

06

Consultation

6. Consultation

6.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the consultation process, and key themes raised during consultation, for the proposed Nolans Project. The chapter is based on the *Nolans Project Community Consultation Report* (Michels Warren Munday 2016) provided in Appendix H of the EIS.

This chapter summarises the public consultation between 2007 and December 2015 by, or on behalf of, Arafura. The Community Consultation Report (Appendix H) and chapter address various sections of the TOR.

The approach to community consultation included consideration of the:

- NT EPA TOR
- NT EPA Guidelines for preparation of an Economic and Social Impact Assessment (November 2013)
- International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Participation and
- *Enduring Value* – Australian Minerals Industry Framework for Sustainable Development (that describes sustainable development as investment in minerals projects that are “financially profitable, technically appropriate, environmentally sound and socially responsible”).

6.2 Consultation strategy

Consultation for the project began in 2007 when the project was first announced. In addition, a consultation and communication strategy was prepared to guide the environmental impact assessment process.

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

The objectives of the consultation strategy include:

- Give Northern Territory and Australian Government regulators confidence that Arafura has informed and listened to stakeholders and the general community
- Ensure social, economic and environmental impacts arising from the project are clearly defined and appropriate management strategies are established to deal with them
- Maintain the confidence of the community and government that Arafura 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 seek their views to inform good decision-making
- Establish a good risk management approach to identify and respond to issues early.

The information and feedback collated during the consultation process has contributed to the social impact assessment (Appendix S) and the social impact management plan (SIMP) (Appendix X). The 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.

6.3 Consultation activities

6.3.1 Key stakeholders

Consultation included the following key groups:

- Government departments, agencies and regulators
- Central Desert Regional Council and local authorities
- Central Land Council (CLC)
- Aboriginal communities and traditional owners
- Alice Springs Town Council
- Arid Lands Environment Centre
- Non-Government organisations such as NT Shelter, Waltja Tjutangu Palyapayi and the Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia
- Aileron Roadhouse
- Pastoralists
- Various business entities including Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, other mining companies, employment and training services providers and
- Environmental groups in Darwin and Alice Springs.

6.3.2 Consultation activities

Consultation included:

- 189 stakeholder meetings, including meetings with government departments, agencies and regulators
- 36 dedicated SIA interviews
- Public presentations to industry and business groups, and participation over several years at the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar in Alice Springs
- Briefings, presentations, a dedicated project webpage and written communication with stakeholders
- Site visits with key stakeholders
- Attendance at local events
- Community meetings with traditional owners.

6.4 Consultation outcomes

Table 6-1 summarises key issues raised by stakeholders throughout the consultation meetings and events.

Table 6-1 Stakeholder issues and responses

Summary of key issues	Response
Land and water	
<p>Concerns related to impacts on the quality and availability of drinking water and potential for contamination of aquifers.</p> <p>Concerns about the implications of diverting Kerosene Camp Creek.</p> <p>Expectations that Arafura’s drilling for water might address the quality and availability of supply to communities, and improve productivity in more barren parts of pastoral properties.</p>	<p>Arafura moved the intermediate processing plant from its initial surface water catchment, following the discovery of substantial groundwater in a deeper aquifer system with few other competing users.</p> <p>Hydrological studies suggest the connection between the Southern Basins and Ti Tree aquifer in an area referred to as The Margins is primarily a subtle groundwater divide with water flowing north of the divide to the Ti-Tree Basin and south of the divide to the Southern Basins.</p> <p>Hydrological studies suggest a low level of impact on Laramba’s groundwater supplies, from drawdown or changes in water chemistry.</p> <p>Chapter 7 Surface water summarises impacts to surface water resources including Kerosene Camp Creek diversion.</p> <p>Chapter 8 Groundwater summarises potential impacts to groundwater resources.</p>
<p>Concerns related to impact on visual amenity and the loss of habitats through clearing and fragmentation.</p>	<p>There will be vegetation clearance and ecological studies suggest limited potential impacts on biodiversity (refer to Chapter 9 Biodiversity). There are opportunities for rangers and local people’s involvement in ongoing land management.</p>
<p>Concerns regarded impacts from climate change on the project and local area, including increased demand for water as the temperature rises</p>	<p>Water modelling has been undertaken over time and using long-term climate data (refer to Chapter 7 Surface water and Chapter 8 Ground water).</p>
<p>Concern was raised relating to the cumulative impacts of multiple resource projects.</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts are discussed particularly in social impacts (Chapter 15) and biodiversity (Chapter 4) and transport (Chapter 17).</p>
Waste and chemical storage and transport	
<p>Concerns associated with long term storage and management of waste including waste rock and process residue. Particular concerns are uranium and thorium storage and associate health risks, risks of pollution and of tailings dam failures.</p>	<p>All waste will remain on site in engineered storage facilities that are designed in accordance with ANCOLD guidelines. At closure the waste storage facilities will be closed and capped in accordance with mine closure criteria, thus posing a low risk to the public or the environment (refer Chapter 18 mine closure).</p> <p>The presence of uranium and thorium is not expected to exceed naturally occurring background levels of radiation following mine closure. During operations 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 (Chapter 12 Radiation).</p>
<p>Concerns about chemicals used and the safe transport of these to and from site.</p>	<p>Chemicals will be transported by rail to a loading facility in Alice Springs, then moved to the project site by truck and stored on site. All storage and transportation will comply with Australian Standards. Appropriate</p>

Summary of key issues	Response
	<p>emergency response protocols will be in place in the event of a spillage or an incident (refer to Chapter 11 Human health and safety).</p>
<p>Transport and road safety</p>	
<p>Concerns about increased industrial traffic on the Stuart Highway and access roads on the Aileron station, and the likely impact on local roads</p> <p>Concerns about public road safety.</p>	<p>There will be two road trains working seven days a week on the public road network, and 26 daily one-way-trips will be added to the road network, including daily FIFO buses. The forecast indicates that operations at the site are likely to result in low impacts on the existing road network.</p> <p>FIFO buses are included in this trip generation calculation, and workers will be transported to site by bus to reduce risk.</p> <p>Arafura is working with the Department of Transport to meet safety requirements at intersections.</p> <p>The site access route would be via an existing station track to the Stuart Highway, not via the Napperby Road. All station roads affected by the project will be maintained.</p> <p>Arafura will implement an emergency management plan. Medical facilities will be available on site and operate under remote protocols with Alice Springs Hospital, the Ti Tree Health Clinic and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.</p>
<p>Impact on council and government services</p>	
<p>Concerns that the project will create an influx of people to the local area and put pressure on nearby aboriginal communities</p> <p>Concerns that local employers will lose staff to the mine site and that local and regional services including medical, childcare, housing and utilities for example would be put under pressure from increasing demand</p>	<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>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> <p>Arafura understands that its workers may create both positive and negative impacts on the local housing market. 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> <p>Refer Chapter 15 socio-economic impacts.</p>
<p>Impact on employment and education</p>	
<p>Concerns relating to the barriers to employment for Aboriginal people</p> <p>Concerns over the attractiveness of Alice Springs to encourage relocation by workers.</p>	<p>Employment and training of local Anmatyerr Traditional owners is a priority for Arafura.</p> <p>Arafura is interested in collaborating with other companies operating in Central Australia to run a combined recruitment campaign to encourage potential workers to relocate to Central Australia. This will need to address issues such as lifestyle, health, schooling and community infrastructure.</p>

Summary of key issues	Response
<p>Concerns regarded FIFO workers who would not contribute to the local economy and may cause negative impacts.</p>	<p>Arafura will prioritise local jobs, however a sufficient local labour force may not be available locally, particularly with the likely peak demand during construction and for specialised positions.</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>Refer Chapter 15 socio-economic impacts.</p>
<p>Concerns that workers would be poached from other local employers.</p>	<p>Arafura is conscious that it may poach good workers from other employers and would work with all parties on a coordinated approach to local employment and training, but this issue is largely out of Arafura's control.</p> <p>Arafura will contribute to a regional workforce strategy that takes account of the skills of all regional employers. Training by the mine will provide professional development and skills that deliver long-term benefits to the region's capacity and individual employers as staff move between jobs.</p> <p>Refer Chapter 15 socio-economic impacts.</p>
<p>Economic development and business opportunities</p>	
<p>Expectation relating to local procurement, improvements to local infrastructure and ensuring benefits are realised during operation.</p> <p>Expectations were raised for new industries and improving quality and safety standards of local businesses.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that local businesses would not be able to compete with larger interstate firms.</p>	<p>Arafura will prioritise the use of local businesses who can meet the company's safety, quality and reliability standards and who are commercially competitive.</p> <p>Arafura will work closely with the Industry Capability Network 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.</p> <p>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 standards that would be expected of all services and supplies.</p> <p>Refer Chapter 15 socio-economic impacts.</p>
<p>Expectations related to employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and women.</p> <p>Concerns regarded health issues, training needs and social issues connected with local populations.</p>	<p>Employment and training of local people, in particular Anmatyerr traditional owners, is a priority for Arafura. 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> <p>Refer Chapter 15 socio-economic impacts.</p>

Summary of key issues	Response
Suggestions made for Aboriginal enterprises including horticultural and involvement in the supply chain.	Arafura will work with the CLC and the Department of Business to help Aboriginal people realise ambitions of enterprise development based on opportunities at the mine. Refer Chapter 15 socio-economic impacts.
Expectations are that economic development would be sustainable and not displace existing industries i.e. tourism.	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. Refer Chapter 15 socio-economic impacts.
Concerns raised from pastoralists relating to access arrangements, competing land uses and impacts to proposed organic farming.	Arafura will negotiate access arrangements with the pastoral properties affected by the project.
Culture and heritage	
Expectation that Aboriginal connections to country are respected and that access to land for traditional activities would be maintained.	Arafura will incorporate cultural awareness training for staff and strict codes of conduct to maintain respect for Aboriginal connections to country. There may be opportunities for traditional owners to develop small businesses to provide tourism and cultural awareness programs. Arafura will consult with traditional owners about land access issues, and take account of important areas in considering the location of mine infrastructure. Refer to Chapter 16 Historic and cultural heritage.
Concern that sacred sites and Aboriginal would be impacted.	Arafura will obtain the appropriate clearance certificates and, where necessary, the approvals to remove or destroy sites that cannot be avoided. Arafura will work with traditional owners to discuss protection of key sites of significance. opportunities to commemorate the early history of the region through communication about the project, link to tourism ventures and provide interpretive signage, would be considered (refer to Chapter 16 Historic and Cultural Heritage and Appendix X Cultural Heritage Management Plan.)
Other social impacts	
Concerns that cash royalties and/or would have a negative social impact and could result in family conflict and alter the character, cohesion and resilience of a community. Expectation of real community benefits for traditional owners	Arafura is negotiating an agreement with native title claimants, through the CLC, that will include a focus on community benefits rather than cash payments. 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. The CLC's role is to ensure that benefits are distributed to the rightful claimants.

Summary of key issues	Response
<p>Housing stress associated with Aboriginal people moving into the local area because of work</p> <p>Broad concern about the impact of a large group of workers on housing availability and affordability</p>	<p>Arafura will implement an employment and workplace strategy that includes drug and alcohol policies, healthy lifestyle programs and codes of conduct for workers.</p> <p>Management plans will include volatile substance abuse awareness.</p>
Corporate Social Responsibility	
<p>Concerns of legacy issues from mining in the territory, long term rehabilitation, safety and mine closure.</p>	<p>Arafura understands that its workers may create both positive and negative impacts on the local housing market. It will monitor these impacts and will look at purchasing or building additional, temporary accommodation if necessary.</p>
<p>Expectation of sponsorship of local community events, education and sports.</p>	<p>Arafura will develop a sponsorship policy closer to the project starting. Sponsorship and community benefits programs will prioritise projects and activities that foster healthy lifestyles, leadership, discipline and safety.</p>
<p>Expectation of good communication and ongoing engagement with stakeholders.</p>	<p>Arafura adopted a strong engagement approach from the outset and will continue this approach. Arafura will continue to communicate elements of the project, using strategies tailored to suit various audiences.</p>

6.5 Ongoing community consultation

Arafura will continue to communicate elements of the project, using strategies tailored to suit various audiences. Ongoing community consultation and engagement will aim to continue building relationships and provide stakeholder groups with continued opportunities to input into project considerations.

In the event project approval is granted and the project proceeds, Arafura will establish and implement a community consultation/social impact management plan that is likely to include:

- Ongoing community engagement
- Establishment of a community reference group - with membership drawn from interested stakeholder groups and a cross-representation of traditional owner and community families
- Appointment of a community liaison officer - to work with the community
- Development of a communication and community relations strategy to maintain a mechanism for community feedback and consultation about potential relevant impacts as the project evolves
- Development of evaluation procedures to community attitudes towards Arafura and the Nolans Project and project communication.

For more detail, refer to the draft Social Impact Management Plan provided in Appendix X.