

15.1 Stakeholder Involvement and Consultation

The key objective of the consultation programme conducted during the preparation of this PER was to ensure the interests of individuals, groups and agencies potentially affected by the proposed Project were considered and addressed during the environmental impact assessment process.

The purpose of this section is to summarise the considerable level of consultation and stakeholder engagement that has been undertaken by BOPL and URS. The outcomes of the consultations are discussed, and any resulting changes made to the proposal are clearly identified.

15.2 Consultations Undertaken Prior to Preparing the PER

Since purchasing BOPL and URGM in 2005, BOPL's parent company GBS has undertaken significant consultation with local stakeholders and the NT government. BOPL have a strong local procurement policy, and aims to create employment opportunities for local people, including Indigenous stakeholders.

The aims of the consultation process prior to preparing the PER were to:

- Discuss local employment and procurement opportunities;
- Provide stakeholders with information on the proposed project; and
- Identify key issues and potential impacts that BOPL needed to address.

During this initial phase of consultation, BOPL consulted with the following stakeholders:

- FreightLink
- Pine Creek Community Government Council
- Kybrook Community
- Minister for Environment (NT)
- Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (NT)
- Environmental Protection Agency Program (NT)
- Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts – Heritage Conservation Services (NT)
- Department of Employment, Education and Training
- Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority



15.3 Consultations Undertaken During PER Preparation

During the preparation of this PER, consultation was undertaken with a wide range of local stakeholders, government agencies and non-government organisations. The aims of the consultation programme during the PER preparation were to:

- Identify and consult with any additional stakeholders;
- Disseminate information and identify stakeholder issues;
- Obtain feedback from stakeholders; and
- Respond to stakeholder issues.

All face to face consultations were undertaken by Shane Boladeras (Senior Community Relations and Development Consultant, URS), Julie Carpenter (Principal Environmental Scientist, Manager – Environment, URS) and Sven Sewell (Environment Manager, GBS), with the exception of one meeting which Sven Sewell was unable to attend. George Jenkins (Project Manager, GBS) also attended a number of the consultation meetings.

A total of 25 consultations were completed for the PER, including 18 undertaken in person and seven completed by phone, by Shane Boladeras.

15.3.1 Identification of stakeholders

For the purposes of this PER, stakeholders were defined as:

- People affected directly by, or concerned about, the environmental, social and economic assessment and management of the project;
- Government agencies that would be regulating the proposed operations;
- Community groups and non-government organisations; and
- People with a direct commercial interest in the project.

URS worked in collaboration with BOPL in drawing up a preliminary list of stakeholders. As URS and BOPL undertook the consultation process, additional stakeholders were identified and included.

The local and NT government agencies consulted during the preparation of the PER included the following:

- Coomalie Community Government Council
- Department of the Chief Minister
- Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines



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- NT Environmental Protection Agency Program
 - Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development
 - Department of Employment, Education and Training
 - Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts – Parks and Wildlife
 - Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts – Museums and Art Galleries
 - Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts – Heritage Conservation Services
 - NT Fire and Rescue Services
 - Pine Creek Community Government Council.

Indigenous stakeholders that were consulted during the preparation of the PER included the following:

- Jawoyn Association
- Kybrook Community
- Northern Land Council.

Other stakeholders, industry bodies and non-government organisations consulted during the preparation of the PER included the following:

- Adjacent tenement holder
- Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory
- Australian Trucking Association Northern Territory
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Manager of Douglas Station pastoral lease
- NT Minerals Council
- NT Industry Capability Network
- FreightLink
- Grove Hill Hotel
- Northern Territory Environment Centre.



15.3.2 Feedback on stakeholder issues

The issues identified during the consultation programme are listed in Table 15.1, with the main issues being:

- The potential for acid mine drainage occurring in the open pits or waste rock dumps;
- The creation of employment opportunities for local businesses or personnel living in the region;
- Concern that the mine site rehabilitation techniques may be ineffective and the mined area may not be successfully rehabilitated;
- The increase in traffic, particularly road trains, may present road safety issues on the Stuart Highway and at railway level crossings;
- Potential to disturb Indigenous, European and Asian archaeological sites of significance;
- Concerns regarding the impact of the proposed operation on the discovery of a Northern Quoll in the area; and
- Concern that shared access roads may not be properly maintained.

15.3.3 Proponent's response to issues

The comprehensive stakeholder consultation undertaken during the PER process, combined with consultation undertaken prior to the PER, has given BOPL a sound understanding of the government and community issues relevant to the Project.

The consultation process has provided an opportunity for the issues raised to be addressed in this PER, and in turn to inform and influence the design, management and operation of the Project. For example, in response to issues raised during the consultations, BOPL will undertake a number of actions, some of which are described below:

- BOPL will characterise any PAF material prior to excavation, and encapsulate PAF waste rock inside the waste rock dump, preventing infiltration of air and rainfall that might leach acid into surface water runoff. BOPL will also undertake a monthly water quality monitoring program to ensure that runoff from the minesite does not impact negatively on the downstream environment.
- BOPL will develop a local industry participation plan to maximise local procurement opportunities. The plan will specify the mechanisms that will be utilised to inform the local community of business and employment opportunities.
- BOPL will use standard and appropriate rehabilitation techniques that have been implemented successfully in many previous operations. The Rehabilitation Mine Closure Plan will be consistent with DPIFM requirements. An outline of this plan will be included in the MMP.



- BOPL has put before the DPI a series of road intersection drawings that will increase the safety of the road network. At the intersection of Fountain Head and Stuart Highway a new acceleration lane will be built allowing turning trucks the acceleration required to minimise car movements. The lanes will be constructed to AustRoads and DPI requirements. The use of high visibility reflective tape along the sides of the quad semi-trailers will provide greater visibility response during night operations.
- BOPL will implement an Archaeological Chance Find Procedure¹ so in the event of any archaeological discoveries during exploration, mining or rehabilitation the appropriate action is taken.
- In response to the discovery of a northern quoll at North Point, a capture and relocation program will be developed and implemented. Outcomes of the program will be made available to relevant government agencies.
- BOPL will consult with the DPI on an appropriate program for maintenance and shared use of Grove Hill Road, ensuring that road conditions are safe for public road users.

A summary of the issues raised and the response developed by BOPL in relation to these issues is provided in Table 15.1. The table also indicates where in the PER the reader can find additional information on the issues.

BOPL's response to the issues raised by the stakeholders is being communicated through the distribution of the PER and follow-up briefings with key stakeholder groups.

Table 15-1 Summary of Issues Raised by Stakeholders

Topic	Issue raised	Proponent's response	Reference in PER
Acid mine drainage	Concern that acid rock drainage will be an issue in the storage of overburden.	Potential acid rock will be encapsulated by oxide ore. A store and release method will be employed to limit the amount of water run-off. BOPL will adopt an acid rock management strategy similar to that which has been successfully utilised at URG and Brocks Creek.	Section 2
Approvals process	Would like to see the environmental management plans included in the PER.	Environmental Management Plans are included in this PER and will also be included in the Mining Management Plan to be lodged with DPIFM, should the proposal be approved.	Section 18

¹ The Archaeological Chance Find Procedure is a project-specific procedure that outlines the required actions for responding to finds of previously unidentified aboriginal artefacts, during project construction or operation.



Stakeholder Involvement and Consultation

SECTION 15

Topic	Issue raised	Proponent's response	Reference in PER
Culture and heritage	The area is significant from an Indigenous, European and Asian historic point of view. BOPL will need to ensure any cultural and historic remains are protected.	BOPL have undertaken Indigenous and European archaeological surveys. The appropriate mitigation strategies will be put in place to protect any cultural and historic remains.	Section 10
Culture and heritage	If any Indigenous, European or Asian artefacts are to be relocated or destroyed, it is strongly suggested that samples are taken for scientific research.	BOPL has undertaken the necessary Indigenous, European and Asian heritage studies, and consulted with the appropriate stakeholders. BOPL will utilise a chance find procedure should archaeological items or sites be discovered during the commissioning, operational and rehabilitation phases. BOPL would inform and take advice from HCS and MAGNT and provide, if appropriate, items to the NT Museum and Art Gallery.	Section 10
Employment	Would like to see BOPL engaging with local businesses and drawing on the local community for employment as much as possible.	BOPL has a strong local procurement policy. BOPL is actively seeking out opportunities to engage local businesses and people.	Section 12
Local industry participation	Consider developing a local industry participation plan.	BOPL is currently developing a local industry participation plan.	Section 12
Indigenous Employment	Consider using members of the Kybrook Community for direct or contract employment opportunities.	BOPL is actively seeking out opportunities to engage local businesses and people.	Section 12
Flora and vegetation	Fire and weed management plans will need to be put in place.	Frameworks for the Fire and Weed Management Plans have been incorporated into this PER and will also be included in the Mining Management Plan to be lodged with DPIFM should the proposal be approved.	Section 18
Mine planning	Concern that mine closure planning will not be incorporated from the beginning of operations.	The framework for rehabilitation and closure planning was incorporated into mine planning, and is included in this PER and will be included in the MMP. Any recommendations arising out of the PER/ MMP process will be incorporated. Three BOPL personnel have been allocated to mine closure planning,	Section 3



Stakeholder Involvement and Consultation

SECTION 15

Topic	Issue raised	Proponent's response	Reference in PER
		comprising the Environment Manager, Project Manager and Senior Mine Geologist.	
Independent monitoring	Concern that mine site monitoring will not be accurate and independent monitoring should be undertaken.	BOPL will have a comprehensive monitoring strategy in place. This is documented in the Draft Environmental Management Plans included in the PER, and will be audited annually. It is not industry standard for independent monitoring to be undertaken. DPIFM as the regulator will overview the monitoring programme.	Section 18
Species of Significance	Response to recent recording of a northern quoll at North Point	A capture and relocation program will be developed and implemented. Outcomes of the program will be made available to relevant government agencies.	Section 8
Access	Concern that mining operations will restrict access to recreational sites (e.g. fishing).	No public access roads will be blocked off as a result of the mining operations. Access to the mining leases themselves will be restricted during operations due to safety reasons, however no recreational sites were identified in this review that would be of concern.	Section 11
Rehabilitation	The techniques to be employed to rehabilitate the waste dumps, and whether these are proven methodologies and will they work at the Princess Louise and North Point sites.	The waste dumps will be rehabilitated using the well acknowledged store and release methodology. Oxides will be used in place of topsoil and the waste dumps then seeded with local species. This methodology has been utilised at other sites in the vicinity by BOPL and has proven to be very successful.	Section 3
Rehabilitation supervision	Concern that BOPL will not have a person dedicated to mine closure and it will be not given the required attention.	As noted above, three BOPL personnel have been allocated to mine closure planning, comprising the Environment Manager, Project Manager and Senior Mine Geologist.	Section 3
Rehabilitation for final land use	Concern that stakeholders may not be consulted with before the decommissioning phase about the final land use of the rehabilitated sites. Final land use post mining needs to be appropriate to both local and regional stakeholders.	BOPL will continue its ongoing stakeholder consultation programme, to ensure end land use planning is incorporated into mine closure planning.	Section 3
Backfilling of	Options to backfill the voids should be investigated. The	The cost of back filling the mining voids would make the mining operation	Section 3



Stakeholder Involvement and Consultation

SECTION 15

Topic	Issue raised	Proponent's response	Reference in PER
voids	economics of doing so should be considered in relation to the economic consequence to the wider community of not doing so.	economically unfeasible. The backfilling of voids is not a requirement of DPIFM, the mining approval authority.	
Recording of archaeological surveys	Ensure all recent and historic archaeological surveys completed in the project area are summarised in the PER.	All recent and historic archaeological surveys are included in the PER.	Section 10
Road transport consultation	Concern that the local landowner has not been consulted in relation to building new transport corridors or maintaining existing ones.	The pastoral lease manager has been consulted as part of the PER stakeholder consultation process, and will continue to be consulted throughout the life of the project.	Section 15
Road/rail crossings	There will be a significant increase in the number of vehicles and trucks crossing the Adelaide to Darwin railway. The level crossings will need to be closely audited to determine if safety is adequate or if the level crossings need to be updated.	There will be no additional amount vehicles crossing due to the operations. BOPL continue to liaise with FreightLink on the subject of rail safety and have developed a procedure for vehicles crossing the railway crossings.	Section 11
Road safety	Concern that the increase in trucking movements will negatively impact on road safety. Have studies been undertaken to determine if additional overtaking lanes are required?	The DPI have designed and built a third overtaking lane between Fountain Head and Ping Que intersections. This meets the requirement of the VicRoads guidelines (no NT or AustRoads guidelines exist).	Section 11
Impact on road surfaces	Concern the increase in traffic on access roads into the Grove Hill Hotel will make the roads a lot rougher and/or create tyre puncture hazards, and therefore reduce the flow of tourists to the hotel.	BOPL has a road maintenance programme in place. The programme will ensure that all roads are maintained to a standard which does not negatively impact on vehicle flows.	Section 11
Road signage and potential spillage	Will need to ensure there is adequate road signage, enough stopping areas (for driver to stop and check load) and adequate tarping of the load to prevent spillage.	Appropriate road safety signage and stopping areas will be provided in accordance to AustRoad, Australian and DPI standards. Trucks will be loaded in accordance to Australian standards.	Section 11
Surface water	Concern that there is the potential for the mine voids to overflow and have a negative impact downstream.	A bund will be constructed around the pit voids after closure, reducing surface water inflow during rain events; this will prevent the pit voids overflowing.	Section 6



15.4 Consultations During the Public Review Period

Under NT legislation, the PER is subject to a public review period of not more than 28 days. During this time, the proposal will undergo further scrutiny by various government advisory bodies, regulators and the community.

BOPL will maintain its existing stakeholder consultation by continuing to consult with local community, government and non-government stakeholders during the public review period. The programme will include the following actions:

- Providing a public notice in newspapers advising of locations at which the PER can be viewed, and on its availability;
- Providing information to stakeholders when requested, including providing responses directly to the stakeholders who asked questions during the PER consultation period; and
- Directing interested members of the public to view the full PER on the NRETA website, or to view hardcopies at the relevant local libraries or council offices.

15.5 Consultations Following Proposal Implementation

In the event the Project receives the necessary approvals and is implemented, BOPL intends to continue the consultation process throughout the construction, operation and rehabilitation phases. A consultation strategy will be developed by BOPL to ensure that current project information is delivered in a timely manner and in a way that is appropriate for all stakeholders. The consultation strategy will include a mechanism for gathering grievances and bringing them to BOPL's attention, so that they may be resolved. An office and information centre has been established in Katherine, at the main intersection of the main road, and is open weekdays.

15.6 Commitments

BOPL commits to maintaining stakeholder consultation by continuing to consult throughout the public review period, and through open consultation with stakeholders through the construction, operation and rehabilitation phases of the mining operations.

BOPL commits to delivering information to stakeholders in an appropriate and timely manner.

