

6. Stakeholder Consultation

An effective, ongoing consultation program involving Compass, government, local residents and communities, indigenous groups and other stakeholders is essential to the development of the project.

Consultation has commenced with key stakeholders such as Northern Territory regulatory authorities, Coomalie Council and local indigenous groups (under the auspices of the NLC). This consultation will continue during project planning, construction and operations, and will extend through mine closure.

6.1 Goals

The goal of Compass' stakeholder consultation program is to provide a framework that will ensure that stakeholders are provided with accurate information about, and involved to an appropriate degree in, the development of the project.

The specific aims of ongoing consultation with stakeholders are to:

- Ensure that the stakeholders are well informed about the project.
- Enable interested parties to assess economic and commercial opportunities that arise as a result of the project development.
- Reduce the potential for misunderstanding and subsequent stakeholders' disaffection due to real or perceived exclusion from the impact assessment and permitting process.
- Identify areas of concern for stakeholders, and allow them to provide input to the environmental assessment process.
- Ensure that the necessary regulatory requirements are met.
- Generate a framework for ongoing consultation through project development, implementation and closure.

6.2 Stakeholders

Stakeholders associated with the project can be grouped into broad categories that reflect their interest in the project. Table 6.1 provides a summary of the key external stakeholders.

Table 6.1 Project stakeholders

Interest Group	Stakeholder
Northern Territory Government	Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (DPIFM) Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (DNRETA) - Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) DNRETA - Heritage Advisory Council (HAC) Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) Northern Territory Tourist Commission (NTTC) Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWCNT) Power and Water Corporation (PAWC)
Commonwealth Government	Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) Local Federal Member of Parliament Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism
Indigenous groups	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) Northern Land Council (NLC) Traditional owners
Local community	Coomalie Community Government Council Coomalie Landcare Group Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Local businesses Landholders and local community groups
Non-government organisations	Environment Centre of the Northern Territory
Media	Local, regional, Northern Territory and national
Industry	The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) Darwin Port Corporation Northern Territory Mineral Council (NTMC) AusIndustry Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) Northern Territory Industry Capability Network (NTICN)

Other stakeholders include Compass (and its Board, employees, shareholders and advisors), consultants and suppliers to the project, potential purchasers, and parties who have been involved in assessment of the Rum Jungle site and its impacts (e.g., ANSTO).

6.3 Consultation Activities

Compass has consulted with a range of organisations and individuals regarding the project. A representative of Compass maintains regular contact with members of the Batchelor community, and further comments from the community will be sought as part of the PER approval process. Compass also maintains a notice board at the Batchelor General Store. Copies of Compass announcements to the ASX are posted on the board along with other material about the project.

Table 6.2 outlines the consultation activities to date with key stakeholder groups, and the matters discussed.

Table 6.2 Stakeholder consultation to date

Stakeholder	Date	Matters Discussed
Coomalie Community Government Council	February 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project briefing.
	April 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update. • Feedback from council planning questionnaire.
	July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of information the council is seeking. • Regular provision of project information by Compass for monthly local newsletter. • Timing of community consultation meeting. • Changes in local council arrangements. • Mining tenements likely to be rateable by councils within 18 months. • Article in 'Stop Press'.
	August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter requesting road closure. • Article in 'Stop Press'.
	September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article in 'Stop Press'.
Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines	November 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Notice of Intent. • Update of proposed project.
	December 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed project activities.
	February 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project briefing.
	April 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update.
	June 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update.
	July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department briefing. • Additional exploration in the region. • Questions from DPIFM staff members. • Timetable for development. • Need for infrastructure corridor for the project, and the required application process.
	August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update.
	September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft PER.
Federal Member for Solomon, David Tollner	December 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed project activities.
	July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update. • Power supply to Northern Territory. • Federal support for the project.
Heritage Advisory Council	June 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit and project briefing.
Local community	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project related issues and concerns.
Local residents/landholders	February 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project briefing.
	April 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update.
	August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced planned Batchelor public meeting.
Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries	November 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of proposed project.
	February 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project briefing.
	June 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update.

Table 6.2 Stakeholder consultation to date (cont'd)

Stakeholder	Date	Matters Discussed
Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries (continued)	July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for infrastructure corridor for the project and application process for this. • Potential sources of power for the project. • Possible 'special project' status for the project.
Northern Territory Mineral Council	November 2004	• Update of proposed project.
	February 2005	• Project briefing.
	April 2005	• Project update.
	July 2005	• Project update.
	August 2005	• Project update.
Northern Land Council	December 2004	• Proposed project activities.
	February 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project briefing. • Planning of proposed traditional owner meetings for 2005.
	April 2005	• Project update.
	June 2005	• Project update.
	July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options for the power line route. • Preference by NLC of provision of one route for them to consider rather than two.
	August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed power line route. • Project update.
	September 2005	• Draft PER.
Office of Environment and Heritage	December 2004	• Proposed project activities.
	February 2005	• Project briefing.
	April 2005	• Project update.
	June 2005	• Project update.
	July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater. • Acid rock drainage. • Construction and composition of the TSF. • Archaeological survey requirements.
	August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on submission of PER. • Acid rock drainage considerations.
	September 2005	• Draft PER.
Power and Water Corporation	April 2005 and July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives for power supply to the project site. • Alignment of power supply route. • Price estimates for power supply to the project site.
AusIMM (Darwin)	November 2004	• Technical project presentation.
Media (ABC)	November 2004	• Interview on the 'Country Hour' program.
	August 2005	• Browns Project news slot (17 August)
Rum Jungle Resort and Hotel	July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed project activities. • Potential accommodation of construction workforce. • Requirements for planning approvals to extend accommodation facilities.

6.4 Consultation Outcomes

6.4.1 Consultation to Date

The broad outcomes of the stakeholder consultation activities associated with the current project to date have included:

- Increased government and community awareness and understanding of the project.
- Involvement of regulatory authorities in shaping project activities.
- Identification of areas of concern to residents and other stakeholders.
- Identification of potential business/employment opportunities for local and indigenous stakeholders.
- Opportunities for members of the local community to voice opinions and concerns.

More specifically, matters raised during stakeholder consultation include:

- Potential impacts associated with vegetation clearing for the project.
- Potential water quality impacts, including groundwater.
- Potential interaction with the Rum Jungle Mine site.
- Opportunities for alternative uses of water that may be discharged from site.
- Alternative road access, in particular the Lithgow Road and Bevan Road route.
- The need for a detailed archaeological and heritage assessment of the project area to establish Aboriginal and other heritage in the project area.
- The desire for a community meeting in Batchelor to discuss project activities and the best timing for this to maximise community attendance.
- The opportunity for Compass to provide regular information about the project for inclusion in the monthly local newsletter.
- NLC questions regarding power line routes and access across Aboriginal land, as well as employment, business and training opportunities.
- The potential opportunity for accommodation of the construction workforce in local facilities.

6.4.2 Consultation for the Browns Polymetallic Project

Consultation associated with the Browns Polymetallic (Sulfide) Project that was undertaken by Compass in 2001–2002 identified a range of council and community concerns, including:

- Potential access routes to the site.
- Size and duration of potential employment of local labour during the project.
- Poor mining practices associated with past mining projects in the region.

- Potential for uranium mining from Compass leases.
- Management of acid rock drainage during the project.
- Water management during the project, especially groundwater.
- Potential changes to Batchelor's non-industrial lifestyle due to the project.
- Need for regular contact with the community through the project.

These concerns are being considered and addressed within the context of the current project.

6.5 Ongoing Consultation

6.5.1 General Consultation

Consultation with stakeholders is ongoing, and will continue through the life of the project. Regular consultation with OEH, DIP, DPIFM and other regulatory authorities will continue through the approvals process, and the construction and operations phase of the project, to ensure due consideration of all project-related opportunities and concerns. Compass proposes regular meetings with these authorities, supplemented by site inspections and informal meetings or discussions as required.

Consultation with the broader community will increase during the PER approvals and assessment process. One particular focus will be consultation regarding the management of project-related traffic passing through Batchelor. The ongoing consultation program will involve both formal and informal mechanisms, where the environmental assessment process will provide formal mechanisms for consultation, and informal mechanisms may include:

- Project information bulletins or brochures.
- Information on the Compass web site.
- Direct access to the project manager.
- An information display.
- Presentations, meetings and liaison:
 - Presentations by project personnel to community and other groups.
 - Media releases.
 - Northern Territory Government briefings.
 - Liaison and site inspections with government agencies and regulators.
 - Interviews and articles in 'local' media.
 - Open days at the site during both construction and operations.
 - Stakeholder information sessions.

6.5.2 Indigenous Consultation

A particular focus of the ongoing consultation program will be the involvement of indigenous people in the project, where this will build on Compass' normal process (since 1998) of communicating its activities and plans to the NLC and traditional

owners [C]. In February 2005, a meeting was held with the NLC (see Table 6.2) at which Compass requested early consultation with traditional owners¹ specifically about the project, and it was agreed that the NLC would establish a program of meetings with traditional owners. Compass understands that an initial meeting between the NLC and the traditional owners to discuss the Browns Oxide Project took place in October 2005, and Compass looks forward to discussing any issues raised with these parties.

¹ Under current legislation and practice, consultation between Compass and the traditional owners is required to occur through the NLC.