



Rowland.

Western Desert Resources

Government Relations

3 April 2012



Executive summary

This report provides a detailed overview of the results collected during the engagement and consultation with key government stakeholders as part of the Roper Bar Iron Ore (RBIO) project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development. Consultation captured in this report was undertaken as part of Western Desert Resources ongoing consultative approach that began during the project's feasibility stage and continuously managed over a 10-month period

The goal of the engagement and consultation conducted with government representatives during this period was to facilitate a two-way communication flow between WDR and identified key stakeholders through information sharing and feedback. This approach was underpinned by a commitment to engage and consult with as many people as possible through an equitable, thorough and all inclusive communication process that would contribute to the development of a robust EIS.

As part of the EIS process, draft EIS guidelines were developed by the NT Government's Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS). The consultation guidelines (objectives) for the EIS outlined that WDR should plan and undertake a consultation process as a component of the EIS. Specific to this report, the guidelines required an outline of any negotiations and discussions with local government and the Northern Territory Government.

All engagements between WDR and key stakeholders were conducted using a disciplined approach to consultation to ensure feedback was accurately captured and reported. A database management tool, Consultation Manager System (CMS), was established at the onset of the RBIO project to manage all information received and act as a single source of information.

The results of consultation undertaken to date with key government stakeholders have been analysed using CMS and provide an indication of how feedback from consultations has been integrated into the RBIO project's EIS process and final project planning.

Consultation overview

For the past ten months, WDR has undertaken engagement and community relations activities with key community members and stakeholders in the communities of Borroloola, Meniere, Ngukurr and Numbulwar, as well as introductory meetings with key NT Government representatives and other key stakeholder bodies such as the Northern Land Council (NLC).

These consultation activities included one-on-one and group meetings, written communication materials such as fact sheets, the maintenance of a Project website, coordination of an information line and email address and a range of formal and informal discussions with community members and key stakeholders.

In February 2012, Rowland was engaged to independently manage the future community consultation and engagement program for the proposed Roper Bar Iron Ore Project (the Project) on behalf of Western Desert Resources (WDR). Rowland is an Australian corporate communication consultancy headquartered in Brisbane.

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Stakeholders

Primary stakeholders were identified for the RBIO project during the preliminary investigation phase and are listed below.

Primary stakeholders

- NT Government and relevant departments
- Local government
- Local communities
- Non-government organisations
- Indigenous groups
- Media.

Within this stakeholder group, local and Territorian stakeholders have been individually listed below based on the consultation activity undertaken over the 10-month period beginning June 2011.

Local government

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Representative	Department/Agency	Role
Andrew Blakely	Roper Gulf Shire Council (RGSC)	Ministerial Advisor
Chris Corso	RGSC	Family and Community Service Coordinator
Chris Coulson	RGSC	
Daphne Daniels	RGSC	Youth Services Supervisor
Mark Hardy	RGSC	Shire Services Manager
Sharon Hillen	RGSC	Manager of Governance and Corporate Planning
Tony Jack	RGSC	Mayor
Alan Mole	RGSC	Shire Services Manager
Catherine Proctor	RGSC	Director of Corporate and Community Services
Nareen Purtin	RGSC	Acting Regional Coordinator of CDP
Stephen Roper	RGSC	Community Engagement Officer
Candice Siedler-Twine	RGSC	Shire Services Manager

NT Government

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Elected representative	Department/Agency	Role
Annie Andrews	Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS)	Deputy Chief Executive
Rod Applegate	Department of the Chief Minister	Deputy Chief Executive Officer at NT Department of the Chief Minister
Bryan Baker	NRETAS	Assessment Officer
Louise Beilby	Department of Housing (Big Rivers Region)	Remote Engagement Officer – Borroloola, Local Government and Regional Services
Lisa Bradley	NRETAS	Manager, Environmental Assessments
Mike Burgess	Department of the Chief Minister	CEO
Megan Byfield	Department of Resources (DoR)	Mining Performance

Elected representative	Department/Agency	Role
Ray Clarke	DoR – Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources	Advisor
Matt Darcey	NRETAS	Environment and Heritage Executive Director
Richard Galton	NRETAS	Chief Executive
Jim Grant	NRETAS	Chief Executive
Tony Griffiths	Charles Darwin University	Senior Scientist
Karl Hampton MLA	NT Government	Minister for Resources
Richard Jackson	Department of Business, Industry & Resource Development	Project Manager
Danuta Karp	NRETAS	Hydrologist, Water Resources
Brendan Lawson	Department of the Chief Minister	Strategic Projects Implementation Officer
Malarndirri McCarthy	Australian Labour Party	Member for Arnhem
Lucy McNicol	Department of Construction and Infrastructure (DCI)	Manager, Environmental Services
Terry Mills MLA	Country Liberals	Leader of the Opposition, Member for Blain
Renee Muller	NRETAS	Environmental Assessments
Susan Penfold	DoR	Minerals and Energy
Frances Perrett	DoR	Minerals and Energy
Graham Phelps	NRETAS	Executive Director, Parks and Wildlife
Jennifer Prince	Department of the Chief Minister	Under Treasurer
Paul Purdon	NRETAS	Director of Environment Protection and Sustainability
Kezia Purick MLA	Country Liberals	Opposition Spokesperson on Resources, Member for Goyder
Robert Ritchie	Department of the Chief Minister	Strategic Infrastructure
Nigel Scullion MLA		
Heidi Snell	NRETAS	Senior Project Officer. Environment and Heritage and Arts Division
Sally Strohmayer	NRETAS	Project Officer - Environment and Heritage and Arts Division
Steve Tatzenko	DoR	Director of Mining Development
David Tollner		Shadow Minister for Lands and Planning and Business and Employment

Elected representative	Department/Agency	Role
Alistair Trier	DoR	Executive Director Minerals and Mining
Evan Tyrrell	DoR	Adviser to the Minister
Kon Vatskalis	DoR	Minister for Resources
Peter Wellings	Parks Australia	Ministerial Adviser
Anthony White	NT Worksafe	

Federal Government

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Elected representative	Department/Agency	Role
Tony Abbott	Liberal Party	Leader of the Opposition

Our approach

Three of the four communities that lie within the project's footprint – Borroloola, Ngukurr and Numbulwar – are governed by the Roper Gulf Shire Council (RGSC). Both elected representatives and members of the corporate workforce were engaged by WDR to discuss the RBIO project in detail and uncover any issues or concerns that may arise as a result of the project's development.

A broad range of service departments within the RGSC were identified as having a vested interest in the RBIO project and as such meetings were held with representatives from shire services and corporate planning to youth and community services. All representatives were provided with an initial brief on the RBIO project and asked to provide open feedback on potential impacts (positive and negative), opportunities and risks.

Furthermore, a substantial group of NT Government representatives were engaged by WDR through one-on-one meetings and briefing notes to inform, advise and discuss the proposed RBIO. Initially, discussions were held with territorian departments and agencies during the feasibility phase to advise of WDR lodging a Notice of Intent and the NRETAS requirements to successfully complete the EIS process.

Beyond regulatory and statutory requirements WDR also consulted with territorian elected representatives from both the party in power and shadow ministers. Meetings and briefing notes were used to inform representatives of the RBIO project and discuss opportunities for economic and social growth in the NT.

The Ministers engaged were provided with in-depth information including research reports, briefing notes and communication material that WDR had prepared as part of the EIS process to assist in educating them about every element of the RBIO project's potential environmental, social and economic impacts (positive and negative), as well as risks, design and overall commercial feasibility.

It should be noted that in some instances members of the Northern Land Council (NLC) and Traditional Owners were present at group meetings held with local government and territory departments. Invitations were extended to key Indigenous stakeholders to ensure cultural heritage and sustainable development were a priority to the RBIO project team and their investigations.

Consultation outcomes

Consultation participation

Since June 2011 WDR has engaged with a total of 48 government representatives identified as key local and territorial stakeholders. Over a 10-month period WDR has participated in more than 33 engagement events through in-person meetings, group meetings, presentations, briefing notes and informal meetings. It is important to note, where local and territorial representatives have been part of the same meeting they have been classified separately.

A report showing stakeholders engagements and topics for discussion is available in Appendix 1.

The table below provides a summary of stakeholder participation in consultation activities undertaken from June 2011 to April 2012.

Event type	Event register	Federal Government	NT Government	Local Government
Meeting (organised)	21	0	14	7
Meeting (informal)	1	0	1	0
Presentation	5	0	0	5
Letter/Briefing note	6	1	4	1
Total events	33	1	20	13

Areas of interest

Over the 33 events with government representatives, several areas of interest were raised as priority concerns and included:

- Consultation
- Employment
- Environment (land)

Consultation

The importance of WDR undertaking consultation with impacted landholders, community groups and stakeholders was raised as a key topic by 16% of government stakeholders.

Much of the discussion surrounding consultation was the need for WDR to facilitate broader community consultation once more information became available, especially in regards to the proposed Maria Island slurry pipeline transportation option.

As a result of consultation with government stakeholders and the wider community, WDR undertook an investigation into the feasibility of an alternative transport option. As at March 2012, the preferred transport option was a 164km private haul road from the proposed Project.

Government representatives from all levels expressed their requirements for WDR to undertake extensive consultation as part of the EIS and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) processes. Regulatory and statutory guidelines were provided to WDR as a mandatory for further investigation.

Discussions also surrounded the identification of the most appropriate community members and stakeholders requiring consultation and engagement. Significant importance was placed on the engagement of Traditional Owners, land owners, local reference groups, and local businesses as senior members and social leaders of the various communities.

As a result, a comprehensive community consultation program has been developed and WDR has undertaken the required SIA as part of the EIS and will be submitted to NRETAS in mid-2012.

In addition, WDR has established a local office in the community of Ngukurr that is staffed by a full time Community Liaison and Indigenous Employment Coordinator, Noel Tomes. Noel is a local Northern Territory man with experience in communication and community relations and is familiar with the communities where consultation is to be undertaken.

Employment and training

Employment and training matters were raised by all departments and agencies and mostly focused on the positive opportunities presented through the proposed Project. Specifically, the focus was on the associated positive impacts that increased local employment would have on the economy and sustainability of communities.

Areas potential positive impacts were highlighted through consultation were increased Indigenous participation in the economy, strengthening social cohesion, social enterprise development that is associated with non-mining related services, increased training opportunities and the anticipated workforce numbers.

Local government representatives however did raise some concerns with employment (specifically) where the potential positive impact also attracted potential negative impacts. For example, there were concerns raised regarding social problems that come with an increase in disposable incomes.

The topic of training while closely linked to employment opportunities was discussed in depth in its own right. There was a strong view that training was a key element to building the sustainability and resilience of each community. This discussion went further to link the benefits of training with the introduction of a social benefits scheme where the training received could be applied to mining support services based in community.

The topic of training also raised some concerns in relation to the relocation of community members once they were sufficiently trained and the diversion of local government workers to the mine operations. On one occasion a local government representative suggested that there is a high probability that once a person is trade qualified or sufficiently trained he/she will leave the community and/or current trade qualified role and move to the mine to earn more money.

Through these discussions it became clear that all government stakeholders agreed the increased employment and training opportunities were a good thing for the local people and the communities of Borrooloola, Minyerri, Ngukurr and Numbulwar as a whole.

A comprehensive Indigenous Employment Strategy will accompany the delivery of the RBIO project's EIS and will identify the quantity and type of roles available for the local community.

Environment (land)

During consultation a distinctive point of interest for community members and stakeholders was the protection of the environment, namely the land. The majority of this concern was focused on the proposed Maria Island slurry pipeline, which was initially designed to carry the iron ore from the proposed Project site to a port facility on Maria Island.

Government agencies, especially those managing the Territory's environment, were keen to understand the level of impact that the proposed pipeline would have on the land and marine life, specifically the turtles and fish.

Consultation confirmed many community members and groups still lived the traditional way, relying on flora and fauna for living (i.e. food) as well as business and tourism opportunities for economic and financial security. Their concern was centred on the perceived impact the proposed pipeline could have on this country, and in turn, their livelihoods and way of life.

As a result of consultation with government stakeholders and the wider community, WDR undertook an investigation into the feasibility of an alternative transport option. As at March 2012, the preferred transport option was a 164km private haul road from the proposed Project

Furthermore, the mine's design and overall impact on the environment, including flora and fauna, rehabilitation and vegetation were prominent in discussions. During consultation the RBIO project was located within a proposed National Park area and was considered as only accessible by WDR during exploration. Since stakeholder meetings were held, the RBIO project has been excluded from the Lumen National Park.

Other items for discussion included further ecological studies, water quality studies, and land tenure, reliance on existing infrastructure, offset strategies and disaster management plans. All of which have been covered as part of the RBIO project's EIS.

Results

The results of all consultation with key government stakeholders were provided to the EIS team for consideration and inclusion (as appropriate) into the proposed Project decision making process.

Consultation and engagement will continue as the Project progresses, with WDR committed to ensuring the community continue to be kept updated on Project progress and have an opportunity to provide feedback and comment. This continual process will also ensure community members and key stakeholders are involved in the further discussion and development of mitigation and management programs.