

Consultation 5



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5 CONSULTATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive stakeholder consultation program was undertaken and formed an integral part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the project. The program included consultation with Local, Territory and Federal Government agencies, Traditional Owners, residents of Groote Eylandt, employees of the existing mine and other interested parties. This section describes the EIS stakeholder consultation program including its objectives, the activities undertaken, the stakeholders consulted, their issues and the way in which these issues have been addressed in the EIS. Consultation undertaken as part of the Socio-economic Impact Assessment (SIA) is also described in this section. The SIA is discussed in detail in Section 15 – Socio-economics.

5.2 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The consultation process was designed to address the relevant requirements of the NT Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) Terms of Reference (TOR) for the project EIS and the NT EPA *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Economic and Social Impact Assessment Version 2.0* (NT EPA, 2013d). The approach for engagement with the Traditional Owners of the Groote Eylandt Archipelago was also developed in consideration of the International Association for Impact Assessment's Best Practice Principles, *Respecting Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge* (IAIA, 2012). The EIS consultation process also reflected the established communication protocols between the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) on Groote Eylandt and the proponent. These communication protocols form part of the current Mining Agreement under the Commonwealth *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (ALRA) for the existing mine.

5.3 CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

The aim of EIS consultation was to identify stakeholders' issues in relation to the project and ensure that these issues were addressed as part of the EIS process. The consultation process was therefore designed as an issues-driven program, with the following objectives:

- Identify project stakeholders;
- Seek the ALC's endorsement of the proposed approach to EIS consultation with the Traditional Owners;
- Inform stakeholders of the project;
- Identify and understand all stakeholder issues in relation to the project;
- Ensure stakeholder issues and concerns were taken into consideration when developing the project mine plan; and
- Develop and implement response strategies to address stakeholder issues.

The project consultation program was undertaken in five phases, which are detailed in the following sections. A sixth phase of consultation will occur during the public exhibition of the EIS, and is discussed in Section 5.9.

5.4 CONSULTATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

This section provides a high level overview of the main phases of the consultation process. Each phase is then discussed in detail in Section 5.5 to Section 5.9.

5.4.1 Phase 1 – Stakeholder Identification

The objective of the first phase of consultation was to identify all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure their early involvement in the consultation process.

The key outputs from the stakeholder analysis process were:

- A list of key stakeholders for the project (Attachment 5-1); and
- A comprehensive plan for project consultation and communications including a tailored plan for engagement with Traditional Owners.

5.4.2 Phase 2 – Endorsement of Consultation Process

The Traditional Owners of Groote Eylandt were identified as a key stakeholder group for the project. The ALC is the Land Council for the Groote Eylandt Archipelago and the principal voice of the Aboriginal community on Groote Eylandt. In relation to the existing mine, the ALC is the conduit for the distribution of relevant information between the proponent and Traditional Owners on Groote Eylandt.

Gaining the endorsement of the ALC for the EIS consultation program was the second phase of the EIS consultation process.

5.4.3 Phase 3 – Issue Scoping

This phase involved external consultation with project stakeholders for the purposes of identifying project issues.

The objectives of the third phase of consultation were to:

- Provide stakeholders with introductory information on the project and explain the EIS and consultation processes;
- Initiate and maintain open communication with stakeholders; and
- Identify stakeholder issues and concerns in relation to the project.

5.4.4 Phase 4 – SIA Consultation

SIA consultation was conducted in parallel with issue scoping consultation and involved similar stakeholders. The objectives of this fourth phase of consultation were to:

- Understand the baseline socio-economic profile of the communities of interest;
- Validate and elaborate on existing statistical data;
- Identify emerging issues in the communities of interest;
- Identify potential socio-economic impacts of the project;
- Assess the likelihood and consequence of the predicted socio-economic impacts; and
- Guide effective and appropriate decision making in relation to the management of social impacts.

5.4.5 Phase 5 – Issue Response Consultation

The objectives of the fifth phase of consultation were to:

- Proactively respond to all relevant issues raised during issue scoping and SIA consultation; and
- Identify potential solutions and strategies to manage impacts associated with the project.

5.5 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

5.5.1 Project Stakeholders

A preliminary list of potential stakeholders for the project EIS was developed through:

- The proponent's knowledge and contacts;
- Discussions with the ALC;
- Background research on the local and regional area;
- Networking with different individuals and organisations; and
- The results of consultation conducted for the project.

Stakeholders were profiled to identify their potential interest in the project.

Table 5-1 provides a summary of the stakeholder groups identified for the project. A list of stakeholders who participated in EIS consultation is included in Attachment 5-1.

Table 5-1 Preliminary Stakeholder List

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	STAKEHOLDER	LOCATION
Federal Government	■ Department of the Environment (DotE)	Canberra
NT Government and Statutory Authorities	■ NT EPA ■ Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority ■ Department of Business ■ Department of Health ■ Department of Land Resource Management ■ Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment ■ Department of Mines and Energy (DME) ■ Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries ■ Department of Transport ■ NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services ■ Parks and Wildlife Commission NT ■ Power and Water Corporation	Darwin / Groote Eylandt
Interest Groups	■ Environment Centre Northern Territory ■ Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory	Darwin
Local Government	■ East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC)	Groote Eylandt
Land Council	■ ALC including the Anindilyakwa Land & Sea Rangers	Groote Eylandt
Traditional Owner Groups	■ Wurrumaminyamanja Maminyamanja Clan ■ Warnungangkurrakba Wurramara Clan ■ Warnindilyakwa Mamarika Clan ■ Warnungawerrikba Wurrawilya Clan ■ Warnungwamakwula Amagula Clan ■ Warnungawerrikba Lalara Clan (Ceremonial People)	Groote Eylandt

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	STAKEHOLDER	LOCATION
Service and Facility Providers	■ Various service and facility providers in Alyangula, Angurugu and Umbakumba	Groote Eylandt
Business Owners/Operators	■ Aminjarringa Enterprises ■ Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE) ■ Alyangula Cafe ■ Alyangula Australia Post Office ■ Groote Eylandt Car Rental	Groote Eylandt
Residents	■ Alyangula residents ■ Angurugu residents ■ Umbakumba residents	Groote Eylandt
The proponent	■ Employees and contractors	Groote Eylandt / Brisbane

Details on the consultation and key activities undertaken with each stakeholder group are described in the following sections.

5.6 ENDORSEMENT OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

Prior to the implementation of the EIS consultation program, several meetings and telephone calls were held with the ALC to obtain their endorsement of the following:

- Overarching EIS consultation strategy for engaging with Traditional Owners;
- Community Information Sheet 1 (discussed in Section 5.7.1); and
- SIA stakeholder interview proforma (discussed in Section 5.7.2).

The ALC provided the project team with full access to the Traditional Owners on Groote Eylandt for the conduct of EIS consultation. Further, the ALC fully endorsed the scope of questions that could be asked of the Traditional Owners.

5.7 ISSUE SCOPING AND SIA CONSULTATION

Issue scoping and SIA consultation were conducted by Hansen Bailey and the proponent's representatives during May and June 2014. Consultation involved briefing sessions with key government agencies and statutory authorities, project status update presentations, site visits and face-to-face interviews and/or telephone interviews with stakeholders on Groote Eylandt including Traditional Owners.

The majority of participants in issue scoping and SIA consultation were residents of the following three key townships on Groote Eylandt:

- Alyangula, which is located on the north-west of Groote Eylandt and has a population of approximately 1,000 people. Alyangula was built by Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd (GEMCO) and predominantly houses the GEMCO workforce and their families;
- Angurugu, which is located on the western side of the island, on the Angurugu River (Figure 3-1). It has a population of approximately 850 people, the majority of whom are Anindilyakwa People. Angurugu Township is surrounded by mining tenements associated with the existing GEMCO mine; and

- Umbakumba, which is located on the north-east of the island and has a population of approximately 450 people, the majority of whom are Anindilyakwa People.

The communication tools used and key activities undertaken during the issue scoping and SIA phases of consultation are discussed in the following sections.

5.7.1 Communication Tools

Eastern Leases Project Community Information Sheet 1

A project community information sheet (CIS1) was distributed to stakeholders on Groote Eylandt during the first round of consultation meetings. CIS1 was also distributed to 530 post office boxes at the Alyangula Post Office. All residents in Alyangula and some residents in Angurugu and Umbakumba have post office boxes at the Alyangula Post Office. Copies of CIS1 were also made available at key locations on Groote Eylandt including:

- Office of the ALC in Alyangula;
- Alyangula supermarket;
- Alyangula area school;
- Angurugu Cafe;
- EARC office in Angurugu; and
- Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra Youth Development Unit in Angurugu.

CIS 1 provided a brief introduction to the proponent, an overview of the project and the associated approval process, as well as the EIS and community consultation process. A copy of CIS1 is provided in Attachment 5-2.

Maps and Media

A number of visual materials were designed specifically for use during consultation with the Traditional Owners to enhance stakeholder understanding of the project and enable a spatial understanding of the project's location. Several maps were produced for use in consultation, along with an animated fly-through of Groote Eylandt and the project site. A series of photographs were selected for use during consultation to assist in identifying landmarks. Maps were printed and stakeholders were able to mark key points of interest and natural features across Groote Eylandt and identify the types of land use activities carried out within the project site.

5.7.2 Key Consultation Activities

During EIS consultation, a total of 40 meetings with approximately 55 participants were conducted as one-on-one meetings, group meetings or telephone calls. Participants included government agencies and authorities, industry groups, facility and service providers, community groups, residents of the townships and other interested parties. This section discusses the scope of consultation activities.

Terms of Reference Process

The NT EPA issued a draft TOR which described the required content of the EIS and level of assessment required for various specialist studies. The draft TOR was placed on public exhibition on 30 August 2014 and public submissions closed on 12 September 2014.

The NT EPA provided a copy of the draft TOR to all NT government agencies, the ALC, EARC, Environment Centre Northern Territory and the Amateur Fisherman's Association of the Northern Territory. During the public exhibition period for the draft TOR, these Territory and local government agencies, and interest groups were provided an opportunity to make a submission to the NT EPA. The NT EPA took these comments into account in finalising the EIS TOR. Section 24 – Guide to the TOR describes the way in which the EIS TOR has been addressed.

Government Agency Briefings and Meetings

The proponent and Hansen Bailey conducted issue scoping consultation with representatives of DotE, NT EPA and DME. Agency consultation conducted for the EIS is outlined in Table 5-2. In addition to issue scoping meetings, the proponent has facilitated a number of discussions with government agencies in relation to the project.

Table 5-2 Government Consultation Summary

GOVERNMENT AGENCY	DATE	LOCATION
DME	17 and 18 December 2013	Darwin
NT EPA	18 December 2013	Darwin
DotE	15 May 2014	Canberra
DME	28 May 2014	Darwin
NT EPA	28 May 2014	Darwin
NT EPA	15 July 2014	Groote Eylandt

In addition to issue scoping meetings, the NT EPA attended a project site visit on Groote Eylandt in July 2014. Representatives of the proponent and the EIS project team also attended the site visit. The purpose of the site visit was to provide representatives of the NT EPA with an introductory overview of the existing mining operations and the key communities on Groote Eylandt.

Anindilyakwa Land Council Briefings and Meetings

The ALC, which is specifically tasked with representing Traditional Owners including all clan groups in the Groote Eylandt Archipelago, is a key stakeholder for the project. The proponent regularly communicates with the ALC in relation to the existing mining operation and is involved in ongoing discussions and negotiations with the ALC in relation to the project.

Existing engagement between the proponent and the ALC is primarily conducted through monthly meetings between the proponent's External Affairs staff and the ALC's Mining Liaison Officer. In addition to these monthly meetings, the proponent conducts formal communication with the ALC through the following forums:

- Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) quarterly meetings;
- Participation in RPA co-ordination and task group meetings;
- Monthly meetings between the proponent's External Affairs staff and the Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust;
- Quarterly mining liaison committee meetings; and
- Meetings with the ALC Executive Board which consists of representatives from all 14 clan groups on the Groote Eylandt Archipelago as well as representatives from each of the three Aboriginal communities, Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra.

In addition to those regular forums, the proponent has undertaken consultation with the ALC in relation to the following aspects relevant to the project and the EIS process:

- Negotiation of a new Mining Agreement for the project;
- Process for obtaining an Authority Certificate under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (Sacred Sites Act);
- Endorsement of the proposed approach to EIS consultation with Traditional Owners on Groote Eylandt;

- Approval to access the project site for EIS field surveys and ongoing water monitoring;
- Approval to access the project site for exploration drilling and geotechnical surveys;
- Traditional Owner's participation in the archaeology and flora and fauna fields surveys; and
- Approval to publish photographs of Traditional Owners in the EIS and associated materials.

Consultation with Aboriginal Residents

Hansen Bailey conducted tailored, face-to-face interviews with Aboriginal residents of the communities of Angurugu and Umbakumba on Groote Eylandt over a two week period in June 2014. The majority of Aboriginal residents involved in the interviews were Traditional Owners. The objectives of the interviews with Aboriginal residents were to:

- Provide introductory information in relation to the project and the EIS;
- Identify stakeholder interests and/or concerns in relation to the project;
- Gather qualitative information to inform the development of a socio-economic baseline of Groote Eylandt for inclusion in Section 15 – Socio-economics and the *Socio-economics Report* (Appendix K);
- Identify areas within and adjoining the project site that are of importance to the Traditional Owners for:
 - Recreation;
 - Hunting and gathering; and/or
 - Cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Identify the natural resources located within the project site that are of value to Aboriginal people e.g. green plum and sugar bag; and
- Confirm residential occupancy rates at Yedikba and Wurrumenbumanja Outstations. The location of these outstations is shown on Figure 3-2.

The proponent's External Affairs representatives were responsible for randomly identifying and encouraging Aboriginal residents to participate in the interviews. The proponent's External Affairs representatives provided the initial stakeholder introductions before leaving Hansen Bailey representatives to complete the interviews. The majority of interviews were informal and conducted in the stakeholder's residence.

A number of interviews were conducted with small groups of Aboriginal residents. These interviews were predominantly with women and included a group of women from the Anglican Church in Umbakumba and a small group of women involved in the Anindilyakwa Arts and Crafts Centre at the Dugong Resort in Angurugu.

All interviews followed a standard interview proforma which was endorsed by the ALC prior to conducting the interviews.

A total of 18 Aboriginal residents from Angurugu and Umbakumba participated in the interviews. A list of all participants is provided in Attachment 5-1. Key issues raised during interviews with Aboriginal residents are detailed in Section 5.8.3.

Consultation with Other Stakeholders on Groote Eylandt

Issue scoping meetings were conducted in Alyangula, Angurugu and Umbakumba with the following stakeholders:

- Residents of Alyangula;
- Representatives of EARC;
- Government and non-government service providers in Alyangula, Angurugu and Umbakumba;

- Business owners and operators across Groote Eylandt; and
- Mine personnel.

A list of all participants in issue scoping interviews is provided in Attachment 5-1.

The purpose of the issue-scoping meetings was to provide an overview of the project and the environmental approvals process as well as the EIS and community consultation process. Stakeholders were also provided with an opportunity to identify and discuss any issues of special interest. Issue scoping meetings also provided an opportunity to validate existing socio-economic baseline information and identify emerging socio-economic issues in the communities.

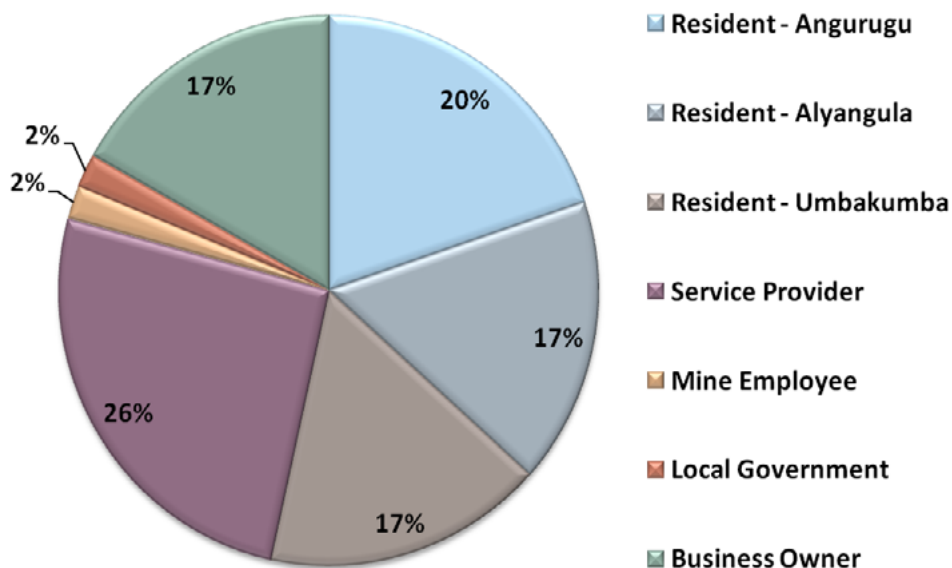
Participants in the interviews were identified through the proponent's existing contacts within the communities and through contacts made during interviews. A standard interview guide was used for each interview. The findings of the interviews informed the SIA and, in particular, the identification of project impacts.

The key issues identified during the issue-scoping and SIA consultation phases are detailed in Section 5.8. Detailed analysis of key social issues is provided in Section 15 – Socio-economics and the *Socio-economics Report* (Appendix K).

5.7.3 Summary of Groote Eylandt Stakeholder Participation

A total of 54 stakeholders on Groote Eylandt participated in 38 meetings. Groote Eylandt participants in the EIS consultation process represented a broad range of stakeholders, including residents of all three communities on Groote Eylandt. An almost equal proportion of males and females participated in EIS consultation conducted on Groote Eylandt. Graph 5-1 shows the distribution of participants by stakeholder group for all participants in issue scoping and SIA interviews conducted on Groote Eylandt. The ALC is not included as a stakeholder in this graph as there have been multiple meetings with the ALC involving numerous participants.

Graph 5-1 Groote Eylandt Consultation Participants



5.7.4 EIS Consultation Limitations

The scope of EIS consultation conducted with the Aboriginal population of Groote Eylandt was influenced by a number of factors, including:

- An initial reluctance by Traditional Owners to speak with independent consultants with whom they had no established relationship;
- An initial reluctance by individual Traditional Owners to speak for the land, as they did not identify themselves as the representative spokesperson of that land. However, many participants were happy to engage once they were made aware that EIS consultation was about their personal feelings and that they were not being asked to represent the concerns of their families or clan groups; and
- English is a second language for many of the Aboriginal participants, which led to participants tiring rapidly of conversation. As a result, EIS consultation with Aboriginal participants was limited to key concerns.

Despite the limitations of EIS consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, a representative sample of stakeholders was achieved and valuable insight gained into the issues and concerns of the residents of Angurugu and Umbakumba in relation to the project.

5.8 FINDINGS OF CONSULTATION PROGRAM

During EIS consultation, participants identified a range of issues, concerns and interests in relation to the project and the existing mine. The following sections present a summary of the key issue themes expressed by stakeholders in relation to the project. The sections are discussed by broad stakeholder group, as each group raised different issues and concerns, especially Aboriginal participants. A summary of all stakeholder issues is presented in Tables 5-3 to 5-5.

5.8.1 Findings of Consultation with Government

During consultation representatives of the proponent and Hansen Bailey discussed the preparation of the EIS with the DotE, NT EPA and DME. Project water management was identified as a key focus for the EIS, as the project is located in the headwaters of the Emerald and Amagula Rivers. The DotE and the NT EPA also raised issues particularly in relation to ecology, given the confirmed presence of threatened fauna species on the project site.

Table 5-3 reflects the key issues raised during meetings with government stakeholders. Additional issues were raised as part of the EIS TOR process (described in Section 2 – Regulatory Framework). The NT EPA took these issues into account in finalising the EIS TOR.

Table 5-3 Key Issues Raised at Government Meetings

ISSUE	RAISED BY	EIS SECTION REFERENCE
The project involves mining in the headwaters of a number of significant rivers, and the EIS should address potential issues such as risks to aquatic ecosystem health and disturbance of fish passage.	DME, NT EPA	Section 8 – Aquatic Ecology
The EIS should address impacts on downstream water quality. It is important for the EIS to present baseline surface water quality data, ideally data collected over an extended period.	DME, NT EPA	Section 10 – Surface Water
The EIS should describe proposed water management strategies and proposed arrangements for the discharge of mine affected water.	NT EPA	Section 10 – Surface Water

ISSUE	RAISED BY	EIS SECTION REFERENCE
Proposed river crossings and culverts should be described in the EIS, and the potential for sedimentation and other water quality impacts should be assessed.	DME	Section 10 – Surface Water
The EIS should describe any river diversions that would be required for the project.	DME	Section 10 – Surface Water
In the event of discharges of mine-affected water being proposed, it would be necessary for the EIS to describe the water treatment options, sizing of dams, and water balance modelling.	NT EPA	Section 10 – Surface Water
The EIS should assess the potential for the project to depressurise aquifers.	DME	Section 9 - Groundwater
The EIS should describe the way in which the project addresses the hierarchy of avoid, minimise and offset impacts.	DotE	Section 7 – Terrestrial Ecology Section 8 – Aquatic Ecology
The EIS should assess potential impacts on threatened species, including terrestrial threatened species and the Largetooth Sawfish (previously called the Freshwater Sawfish). Offsets for any significant residual impacts should be proposed.	NT EPA, DotE	Section 8 – Aquatic Ecology
The EIS should demonstrate the success of rehabilitation at the existing mine. This information is important for the purposes of understanding the project's potential impacts on flora and fauna.	NT EPA	Section 6 – Mine Rehabilitation and Closure
The EIS should address the management of tailings material.	DME, NT EPA	Section 3 – Project Description
The EIS should describe the potential for acid mine drainage, although it was noted that the geological setting of the project made this unlikely.	DME	Section 6 – Mine Rehabilitation and Closure
The EIS should describe the fire history within the project site.	DME	Section 3 – Project Description
The EIS should assess the potential for dust to impact ecological processes, human health and amenity.	NT EPA	Section 12 – Air Quality
The NT EPA enquired about consultation that had been undertaken in relation to Groote Eylandt being an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).	NT EPA	The ALC administers the Anindilyakwa IPA, which encompasses Groote Eylandt. Consultation with the ALC is described in Sections 5.7.2 and 5.8.2
There is a requirement for the project to obtain necessary approvals under the Sacred Sites Act.	DME, NT EPA	Section 2 – Regulatory Framework

5.8.2 Findings of Consultation with the ALC

This section provides a summary of the key issues raised by the ALC during EIS consultation for the project.

Potential Environmental Impacts

The ALC raised a number of key concerns in relation to the potential impacts of the project on the natural environment. These concerns related specifically to the following areas:

- Groundwater resources, in particular the rigour of the EIS groundwater model, which will be used to predict impacts from the project;
- Surface water resources, in particular impacts on water quality in the Emerald and Amagula Rivers;
- The proponent's ability to manage mine water and the potential for off-site water quality impacts;
- Terrestrial and aquatic ecology, in particular impacts to the habitat of the Northern Hopping-mouse, Masked Owl (Northern) and Northern Quoll; and
- Rehabilitation, primarily the timing of rehabilitation activities and the quality of the rehabilitation.

Social Considerations

The ALC also raised a number of concerns in relation to the socio-economic impacts of the project. Key concerns related to:

- Impacts on residential amenity from project generated noise and dust, particularly at Angurugu and the Yedikba and Wurrumenbumanja Outstations;
- Opportunities for employment of Traditional Owners on the project;
- Impact of project-induced water quality changes on recreational resources such as Leske Pools and the Emerald River; and
- The ability for Traditional Owners to maintain access to Dalumba Bay via an unsealed access track that traverses the project site.

Sacred Sites

Sacred sites are places in the landscape that have a special significance under Aboriginal tradition. The ALC raised concerns in relation to the impact of the project on sacred sites and the need for an Authority Certificate under the Sacred Sites Act to be obtained for the project (further discussed in Section 2 – Regulatory Framework).

Project Design and Alternatives

The ALC raised a number of concerns in relation to the alignment of the proposed haul road. The proposed haul road crosses the Emerald River downstream of the Eastern Leases and the ALC is concerned about this proposed crossing. Table 5-4 provides a summary of the key issues raised by the ALC.

Table 5-4 Key Issues Raised by the ALC

ISSUE	EIS SECTION REFERENCE
Mining Agreement for the Project	
The content of the Mining Agreement for the project and the associated negotiation process is a key issue for the ALC. The Mining Agreement for the project is viewed by the ALC as a tool for legacy planning. There is a desire by the ALC to ensure that the Mining Agreement for the project is aligned with the ALC Strategic Plan.	Section 2 – Regulatory Framework Section 15 – Socio-economics

ISSUE	EIS SECTION REFERENCE
Environment	
Concerns in relation to potential changes to water quality in the Emerald and Amagula Rivers and associated impacts on: ■ Aquatic ecology; and ■ The suitability of water for drinking and recreational purposes e.g. swimming.	Section 8 – Aquatic Ecology Section 10 – Surface Water
Concern in relation to the potential for the project to have downstream impacts on marine life due to project impacts on water quality.	Section 8 – Aquatic Ecology Section 10 – Surface Water
A desire for groundwater modelling to be undertaken.	Section 9 – Groundwater
A desire for EIS flood modelling to consider 1 in 100 year rainfall events.	Section 10 – Surface Water
Concerns in relation to how the proponent will manage mine water and the potential for off-site water quality impacts. The ALC is concerned that the geochemistry of the overburden material (particularly the presence of smectite clays) may impact water quality. The ALC questions whether the proponent has the ability to map the occurrence of all smectite clays across the project site.	Section 6 – Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Section 9 – Groundwater Section 10 – Surface Water
Concern that the project will result in further sedimentation of the mouth of the Emerald River.	Section 10 – Surface Water
Concern that the project will result in reduced water flows in the Emerald River and Amagula River systems.	Section 10 – Surface Water
Concern that vegetation clearing for the project will have an impact on the Northern Hopping-mouse and Northern Quoll.	Section 7 – Terrestrial Ecology
Concern that the project will have an impact on the habitat of the Masked Owl (Northern). The ALC has requested that the EIS includes an assessment of roosting locations and potential nesting sites for the owl, and proposed the use of radio tracking as part of this assessment.	Section 7 – Terrestrial Ecology A number of the ALC's requests for field survey of the Masked Owl (Northern) were unable to be completed within the timeframe of an EIS. The proponent intends on having separate discussions with the ALC regarding these requests.
Concern in relation to the scope of the EIS ecology studies. The ALC has indicated that whilst these studies may be suitable for EIS purposes and for obtaining government approval of the project, further assessment and/or research would be required to enable the ALC to make an informed decision as to the potential impacts of the project.	The proponent is considering this issue as part of its broader program of engagement with the ALC in relation to obtaining a Mining Agreement under ALRA for the project.
Concern in relation to the timing of rehabilitation activities following the cessation of mining.	Section 6 – Mine Rehabilitation and Closure

ISSUE	EIS SECTION REFERENCE
Minor concerns in relation to the effects of dust on trees, water quality and residential amenity.	Section 7 – Terrestrial Ecology Section 12 – Air Quality
Project Design	
Concern in relation to the proposed haul road alignment. The ALC is concerned about the proposed crossing of the Emerald River.	The process for selecting the preferred alignment for the haul road is provided in Section 3 – Project Description. The proponent is having further discussions with the ALC, outside of the EIS process, in relation to this issue.
Socio-Economic	
Concern that access to Dalumba Bay for Traditional Owners may be restricted as a result of the project.	Section 3 – Project Description
Concerns around the use of a Fly-In Fly-Out (FIFO) workforce and the resulting impacts on the social fabric of Groote Eylandt.	Section 15 – Socio-economics
Desire for increased Aboriginal employment at the existing mine, particularly in more senior positions, and positions other than mine rehabilitation.	Section 15 – Socio-economics
Concern in relation to the impact of the project on the amenity and water quality of Leske Pools. Amenity concerns relate to potential noise and air quality impacts.	Section 12 – Air Quality Section 13 – Noise and Vibration Section 14 – Visual Amenity Section 15 – Socio-economics
Cultural and Spiritual	
Concern in relation to the identification, avoidance and management of sacred sites within the project site.	Section 2 – Regulatory Framework Section 15 – Socio-economics The proponent is considering this issue as part of its broader program of engagement with the ALC in relation to obtaining a Mining Agreement under ALRA for the project.
Desire to see the Anindilyakwa culture and associated spirituality acknowledged in the EIS.	Section 15 – Socio-economics

5.8.3 Findings of Consultation with Aboriginal Participants

This section provides a summary of the key issues raised by Aboriginal participants in EIS consultation.

Spirituality

During stakeholder consultation, Aboriginal participants (Traditional Owners) raised concerns in relation to the potential for the project to impact on their spiritual values. These concerns related to the Traditional Owner's strong connection to land and an overarching cultural and spiritual need to protect land. Concerns in relation to disturbance of sites that are considered to have special significance to Anindilyakwa culture were raised, and participants expressed a sense of duty to care for and protect the land. Furthermore, a number of the river systems on Groote Eylandt form part of the Traditional Owners' spiritual songlines or have connections to songlines. The connection between rivers and the ocean is an integral component of the songlines. Consequently Traditional Owners are concerned about the potential impact of the project on the Emerald and Amagula Rivers.

Rehabilitation Practices

During EIS consultation, Aboriginal participants frequently commented on the rehabilitation practices at the existing mine. The majority of comments were positive, with stakeholders indicating they were happy with the quality of existing rehabilitation. Some Aboriginal participants raised concerns related to the amount of time it takes for an area to be rehabilitated once mining has been completed. They also raised issues in relation to the potential for out-of-pit overburden emplacements and final voids to be left after mining has ceased.

5.8.4 Findings of Consultation with All Stakeholders

This section provides a summary of the key issues raised by all stakeholders who participated in consultation conducted to inform the preparation of the EIS for the project.

Impacts to the Emerald and Amagula Rivers

The Emerald and Amagula Rivers traverse the project site. Almost every stakeholder raised issues in relation to the potential for the project to impact on the Emerald River and the Amagula River. Both rivers have significant spiritual value for the Traditional Owners; are a source of drinking water; provide a source of food; and are valued recreation resources.

Key concerns raised during EIS consultation included the potential for the project to result in:

- Changes to water quality and associated impacts on the suitability of water for drinking and for recreation e.g. swimming;
- Changes to water quality and the resulting impacts on aquatic ecology;
- Changes in the volume of water flowing downstream in both the Emerald and Amagula River systems;
- Sedimentation of the mouth of the Emerald River; and
- Changes in water quality of the Amagula River with an associated potential downstream effect on marine life.

Impacts to Leske Pools

Leske Pools is located on the Amagula River to the south of the Southern EL. Leske Pools is a popular recreation area for mine employees and Traditional Owners, and is in close proximity to the Wurrumenbumanja Outstation.

Stakeholders were concerned that any noise and air quality impacts of the project may reduce the amenity of the area. There were also concerns that water quality related impacts from the project may make the river water unsuitable for drinking, and restrict the range of recreation activities possible at Leske Pools. Further concerns from the Traditional Owners related to the displacement of wildlife and the potential for in-migration of displaced fauna (snakes and crocodiles) within the Leske Pools recreation area.

Mine Closure Planning

The issue of mine closure and the long-term sustainability of communities on Groote Eylandt was explored with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants in the EIS consultation process. As detailed in Section 2 – Regulatory Framework, it will be necessary for the proponent and the ALC to negotiate a Mining Agreement under ALRA before the project can proceed. Several participants identified the negotiation of a new Mining Agreement for the project as being an opportunity for the proponent and the ALC to work collaboratively in relation to mine closure planning. Participants in the EIS consultation process suggested a number of items for consideration in the development of the new Mining Agreement, including:

- A focus on forward planning;
- A change in royalties structure to provide fewer handouts and more investment (e.g. investment in alternative energy sources [e.g. solar farms] and on-island education facilities [e.g. a boarding school]); and

- Commitment to the development of partnerships with Aboriginal businesses and individuals in mining operations.

Non-Project Issues

During EIS consultation, stakeholders raised a number of issues which do not have direct relevance to the EIS, but contributed to the baseline profile of Groote Eylandt.

Residents of Alyangula reported that they value the small population and safety of the Alyangula community. However, residents also described a marked increase in FIFO work practices at the existing mine over the preceding two years. Residents indicated that they believed that this has contributed to a general decline in the sense of community, and impacted negatively on businesses in Alyangula Township. Alyangula residents also noted that the increasing frequency of break-ins in Alyangula and increased adoption of FIFO practices were affecting the perception of safety in the township.

Consultation participants from Alyangula, Angurugu and Umbakumba reported that they value the proponent's contributions to Groote Eylandt, particularly the provision of infrastructure such as roads, power and recreation facilities. Residents of Groote Eylandt also frequently expressed a desire to see increased Aboriginal employment at the existing mine but acknowledged difficulties in achieving this (as discussed further in Section 15 – Socio-economics).

Table 5-5 lists the key issues raised by project stakeholders during EIS consultation.

Table 5-5 Key Issues Raised at Stakeholder Meetings on Groote Eylandt

ISSUE	RAISED BY	EIS SECTION REFERENCE
Water		
Concern that the project will have an impact on the water quality of the Emerald and Amagula Rivers.	Residents of Alyangula, Angurugu and Umbakumba, Service Providers, Traditional Owners	Section 10 – Surface Water
Concern that the project will result in reduced flows in the Emerald River.	Residents of Angurugu and Umbakumba, Service Providers, Traditional Owners	Section 10 – Surface Water
Concern that the project will impact water quality at Leske Pools and reduce the suitability of Leske Pools for swimming.	Residents of Alyangula, Angurugu and Umbakumba, Service Providers, Traditional Owners	Section 10 – Surface Water
Concern that the project will adversely impact the water quality in the Emerald and Amagula Rivers with associated impacts on the health of aquatic flora and fauna.	Residents of Angurugu and Umbakumba, Traditional Owners	Section 8 – Aquatic Ecology
Concern that the project will result in further sedimentation of the mouth of the Emerald River.	Residents of Angurugu and Umbakumba, Traditional Owners	Section 10 – Surface Water
Concern that project related impacts on water quality in the Emerald and Amagula Rivers will result in (unspecified) harm to the marine environment surrounding Groote Eylandt.	Residents of Angurugu and Umbakumba, Traditional Owners	Section 10 – Surface Water

ISSUE	RAISED BY	EIS SECTION REFERENCE
Flora and Fauna		
Concern that vegetation clearing for the project will have an impact on the Northern Hopping Mouse and Northern Quoll.	Resident of Umbakumba	Section 7 – Terrestrial Ecology
Desire to see all fauna relocated from the project site prior to construction commencing.	Resident of Umbakumba	Section 7 – Terrestrial Ecology
Concern that manganese may be having an impact on the health of fauna on Groote Eylandt. Specific concerns related to: ■ Potential impacts of manganese on the Northern Quoll; and ■ The accumulation of manganese in mussels that are ingested by sea turtles.	Resident of Angurugu, Service Provider	Manganese is naturally occurring in the environment on Groote Eylandt and in the project site. There is currently no indication that it is impacting native fauna. This issue is beyond the scope of the EIS.
Concern that disturbance of the project site (i.e. land clearing) may result in the migration of wildlife such as snakes and crocodiles to outside the project site and specifically to the recreation area at Leske Pools, with resulting impacts on the suitability of the area for recreation activities.	Residents of Angurugu	Areas disturbed by mining will be progressively rehabilitated and consequently any effect that the project may have on fauna movements will be over the short to medium term, with fauna returning to the project site following mining. Detail on project rehabilitation is provided in Section 6 – Mine Rehabilitation and Closure.
Land Use		
Concern that if the ALC does not provide permission to the proponent for the project, then the NT government may allow sea-bed mining to commence. Traditional Owners are strongly opposed to sea-bed mining off the shores of Groote Eylandt.	Resident of Angurugu	No sea-bed mining is proposed as part of the project and the proponent does not have any exploration tenements for sea-bed mining.
A desire for the valued natural resources (certain trees and plants) present on the project site to be harvested prior to the commencement of project clearing activities. Traditional Owners are seeking permission to access the project site ahead of mining to harvest resources or have the proponent provide resources to them as land clearing progresses.	Residents of Angurugu	Section 15 – Socio-economics
Concern that access to Dalumba Bay for Traditional Owners may be restricted as a result of the project, as the unsealed access road to Dalumba Bay traverses the project site.	Residents of Angurugu and Umbakumba	Section 3 – Project Description

ISSUE	RAISED BY	EIS SECTION REFERENCE
Concerns that productive areas of bush tucker (green plum) located within the project site will be removed during project construction. These valued areas of bush tucker area were identified as being located along the unsealed access road to Dalumba Bay.	Residents of Angurugu	Section 15 – Socio-economics
Rehabilitation		
Concerns in relation to the timing of rehabilitation activities following the closure of quarries. Traditional Owners expressed a desire for rehabilitation activities to be undertaken as soon as possible after the completion of mining activities.	Residents of Angurugu and Umbakumba	Section 6 – Mine Rehabilitation and Closure
Concern in relation to the potential for animals to be injured falling into unfilled exploration and drilling holes.	Resident of Umbakumba	Section 6 – Mine Rehabilitation and Closure
Concern that the range of seed species selected for use in rehabilitation activities is not representative of all species present on the land prior to mining.	Resident of Angurugu	Section 6 – Mine Rehabilitation and Closure
Air Quality		
Concern that dust from the project will be deposited on nearby trees and threaten their survival.	Resident of Angurugu	Section 7 – Terrestrial Ecology Section 12 – Air Quality
Indigenous Employment		
Desire for increased Aboriginal employment at the existing mine, particularly in more senior positions, and positions other than mine rehabilitation.	Resident of Angurugu	Section 15 – Socio-economics
Concern that the proponent's procurement strategies do not account for the additional costs of engaging with Indigenous organisations. Indigenous organisations are therefore at a disadvantage when competing against mainstream businesses for procurement opportunities.	Service provider – Indigenous business	Section 15 – Socio-economics
Desire to see the Mining Agreement for the project focus on increased employment for Aboriginal people at the existing mine rather than royalty payments.	Service provider – Indigenous business	Section 15 – Socio-economics
Need to increase training for Indigenous persons on Groote Eylandt.	Service provider – Indigenous business	Section 15 – Socio-economics
Concern that the proponent's employment conditions are not compatible with local Aboriginal lifestyles on Groote Eylandt. Early start times, established rosters and a zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy are significant barriers to local Aboriginal employment at the existing mine.	Residents of Angurugu and Umbakumba	Section 15 – Socio-economics

5.9 ISSUE RESPONSE CONSULTATION

A second community information sheet (CIS 2) (Attachment 5-3) was prepared and distributed in February 2015 to all project EIS stakeholders. CIS 2 provided stakeholders with:

- A summary of the key issues identified during the issue scoping and SIA consultation process;
- The proponent's responses to these issues; and
- Answers to a number of frequently asked questions.

CIS 2 was distributed to stakeholders via email and mail and was posted on noticeboards in the town centres. Copies were hand-delivered by the proponent's External Affairs representatives to all Aboriginals and Traditional Owners on Groote Eylandt who participated in issue scoping and SIA consultation.

5.10 FUTURE CONSULTATION

5.10.1 EIS Feedback Consultation

One-on-one meetings will be held with key stakeholders during the EIS public exhibition period to provide feedback on:

- The results of the EIS specialist studies; and
- The way in which specific stakeholder issues have been addressed in the EIS.

A tailored strategy will be prepared in consultation with the ALC to guide feedback consultation with Groote Eylandt Traditional Owners.

ATTACHMENTS

5-1 EIS Stakeholder Consultation List

Table 1 EIS Stakeholder Consultation List

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	STAKEHOLDER	NAME
Federal Government	DotE	Felicity McLean
Federal Government	DotE	Denis Snowdon
Federal Government	DotE	Matt Whitting
Territory Government	NT EPA	Lisa Bradley
Territory Government	NT EPA	Alana Mackay
Territory Government	DME	Russell Ball
Territory Government	DME	Leslee Reif
Local Government	EARC	Gordon Walsh
ALC	ALC	Ross McDonald
Business Owner/Operator	Groote Eylandt Car Rentals	Prue and Andy Kennedy
Business Owner/Operator	Groote Eylandt & Bickerton Island Enterprises	Greg Mitchell
Business Owner/Operator	Alyangula Coffee Shop	Jeananne and Brent Woods
Business Owner/Operator	Alyangula Post Office	Robert Johnston
Business Owner/Operator	Alyangula Post Office	Lee McGlinn
Business Owner/Operator	Aminjarrinja	Nesman Bara
Business Owner/Operator	Aminjarrinja	Keith Hansen
Service Provider	AFL NT	Kevin Bruce
Service Provider	AFL NT	Robbie Williams
Service Provider	Angurugu School	Chris Archbold
Service Provider	Angurugu School	Chris LaRosa
Service Provider	Alyangula Health	Janet Rigby
Service Provider	Alyangula Daycare	Michelle Leonard
Service Provider	GEMYDU (Angurugu)	Shane and Lana Nolan
Service Provider	Groote Eylandt Police	Katie McKean
Service Provider	Alyangula School	Jo Jefferson
Resident – Alyangula	Alyangula School	Kim McCoy
Service Provider	Machado Joseph Disease Foundation	Nadia Lindop
Service Provider	Meals on Wheels	Margaret Allgood
Service Provider Resident – Alyangula Mine Employee	Alyangula Scouts Group	Geoff Knott

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	STAKEHOLDER	NAME
Service Provider Resident – Alyangula Mine Employee	Alyangula BMX Club	Liesl Turnley
Resident – Alyangula	Alyangula Community	Kelly Anderson
Resident – Alyangula	Alyangula Community	Rachel Barnett
Resident – Alyangula Mine Employee	Alyangula Community	Jeff Brown
Resident – Alyangula Mine Employee	Alyangula Community	John Denton
Resident – Alyangula	Alyangula Community	Amy Hobbs
Resident – Alyangula Mine Employee	Alyangula Community	Jodie and Steve Huggett
Resident - Alyangula	Alyangula Community	Sue McDonald
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Basil Bara
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Grant Burgoyne
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Keen
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Gayungwa Lalara
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Gwen Lalara
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Vince Lalara
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Terrance Mamarika
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Basil Mamarika
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Linda Wurramurra
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Alec Wurramurra
Resident - Angurugu	Angurugu Community	Murabuda Wurramarra
Resident - Umbakumba	Umbakumba Community	Edna Bara
Resident - Umbakumba	Umbakumba Community	Phil Mamarika
Resident - Umbakumba	Umbakumba Community	Agnes Mamarika
Resident - Umbakumba	Umbakumba Community	Colleen Mamarika
Resident - Umbakumba	Umbakumba Community	Sylvia Mamarika
Resident - Umbakumba	Umbakumba Community	Millie Mamarika
Resident - Umbakumba	Umbakumba Community	Jacob and Wanita Ponto
Resident - Umbakumba	Umbakumba Community	Jennifer Yantaarnga
Resident – Alyangula Mine Employee	Mine Employee	Steve Cullen

ATTACHMENTS

5-2 Community Information Sheet 1

GEMCO Eastern Leases Project

Community Information Sheet

June 2014

Overview

Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd (GEMCO) operates the existing manganese mine on Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory (Figure 1). GEMCO is proposing to access additional manganese resources in an area to the east of the existing GEMCO mine. The project is called the GEMCO Eastern Leases Project. The project proponent is GEMCO which has two shareholders, BHP Billiton Manganese Australia Pty Ltd (60%) and Anglo Operations (Australia) Pty Ltd (40%).

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for the project to support applications for government environmental approvals. A stakeholder consultation program is also being undertaken as part of the EIS process. This Community Information Sheet (CIS) provides an introduction to the project and a description of the environmental approval and stakeholder engagement processes for the project.

Further Information

If you would like further information in relation to the project, or would like to meet with the project team to discuss the project, please contact:

John Hansen

Superintendent External Affairs GEMCO

Phone (08) 8987 4451

Mobile 0427 182 497

Email GEMCOCommunity@bhpbilliton.com



Figure 1: Project Location



Milner Bay Port Facility

Existing Operations

The existing GEMCO mine (Figure 2) is an open cut manganese mine that has been operating for approximately 50 years. The mine has an anticipated remaining life of approximately 14 years. The ore is processed in a concentrator to produce a solid manganese concentrate suitable for domestic and export markets. The concentrate is transported by road train via the Rowell Highway from the mine to GEMCO's port facility at Milner Bay. GEMCO currently sells approximately 5 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of manganese ore.

The current workforce for the existing mining operation is approximately 1,000 people.

Mining Method

Open cut mining is undertaken in a number of operating quarry areas. The GEMCO mining operations involve the following sequence of activities:

- ▶ Clearing vegetation using bulldozers;
- ▶ Stripping and stockpiling topsoil;
- ▶ Excavating overburden material in order to gain access to the ore body - commonly referred to as pre-stripping;
- ▶ Drilling and blasting the exposed manganese ore;
- ▶ Mining the ore using a truck and excavator fleet;
- ▶ Using overburden to fill mined quarry areas after the ore body has been removed; and
- ▶ Progressive rehabilitation of backfilled areas.

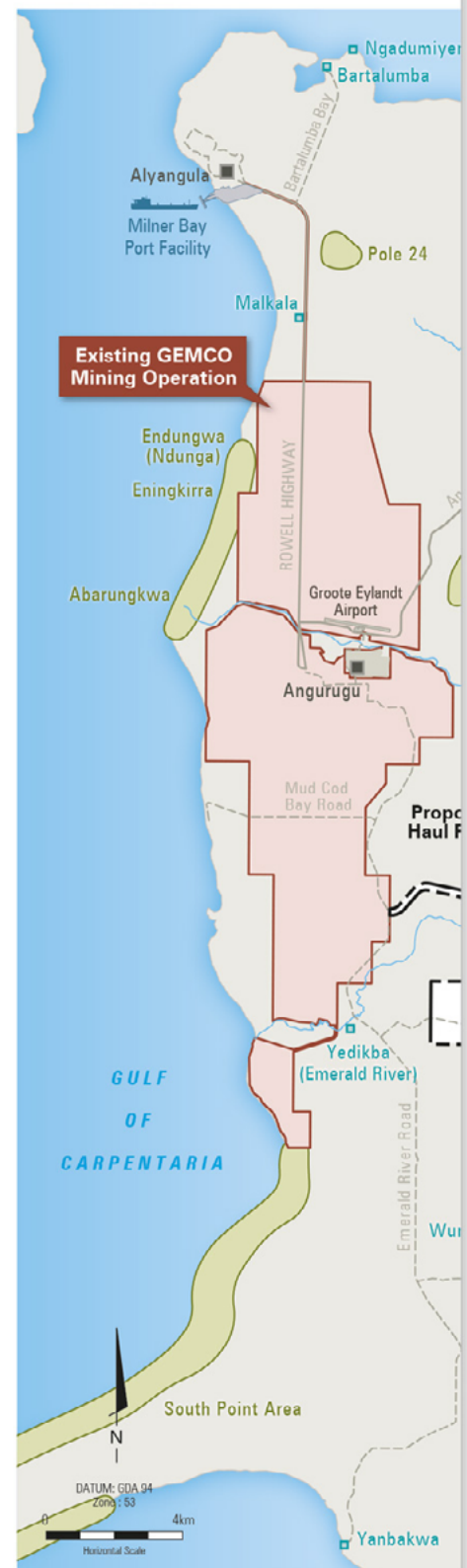
Rehabilitation is designed to restore mined land to a self-sustaining open woodland, similar to the pre-mining environment and the surrounding undisturbed land.

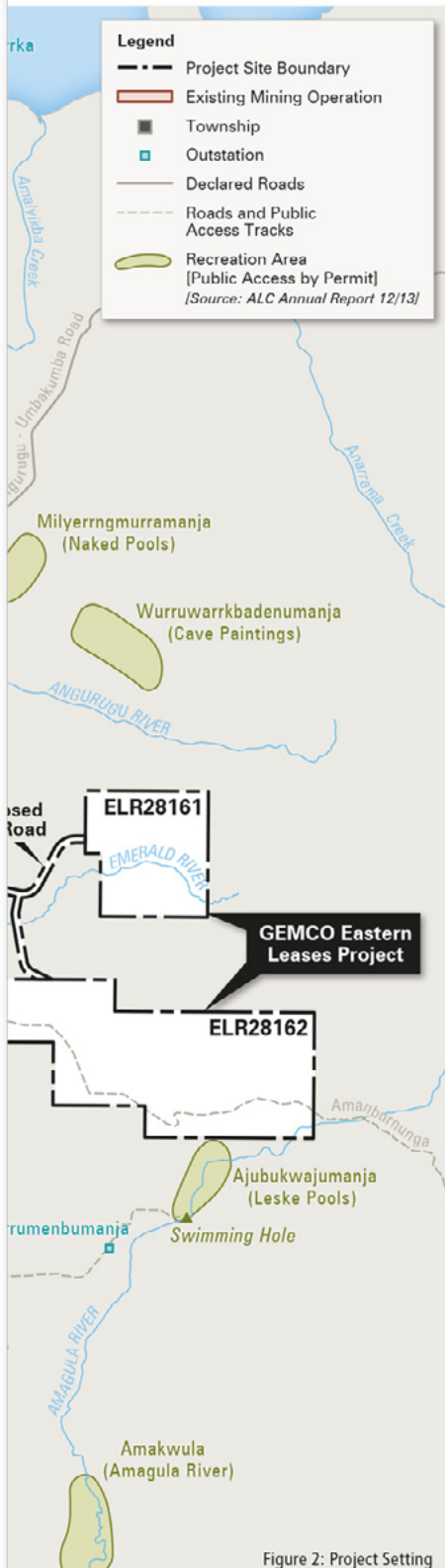


Overburden removal at the existing GEMCO mine.



Existing workforce accommodation





GEMCO Eastern Leases Project

The Eastern Leases comprise two separate tenements (Exploration Licences in Retention (ELR) 28161 and 28162) located approximately 2 km east of the existing GEMCO mine (Figure 2). GEMCO proposes converting the Eastern Leases ELRs to Mineral Leases.

The Eastern Leases are located on Aboriginal land, scheduled under the Northern Territory *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976* (ALRA). Consequently, GEMCO plans to negotiate with the Anindilyakwa Land Council a new Mining Agreement, and a Section 19 Agreement under ALRA.

The Eastern Leases are located in the upper catchments of the Emerald, Amagula and Angurugu Rivers. The land within and surrounding the Eastern Leases comprises natural bushland.

The project is a continuation of existing GEMCO operations and involves:

- ▶ Developing a number of quarries and mining manganese ore using the same methods as those used at the existing GEMCO operations;

- ▶ Constructing a haul road to connect the Eastern Leases to the existing GEMCO operations including a crossing of the Emerald River and other minor waterways;
- ▶ Transporting mined ore from the Eastern Leases to the existing GEMCO mine concentrator for processing; and
- ▶ Undertaking progressive rehabilitation of mined areas in the Eastern Leases.

Only minor infrastructure (e.g. dams, crib huts, parking areas and laydown yards) is required to be constructed on the Eastern Leases.

No changes or upgrades to the existing GEMCO mine processing and port facilities are required as part of the project.

The project will not increase the production rate of the existing GEMCO mine, but will increase the life of mine by approximately three to four years.

The project will require a construction workforce of approximately 90 people. The project will utilise the workforce of the existing GEMCO mine, and no additional operations phase workforce will be required.



EIS Approval Process

An EIS is being prepared for the project under the Northern Territory *Environmental Assessment Act 1982* (EA Act). The EIS process is required to be completed before government approval can be obtained for the project. The EIS process is administered by the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA). The flow chart on the right provides a summary of the EIS preparation and approval process for the project.

The NT EPA will develop draft EIS Guidelines that outline the required scope for the EIS studies. Stakeholders can comment on the draft EIS Guidelines, when they are placed on public exhibition. Stakeholders will be advised of the commencement of the public exhibition period through the GEMCO Weekly Roundup.

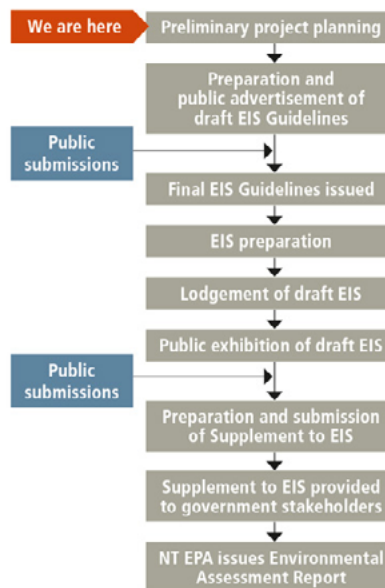
Once the EIS Guidelines have been finalised, GEMCO will then complete the EIS and submit it to the NT EPA. The EIS will be placed on public exhibition and stakeholders will be invited to make submissions to the NT EPA on the EIS. A Supplement to the EIS will be prepared in response to any submissions received. The NT EPA will assess the draft EIS and the Supplement, and produce an Assessment Report that will describe the key issues associated with the project and provide

recommendations to GEMCO with respect to environmental management.

The EIS is anticipated to be submitted to the NT EPA in Q2 2015.

The EIS will also be used to support an application for approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

EIS Approval Process



EIS Studies

EIS specialist studies will include the following:

- ▶ Flora and fauna;
- ▶ Surface water;
- ▶ Groundwater;
- ▶ Mine water management;
- ▶ Noise and vibration;
- ▶ Air quality and greenhouse gases;
- ▶ Soils and land capability;
- ▶ Rehabilitation and closure;
- ▶ Cultural heritage and archaeology;
- ▶ Visual amenity; and
- ▶ Socio-economics.

These studies will include a continuation of baseline monitoring and field surveys.

Stakeholder Engagement

A stakeholder consultation program will be conducted throughout the EIS process. The first phase of consultation will involve meetings with stakeholders to provide information about the project and the EIS process, and to capture people's issues and concerns relative to the project. Meetings will be held on Groote Eylandt in June 2014. Meetings will be set-up in late May. If you would like to meet with the project team please contact John Hansen to arrange a suitable time.



Further Information

If you would like further information about the project, the EIS or the consultation program please do not hesitate to contact:

John Hansen

Superintendent External Affairs GEMCO

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Email GEMCOCommunity@bhpbilliton.com

Web www.bhpbilliton.com

Hansen Bailey
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

ATTACHMENTS

5-3 Community Information Sheet 2



bhpbilliton
resourcing the future

Eastern Leases Project

Community Information Sheet 2

EIS Consultation Feedback

January 2015



EIS consultation in Umbakumba

This is Community Information Sheet 2 (CIS2) for the Eastern Leases Project (the project). CIS2 provides stakeholders with a summary of the key issues and questions that were raised during the first round of consultation. It also provides GEMCO's response to these issues and questions.

GEMCO operates the existing manganese mine on Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory.

GEMCO is proposing to access additional manganese resources in an area to the east of the existing GEMCO mine (Figure 1). The project proponent is GEMCO which has two shareholders, BHP Billiton Manganese Australia Pty Ltd (60%) and Anglo Operations (Australia) Pty Ltd (40%).

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for the project to support applications for government environmental approvals.

A stakeholder consultation program is also being undertaken as part of the EIS process. An overview of the project, the approvals process and the EIS stakeholder engagement program was provided in CIS1. CIS1 was circulated to the stakeholders on Groote Eylandt in June 2014 during the first round of consultation.

The purpose of this first round of consultation was to identify stakeholders' issues and concerns relating to the project. Approximately 55 individuals participated in a series of 40 face-to-face meetings. Participants included residents of Alyangula, Angurugu and Umbakumba; service providers on Groote Eylandt; Territory and Local Government agencies; community groups; and owners of small businesses. Thank you to all the stakeholders who participated in the initial round of EIS consultation.

Further Information

If you would like further information about the project, the EIS or the consultation program please do not hesitate to contact:

John Hansen
Superintendent External Affairs GEMCO

Phone (08) 8987 4451
Mobile 0427 182 497
Email GEMCOCommunity@bhpbilliton.com
Web www.bhpbilliton.com



Setting up traps for fauna survey

Stakeholder Issues

Spirituality

Traditional Owners raised concerns in relation to the potential impacts of the project on spiritual values. These values related to:

- ▶ Sacred sites;
- ▶ Songlines; and
- ▶ Caring for land and water.

GEMCO is currently initiating a process with the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) in relation to the identification and management of sacred sites (including songlines). This process is being undertaken in parallel with the EIS process. The sacred sites assessment will culminate in an application for an Authority Certificate under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.

The EIS will assess the impacts of the project on land and water. Key EIS studies will include:

- ▶ Flora and Fauna;
- ▶ Surface Water;
- ▶ Groundwater;
- ▶ Air Quality; and
- ▶ Rehabilitation and Closure Planning.

Water

Stakeholders raised concerns about the potential impact of the project on water quality and water flows in the Emerald River and the Amagula River. The rivers were identified as recreation resources and important sources of potable water and food.

GEMCO acknowledges that the Emerald and Amagula Rivers are sensitive areas for Traditional Owners and important resources for the broader Aboriginal community of Groote Eylandt. A key objective in developing the project mine plan is to ensure that project activities do not cause environmental harm to the Emerald and Amagula Rivers.

The following EIS studies will be undertaken to assess potential impacts on water resources and identify any necessary mitigation measures:

- ▶ Surface Water, including:
 - Collection of baseline water quality data;
 - An assessment of flood extents; and
 - Mine water management system modelling.
- ▶ Groundwater, including:
 - Installation of a groundwater monitoring network;
 - Collection of monitoring data; and
 - Groundwater modelling.
- ▶ Geochemistry, including:
 - Analysis of the chemical properties of overburden to identify potential pollutants.

Leske Pools

Stakeholders raised concerns about the potential impact of the project on the water quality and amenity of Leske Pools.

Leske Pools is a recreational swimming hole located on the Amagula River. It is situated outside the Eastern Leases Project Site to the immediate south of the Southern Eastern Lease (Figure 1). The EIS will assess potential impacts on water quality and flows of the Amagula River. The EIS will also assess the potential impacts of the project on the amenity value of Leske Pools. This will be done through noise and air quality studies.

Fauna

Stakeholders, particularly Traditional Owners, were concerned about potential project impacts on fauna in the project site.

A comprehensive, two-season flora and fauna survey will be undertaken as part of the EIS. It will assess terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, and include targeted searches for threatened fauna species. The EIS will describe mitigation strategies to minimise and reduce potential impacts on fauna.



Frilled Lizard



Rehabilitated land (planted 25 years ago)

Rehabilitation

Stakeholders sought clarification in relation to rehabilitation practices at the existing GEMCO mine and raised questions in relation to the rehabilitation practices proposed for the project.

The EIS will include a comprehensive description of the rehabilitation strategy proposed for the project. The approach to rehabilitation will be consistent with established practices at the existing GEMCO mine. GEMCO's rehabilitation practices include rehabilitating mined areas to create self-sustaining open woodland ecosystems, similar to the pre-mining undisturbed land. Rehabilitated landforms will have gentle slopes, and topography similar to the pre-mining landform. Topsoil is stripped ahead of mining and respread on areas where mining has been completed, in preparation for rehabilitation. Native ecosystems are created in rehabilitated areas by making use of locally collected seeds, as well as the seeds present in the topsoil.

GEMCO has many decades of rehabilitation experience on Groote Eylandt, and has been successful in creating sustainable ecosystems in rehabilitated areas.

GEMCO currently operates a comprehensive, long-term monitoring program that is designed to evaluate the success of mine rehabilitation. Rehabilitation at over 100 separate sites across the existing operation is monitored and assessed. Rehabilitation performance is regularly audited against success criteria by internal and external specialists to ensure the ongoing improvement and long-term sustainability of mine rehabilitation practices. The ALC also undertakes regular inspections of rehabilitated areas.

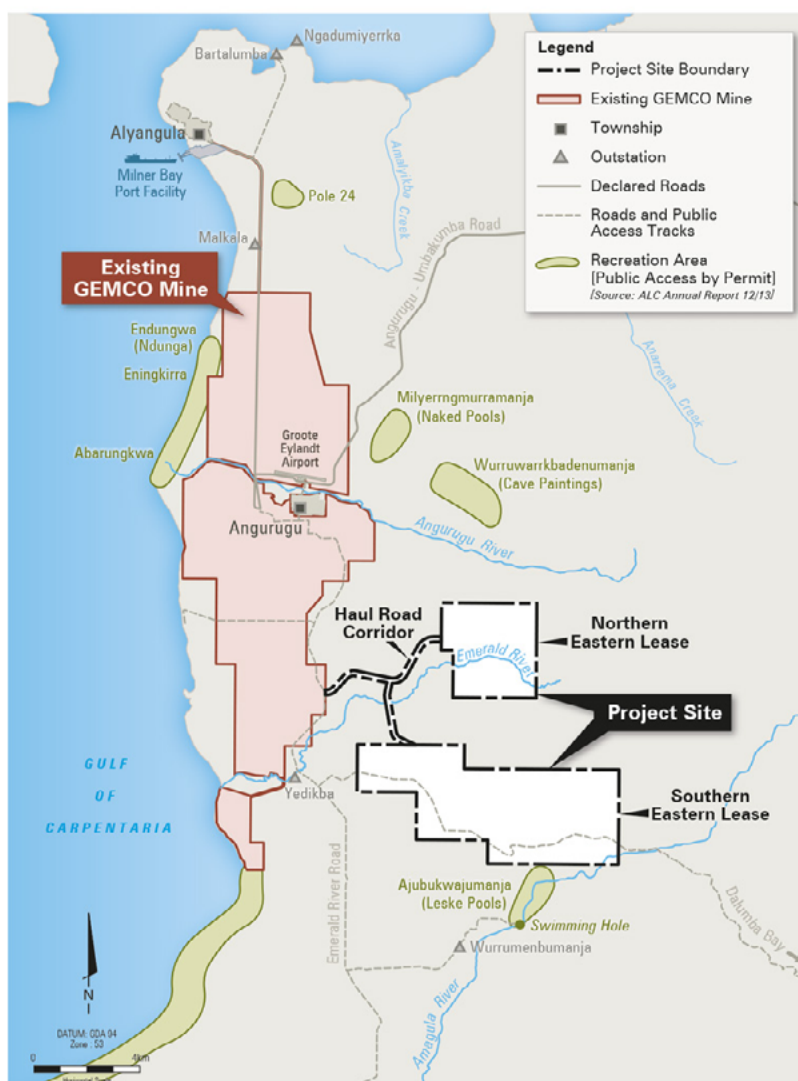


Figure 1 Project Setting

Stakeholder Values

The EIS consultation program provided an opportunity for the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities on Groote Eylandt to identify socio-economic values of importance.

Aboriginal participants in the EIS consultation program identified land and water resources on Groote Eylandt as holding important traditional and spiritual values. Aboriginal participants also

described a strong desire for the protection of the Anindilyakwa language and culture.

Employment and self-reliance for the Aboriginal communities on Groote Eylandt were highlighted as key values by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants.

During the EIS consultation program, Alyangula residents identified the sense of community and the continuation of a

residential population in Alyangula as key values. Community safety, participation in local events and access to recreation areas were also identified as important to the Alyangula community.

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SIA) prepared for the project as part of the EIS will consider the impact of the project on these values.



Archaeological survey

Common Stakeholder Questions

Will the workforce be Fly-In Fly-Out (FIFO)?

The project will require a short-term construction workforce of approximately 90 people. The majority of this construction workforce will be employed on a short-term FIFO arrangement.

The operations workforce at the existing GEMCO mine is approximately 860 people. It is anticipated that a proportion of the existing GEMCO workforce will be gradually transitioned to the project, meaning that the project will not increase the size of GEMCO's existing operations workforce. The project will not give rise to any changes to GEMCO's current workforce FIFO arrangements.

Will the road to Dalumba Bay be closed?

The road to Dalumba Bay traverses the Southern Eastern Lease (Figure 1). This road will be realigned in consultation with the ALC and the East Arnhem Regional Council, which is responsible for the maintenance of this road.

Will the project require a new Mining Agreement?

A new Mining Agreement and a Section 19 agreement under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* will be required before the project can commence. GEMCO is currently in negotiations with the ALC in relation to these agreements.



Flora and fauna surveys

EIS Approval Process

An EIS is being prepared for the project under the *Northern Territory Environmental Assessment Act 1982*. The EIS process is required to be completed before government approval can be obtained for the project. The EIS process is administered by the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA). The flow chart on the right provides a summary of the EIS preparation and approval process for the project.

Public exhibition of the draft EIS Terms of Reference (TOR) has been completed. The NT EPA released the final EIS TOR in

September 2014 and a copy of the EIS TOR can be downloaded from the NT EPA's webpage (www.ntepa.nt.gov.au). Preparation of the EIS has now commenced.

Issues raised during the first round of consultation relating to potential environmental and social impacts of the project will be addressed in the technical studies undertaken for the EIS. The EIS is anticipated to be submitted to the NT EPA in Q2 2015. The EIS will then be placed on public exhibition and stakeholders will be invited to make submissions to the NT EPA on the EIS.

EIS Approval Process



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