

Section 3 Stakeholder Engagement



3 Stakeholder Engagement

3.1 Approach to Consultation

Stakeholder participation, through consultation, is an important aspect in the environmental and social management of potential impacts of the TTP. The following section provides a description of the Stakeholder Engagement Programme which has been developed for the project. It specifically:

- outlines the approach and methodology undertaken for community and stakeholder consultation;
- identifies the key project stakeholders in the local, regional, national and international communities with an interest in the project;
- documents the history of stakeholder consultation and key issues raised;
- outlines the ongoing and future planned consultation.

The Stakeholder Engagement Programme involved consultation with a range of stakeholders including both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous organisations comprising the following main groups:

- members of the public;
- Non Government Organisations (NGO);
- Territory, State and Commonwealth Government Departments;
- traditional Aboriginal owners, the Northern Land Council and local Community Government Councils;
- local business people and groups;
- local Community Government Councils.

With the exception of Aboriginal communities, all stakeholder engagement has been undertaken independently by the proponent. For Aboriginal communities, consultation was controlled and managed by the Northern Land Council (NLC), in accordance with NLC requirements. The proponent recognises the benefit of developing and implementing a consultation programme as follows:

- in providing the public and interested stakeholder groups with an opportunity to be informed about the TTP at the earliest opportunity;
- to enable those consulted to provide their opinion(s) with regard to the project;
- to ultimately be included in the decision-making process.

Traditional Aboriginal owners, native title groups and affected communities have been afforded consultation and opportunity to comment on the project proposal via the NLC and in accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (ALRA)*.

The proponent's consultation programme enables a 'two-way' flow of communication and dialogue between the proponent and the community to assist in the identification of significant environmental and social issues. The proponent views community participation in the EIA process as fundamental and more than a statutory requirement.

The consultation methodology used for the TTP is designed to ensure an open and comprehensive exchange of information and views, to ensure people are kept informed of project developments and decisions, and to enable them to contribute ideas that may improve the environmental, social and political acceptance of the project.

The focus of stakeholder engagement undertaken for the TTP has been to identify areas of concern and interest in the project by encouraging community groups to comment on the proposed development. The stakeholder engagement programme for TTP has the following key objectives:

- Identify relevant stakeholder groups for participation in the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and EIA process.
- Provide the community with information on the project.
- Identify the main areas of social and environmental concern held by the community groups so that these concerns can be addressed in the statutory environmental approvals documentation and social impact management being prepared for the project (**Section 11**).
- Actively encourage community groups to comment on the proposed project during the statutory public review period of the Draft EIS and Phase 2 of the social impact management process (**Section 11**).
- Provide the proponent with the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to achieving a high level of social and environmental performance as part of the preventative and management measures prepared and implemented for the project.

In addition to the requirements of the environmental approval process, a detailed SIA has been undertaken so that appropriate social impact management strategies can be developed. The report identifies a number of areas where management strategies will likely be needed. Further information about the social impact management process is detailed in **Section 11** of the Draft EIS.

3.2 Key Stakeholder Groups

Consultation was initiated in 2003 through the identification of key stakeholders with an interest in the project. Significant efforts were made by the proponents at this time to ensure that all stakeholders were identified at the earliest opportunity. A comprehensive stakeholder consultation list was developed and a summary of the key stakeholders is included in **Section 3.2.1** and **Section 3.2.2**. Should additional stakeholder groups be identified in the future, their comments will be captured during the statutory public review period of the Draft EIS and if later, engaged under the same principles described above.

It is important to note that the frequency of consultation undertaken with stakeholders groups to date has varied, depending on the stage of the project and the level of interest generated by the

project. During the SIA and EIA processes, consultation has principally focused on the identification of significant environmental and social issues to be addressed in this report.

3.2.1 Aboriginal Communities

Consultation with Aboriginal Communities is a regulatory requirement under the ALRA and the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1978* NLC. Consultation was undertaken with the following people, communities and organisations either via the NLC process or by the proponent's own process. The traditional Aboriginal owners of the land associated with the pipeline are presented in **Table 3-1**:

- **Table 3-1 Traditional Aboriginal Owners Consulted as part of the Community Consultation Process**

Aboriginal Communities and Land Owners	
Wadeye	Bulman
Palumpa	Weemol
Peppimenarti	Mt Catt
Emu Point	Ngukurr
Naiyu	Manyallaluk
Kybrook Farm	Gapuwiyak
Kalano	Dhalinbuy
Rockhole	Mata Mata
Katherine	Bran Bran
Binjarri	Yirrkala
Beswick	Nhulunbuy
Barunga	

Community based organisations are presented in **Table 3-2**.

■ **Table 3-2 Community Based Organisations**

Community Based Organisations	
Thamarrurr Regional Council	Kalano Community Association
Thamarrurr Rangers	Sunrise Health Services
Thamarrurr Regional Housing Authority	Wurli Wurlinjang Health Service
Mi Patha Takeaway / Bakery	Katherine Town Council
Murrinpatha Nimmipa Store	Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation
Palumpa Station / Butcher	Nyirrangulung Mardrulk Ngadberre Regional Council
Murin Association	Wardaman Association
Our Lady of Sacred Heart School, Wadeye	Mardrulk Resource Centre
Kanamkek-Yile-Ngala Museum	Naiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council
Wadeye Aboriginal Language Centre	Fred Hollows Foundation
Library / Knowledge Centre, Wadeye	Indigenous Employment Centre
Kardu Dari Kardu Family Centre	Waikan Employment and Training Centre
Dirrmu Ngakumari Art Gallery	Burridj Group Training Company
Nganmariyanga Community Inc	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services
Palumpa Cattle Station	Gapuwiyak Community Government Council
Barunga / Manyallaluk Community Government Council	Dhimurru Land Management Council (staff)
Beswick Community Government Council	Land and Sea Management Branch – NLC
Binjari Health Centre	Indigenous Employment and Training Unit – NLC
Wugularr Health Centre	Mardrulk Resource Centre
Gulin Gulin Community Government Council	Binjari Community Government Council

Consultation with traditional Aboriginal owners and their local representative organisations will continue to be a priority throughout the construction and operation of the project.

3.2.2 Non Government Organisations

The Non Government Organisations (NGOs) consulted with directly on the TTP comprise:

- Amateur Fishermen's Association Northern Territory (AFANT);
- Conservation Volunteers Australia;
- Environment Centre Northern Territory;
- Australian Marine Conservation Society;
- Northern Territory Green Party;
- Environmental Defenders Office;
- World Wide Fund for Nature;
- Greening Australia.

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

3.2.3 Government Agencies

Northern Territory and Commonwealth Government departments consulted with during the EIA process and on broader project issues include:

- Northern Territory Government Department of Justice;
- Northern Territory Government Department Treasury;
- Northern Territory Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment;
- Northern Territory Government Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development;
- Northern Territory Government Department of Employment Education and Training;
- Northern Territory Government Chief Minister's Office - Offices of Indigenous Policy and Territory Development;
- Northern Territory WorkSafe;
- Office of Territory Development;
- Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority;
- Commonwealth Government Department of Environment and Heritage;
- Northern Territory Government and Commonwealth Government Department of Defence;
- Commonwealth Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (AusIndustry);
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority;
- Commonwealth Government Department of Transport and Regional Services;
- Commonwealth Government, Invest Australia;
- Commonwealth Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs;
- Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations;
- Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO);
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).

3.3 Communication Contacts & Tools

A number of consultation methods have been adopted. The approach selected was based in each case on the interests and geographical location of the group. Various tools used in the approaches to consultation are discussed below.

3.3.1 Aboriginal Communities

As described in **Section 3.2**, the NLC has facilitated the majority of consultations with Aboriginal communities to date as required by Section 19 of the ALRA. Consultations with Aboriginal people have been conducted through site visits allowing issues relating to the project to be raised and discussed. During construction and operations it is desired by the proponent to establish direct relationships with the traditional Aboriginal owners and their communities so as to facilitate ongoing consultation in accordance with the proponent's consultation methodology and community relationship management philosophy.

Initially a TTP video was produced in both English and Kriol and was used on community based television and distributed among traditional Aboriginal owners.

The NLC prepared pictorial booklets which were used to explain the project to small groups and individuals. Maps showing the pipeline route (throughout its various revision) were also used.

Further consultation will be undertaken before, during and after the statutory environmental approval process to ensure the traditional Aboriginal owners and local communities are aware of and involved in, the development of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs).

3.3.2 Non-Aboriginal Groups

The main tools used for consultation with Non-Aboriginal groups comprise:

- meetings
- briefing and updates
- workshops
- project website

Meetings: Meetings with government departments, including the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth, have been undertaken on a regular basis since the decision was made to pursue development opportunities for TTP. These meetings have addressed a wide range of commercial, technical, planning and environmental issues pertaining to the TTP. As the lead agency in the EIA process, the Northern Territory Department of Industry, Planning, and Environment, has been regularly consulted with regards to the preparation of the Draft EIS.

Broader consultation with Northern Territory Government Departments has been undertaken through the Government Task Force established to facilitate large infrastructure projects, including TTP, Blacktip and the Gove Expansion projects. The Task Force facilitates major projects and delivery of a 'Whole-of-Government' package of services to these projects. Relevant agencies continue to deliver these services. The key role of the Task Force is to identify issues affecting the project and to provide an appropriate mechanism to deal with these issues. It is also the principal point of contact within government for the project. The Task Force meets monthly in Darwin.

The Task Force draws their membership from senior officers in relevant Agencies; the Office of Territory Development is the lead agency. The Task Force comprises members from:

- Department of Justice;
- Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTCorp);
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment;
- Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development;
- Department of Employment Education and Training;
- Northern Territory Chief Minister's Office - Office of Indigenous Policy and Office of Territory Development.

Briefing and Updates: As key project milestones are reached project briefings and updates are used to convey necessary information to non-Indigenous stakeholders. Briefings and updates are also provided on request to government departments and NGOs.

Workshops: Workshops are effective tools to address specific issues with stakeholder groups. The TTP has undertaken two Environmental HAZID workshops to support the EIA process. These workshops focussed on identifying the main environmental concerns held by stakeholder groups that need to be addressed in the Draft EIS.

In July 2004 the first of two Environmental HAZID Workshops were organised and facilitated by Woodside and held in Darwin, Northern Territory. The following groups attended the workshop:

- Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage;
- Northern Territory Department of Industry, Planning and Environment;
- Northern Territory Department of Business, Industry, Resources and Development;
- Northern Land Council;
- Thamarrurr Council.

The concerns raised at this HAZID are addressed throughout the EIS and summarised in **Tables 11-3 & 12-2** of this Draft EIS.

In August 2004, a second workshop was undertaken and participants included environmental groups with an interest in the EIA process. Representatives in attendance included:

- Amateur Fishermen's Association Northern Territory (AFANT);
- Conservation Volunteers Australia;
- Environment Centre Northern Territory;
- Northern Territory Green Party;
- Environmental Defenders Office;
- World Wide Fund for Nature;
- Greening Australia.

The main issues raised by the NGO stakeholders at this workshop are presented in **Table 3-3** and addressed in detail the relevant sections of the Draft EIS.

■ **Table 3-3 Summary of Issues/Concerns Raised by NGO Groups at the HAZID Workshop in August 2004**

Issue/Concern Raised
The Acid Sulfate soils around this area, what about pollution from these soils?
The potential for noise pollution was raised.
What surveys have been done (flora and fauna)?
Concerns around the weed management on pipeline route
Access tracks - How many and where?
How do we stop the cleared pipeline corridor becoming a unofficial highway access route?
What happens with this infrastructure after the 30 year field life?
The need for strategic environment assessment and social impact assessment for all three projects (Blacktip, TTP, Gove Expansion) was raised.

Website: In September 2004, the TTP website was finalised and made available to the public. This website provides up to date information on all aspects of the project and details key project milestones. Once completed, copies of the Draft EIS will be available on the website for members of the public to access during the formal public review period. The website URL is: www.engineering.alcan.com/ttp.

3.4 Environmental Issues Raised During Consultation

3.4.1 Aboriginal Concerns

Protection of natural and cultural resources is paramount to Aboriginal people and a number of concerns were raised during the SIA consultations in relation to potential negative impacts on the environment resulting from the TTP. These concerns related to:

- the need to protect waterfall, springs, billabongs and river crossings and their catchment areas;
- soil and wind erosion;
- introduction and spread of weeds;
- spread of feral animals via the four wheel drive access track;
- the introduction of uncontrolled fire into environmentally sensitive areas;
- leaching of chemicals or coating material from the pipe into the soil and water bodies and waterways and possible effects of same on fish;
- fuel spillages;
- that the course of rivers would be altered by the pipeline;
- silting of rivers;
- that the ground would sink where the pipe was buried;
- the use of explosives in rock.

Specific environmental concerns were raised in the West region, particularly in the vicinity of the Wingate Mountains and the escarpment country in relation to waterfalls and their catchment areas.

3.4.2 Non-Aboriginal

At the Environmental HAZID Workshop in August 2004 NGO groups raised a number of issues and concerns. All the issues and concerns raised are addressed in detail in the appropriate sections of the Draft EIS. The concerns and issues raised by the NGO Groups at the HAZID Workshop are summarised in **Table 3-3**.

A questionnaire was also circulated during the August 2004 workshop inviting participants to indicate their main environmental concerns and issues pertaining to the project.

3.5 Ongoing Consultation Activities

The proponents (and the build-own-operate consortium, when selected) will continue to undertake and develop an ongoing communication strategy during consultation with key stakeholder groups throughout the construction and operational phases. In developing such a strategy, consideration will be given to culturally appropriate and acceptable methods of communication with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders.

Communication of project information, where reasonably possible, will be presented in a range of languages including Plain English, Murin Patha, Kriol and Yolngu Matha.

Ongoing consultation activities with traditional Aboriginal owners and other affected Aboriginal communities will be scheduled in consultation with the local Community Government Councils and where required, with the NLC. The consultation and communications strategy will include arrangements (language and environmental settings) for allowing traditional Aboriginal owners and any native title groups to participate constructively in discussions. Specific elements of this consultation with the Aboriginal community will include further consultation on:

- the key findings presented in the Draft EIS during the formal public review period;
- the proposed construction and operation environmental management measures which are identified and presented in the Draft EIS;
- identifying specific ecological values that Aboriginal groups may have towards the natural environment at the project location;
- the identification and implementation of environmental management measures and social impact management measures developed through the SIA process.

A key activity during the consultation will be the presentation and explanation of the Draft EIS during the formal public review period. This will be achieved through a combination of presentations to the community and the preparation of documents containing the key elements of the Draft EIS which will be suitable for use by Aboriginal groups.

Broader consultation activities focussed on engagement of Non-Aboriginal groups during the Draft EIS review period will include:

- The placing of advertisements in both national and local newspapers detailing the opportunities for members of the public to comment on the Draft EIS during the formal public review period.
- Public display of the Draft EIS during the formal public review period attended by members of the TTP Project Team who will be available to answer specific queries.
- Display of the Draft EIS on the project website during the formal public review period.
- Subject to demand, the holding of further briefing sessions and meetings with stakeholder groups to discuss the Draft EIS.

3.6 Conclusion

Stakeholder engagement undertaken to date in support of the Draft EIS has resulted in some success in encouraging stakeholder groups to participate in the process. Furthermore, it has provided the proponent with a better understanding of the environmental concerns and issues held by a wide variety of stakeholder groups on the TTP. This increased understanding of stakeholder issues and concerns will assist in the identification of the main environmental issues and social impact concerning the TTP. It will also support the preparation of effective and tangible preventative and management measures to mitigate any potential adverse environmental and social impacts resulting from the proposed development.

Whilst the proponent believes that the consultation exercise undertaken to date has been successful; it is fully recognised that further ongoing consultation is required to ensure stakeholder groups continue to participate in the EIA process. This continued participation by stakeholders will benefit stakeholder groups, regulatory authorities and the proponent and will result in a more transparent EIA process.