articles on the proposed expansion were published in the 'Aluminator' the workforce's monthly newsletter. The Aluminator is provided to all employees in a hard copy form and copies are also available electronically on the intranet site.

23.5.13 Meetings with Government Agencies

Detailed project planning and environmental impact assessment commenced in February 2003. Consultation with relevant government agencies has been conducted since that time.

Ongoing formal and informal consultation has been conducted with a number of key government agencies including the Department of Business, Industry and Development (DBIRD), Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE), Department of Health and Community Services, Heritage Conservation Service, and the Aboriginal Area Protection Agency. Commonwealth agencies involved in the consultation process included the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH).

Representatives from the NT Government's DBIRD and DIPE (Office of Environment and Heritage) were invited to Gove to be involved in a briefing by key members of the EIS management team on the 24-25 February 2003. Information was presented on the proposed expansion, the release of the Notice of Intent (NOI), and the proposed EIS process. The opportunity was provided to participate in a tour of the refinery operations and surrounding areas.

Informal discussions have been held with DIPE and DBIRD personnel on at least a monthly basis during the preparation of the EIS. These discussions were a combination of meetings and telephone calls related to the proposed expansion but also in relation to the Alcan Gove Mining Management Plan and other matters.

Formal consultation has been undertaken with the following agencies by delivering to each a copy of the project's NOI and the draft EIS Guidelines for review and comment. In addition they were all invited to a presentation about the Third Stage Expansion given in Darwin in April 2003.

- Aboriginal Area Protection Agency;
- Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development;
- Department of Health and Community Services;
- Department of Infrastructure Planning and Environment;
- Heritage Conservation Service;
- Marine Safety Board;
- Office of Environment and Heritage; and
- Office of Territory Development.

Consultation has also been held with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). A presentation was given to DEH in Canberra in March 2003 to explain the project and to discuss the project's referral in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC)*. The EPBC Act referral was submitted on 14 May 2003. Alcan Gove held further discussions and provided additional information to the DEH prior to 13 June 2003 when it was determined that the proposed expansion was not a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

In July 2003, Alcan Gove attended meetings with the NT Office of Environmental and Heritage to provide an update on the status of the EIS and to obtain feedback on specific issues associated with the proposed expansion. Such issues included risk assessment of the expanded operations, residue disposal, bunding to contain spills and possible tank failures, greenhouse emissions and possible offsets.

In October 2003, Alcan Gove met with DBIRD to provide an update on the EIS progress and a strategic overview of the environmental issues associated with the Third Stage Expansion.

23.5.14 Meeting with Environment Centre NT

In April 2003 a meeting was held in Darwin with the Coordinator of the Environment Centre NT. The purpose of the meeting was to open communications between Environment Centre NT and Alcan Gove about the Third Stage Expansion, to give the Environment Centre an outline of the scope of the proposed expansion, and to welcome any comments or feedback either at the meeting or subsequently during the course of the project.

23.5.15 Other Exhibitions/Festivals

23.5.15.1 Darwin EXPO

The Northern Territory Trade and Business EXPO was held in Darwin from 11 to 13 July 2003. Alcan Gove took the opportunity to provide information to and obtain feedback about the proposed Third Stage Expansion from EXPO attendees. A three dimensional model of the expanded refinery was put on exhibition to provide attendees with an overview of the limited extent of the proposed expansion.

An estimated 20,000 people were recorded as entering the EXPO over the three days. The following feedback on the expansion project was received from attendees:

- How companies based in the Northern Territory could become involved in the expansion project?
- What was the possibility of future employment as a result of the expansion?
- What is the current expected life of the mine and are there any other ore bodies in the region?
- How did Alcan ship the refinery product and where does it go?
- When will natural gas reach Gove and why should Alcan change to gas as a power source?
- How many tradesmen will be required during the construction phase of the expansion?
- Are there enough qualified people locally (within the NT)?
- Will the gas project affect the traditional landowners?
- Has Alcan undertaken any consultation with the traditional owners?

Alcan Gove representatives present at the EXPO provided responses to all of the above questions. The overall feedback from those who spoke to the Alcan Gove representatives was of a positive nature and they were generally supportive of the expansion.

These items are listed in the issues summary in Table 23.6.1.

23.5.15.2 Arafura Festival Display

The Arafura Festival was held at Nhulunbuy on 3 August 2003. An estimated 2,000 people attended the festival. Alcan Gove had a staffed display, located in a prominent position in a large shaded area immediately adjacent to the main public arena. Alcan Gove staff provided the community with updated information on the environmental assessment process and the opportunity to view the three dimensional model of the expanded refinery. An estimated 30 people an hour visited the display. Many of these were Alcan Gove employees and a large number were school children.

People asked a number of questions regarding the proposed expansion, the most common questions/issues raised are listed as follows:

- Liquor purification – interest in the size of the unit on the model was of most interest since it appeared on the model to be the biggest component of the proposed expansion. Alcan Gove representatives explained that, with further assessment, the proposed unit is now much smaller than it was when the model was made in February 2003. The model has since been modified to ensure all new units are the correct size.
- Effects of combustion emissions on people both inside and outside the refinery. Interested parties asked what will be emission levels until gas arrives? What is the purpose of the new tall stacks at the power station?

- What will be the effect of the expansion on the final height of the residue disposal area?
- What are the potential employment prospects following the expansion? How many additional people will be employed for the operation of the expanded refinery and also in town as a result of the refinery expansion?
- General questions were asked about the seawater discharge options and potential impacts on the bay.

Alcan Gove representatives responded to all the questions raised and reported that overall most people were relatively positive in their views and the information provided to their questions.

These items are listed in the issues summary in Table 23.6.1.

23.5.15.3 Summary of Consultation Formats Used

Table 23.5.2 provides a summary of the consultation formats used by the various stakeholders.

Table 23.5.2
Summary of Consultation Formats Used

Stakeholders	Method of Communication							
	Meetings	Telephone Discussions	NL1 ¹	NL2 ¹	FBF1 ²	FBF2 ²	Freecall	Email
Aboriginal Resource and Development Services	X		X	X				
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) Nhulunbuy	X	X	X	X				
Anti-Social Solutions Sub-Committee	X		X	X				
Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD)	X	X	X	X				
Department of Chief Minister	X	X	X	X				
Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET)	X	X	X	X				
Department Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE)	X	X	X	X				
Dhimurru Land Management	X		X	X		X		X
Department of Environment and Heritage (Commonwealth)	X	X						X
Environment Centre NT	X		X	X				
Elected Representatives (Territory and Commonwealth)	X		X	X				
ESS (formerly Eurest)	X		X	X				
Friends of the Earth Climate Justice Campaign			X	X				X
Gumatj Association Incorporated	X		X	X				
Invest Australia	X	X	X	X				
KANSAS Transport	X	X	X	X				
Laynhapuy Homelands	X		X	X				
LJ Hooker, Nhulunbuy	X		X	X				
Marrngarr Community Government Council	X		X	X				

Stakeholders	Method of Communication							
	Meetings	Telephone Discussions	NL1 ¹	NL2 ¹	FBF1 ²	FBF2 ²	Freecall	Email
Menzies School of Health		X	X	X				
Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation	X	X	X	X				
Nhulunbuy Christian School	X		X	X				
Nhulunbuy Community Reference Group	X		X	X				
Nhulunbuy Local Community Members			X	X	X	X		
Nhulunbuy Corporation Pty Ltd	X		X	X				
Nhulunbuy High School	X		X	X				X
Nhulunbuy Petroleum Pty Ltd			X	X				
Nhulunbuy Primary School	X		X	X				
Nhulunbuy Waterwatch			X	X		X		X
Northern Land Council	X		X	X				
Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nhulunbuy	X	X	X	X				X
Northern Territory Construction Agency			X	X				X
Northern Territory Health and Community Services	X		X	X				
Northern Territory Housing	X		X	X				
Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services	X		X	X				
Charles Darwin University	X		X	X				
Northern Territory Minerals Council	X		X	X				
Regional Community Reference Group	X		X	X				
Rirratjingu Association	X		X	X				
Rotary Club of Nhulunbuy	X		X	X				
St Johns Ambulance	X		X	X				
WWF Climate Change			X	X				X
Yirrkalā Dhanbul Council	X		X	X				
Yirrkalā Landcare	X		X	X				
YBE	X		X	X				
YNOTS	X		X	X				

¹ NL – Newsletter ² FBF – Feedback form X - Indicates the methods of communication used by the stakeholder

23.6 Key Issues Identified During Consultation

As discussed in Section 23.5, consultation with key stakeholder groups was undertaken in numerous ways from February 2003 to November 2003. The questions/issues raised during this process are listed in Table 23.6.1 as well as a reference to the section in this EIS where the issue has been addressed. Where possible, a response was provided to the stakeholders at the time the question/issue was raised or a commitment was made to provide the information when it became available.

Table 23.6.1
An Overview of Issues Raised During Community Consultation

Aspect	Issues	EIS Section
General Processing Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the expansion mean obtaining more alumina per tonne of bauxite mined. What rate at which sodium hydroxide (NaOH) is consumed. When will natural gas be available. What are the advantages of natural gas. Why is the liquor purification plant so big. 	<p>4.0</p> <p>Table 3.8.1</p> <p>4.10.3</p> <p>Table 4.1.1</p> <p>23.5.15.2</p>
General Environmental Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the EIS expand on environmental monitoring data currently available. Is Alcan Gove investigating environmental health issues as part of the EIS. How big will the plant footprint as a result of the proposed Third Stage Expansion. 	<p>25.5</p> <p>8.8</p> <p>Fig 4.3.1</p>
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What emissions will be released into the air. What are the effects of the air emissions. What will be the emissions until gas arrives. What are particulates. Will odours from the plant improve following the proposed expansion. Will dust from ship unloading improve especially in the wet season. 	<p>8.5</p> <p>8.7</p> <p>8.5</p> <p>8.5.1</p> <p>8.9</p> <p>8.5.3</p>
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does Alcan currently undertake water quality testing of their discharge. Where will the neutralised seawater be discharged. Which contaminants discharged to the Bay will increase. What will be the impacts on the Bay from the discharge from the expanded refinery. 	<p>11.4</p> <p>4.5.3</p> <p>11.9</p> <p>11.9</p>
Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where will the water requirements for the construction workforce camp and fire fighting services be sourced. 	5.1.7
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where will the construction workforce be accommodated in town. Where are the extra workforce going to live during both the construction and operation of the expanded refinery. There is currently a greater demand for housing than there are properties available. 	<p>4.9.4</p> <p>21.7.2</p>
Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many of the construction workforce will be sourced locally. What will the impacts be of the extra 1,200 construction workers. How many extra people will be employed during the expanded operations. Will the permanent post-expansion operational workforce live in town or fly-in - fly-out. 	<p>22.4.2</p> <p>21.7</p> <p>21.7.1.2</p> <p>21.7.1.2</p>
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will be the opportunities for existing businesses to be involved in the expansion. 	21.7.1
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will a large number of families move to town during the construction phase. How will out of hours medical services be provided. Will the proposed expansion bring business opportunities to local businesses. Has there been consultation with the traditional owners. 	<p>21.7.1.1</p> <p>21.7.3.2</p> <p>21.7.1, 21.7.3</p> <p>23.5</p>
Emergency Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will Alcan be developing in conjunction with Gove Hospital a specific Emergency Response Management Plan to deal with major incidents for the construction phase as part of the EIS. 	24.4

Aspect	Issues	EIS Section
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the expansion improve the current pressures on the electricity grid. When will additional power be available to the town to build additional houses. Will gas reduce the cost of electricity to the non-Alcan consumers. Is an upgrade of the shopping facilities being considered. Will the current wharf be large enough for all materials handling associated with the construction phase and the operational phase of the expanded refinery With current power shortages, how will the Gove Peninsula cope with the expansion and additional power requirements of the construction accommodation. Additional construction workers will place pressure on the current airport terminal. When is the new terminal expected. 	5.2.4 5.2.4 5.2.4 21.7.3.3 5.5.2.6, 4.7 5.2.2 5.5.1
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many more ships will be required and what will be their impact. How will workers be transported from the construction accommodation to the refinery site during the construction phase. 	4.7, 5.5.3, 14.5.1 5.5.2
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much waste is currently being disposed of in the red mud ponds. How long until the Red Mud Ponds 5 and 6 fill and another is needed. What is the effect of the expansion on the height of the RDA. If the liquor is neutralised what can it be used for. Will a recycling program be implemented during the construction phase with the growth in population and associated additional waste generation. 	4.6 4.6 17.8.3 4.5.3 7.4.2
Mine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the expected life of the mine. Are there other ore bodies that could be used. 	3.4.3, 6.4.1 6.4.1

Table 23.6.2 summarises the issues raised during the consultation program by the various stakeholder groups.

Table 23.6.2
Summary of Issues Identified During Consultation

Stakeholder	Issues Identified During Meetings											
	General Issues	Air Quality	Water Quality	Water Supply	Housing	Construction Workforce	Other Social	Emergency Planning	Infrastructure	Transport	Solid Waste	Mine
Aboriginal Resource and Development Services	X											
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) Nhulunbuy		X	X		X	X						
Anti-Social Solutions Sub-Committee					X	X	X	X	X			
Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD)	X		X							X		
Department Infrastructure, Planning and Environment		X	X							X	X	

Stakeholder	Issues Identified During Meetings											
	General Issues	Air Quality	Water Quality	Water Supply	Housing	Construction Workforce	Other Social	Emergency Planning	Infrastructure	Transport	Solid Waste	Mine
(DIPE)												
Dhimurru Land Management	X				X							
Environment Centre NT												
Elected Representatives (Territory and Commonwealth)												
ESS (formerly Eurest)					X	X						
Gumatj Association Incorporated		X	X			X						
Indigenous Community Members		X	X			X						X
KANSAS Transport										X		
Laynhapuy Homelands		X	X						X			
LJ Hooker, Nhulunbuy					X	X	X					
Marngarr Community Government Council		X	X		X							
Menzies School of Health	X											
Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation	X				X		X				X	
Nhulunbuy Christian School					X							
Nhulunbuy Community Reference Group		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	
Nhulunbuy Corporation Pty Ltd				X	X				X			
Nhulunbuy High School					X				X			
Nhulunbuy Primary School					X				X			
Nhulunbuy Waterwatch			X									
Northern Land Council	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nhulunbuy	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		
Northern Territory Construction Agency									X			
Northern Territory Health and Community Services	X						X	X	X			
Northern Territory Housing					X	X			X			
Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services					X			X				
Charles Darwin University					X							
Northern Territory Minerals Council												
Regional Community Reference Group		X	X		X	X	X					
Rotary Club of Nhulunbuy					X	X			X			

Stakeholder	Issues Identified During Meetings											
	General Issues	Air Quality	Water Quality	Water Supply	Housing	Construction Workforce	Other Social	Emergency Planning	Infrastructure	Transport	Solid Waste	Mine
St Johns Ambulance								X				
Yirrkala Dhanbul Council					X	X	X					
Yirrkala Landcare	X											X
YBE							X					
YNOTS							X					

23.7 Ongoing Consultation

The draft EIS has been made available for public review and comment. Its availability has been advertised in the Arafura Times, Northern Territory News, and the Australian newspapers. In addition, copies can be purchased in hardcopy or CD format and a copy is also available on the project website (www.alcangove.com.au).

A copy of the executive summary of the EIS is available at no charge.

The executive summary of the EIS has also been translated into Yolngu Matha to make it more readily understood by the local Aboriginal community.

During the public review period, presentations on the draft EIS will be made to government agencies and community representatives. At these presentations, the contents of the EIS will be explained and questions answered. The process available for people to make written submissions on the draft EIS will be explained.

All submissions received during the public review period will be addressed in the EIS Supplement.