

H

Community Consultation Report



Arafura Resources

Appendix H: Community Consultation Report

Nolans Project

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This consultation report covers consultation by Arafura Resources Limited (Arafura) for its Nolans project, with a particular focus on issues raised since work began on the current Environmental Impact Statement in February 2015 and 36 dedicated interviews for the project's Social Impact Assessment.

Another round of consultation is planned in March and April 2016, including:

- a presentation to the annual mining seminar in Alice Springs
- a meeting between the Arafura Board and Regional Economic Development Committee in Alice Springs
- community information days in Ti Tree and Alice Springs
- media interviews
- another meeting with traditional owners
- meetings with key stakeholders in Alice Springs and Darwin.

Consultation was guided by a strategy prepared in February 2015. The objectives were to:

- maintain the confidence of the community and government that Arafura Resources can be trusted to responsively manage all social, environmental and economic impacts and communicate with cultural sensitivity, transparency and openness
- provide accurate, relevant and timely communication so stakeholders can provide informed input
- identify all stakeholders and their issues to inform good decision-making
- seek out the views of all these stakeholders
- establish a good risk management approach to identify and respond to issues early

The report should give Northern Territory and Australian Government regulators confidence that Arafura Resources has informed and listened to stakeholders and the community, clearly defined all social, economic and environmental impacts arising from the project and established appropriate management strategies to deal with them.

Key issues raised by stakeholders during consultation related to:

- groundwater
- jobs and economic opportunities
- the struggle by other employers to recruit Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff in Alice Springs and the region around the Nolans project
- likely social impacts from an influx of workers for the project
- concerns about potential impacts to social cohesion that may flow from the payment of wages and cash royalties.

The feedback is detailed below, first against the chapters of the EIS, then in a table of key issues raised during Social Impact Assessment interviews and finally in greater detail accompanied by the company's response and a reference to the relevant chapter of the EIS.

The Social Impact Management Plan (see Appendix S) for the project provides a detailed summary of suggested ongoing consultation for the Nolans project, including the importance of building trusting and transparent relationships, setting up a community reference group, hiring mentors and community liaison officers and use of a sustainability report format to continue reporting against commitments to the community.

2. BACKGROUND

The project

Arafura Resources Limited (Arafura) is developing the Nolans rare earths project (Nolans project) near Aileron in Central Australia, 135 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs.

The project covers a rare earths open cut mine, concentrator, an intermediate processing plant, accommodation village, ancillary plant and supporting infrastructure.

Arafura plans to mine, concentrate and chemically process rare earths at the Nolans site then transport the concentrate as an intermediate product to an offshore separation plant for final processing into high-value rare earth products.

The study area covers the project site on Aileron Station, to the west of the Stuart Highway. This is the traditional land of the Anmatyerr people who live in the nearby Alyuen family outstation, Pmara Jutunta (Six Mile Camp), Laramba, other camps and communities around the town of Ti Tree 55 km to the north of the project. Alice Springs is the closest regional and government administration centre and the likely source of many workers, services, supplies.

It is proposed to start construction in 2017, with a peak construction workforce of between 400 and 500, leading to operations three years later with an estimated workforce of 250 to 300. Based on the predicted work-ready workforce, it is likely that 70 per cent of workers will be fly-in fly-out (FIFO) from other parts of Australia and 30 per cent will come from local communities, Alice Springs or other parts of the Northern Territory (including families who relocate to Alice Springs to work at the project). FIFO workers will be flown to Alice Springs and bussed to site. Alice Springs and other local workers will be bussed to site to reduce the use of private vehicles.

Arafura will build a permanent accommodation village for 400 workers and a temporary mobile accommodation camp during construction. Some additional staff and contractors will stay at the Aileron Roadhouse, 10 km east of the project site.

Key elements of the project include:

- an open cut mine with an initial mine life of 43 years, producing 20,000 tonnes a year (tpa) of rare earth products
- a concentrator that crushes, grinds and concentrates the mined ore and pumps impurities to a tailings dam
- a slurry pipeline between a concentrator at the mine site and the intermediate processing plant
- a sulphuric acid plant, residue storage facilities and evaporation ponds at the processing site
- a gas offtake pipeline from the Amadeus Basin to Darwin high pressure gas pipeline and an 18.5 MW gas-fired power station
- bores at Reaphook Hills, with water pumped to a desalination plant and demineralisation plant
- access and haul roads from the Stuart Highway to the various components of the site
- trucking rare earth concentrate to Alice Springs and railing it to the Port of Darwin for export to an offshore chemical processing plant in South Korea.

Background

The project was announced in April 2007 as a rare earths, uranium, thorium and phosphate deposit, when Arafura Resources opened an office in Darwin. A Notice of Intent was lodged with the Northern Territory Government in March 2008, Arafura Resources was advised in April 2008 that the project would be accorded major project status and there was extensive stakeholder consultation in 2007 and 2008.

Arafura initially planned to locate a chemical processing plant in Darwin and there were discussions with various parties to build it. However, this option was ruled out, based on government advice that there was a lack of sufficient, suitable and competitively priced land, power and water.

In late 2008, work on the Environmental Impact Statement stalled due to the global financial crisis.

In February, 2009 Chinese company ECE announced its intention to invest in Arafura Resources. Company representatives visited Alice Springs and met with traditional owners at Aileron.

The company lodged its Mineral Lease Application, which provoked a large number of form letters opposing the project, mainly on the basis of linking global nuclear proliferation to the uranium component of the Nolans Project and proposed use of water from the Ti Tree Basin.

In September 2010, Arafura announced that the processing plant would be shifted to Whyalla, South Australia. Adelaide-based Michels Warren was engaged to coordinate community engagement in South Australia and worked with AECOM to prepare an EIS and Social Impact Assessment for the South Australian Environmental Impact Statement.

Key Alice Springs stakeholders were briefed in December 2011, prior to GHD starting interviews for the Territory Social Impact Assessment. However in February 2012, the Environmental Impact Assessment was again put on hold due to capital raising issues.

In April, 2013 Arafura Resources announced a review and a further reconfiguration of the project aimed at significantly reducing costs. This was based largely on finding a new source of water in the Southern Basins. This reconfiguration means an intermediate processing plant will be built in Central Australia and the final chemical separation processing plant will be built at an offshore chemical processing plant.

In December 2014, Arafura Resources lodged an amended Notice of Intent with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority. New Draft Terms of Reference were advertised in July 2015. A new *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Control Act* referral to the Australian Government was lodged in January 2015 and the project was declared a controlled action in February 2015.

The reconfiguration addressed two concerns raised frequently in early consultation:

1. Arafura's use of water from the Ti Tree Basin leading to potential competition for groundwater resources with communities and a thriving horticultural district.
2. Management of radioactive materials being transported outside the boundaries of the site (i.e. on public roads).

While moving the intermediate processing plant to the Nolans site in Central Australia brings many additional benefits to the Territory and resolves concerns such as those outlined above, it also introduces new issues, such as the transport of increased amounts of chemicals, increased traffic on the Stuart Highway, and project of a much greater industrial scale, particularly when compared with existing land use.

Technical aspects of potential risks are dealt with in various chapters of the Environmental Impact Statement, together with the results of a comprehensive risk assessment (see Appendix G).

Social risks are assessed in the project's Social Impact Assessment (SIA) which considers impacts from the perspective of people, their lives, their livelihoods and lifestyles (Appendix S).

This consultation report attempts to capture the feedback from a broad range of stakeholders who have been spoken to during planning and regulatory assessment stages of the project, their positive and negative feedback and how their issues will be addressed in the EIS or otherwise by Arafura.

There will be further community consultation while the EIS is on public exhibition.

EPA Requirements for community consultation

The following are requirements by the NT Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Terms of Reference for preparation of the Nolans project EIS (May 2015) and EPA Guidelines for the preparation of an Economic and Social Impact Assessment (November 2013).

Table 2-1: Summary of risks and opportunities for population and communities, indicators and measurement

Requirement of the EPA Terms of Reference	How this is addressed
Any consultation that has taken place, including consultation strategies for the Social Impact Assessment and an ongoing strategy as part of the Social Impact Assessment	This report outlines consultation activities and the methodology adopted.
Consultation with Indigenous stakeholders and traditional owners for areas potentially affected	See below under responses to ESIA guidelines
A list of persons and agencies consulted during the EIS	Not all stakeholders wanted to be identified by name. See list of organisations consulted at 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 of this report.
Documented response to or result of the consultation for the project	The documentation of responses is covered by a Stakeholder Management database. A summary of issues raised is documented at 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3. A more detailed outline of issues raised and Arafura responses is contained in Table 4-2. No information is disclosed which breaches confidentiality, privacy or matters of cultural sensitivity.
Proposed consultation about relevant impacts of the project.	A proposed consultation program on the EIS is outlined at 3.3.4. Commitments for ongoing consultation are outlined in the Social Impact Management Plan commitments register.
Identification of affected parties, including a statement mentioning any communities that may be affected and describing the views.	This is covered throughout both the consultation report and the scoping section of the Social Impact Assessment report, where qualitative feedback is given a strong emphasis.
Discussion of methodology	See below in Section 3
Changes made to the project as a result of consultation	See below in Section 3.6
Requirement of the EPA's ESIA guidelines	How this is addressed
Social assessment to be based on consultation with and involvement of the community.	The Nolans project SIA was heavily influenced by consultation with residents, landholders, industry groups, interest groups service providers and government agencies.
Consultation should cover project construction, operational and decommissioning phases and consequences of land use change.	Consultation covered all stages of the project, although the greatest interest was in opportunities and risks during construction and operations and to a lesser degree longer-term impacts from mine closure.
Consultation should take account of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Participation for the appropriate level of community involvement.	The consultant has an IAP2 Certificate in Public Participation, has completed two units of the Advanced Certificate and has extensive experience of consultation with people in Central Australia and Aboriginal communities. See Section 3 of this report for an outline of methodology.
Appropriate consultation with Aboriginal people	Formal consultation with traditional owners for this project has been coordinated by the Central Land Council, which has a strong interest and considerable experience in appropriate consultation with Aboriginal people. Groups such as the Central Desert Regional Council has provided advice on how people want to be consulted. Aboriginal traditional owners and rangers have contributed to ecological and water surveys. Anmatyerr traditional owners have helped with translation at meetings, including one person with a strong background in mining. Arafura has built a strong relationship with a senior custodian, Eric Panagke, and has kept him informed and taken advice at all stages of the project.

3. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION APPROACH

The *Enduring Value – Australian Minerals Industry Framework for Sustainable Development* describes sustainable development as investment in minerals projects that are “financially profitable, technically appropriate, environmentally sound and socially responsible”.

Good community engagement should contribute to the enduring value framework by ensuring people, or social impacts, are given the same weight as the environmental and technical aspects of project assessment.

Good engagement practice should:

- minimise risks, such as project delays from avoidable mistakes
- draw on community knowledge to inform decisions and design solutions
- bring stakeholders on the journey
- guide effective communication or explanations that build understanding
- ensure internal and external stakeholders have a shared understanding of the project.

Consultation and provision of objective and meaningful information are a key element of engagement. Consultation for the Nolans project was informed by the principles and core values (see Figure 3-1) of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) and the International Association for Impact Assessment’s 2015 *Social Impact Assessment: Guidance for assessing and managing the social impacts of projects*. Both have a strong emphasis on stakeholder consultation to ensure the views all groups are taken into account. The IAIA guidelines also have a focus on the concept of ‘free, prior and informed consent’ to ensure the views of vulnerable and disadvantaged people are taken into account.

Consultation for the Nolans Project is also in line with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority’s 2013 *Guidelines for the preparation of an Economic and Social Impact Assessment*, which refers to the importance of consultation and recognising the specific needs of Indigenous people.

3.1 Strategy

In preparation for the Environmental Impact Statement and Social Impact Assessment, a consultation and communication strategy was prepared to guide the process and ensure stakeholder feedback contributed to scoping of issues to be covered by the EIS. The Social Impact Assessment had a strong focus on qualitative research and analysis to complement quantitative baseline data. This supports a growing emphasis by the International Association of Impact Assessment on considering the social impacts of projects from inception to beyond closure, particularly when projects impact on disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

Ongoing – recommendations of the Social Impact Assessment

Recommendations and commitments in the Social Impact Assessment will include ongoing community engagement to inform Arafura’s social performance and ensure the company maintains good relationships with the community in which it is operating (see Social Impact Management Plan at Appendix S).

Figure 3-1: IAP2 Core Values

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values for the practice of public participation:

1. The public should have a say in decisions about actions that could affect their lives.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public’s contribution will influence the decision.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

3.2 Consultation goal and objectives

Consultation goal

To build the relationships, trust and understanding necessary for Arafura Resources to operate in partnership with diverse Central Australian community stakeholders and community groups, capture their aspirations and concerns and deliver good social outcomes.

Objectives of the consultation strategy

To:

- give Northern Territory and Australian Government regulators confidence that Arafura Resources Ltd has informed and listened to stakeholders and general community, clearly defined all social, economic and environmental impacts arising from the project and established appropriate management strategies to deal with them
- maintain the confidence of the community and government that Arafura Resources can be trusted to responsively manage all social, environmental and economic impacts and communicate with cultural sensitivity, transparency and openness
- provide accurate, relevant and timely communication so stakeholders can provide informed input
- identify all stakeholders and their issues to inform good decision-making
- seek out the views of all these stakeholders
- establish a good risk management approach to identify and respond to issues early.

3.3 Methodology

Some elements of the required methodology to achieve these objectives include:

- working through existing networks such as the Central Land Council and Central Desert Regional Council to ensure consultation reaches all stakeholders and adapts to their needs, especially hard to reach, disadvantaged and vulnerable communities
- working in partnership and taking the time to do things properly
- respecting different cultures and worldviews, local and traditional knowledge
- ensuring communication is tailored to the needs of various stakeholders and clearly explains the scale, nature and implications of the project
- ensuring stakeholders hear about the project directly, have a chance to seek clarification and ask questions
- providing feedback on issues discussed and what happened as a result
- respecting confidentiality, privacy and the sensitivity of some traditional knowledge and stories.

3.3.1 Outline of activities

Since the Nolans Project was first announced in 2008, 189 stakeholder meetings and an additional 36 dedicated Social Impact Assessment interviews have been recorded. These statistics do not capture many government and technical meetings, several public presentations to industry and business groups and Arafura displays at forums such as the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar in Alice Springs for the past few years.

A range of tactics has been used to suit the needs and interests of various stakeholders, including:

- briefings of key stakeholder groups, including government departments and regulators
- on country meetings with traditional owners
- presentations to key stakeholders
- a site visit where key stakeholders were shown the location of all key elements of the project
- a lunch and briefing for nearby pastoralists
- attending the Aileron bush weekend to talk to pastoralists.

3.3.2 Social Impact Assessment interviews

A topic guide was used for the 36 Social Impact Assessment interviews, most of them in Ti Tree and Alice Springs. Interviewees included:

- Government departments, mostly in Alice Springs and Ti Tree, including:
 - Department of the Chief Minister
 - Department of Education (including a group of Ti Tree teachers)
 - Department of Health
 - Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
 - Department of Business
 - Department of Housing
 - Tourism NT
 - Power and Water Corporation
 - Department of Local Government and Community Services
 - Department of Correctional Services
 - Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
- Mayor of Alice Springs
- Central Desert Regional Council (various staff and elected members in Alice Springs and Anmatyerr Ward)
- Chamber of Commerce and individual business
- Arid Lands Environment Centre
- non-Government organisations such as NT Shelter, Waltja Tjutangu Palyapayi and the Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia
- two mining companies
- Australian Government, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Alice Springs
- employment service providers, including MAX Employment in Alice Springs and Central Desert Regional Council's Remote Jobs in Communities Program (now Community Development Program)

- Central Land Council
- Aileron Roadhouse
- Aileron Pastoral Holdings
- The consultant also attended a labour market briefing by the Australian Government's Department of Employment in Alice Springs.

3.3.3 General consultation for the project

The Social Impact Assessment and this consultation report also drew on previous consultation and general consultation by Arafura during preparation of the EIS. This has included:

- Central Australian politicians, Ministers the Opposition, advisers and political candidates
- Central Land Council and traditional owners, including on country meetings
- Central Desert Regional Council managers, Council meetings in Alice Springs, Anmatyerr Regional Authority meetings in Ti Tree and Laramba and a site visit by the President and senior management
- Alice Springs Town Council
- Chamber of Commerce and industry briefings
- Industry Capability Network (ICN) of the NT
- Minerals Council of Australia
- Department of the Chief Minister (including a site visit)
- Department of Mines and Energy (including site visits)
- Departments of Lands, Planning and the Environment
- Department of Land Resource Management
- Power and Water Corporation
- Department of Business
- Department of Health
- Department of Education
- Department of Primary Industries
- Department of Transport
- Darwin Port Corporation (now Darwin Port)
- Genesee & Wyoming
- Office of North Australia (Australian Government)
- North Australia Development Office (NADO)
- NT Parks and Wildlife Commission
- Australian Government's Department of the Environment, including a site visit
- Australian Government's Department of Education
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Alice Springs and Ti Tree
- Office of the Supervising Scientist

- the former Coordinator General for Remote Services Bob Beadman
- Environment Protection Authority Board site visit
- Alice Springs branch of the Country Liberals
- pastoralists, including attendance at the Aileron Bush Weekend, visits to stations, a briefing and site visit in 2015
- government regulator group meetings in Alice Springs and Darwin, coordinated through the EPA and DME
- Regional Coordination Group (key government departments) in Alice Springs
- environmental groups in Darwin and Alice Springs
- presentations in public forums, including Chamber of Commerce events and annual mining forums (as part of AGES)
- Centrefarm
- Desert Knowledge Australia
- Alice Springs businesses, consultants, employment and training providers and individuals.
- Alice Springs media.

This list does not include many stakeholders consulted when other project configurations were being discussed, such as Darwin stakeholders regarding a proposed processing plant at Middle Arm and South Australian stakeholders when a processing plant was under discussion for Whyalla. Many technical meetings have not been captured for the purposes of this report.

Many other stakeholders have been kept informed of the project through written communication.

A commitments register was established to record all commitments made to stakeholders by various Arafura staff since the project began.

3.3.4 EIS briefings

Early consultation informed the risk assessment process for the Nolans project and studies for the EIS. It is proposed to hold another round of briefings and community meetings in March and April, including while the EIS is on public exhibition, to provide feedback on the issues raised during earlier consultation, seek feedback on the EIS and provide information on how stakeholders can provide formal feedback on the EIS. This will include:

- community open days in Alice Springs and Ti Tree, with displays, presentations and a chance to ask questions of Arafura management and key project consultants
- a presentation to this year's Mining Seminar, held in conjunction with AGES
- a briefing of the Alice Springs Regional Economic Development Committee and key business people
- Alice Springs Town Council
- traditional owners
- pastoralists
- key stakeholders in Alice Springs and Darwin
- media briefings.

Industry briefings will be held by Arafura with Tier One contractors once the project reaches the Final Investment Decision.

3.3.5 Communication tools

Consultation to date has been supported by communication tools such as fact sheets and PowerPoint presentations, supported by corporate documents, Arafura's website and media releases.

A range of communication tools will help ensure a transparent and meaningful approach during the final phase of EIS consultation, which will also serve as a feedback loop for earlier consultation and show how issues raised by stakeholders were taken account of, including the need for clear and visual communication on issues such as radiation and water issues.

The primary emphasis of this phase will be face to face consultation and giving stakeholders and the wider public a chance to get objective information on the project, provide their feedback and ask questions.

These tools will be adapted to the needs and interests of different target audiences and will include:

- a summary document of the EIS
- 'story books' or visual portrayals of information on radiation and water
- formal presentations and briefings
- maps, diagrams and display materials
- fact sheets
- a dedicated project webpage on Arafura's site
- public notices advising where copies of the EIS can be read
- media coverage.

3.3.6 Influence of stakeholder and community consultation

In line with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values (see Figure 3.1), Arafura's general consultation has played a significant role in shaping risk assessment, studies required for the EIS and project decisions. Key issues shaped by consultation are:

- feedback from regulators and public perceptions around taking large volumes of water from the Ti Tree Basin were key factors in Arafura searching for alternative water sources and relocating the intermediate processing plant in a different basin (see EIS, Chapter 7)
- insights from SIA interviews about labour shortages as well as the challenges and lessons learned from other organisation's attempts to maximise Aboriginal employment have influenced predictions about the likely level of local employment
- feedback from Laramba residents about their concerns that Arafura may impact on their drinking water led Arafura to consider more fully how information on surface and groundwater is presented to this community.

3.3.7 Constraints

Best practice consultation is based on good planning, relationships, trust and good communication. Some of the constraints to effective engagement have included:

- delays, uncertainties and changes to project configuration
- not being able to communicate some issues accurately or in context until detailed studies were done, e.g. groundwater modelling
- changes of stakeholder and company personnel
- trying to avoid raising unrealistic expectations

- the Central Land Council expressing reservations about in depth consultation until the project is more certain
- language and cultural barriers
- remoteness and difficulties accessing some stakeholders.

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) addresses the issue of consultation for social impact assessments running the risk of creating, rather than describing impacts. The Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) outlines strategies for ongoing community engagement and communication to maintain relationships and keep the community informed, particularly once the company makes a decision to proceed with the project.

4. KEY ISSUES RAISED

The results of consultation for the Nolans project are presented in three ways:

1. A brief summary of key issues against EIS studies (see Section 4.1).
2. A summary of issues raised during SIA interviews (see 4.2)
3. A detailed outline of all issues raised during stakeholder and public consultation for the Nolans project to date (excluding the Darwin and Whyalla options), which stakeholder groups raised these issues, responses from Arafura and where these issues are addressed in the EIS (Table 4-3).

4.1 Summary of issues raised against EIS chapters

Table 4-1: Summary of EIS issues

EIS Chapter	Issues raised during consultation
Chapter 1: Introduction	N/a
Chapter 2: Regulatory context	Some comments from environmental groups about mining being excluded from the <i>Water Act</i> .
Chapter 3: Project description	Some comments about changes to the project configuration and the need for certainty, particularly when consulting with traditional owners.
Chapter 4: Project alternatives and cumulative impacts.	Comments on potential positive and negative cumulative social impacts if multiple projects start at the same time, such as putting pressure on business capacity, government and municipal services and availability of labour, diversifying risk and building the capacity of Alice Springs to provide services to the resource sector. The main relevant project in the immediate region of the Nolans project is TNG's Mount Peake project near Barrow Creek.
Chapter 5: Risk assessment	Social issues, including community fears and perceptions, are addressed in the SIA.
Chapter 6: Community consultation	Subject of this report
Chapter 7: Surface water	Few issues were raised in relation to surface water, apart from some queries about the implications of diverting Kerosene Camp Creek and potential of any dam failure to contaminate local creeks, particularly towards the Laramba community.
Chapter 8: Ground water and acid mine drainage	<p>Initial consultation suggested concerns about Arafura drawing water from the Ti Tree Basin, fears of potential communication and competition with other beneficial uses. Finding a large and previously unknown source of groundwater in the Southern Basins was a major consideration in the intermediate rare earths processing plant being moved back to the Northern Territory from Whyalla and locating it in a different basin to the Ti Tree Basin.</p> <p>Laramba residents expressed concerns about any potential impact on the community's drinking water, which is drawn from a borefield near Day Creek on Napperby Station. Water flow is unreliable (based on the age of a 30 km rising main not the quality of the aquifer). There were concerns about the potential for pollution if a dam failed, impacts from the project's draw-down of aquifers, and impacts on cultural values of watercourses on Anmatyerr country.</p>
Chapter 9: Biodiversity	<p>Potential impacts on biodiversity were raised but not as a major issue. Traditional owners said this was not good hunting country and were interested, rather than concerned, in wallaby studies. Local traditional knowledge contributed to ecological studies.</p> <p>Issues raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential impact on fauna corridors from access tracks and haul roads; • positive opportunities for ranger groups; • potential impacts on hunting and gathering medicine (not raised by traditional owners) • potential impacts on sacred and cultural sites (see Indigenous and Historical Cultural Assessment) • impacts on arts materials, such as bean trees • likely clearing of land (raised by the pastoralist) • potential for weeds (raised by the pastoralist)
Chapter 10: Matters of national environmental significance	Not raised but explained to traditional owners at on country meetings, which was of great interest. People had seen lots of wallabies but hadn't seen the skink or mulgaras.
Chapter 11: Human health and safety	<p>The key issues raised related to uranium, radiation, the transport of radioactive materials, how radioactive materials would be stored and public health issues for workers and residents from dust and radiation.</p> <p>Many initial objections to the project related to fears that the production of uranium would contribute to international nuclear issues, including weapons. (Arafura is no longer planning to produce uranium and all uranium and thorium will be extracted and stored on site.)</p> <p>Several stakeholders retain concerns about production and storage of radioactive wastes and potential contamination of water and dust.</p> <p>A small number of stakeholders referred to increased road safety risks on other road users and</p>

EIS Chapter	Issues raised during consultation
	increased emergency response risks in the event of a chemical spill.
Chapter 12: Radiation	As above, there were questions about the level of radiation from mined ore, the refined concentrate and storage of waste, in particular by environmental groups and the Central Land Council.
Chapter 13: Air quality	As above, the issue of dust, particularly with elevated levels of radiation, was raised by some stakeholders, including environmental groups and pastoralists.
Chapter 14: Other (noise and vibration)	Pastoralist raised the issue of impacts on amenity through industrial activity on Aileron station, including dust and noise from roads, plants and the accommodation village.
Chapter 15: Socioeconomic	<p>Many socioeconomic issues were raised during consultation and are covered in detail below. Key issues were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the potential regional economic benefits of the project from local businesses winning contracts and local jobs traditional owners in particular were interested in jobs for young people as well as the benefits package to be negotiated with Arafura failure to meet expectations of economic benefits struggles by other employers to attract and retain local labour (both Alice Springs and communities near the project and both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) concerns that a high proportion of FIFO workers would see the region miss out on economic benefits concerns about the payment of cash royalties, including conflict over the distribution of benefits, increased spending on alcohol and gambling impacts on public and private housing affordability and availability, both in Alice Springs and communities near the project impacts on community amenity as a result of worker behaviour and a large influx of workers the scale of the project, access and changed land use on Aileron Station the compatibility of organic farming with a large industrial operation such as Nolans the importance of earning a social licence to operate.
Chapter 16: Historic and cultural heritage	Issues about cultural heritage were raised mainly by the CLC in relation to whether Arafura was going through the proper processes to get sacred site clearances and avoiding works that could impact on sacred and other cultural sites.
Chapter 17: Transport	<p>The main issues in relation to transport related to the transport of radioactive waste and the potential for chemical spills.</p> <p>Police and Health raised concerns about the implications of increased industrial traffic on the Stuart Highway for road safety, particularly given that part of the highway is now a derestricted speed zone.</p> <p>Other transport issues raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased risk through trucks and more industrial traffic on the road coming into contact with tourist traffic potential impacts from collisions with unregistered vehicles and drink drivers from communities along the route, particularly if there is any increase in alcohol consumption from royalties pressure on local emergency response capacities to respond to any incidents, including crashes or chemical spills, triage and medical retrievals as a result of any incidents and whether there would be a need for more emergency response staff and vehicles, including ambulances safe transport of chemicals by road and rail.
Chapter 18: Rehabilitation, decommissioning and closure	Some questions were asked about rehabilitation of the site, whether the pit would be filled in and opportunities for local ranger groups in site rehabilitation.

4.2 Key issues raised during Social Impact Assessment interviews

As outlined above, there were 36 dedicated stakeholder interviews for the SIA, which comprised interviews to a pre-prepared topic guide. In general, interviewees thought the project would be beneficial for the region by providing much-needed economic activity and jobs. Many appreciated Arafura's intensive consultation approach and the chance to raise issues, while the feedback from interviews has enriched Arafura's understanding of potential issues. The feedback is covered in more detail in the SIA.

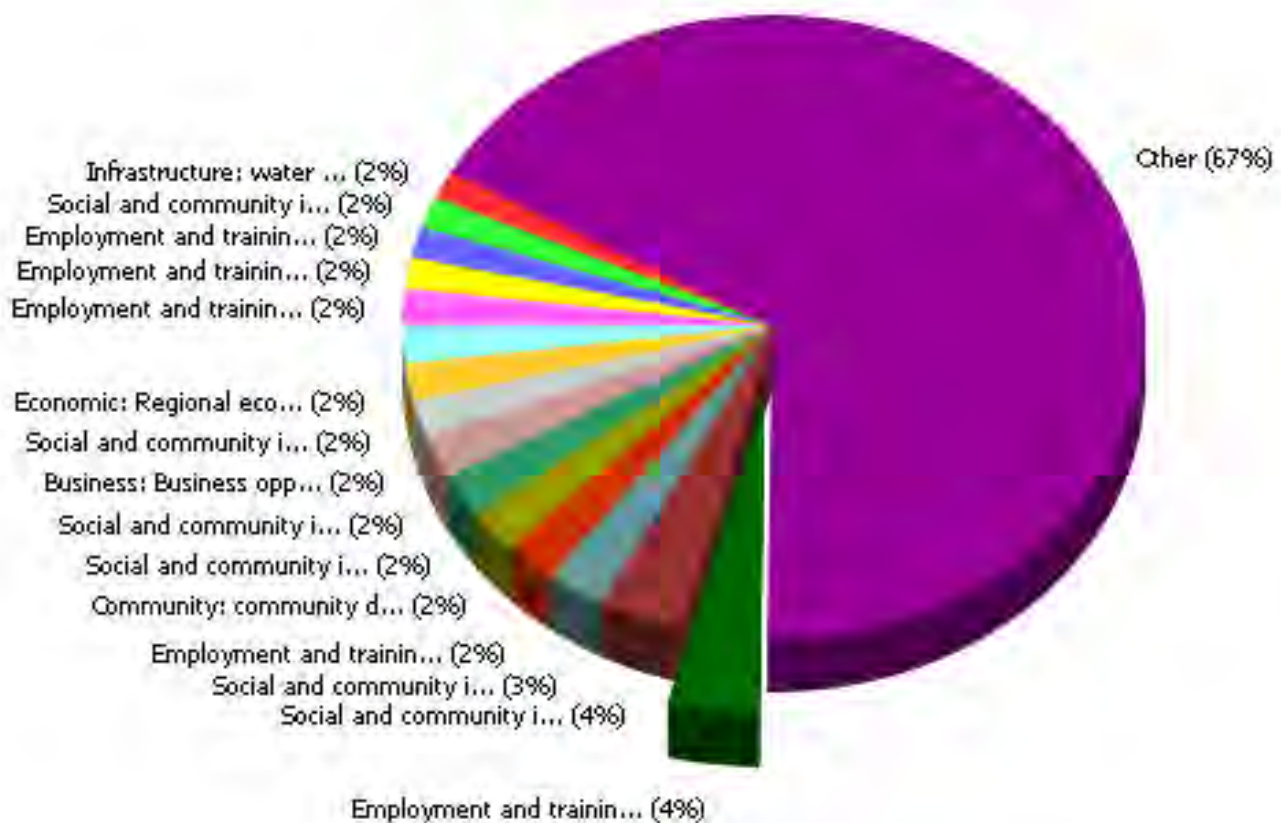
Table 4-2: Summary of top 15 issues raised in stakeholder interviews

Issues	Meetings in which raised	Stakeholders attending these meetings
Employment and training: Indigenous jobs	12	23
Social and community impacts: alcohol and drugs	11	15
Social and community impacts: housing availability	8	11
Social and community impacts: family conflict	7	11
Employment and training: recruitment to Alice Springs	7	8
Community: community development	7	10
Social and community impacts: royalties - cash payments	7	9
Business: Business opportunities	6	9
Economic: Regional economic development	6	7
Social and community impacts: housing affordability	6	7
Employment and training: jobs - struggle to fill	6	10
Infrastructure: water capacity	5	8
Employment and training: inability to recruit local workers	5	7
Employment and training: loss of staff to mine	5	8
Social and community impacts: mobility of people between communities	5	8
Other	208	277
Total Event search	36	51

Figure 4-1: Top 15 issues raised in SIA interviews (June to December 2015 – see above for complete labels)

The following is a summary.

Issues Raised - Total Events



4.3 More detailed outline of issues raised in consultation for the Nolans project 2012-2015

Table 4-3: Stakeholder issues and responses

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
Environmental			
1. Impact on the quality and availability of drinking water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in particular on Laramba, the closest community to Arafura's borefield heightened awareness of the use of water by mining because of current debate around fracking and water policy any impact on water for other beneficial uses, particularly the Ti Tree Aquifer providing water for horticulture around Ti Tree how much water the mine would use, where it would come from and to what extent the mine would recycle its water any potential for contamination of aquifers how Arafura's drilling for water in alternative basins might address the quality and availability of supply to communities, drinking water for the Aileron Roadhouse and improve productivity in more barren parts of pastoral properties Power and Water Corporation will want to see hydrologists' reports to ensure there is no impact on communities' drinking water, e.g. through use on roads queries about the implications of diverting Kerosene Camp Creek. 	Traditional owners, pastoralists, Power and Water Corporation, Aileron Roadhouse Central Desert Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arafura has moved the proposed intermediate processing plant to a different surface water catchment after the discovery of substantial groundwater in a deeper aquifer system with few other competing users. Hydrological studies suggest hydraulic connectivity between the Southern Basins and Ti Tree aquifer is unlikely, while surface water from the Southern Basins surface and groundwater travels west and south-west, away from the Ti Tree aquifer and towards Lake Lewis and Lake Mackay. Hydrological modelling suggests a very low likelihood of impacts on Laramba's ground or surface water supplies. Good communication will be needed to explain this (including visuals). 	Chapter 8
2. Land clearance changing the landscape: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with impacts on biodiversity, particularly if it impacts on habitats and creates dust the scale of the project and impact on visual amenity 	Traditional owners, Pastoralists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be clearing for the project but ecological studies suggest limited potential impacts on biodiversity. Areas shown in the EIS are greater than the area likely to be impacted as Arafura will minimise actual project disturbance. 	Chapter 14
3. Loss of plants and animals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> particularly through clearing and road corridors fragmenting habitats; the loss of species wasn't raised by many as an issue of concern and traditional owners said the mine footprint was on an area not generally used for hunting because it was relatively barren; ecological issues have been raised more in the context of contributing to ongoing land management and ranger programs. 	Regulators (requirements of Australian and NT Governments); Traditional owners (opportunities) Pastoralist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional owners have helped with ecological studies. Opportunities for rangers and local people's involvement in ongoing land management. Sustainability policy. 	Chapters 9 and 10

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
4. Rehabilitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how will the site be rehabilitated, what is the long-term safety of waste stored on site • what will happen with the pit, will it be filled in? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pit will not be filled in. • All waste storage will be designed for long-term safety. • Traditional owners will be consulted on mine closure and rehabilitation issues. 	Chapter 18
5. Climate change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how does the project consider the impacts of climate change and the increased demand for water as temperatures rise • suggestions to use solar energy as much as possible. 	Arid Lands Environment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water modelling over time and using long-term climate data 	
6. Regulatory issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Arid Lands Environment Centre raised concerns with regulatory issues, such as exempting mining from the <i>Water Act</i>. 	ALEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter for Government. 	
7. Cumulative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • while not a major issue, some concerns about the cumulative impacts of multiple resource projects on the environment • the need to consider cumulative impacts on land use, cultural values and use of bore water. 	ALEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EIS will consider cumulative impacts 	Chapter 4
Waste storage and transport			
8. Waste storage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature and safety of waste storage, particularly given the presence of uranium and thorium • how would waste rock and process residues be stored • what are the long-term risks of pollution • what is the risk of tailings dam failures • what is the level of radioactivity and how will it be increased through concentration of residues? 	Traditional owners, CLC, environmental groups, general community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste will remain on site in storage facilities. These will be of a high engineering standard in accordance with ANCOLD guidelines. At closure they will be covered to ensure the material within is secure and safe from erosion, posing little risk to the public or the environment. 	Chapter 12
9. Uranium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uranium was raised less frequently than in early stages of the project • would uranium stored as waste later be retrieved if the market for it improved • would thorium later be retrieved with the advent of new technologies • would the presence of uranium contribute to any public health risks, e.g. through dust • what are the implications of uranium and thorium for worker health? 	Traditional owners Environmental groups CLC	<p>Uranium and thorium is not expected to make a substantial impact on naturally occurring background radiation levels and will be carefully monitored. The uranium and thorium residues will be encased (as above). Technically, the uranium and thorium could be retrieved for sale but at this stage it would require a substantial capital cost for little return so is unlikely.</p> <p>All workers will be monitored regularly to record the level of radiation they are exposed to so Arafura can ensure this exposure does not exceed approved public health levels.</p>	Chapter 3 Chapter 12

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
The mine and associated facilities			
10. Mine footprint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> queries about the extent of the project's footprint and what geographic features it covered. 	Traditional owners Community Pastoralist	<p>This is shown in diagrams throughout the EIS.</p> <p>Some stakeholders have been taken on a visit to site and this will continue.</p>	Chapter 3:
11. Chemicals and storage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what chemicals or waste would be used in processing, how will they be transported and stored on site what waste residues will be produced from processing and how will they be stored what are the risks what emergency response capacities will Arafura have on site and what is the impact on other services? 	Traditional owners Community Environmental groups Public	<p>A substantial amount of chemicals will be transported by rail, transferred at a logistics hub in Alice Springs, moved to the project site by truck and stored on site.</p> <p>Transport includes a range of hazardous substances which are regularly transported throughout the NT and Australia. All storage will comply with Australian standards. Appropriate emergency response protocols will be in place in the event of a spillage or an incident.</p>	Chapter 3
Transport and road safety			
12. Impacts on roads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what impact will increased industrial traffic have on the Stuart Highway and will Arafura contribute to any increased upkeep what haul and access roads are planned on Aileron Station and will any damage to station roads be fixed promptly is there any likelihood of local roads being upgraded as a result of the project (e.g. if there is an access road to the Napperby Road)? 	Department of Transport NT Police	<p>There will be two road trains working 24/7 on the Stuart Highway transporting chemicals and supplies to the mine and back loading rare earth concentrate to the Alice Springs rail yard, in addition to construction traffic and FIFO buses. This is not expected to have a measurable impact on the Stuart Highway except at entry and exit points at Aileron.</p> <p>Arafura is working with the Department of Transport to meet all safety requirements regarding intersections and slip lanes.</p> <p>All station roads affected by the project will be maintained in good condition.</p> <p>The preferred haulage and access route via a direct existing station track to the Stuart Highway and not via the Napperby Road.</p>	Chapter 16
13. Road safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> will industrial traffic increase road safety risks on the Stuart Highway, e.g. with by coming into contact with local and tourist traffic what precautions will Arafura take to prevent incidents on Aileron Station what emergency response capacity will Arafura have to respond to incidents and how might the project contribute to demand for medical retrievals by road and air, including incidents with staff travelling to work, the transport of chemicals or general incidents involving project vehicles? 	Police	<p>Arafura will implement a road safety plan to minimise risks to its own staff and contractors and other road users. Workers will be transported to site by bus from Alice Springs and nearby communities to reduce risk from fatigue and increased highway traffic.</p> <p>Arafura will implement an emergency management plan. There will be medical facilities on site operating under remote protocols with Alice Springs Hospital, the Ti Tree Health Clinic and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.</p>	Chapter 16

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
Impact on services (see also below)			
14. Impact on government services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what is the size and profile of the expected workforce and what are the implications for government services in Alice Springs and nearby communities • will the project create an influx of local people wanting to work at the mine but also putting pressure on nearby Aboriginal communities • what medical facilities will be on site; • will Arafura meet its own power generation needs; • key government services are at capacity with little room for expansion without significant cost • Power and Water installs utilities to meet projected demand, with little redundancy, and would need advance warning of any increased demand • government services may be affected by workers leaving for better paid jobs with the Nolans project • all public housing in the region is under pressure • how could the project contribute to improved regional infrastructure? 	Government departments NGOs Council	<p>Arafura expects about 95% of its construction workforce and 90% of its operations workforce to be FIFO, given the tight labour market in Central Australia and competing projects.</p> <p>An influx of local people to work on the Nolans project is possible, creating pressure on communities such as Alyuen in particular, but also increased pressure for public and private housing in Ti Tree.</p> <p>Arafura is conscious that it may poach good workers from other employers and will work with all parties on a coordinated approach to local employment and training, but this issue is largely out of Arafura's control.</p>	Chapter 15
15. Impact on council services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Desert Regional Council believes the main impact on its services would be through the loss of staff to the mine. Other services that could come under pressure would be the tip and demand for childcare facilities in Ti Tree. 	Council NGOs Government departments	<p>Arafura will work collaboratively with the Council on its workforce development training and recruitment, but some loss of staff to the mine is inevitable.</p>	Employment and workforce development plan
Employment and education			
16. Aboriginal jobs with the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • given the high level of unemployment, the project is seen as a major opportunity to contribute to local economic development and jobs for Aboriginal people • many stakeholders commented on their struggle to recruit and retain Aboriginal workers, despite high unemployment levels • barriers include high levels of disadvantage, poor literacy and numeracy, poor health, hearing problems, overcrowded housing, family pressures, transport and mobility • concerns by some medical staff at what they believe is a significant problem with undiagnosed mental health problems among marginalised young people who don't have work skills and who are often 	Traditional owners; Community; Central Land Council; Business groups; Education providers; Government departments, including Dept of Education, Australian Government; Correctional Services; Minerals Council; Chamber of Commerce; Other employment and training providers Waltja and NGOs ALEC	<p>Employment and training of local people, in particular Anmatyerr traditional owners, is a priority for Arafura.</p> <p>Achieving this goal is likely to be challenging but Arafura will put in place a range of workforce measures to maximise the success of Aboriginal employment and training, including opportunities in the project's supply chain with sub-contractors and labour hire arrangements with a local provider.</p> <p>Arafura will implement an employment and workplace strategy that addresses immediate and long-term opportunities.</p>	Chapter 15

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
<p>homeless</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> many stakeholders felt the project was more likely to poach good workers from other employers solutions suggested included culturally friendly rosters, use of labour hire, the importance of pre-employment training, mentors and support programs many people have no experience or knowledge of jobs in mining so it will be important to do a road show and clearly outline what jobs are available and what they entail, including the demands of mine rosters the importance of providing jobs for women opportunities with the Department of Correctional Services' 'Sentenced to a Job' program, with the provision of supervised labour or accessing some of the services provided by Prison Industries in Alice Springs take care in raising expectations of jobs and exposing Aboriginal people to the 'whims of the market' (where they get jobs and start businesses but are then exposed to commodity downturns). 			
<p>17. Local people getting jobs at the mine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there was a strong expectation that the project will focus on local jobs, although the SIA finds high labour participation and negligible unemployment in Alice Springs and Ti Tree so perhaps these expectations are unrealistic a potential workforce may come from the growing segment of Indian, African and Filipino migrants to Alice Springs the main preferred option was attracting workers and their families to live in Alice Springs and contribute to the local economy however, Arafura should take care in paying incentives not available to other residents (e.g. for housing and childcare) as this could create inflationary pressures the least preferred option is FIFO workers who don't contribute to the local economy however, based on the size of the proposed construction workforce, people realise it is likely there will be a large FIFO component and want to minimise any negative impacts of an influx of workers to Alice Springs. 	<p>Traditional owners Community Central Land Council Business groups Education providers Government departments Minerals Council</p>	<p>Arafura will prioritise jobs for traditional owners living in nearby communities and in Alice Springs.</p> <p>The next priority will be to recruit Alice Springs residents, then to recruit people prepared to move to Alice Springs, particularly for permanent staff, so they are contributing to the local economy and becoming part of the community.</p> <p>After this, the priority will be FIFO staff from other parts of the Territory and interstate.</p> <p>Given the current economic conditions, it is likely that any FIFO workers would come from cities within Australia.</p>	Chapter 15

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
<p>18. Recruiting people to live in Alice Springs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> other mines and Alice Springs businesses found it hard to attract staff to Alice Springs because it means moving away from immediate family (with the cost of air fares a disincentive) Alice Springs is seen as lacking the comforts of a capital city or people are deterred by negative media coverage about alcohol-related crime the most prospective targets are likely to be young, single workers or young families with a sense of adventure who like the outdoor lifestyle, are interested in Aboriginal culture and who may have spent time in Alice Springs previously. attractions for prospective employees might be mountain-biking, the good sports facilities that are a legacy of the American presence in Alice Springs, as well as the landscapes, camping and outdoor lifestyle. one interviewee said Alice is an 'edgy' town with strong sports and arts and a place of opportunity for young people the current economic downturn may facilitate the recruitment of people from other mining or rural towns in Australia Government departments have previously used events such as the Finke Desert Race to advertise positions. 	<p>Chamber of Commerce Local businesses Other mining companies ALEC</p>	<p>Arafura would be interested in collaborating with other companies working in Central Australia to run a combined recruitment campaign to encourage potential workers to relocate to Central Australia. This would need to address issues such as lifestyle, health, schooling and community infrastructure.</p>	<p>Chapter 15</p>
<p>19. Use of FIFO workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there was resistance to the use of a FIFO workforce, with negative comments on the experience of INPEX construction workers in Darwin and on other mines delivering few local benefits people associate FIFO workers with a transient pool of generally young, single males who have limited emotional or financial commitment to nearby communities any FIFO workers, particularly during peak construction, should be quarantined from the Alice Springs community and local roadhouses to prevent issues such as anti-social behaviour there were concerns that convention and general tourists would be displaced if airline seats and short-term accommodation (hotels and rentals) is taken by FIFO workers or short-term mine staff. 	<p>Business community</p>	<p>Arafura will prioritise local jobs, however a sufficient local labour force may not be available locally, particularly with the likely demand during peak construction and for specialised positions.</p> <p>The right mix of FIFO workers can quarantine towns from the social impacts of an influx of workers, particularly at peak periods.</p> <p>Arafura will monitor all impacts of employment to minimise social impacts arising from a large construction workforce and adapt its strategy accordingly.</p> <p>Arafura will try to align rosters and transport from sites with flights to minimise demand on short-term accommodation.</p>	<p>Chapter 15</p>

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
20. Poaching staff from other employees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fears that workers will leave existing jobs for higher wages at the Nolans project, making it hard for tourism, hospitality, pastoral, trades, retail and other sectors of the economy to compete • this would erode the ability of other employers to deliver services • in particular, given the widespread focus to employ and train Aboriginal people, it was felt that employers are competing for a limited pool of educated and skilled workers. 	Council Government Business community	There is little that Arafura can do to stop people leaving jobs, however, Arafura could contribute to a regional workforce strategy that takes account of the skills of all regional employers. Training by the mine should provide professional development and skills that deliver long-term benefits to the region's capacity and individual employers as staff move between jobs.	Chapter 15
21. Working with school children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • given the longer mine life, there will be opportunities to link with schools to create career pathways from VET and other courses • this includes work experience and Nolans staff visiting local schools to talk about jobs, school-based apprenticeships, and sponsored scholarships to boarding school and university • the Department of Education referred to a WA program where school children work on flora and fauna programs that could potentially evolve to land management work for mines • the Department of Education suggested working with organisations like the Polly Farmer Foundation and Clontarf that build discipline and life skills. 	Department of Education Ti Tree School Department of Education Alice Springs	Arafura agrees with all these suggestions, which will be considered as part of the company's ongoing community engagement strategy and social performance	Chapter 15
Economic development and business opportunities			
20. Local procurement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strong message from Government and local businesses was expectations of benefits for local businesses • companies should 'put back' for the resource they are extracting • Alice Springs had been through a tough period, with a decline in government, mining and retail spending • recent moves by Government to focus on infrastructure spending were welcomed but mining is seen as offering the town an economic future • perceptions of a 'two speed' economy developing from the INPEX LNG project in Darwin and fears that the town could miss out if the mine uses Tier One contractors from interstate and ignores the capabilities of smaller, local businesses • however, local companies may have to improve their standards and capabilities 	NT Chamber of Commerce; Industry Capability Network (ICN); Department of Business; Regional Economic Development Committee (REDC); Chief Minister; All government departments; Councils; General public; Pastoralists.	Arafura will prioritise the use of local businesses who can meet the company's safety, quality and reliability standards and who are commercially competitive. Arafura will work with the NT Government, Chamber of Commerce and ICN to provide timely and relevant communication on likely opportunities, how to win work and the standards that will be expected of all services and supplies. Arafura will work closely with the ICN to identify local companies able to provide services and seek advice on works packaging to maximise local participation. The Aileron Roadhouse will provide overflow accommodation for the project during construction and operations. A likely workforce of 400-500	Chapter 15 Local Industry Participation Plan

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
<p>to win work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pastoralists were interested in opportunities for civil works, such as roads and clearing • some concerns that mining companies often spruik benefits in the planning stage that are not realised so there should be transparent reporting of progress against commitments • an understanding by business that specialist services may not be available from Alice Springs but suggestions to form consortia or a mining association so businesses can work together to increase the likelihood of local contracts • the Aileron Roadhouse has made significant investments in expanded facilities in expectation of business from Arafura, to what extent will these be realised. 		<p>personnel will be required during construction.</p> <p>Arafura will work with Government to explore opportunities for local enterprise development.</p>	
<p>21. Impact on business capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concerns that the capacity of local businesses could be eroded with over-dependence on larger tenders with the mine at the expense of services to the local community, particularly if several projects start at once or local businesses can't compete with mining wages • local businesses have higher operating costs and may not be able to compete with larger interstate firms; • some saw the potential for new industry clusters and joint ventures • businesses would benefit overall by improving quality and safety standards to provide services to proposed mining projects, including Nolans. 	NT Chamber of Commerce; Businesses	<p>Arafura will work with the ICN to package work and encourage businesses to work with the Department of Business to look for joint venture opportunities.</p> <p>Some of these risks will be subject to commercial arrangements and market forces, but Arafura remains cognisant of the impact that a large project can have on a local business community.</p>	Chapter 15 Local industry participation plan
<p>22. Aboriginal enterprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential for Aboriginal enterprises e.g. with plant and equipment, cleaning, catering, environmental services, mechanical workshops • Minister Price is keen to see community gardens, perhaps as part of the community development approach advocated by the CLC, while nearby horticultural projects could help provision the accommodation camp • a focus on the supply chain rather than tier one contracts may be a better way to employ Aboriginal people with locally owned companies that have their own employment and training programs. 	Central Land Council; Traditional owners; Department of Business; Department of Community Services; Minister Price	<p>Arafura will work with the Central Land Council and the Department of Business to help Aboriginal people realise ambitions of enterprise development based on opportunities at the mine.</p>	Chapter 15 Local industry participation plan Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) (community development).

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
23. Economic development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government and business support for the project as contributing to regional economic development and jobs (in 2014 Nolans was accorded Major Project Status by the Northern Territory Government) Ninti One in Alice Springs has coordinated research on the economic benefits of mining for Aboriginal people economic development must be sustainable a caution against companies talking up projects and exposing Aboriginal people to the 'whims of the market'. 	Chief Minister Minister for Mines Department of the Chief Minister Department of Mines Charles Darwin University Ninti One ALEC General feedback	Arafura will produce an annual sustainability report, to include reporting on commitments such as local jobs, procurement, development of new economic sectors and general contributions to the sustainable development of the Central Australian economy.	Chapter 15 Economic study
24. Pastoral properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an issue for the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and Aileron Pastoral Holdings is agreed access arrangements with pastoralists Aileron Station has new owners, who were seeking greater clarity on the project and potential impacts impacts as a result of competing land uses by mining and pastoralists potential reputation damage to proposed organic farming from the presence of a rare earths mine on Aileron Station. 	Pastoralists NTCA	Arafura will negotiate access arrangements with the pastoral properties affected by the project.	
Culture and heritage			
25. Respect for connections to country: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> although traditional lifestyles have been disrupted by European settlement of the region, Anmatyerr people retain strong connections to their country Anmatyerr people would welcome the chance to work on their own country. 	Traditional owners Local residents Central Land Council Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)	Arafura will incorporate cultural awareness training for all staff and strict codes of conduct to ensure respect for Aboriginal connections to country. There may be opportunities for traditional owners to develop small businesses to provide tourism and cultural awareness programs.	Chapter 16: Cultural and heritage management plan
26. Not damaging sacred sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> while there are statutory requirements to get sacred site clearances and respect significant cultural sites, concerns that mining could damage sites which may be both physical or spiritual connections to 'dreaming' tracks it is hard for traditional owners with responsibility for the country to visualise the actual impact. 	Traditional owners CLC AAPA	Arafura will obtain the appropriate clearance certificates and, where necessary, approvals to remove or destroy sites that cannot be avoided. The company will hold site visits to improve visualisation and understanding of the project. Arafura will ensure cultural awareness programs for all staff. Arafura will work with traditional owners to discuss potential signage or other protection of key sites of significance.	Chapter 16 As above, AAPA certificate
27. Access for traditional uses such as hunting and food gathering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anmatyerr people occasionally access 	Community members Central Land Council Art Centre	Arafura will consult with traditional owners about access issues, take account of important areas in	Chapter 15 Cultural and heritage management plan

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
<p>Aileron Station for traditional activities such as hunting, food gathering, gathering bush medicines or materials for art, although this land is not regarded as good hunting country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> many of the paintings by local artists depict traditional activities on Anmatyerr country Native Title stipulates that traditional owners should be able to access their country to exercise native title rights. 		considering the location of mine infrastructure and develop protocols about access.	
<p>28. Impacts on heritage sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> this area has strong heritage values for Anmatyerr people there are heritage remnants of early pastoral settlement 	<p>Heritage Advisory Council</p> <p>Local historians and heritage groups</p>	<p>No impact is envisaged on any heritage sites, however, there are opportunities to commemorate the early history of the region through communication about the project, links to tourism ventures and interpretive signage.</p> <p>The closest areas of heritage significance including the Aileron homestead, Ryan Well and Annas Reservoir Conservation Reserve. The mine could arrange for cultural training and tours to the site, as well mandating respect for local sites in worker Codes of Conduct.</p>	Culture and heritage management plan
Other social impacts			
<p>29. Housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impact of the mobility of a large group of workers on housing availability and affordability this could include pressure on public housing, if Aboriginal people move to live with relatives because of work long waiting lists for public housing in Alice Springs and often constraints to providing additional housing in remote communities. Alice Springs is susceptible to fluctuations in demand for rental and permanent housing despite current high vacancy rates, concerns that demand from permanent and FIFO workers could create scarcity and push up pricing of units, housing and temporary accommodation however, there is significant land release and construction of new units occurring in Alice Springs, including the Kilgariff sub-division, Mt Johns, Larapinta, the Bowling Green in Gap Road and potentially the Melanka development as well as vacant land suitable for temporary accommodation moving from unemployment to earning higher wages could make people ineligible for public housing it could also provide opportunities and a 	<p>Government departments</p> <p>Council</p> <p>NGOs such as NT Shelter, Waltja</p> <p>Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Businesses</p>	<p>Arafura understands that its workers may create both positive and negative impacts on the local housing market.</p> <p>It will monitor the impacts of accommodating workers, house FIFO workers in temporary accommodation and look at a range of options for managing impacts, such as purchasing and building temporary accommodation.</p>	Chapter 15

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
<p>motivation for private home ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • questions about the location of the proposed workers' camp, the level of interaction between workers and the community, whether the camp would be 'dry' and whether workers would be bussed in from Alice Springs. 			
<p>30. Cost of living:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an influx of people can create heavy demand or scarcity of goods and services, especially if mining wages and incentives lead to inequity • Alice Springs has experienced a 'boom and bust' in recent years with the varied fortunes of mining and Australian Government spending on the 'Intervention' • enthusiasm for the economic development of the mine but concern that high wages may compound the disadvantage of low income families. 	NGOs	This impact is recognised and will be monitored but is largely beyond Arafura's control.	Chapter 15
<p>31. Cash royalties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concerns that cash royalties would have a negative social impact by creating a new form of welfare dependency and increasing expenditure on alcohol, drugs, gambling and expensive consumer goods such as cars • government service providers in particular are keen to see any royalties invested in community projects • Ti Tree Police report an increased workload responding to alcohol-related incidents after royalty payments and are concerned about any increase in takeaway alcohol from the Aileron Roadhouse. 	Government departments NGOs CLC	Arafura and the CLC both prefer that royalties are invested in community projects. The CLC has an investment policy and promotes the benefits of community development. An agreement will be negotiated with the CLC on behalf of Native Title Holders.	Chapter 15
<p>32. Distribution of benefits and higher wages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if people are earning higher wages, there may be pressures from family to share the benefits or spend money on alcohol, drugs and consumer goods • there could be jealousy and conflict between families if benefits are seen as being unevenly distributed • concern by senior traditional owner Eric Panangke that the benefits go to the right people, not outsiders • Mr Panangke, who has been a strong community leader for decades, wants to see things like a community garden, water and fences at Alyuen. 	NGOs Government departments	Arafura is aware of these issues and will implement programs to help address them. The CLC's role is to ensure that benefits are distributed to the rightful claimants.	Chapter 15
<p>33. Mobility of people for work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential movement of people to communities near the project looking for work may put pressure on relatives to 	NGOs Community	Arafura is aware of these issues and will monitor the impacts of mobility.	Chapter 13: Social Impact Assessment

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
provide accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential conflict if outsiders are seen as getting all the jobs • mobility can change the character, cohesion and resilience of a community, cause existing residents to move and bring in new people with weaker links to the community • concerns about potential pressures on Alyuen, a family outstation closest to the project site, which has only six houses occupied mainly by older people but which may experience an influx of people wanting jobs or a share of benefits from the project. 			
34. Need for childcare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jobs at the mine could add to childcare pressures in nearby communities such as Ti Tree or make it harder for women to get work at the mine. 	Council NGOs	Arafura will monitor this issue and discuss the need for childcare with the community.	Chapter 15
35. Substance abuse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential risk of higher wages being spent on drugs and alcohol and workers bringing drugs and alcohol into the community • dangers of volatile substance abuse and the importance of mine and contractor vehicles using low-aromatic fuel • positive contribution of drug and alcohol testing of workers and workplace substance abuse programs. 	Council Health Clinic NT Police Community members Government departments	Arafura will implement an employment and workplace strategy that includes strict drug and alcohol policies, healthy lifestyle programs and codes of conduct for workers. Management plans will include volatile substance abuse awareness. Sponsorship and community benefits programs will prioritise projects and activities that foster healthy lifestyles, leadership, discipline and safety.	Chapter 15
Corporate Social Responsibility			
36. Earning social licence to operate (SLTO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perceptions of bad practice and legacy issues by mining in the Territory have eroded community trust • mining companies need to be seen as good corporate citizens and earn their social licence to operate, not just with promises but with their performance: contributing to long-term economic development, volunteering and earning trust • companies need to earn rather than 'buy' their social licence to operate (e.g. seeking naming rights sponsorship of home-grown events, particularly if the event involves groups with different values to mining, such as the iconic beanie festival, were seen as a cynical move) • it's important for mine staff to become part of the town, with their children in local schools, rather than 'pelicans' • companies need to aim for excellence in environmental management, above and 	Government Arid Lands Environment Centre (reflecting the views of various NGOs)	Arafura has a strong focus on being a good corporate citizen in the communities in which it operates. It will produce an annual sustainability report addressing issues such as sponsorship and activities in the community.	Community engagement strategy, see SIMP

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
beyond legislative requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the community will reward good behaviour. 			
37. Sponsorship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tougher financial times have increased interest in potential sponsors of sport and other community events in Alice Springs and Central Australia sponsorship of education and sport is good, but be aware of the disruptive effect of sponsoring sports weekend that take people away from communities. 	Community groups Council Chamber of Commerce Australian Government NT Government departments	Arafura will develop a sponsorship policy closer to the project starting.	Community engagement strategy, see SIMP
Community consultation throughout the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the importance of ongoing engagement, while not raising expectations until the project has greater certainty. 	Government	Arafura adopted a strong engagement approach from the outset and will continue this approach.	Community engagement strategy
38. Importance of good communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the importance of good communication to explain aspects of the project, manage expectations and ensure Aboriginal people provide 'free, prior and informed consent' to agreements negotiated with Arafura visual communication will be important to explain issues such as hydrology, management of waste and the project's footprint to Aboriginal people. 	Community Traditional owners	Arafura will continue to communicate elements of the project, using strategies tailored to suit various audiences.	Community engagement strategy.
39. Community benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring real community benefits for traditional owners, from jobs to economic development and community development projects. 	Community Traditional owners CLC, NGOs Government Council	This is Arafura's preferred approach. It is negotiating an agreement with native title claimants, through the CLC, that will include a focus on community benefits rather than cash payments.	Chapter 15
Government priorities			
40. Government's agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the project supports key government objectives of regional economic development, reducing the disadvantage of Aboriginal people, providing jobs, building trade with Asia and attracting investors to the Territory the Australian Government's priorities are community safety, getting children to school, real jobs and reduced welfare dependence the Australian Government has rebadged the Remote Jobs and Communities Project as the Community Development Program with funding of 'work for the dole' programs that transition to real jobs royalties are best invested in community development and infrastructure programs that bring long-term benefits. 	Chief Minister; Ministers; Government departments; Regional Economic Development Committee; Australian Government.	Arafura's has a range of objectives above designed to meet these expectations.	Chapter 15

Issue	Stakeholders who raised	Response (avoid, mitigate, manage, communicate)	EIS reference
Tourism			
41. Displacement of tourism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice Springs has long been promoted as a tourist destination for international and domestic travellers, including iconic sights such as Uluru fears that the project could displace this important economic sector poaching hospitality and tourism workers and taking low-cost airline seats and hotel accommodation. 	Tourism NT	Arafura is aware of these concerns and will monitor the impacts of the project	Chapter 15

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ongoing community engagement that builds on relationships, ensures good communication and provides stakeholder groups with continued opportunities to have input to project decisions.
2. A commitment to transparency and accountability, including regular sustainability reports covering environmental monitoring, local procurement, sponsorships and employment details.
3. Once a decision is made to proceed with the project, Arafura will open an office in Alice Springs and shopfront to support local community relations and recruitment.
4. That Arafura set up a community reference group, with membership drawn from interested stakeholder groups and a cross-representation of traditional owner and community families.
5. That Arafura appoint a community liaison officer to work with the community on sponsorships, employment, liaise with schools, dealing with any complaints and coordinating site visits.
6. That all communication on the project is culturally appropriate and tailored to different audiences.
7. That Arafura implement a sponsorship policy and work with the community to determine annual priorities.
8. That Arafura implement an effective grievance process so complaints can be raised and dealt with quickly and effectively.
9. That all community relations policies apply equally to Arafura and its subcontractors
10. Evaluation procedures to include community surveys to assess knowledge of the project, community attitudes towards Arafura and the Nolans project and project communication.

Other recommendations, including a series of suggested management plans and reporting frameworks, are contained in the Social Impact Management Plan (see Appendix S).