

17.1 Introduction

The proposed ECMP will be situated in a mining region where much of the local community is involved either directly in mining or servicing the mines, or supporting that community. Even though the ECMP will not directly border a community, Vale recognises there is potential for the surrounding community to be affected by the ECMP and its operations.

For the ECMP, Vale has tailored a process for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns about the ECMP, and for these to influence the nature of the Project. This process commenced with a comprehensive community consultation program during the preparation of this EIS, and will continue through the construction and operational phases

17.2 Objectives

The fundamental principle of Vale's community consultation strategy is clear and transparent two-way communication between Vale and interested and affected stakeholders. To date this has allowed Vale to impart information to stakeholders regarding the ECMP, and for stakeholders to express their views and concerns, provide feedback, and be involved in the EIS process. A similar process will apply during the construction and operational phases.

For the EIS phase of the community consultation program, Vale focused the consultation on adequately identifying the various environmental, social and economic interests of the local community, and feeding these back into the technical and planning processes. The key objectives of the consultation program were as follows.

- Identify interested and affected stakeholders.
- Initiate and maintain communication with those stakeholders on aspects of the ECMP, and the environmental impact assessment work.
- Provide the community with an understanding of the ECMP and its implications.
- Update stakeholders and the community on changes to the ECMP.
- Explain the regulatory approval process.
- Encourage involvement in the consultation program.
- Seek an understanding of concerns and issues with the ECMP.
- Seek information on local and social values to identify key issues for consideration.
- Proactively work with the community to propose recommended strategies to minimise negative impacts.

17.2.1 Approach

The following key elements were identified to be essential to the success of the consultation program.

- Early recognition and involvement of stakeholder groups.
- Distribution of clear and understandable descriptions of the ECMP to stakeholders.
- Provision of multiple mechanisms for stakeholder participation.
- Early recognition of social and environmental issues.
- Ongoing communication and feedback.
- Integration of social information in the technical and planning processes.
- Integration of social information in the project impact assessment.
- Development and integration of mitigation measures into the project design.

17.3 Methodology

17.3.1 Overview

In the early stages of the ECMP's approval process a consultation strategy was prepared which outlined:

- consultation objectives;
- stakeholders to be consulted;
- consultation methods and activities; and
- the adopted approach for each stakeholder group.

This strategy then guided the consultation throughout the period of EIS preparation, and will continue during project implementation.

The following section details the process used to identify stakeholders; tools used for consultation; and the activities implemented during the EIS preparation phase.

17.3.2 Stakeholder Identification

The first stage of the consultation process was to identify all stakeholders that may be affected or interested in the ECMP. These were categorised into interested and affected persons as defined by Sections 39 and 41(3)(b) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and further broadly categorised into the following groups:

- Local Government
- State Government
- Federal Government
- State Corporations
- Local Interest Groups
- Native Title Claimants
- Landholders and Neighbouring Landholders
- Community Service Providers
- Community

The initial list was extended as other persons or groups were identified.

Table 17.3.1 summarises the affected and interested stakeholders that were consulted and participated in the EIS consultation program. Post State elections in early 2009, there have been structural changes to government departments. Departments as they are now known are in brackets.

Table 17.3.1 Affected and Interested Persons

Affected Persons
Representatives of relevant local councils: Mackay Regional Council and Isaac Regional Council (formally Belyando Shire Council and Nebo Shire Council)
Registered holders of interest in land
Registered native title claimants
Interested Persons
State Government
Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Department of Communities)
Department of Communities
Department of Education, Training and the Arts (Department of Education and Training and Department of Premier and Cabinet)
Department of Emergency Services- EMS (Department of Community Safety)
Department of Emergency Services- QAS (Department of Community Safety)
Department of Emergency Services- QFRS Central Region (Department of Community Safety)

Affected Persons
Department of Employment and Industrial Relations- Mackay (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation)
Department of Employment and Training (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation and Department of Education and Training)
Department of Housing (Department of Communities)
Department of Housing- Private Housing (Department of Communities)
Department of Infrastructure and Planning
Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (Department of Infrastructure and Planning and Department of Sport and Recreation)
Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation - Office of Rural and Regional Communities (Department of Infrastructure and Planning and Department of Sport and Recreation)
Department of Main Roads (Department of Transport and Main Roads)
Department of Mines and Energy (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation)
Department of Natural Resources & Water (Department of Environment and Resource Management)
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation)
Department of State Development and Innovation (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation)
Education Queensland (Department of Education and Training)
Environmental Protection Agency- Development Assessment EIS Assessment (Department of Environment and Resource Management)
Environmental Protection Agency/ Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Environment and Resource Management)
Mackay Health Service District- Moranbah Hospital
Queensland Government Treasury (Queensland Treasury)
Queensland Health
Queensland Heritage Council Secretariat (Department of Environment and Resource Management)
Queensland Mines Rescue Service (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation)
Queensland Police (Queensland Police Service)
Queensland Rail
Queensland Transport (Department of Transport and Main Roads)
Federal Government
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Invest Australia
The Treasury
State Corporations
Ports Corporation
Sunwater
Local Interest Groups
Agforce
Central Highlands Regional Resource Use Planning Cooperative
Clermont & District Land Care Assoc.
Conservation Group Coordination
Family Services Australia
Fitzroy Basin Association
Mackay Conservation Group

Affected Persons
Moranbah Beautification Group
North Qld Greening Australia
QLD Farmers Federation
QLD Resources Council
Community Service Provider
4RFM- Moranbah Community Radio
ELAM (Emergency and Long-term Accommodation in Moranbah Inc)
Hinterland Community Care
Mission Australia
Moranbah District Support Services
Moranbah Traders Association
Community
Neighbouring landholders
Residents of Moranbah Community
Citizens of Mackay
Businesses in Moranbah and Mackay

17.3.3 Consultation Tools

A range of consultation tools were utilised to aid communication between Vale and stakeholders. Use of these tools reflected the different needs of each group or individual, their likely interest in the ECMP or its impact on them.

Community Consultation Database

A comprehensive consultation database was established containing the contact details of stakeholders and community members that responded to invites to be consulted regarding the ECMP, and details of all consultation activities that have taken place. A summary of the database is presented in Appendix C1.

Free-call 1800 Number

A free-call 1800 number was established for stakeholders to make enquiries and provide their feedback on the ECMP.

Email

A project email address was established for stakeholders to make enquiries and provide their feedback on the ECMP.

Newsletters

Project newsletters and feedback forms were utilised to provide stakeholders information on:

- the proposed project;
- the progression of the ECMP EIS and of the EIS legislative process;
- the consultation program and activities; and
- the study team contact information.

Project newsletters were also utilised as invitations for comments.

17.3.4 Consultation Activities

A range of consultation activities were adopted to facilitate communication between Vale and stakeholders. Adoption of these activities reflected the different needs of each group or individual, and their likely interest in the ECMP or its impact on them.

Meetings with Community

Community group meetings were held at the request or initiative of Vale, the EIS project team, or community groups or individuals. The purpose of community meetings was to provide information on the ECMP, the EIS process, and to obtain feedback on community issues and concerns.

“Face to Face” Stakeholder Meetings

A series of stakeholder “face to face” meetings were held throughout this consultation process. These meetings focused on introducing particular stakeholders to the ECMP, and keeping them abreast of progress.

Meetings with Referral Agencies

Meetings were held with key referral agency representatives at specific stages of the ECMP EIS preparation phase.

17.3.5 Feedback Process

During consultation, stakeholders had the opportunity to put pose any questions, concerns, or issues that they may have about the ECMP for subsequent feedback. Where possible, questions were responded to as they were raised.

Feedback, comments and questions were reviewed by Vale to identify if they could be addressed in the current stage of planning, and were then fed back into and addressed within the EIS process. Any potential impacts identified in the consultation process were considered, and where appropriate, mitigation measures have been identified in the EIS.

All feedback, comments and questions were registered in the consultation database (Appendix C1).

Should the ECMP be approved, consultation with advisory agencies and other relevant parties will continue.

17.4 Consultation Program

Three rounds of consultation have been undertaken during the EIS process. A description of the purpose, tools used and activities undertaken within each round are described in the following sections.

Future rounds of consultation will be planned and implemented as required throughout the life of the ECMP.

17.4.1 Public Release of Key Project Documents

The project Initial Advice Statement (IAS), draft Terms of Reference (ToR), and Voluntary EIS application were submitted to the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), now DERM, in August 2007. The project IAS and draft ToR were placed on the EPA’s internet site from Monday 1 October until Friday 9 November 2007 with public comment invited for the draft ToR. Comments that were received on the draft ToR were reviewed and incorporated into the final ToR. The final ToR was released by the EPA on their website in late January 2008.

Vale submitted an EPBC referral to the then Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources (now Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts) in accordance with the provisions of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* during August 2007. The referral was advertised on the Departments’ website from 16 August 2007.

On submission of the EIS, notice will be advertised of where copies of the EIS are available for inspection and how it can be obtained; that submissions may be made to the EPA about the EIS, and the duration of the submission period. Vale may need to prepare a supplementary report to the EIS to address specific matters raised in submissions on the EIS.

17.4.2 Consultation Round One

The first round of consultation occurred from October 2007 to June 2008, and coincided with the release of the draft TOR. It had the objective of informing stakeholders about the ECMP, and the first round of comments and issues were collected to inform the early development of the environmental studies.

Activities undertaken during round one included:

- preparation and distribution of the first project newsletter;
- face to face meetings with landholders; and
- meetings with interest groups and government agencies.

Project Newsletter One

Newsletter One was an initial introduction to the ECMP for interested and affected stakeholders. The newsletter contained details of the Proponent, a description of the proposed project, a description of the environmental impact study and approvals process, details of how to access the IAS and Draft ToR (for comment), details on the planned stakeholder consultation, and contact details for feedback.

The newsletter was distributed to the 55 identified interested and affected stakeholders on the consultation database at the time.

A reply-paid feedback form was attached to Newsletter One. The feedback form provided a mechanism for obtaining valuable local knowledge and for stakeholders to express their opinion and ask questions about the ECMP.

A copy of the newsletter and attached feedback form is provided in Appendix C2.

Face to Face Meetings with Landholders

With the distribution of Newsletter One, meetings were organised with each of the affected landholders to discuss the impact of the ECMP on their properties and amenities.

Meetings with Interest Groups and Government Agencies

In the months following distribution of Newsletter One, contact was made with a range of interest groups and government agencies to gather initial comments and ensure the ECMP was understood.

17.4.3 Consultation Round Two

The second round of consultation extended from July 2008 to September 2008, and focused on providing an update on the description of the ECMP, the status of the EIS, and gathering information relevant for the socio-economic impact assessment.

Activities undertaken during this time included:

- preparation and distribution of the second project newsletter; and
- meetings with interest groups and government agencies.

Project Newsletter Two

By the time Newsletter Two was released, significantly more detail of the ECMP had been developed. The newsletter was therefore able to present mine layouts and a more detailed description of what the ECMP would entail. It also contained a further description on the EIS, including a description of each of the studies being undertaken.

It again invited feedback and enquiries on the ECMP.

The newsletter was distributed to the 76 interested and affected stakeholders on the consultation database.

A copy of the newsletter is provided in Appendix C3.

Meetings with Interest Groups and Government Agencies

A round of consultation was organised for early September 2008 where the interest groups and government agencies on the consultation database were invited to attend a meeting with the Proponent. The following groups accepted.

- ELAM (Emergency and Long-term Accommodation in Moranbah Inc)
- Isaac Regional Council
- Moranbah Traders Association
- Department of Employment and Industrial Relations
- Department of Community - Department of Infrastructure and Planning
- Environmental Protection Agency (Brisbane).

Further details on the meetings held with interest groups and government agencies are provided in Appendix C1.

17.4.4 Consultation Round Three

The third round of consultation commenced in October 2008 and focused on providing an update on the description of the ECMP, and gathering information to feed into the socio-economic impact assessment.

Activities undertaken during this time included:

- preparation and distribution of the third project newsletter; and
- further meetings with interest groups and government agencies.

Project Newsletter Three

Between the release of Newsletter Two and Newsletter Three, several changes occurred to the ECMP description that were identified as being likely to impact on the community. Newsletter Three therefore focused on distributing information on those changes. It also provided an update on the status of the EIS, and again requested feedback and enquiries.

The newsletter was distributed to the 76 interested and affected stakeholders on the consultation database.

A copy of the newsletter is provided in Appendix C4.

Meetings with Interest Groups and Government Agencies

Following distribution of Newsletter Three, a consultation trip was undertaken in late October 2008. This trip focused on meeting with interest groups, community groups, and government agencies. The aim of each meeting was to provide an update of the ECMP, gather information on the society, and to discuss any issues raised.

Meetings were held with the following organisations and groups.

- Department of Main Roads, Mackay
- Queensland Health, Mackay
- Mackay Police
- Department of Infrastructure and Planning
- Mackay Regional Council for Social Development Ltd (MRCSD)
- Moranbah Health and Fitness Club
- Moranbah Hospital
- Simply Sunshine Childcare
- Moranbah Ambulance
- Queensland Government Agent
- Isaac Regional Council
- Moranbah Real Estate
- Moranbah Youth Centre
- ELAM (Emergency and Long-term Accommodation in Moranbah Inc)
- Moranbah Police
- Moranbah Pre-school
- Real Property Agents
- Tracey Williams Real Estate
- MAC Coppabella
- MAC Moranbah
- Department of Housing

17.5 Enquiries and Feedback

Enquiries and feedback have been invited through the EIS consultation process, with various avenues provided for stakeholders to provide their input. These have included:

- 1800 Free call number (1800 041 253)
- Facsimile (07 3243 2199 (Attn: ECMP Study Team))
- Email (ellensfieldeis@urscorp.com)
- Reply paid postal address (Ellensfield EIS, GPO Box 302, Brisbane, Queensland 4001)
- Verbal communication at meetings
- Feedback form attached to Newsletter One

Communications with stakeholders have been recorded and tracked through the Consultation Database, with issues identified and tracked as they became known. This ensured regular monitoring of issues and the formulation of responses to the issues that were raised.

As of 31 October 2008, 120 consultations had occurred with stakeholders, however only 23 of these included enquiries or feedback. The breakdown of the 23 consultations including enquiries or feedback is provided in Table 17.5.1.

There were approximately 31 face-to-face meetings held during the three rounds of consultation, with a further 13 face-to-face meetings offered but declined.

Table 17.5.1 Number and Method of Enquiries and Feedback

Method of Contact	Number of Enquiries and Feedback
1800 Free call number and general phone	1
Facsimile (07 3243 2199 (Attn: ECMP Study Team))	0
Email (ellensfeldeis@urscorp.com)	3
Reply paid postal address (Ellensfield EIS, GPO Box 302, Brisbane, Queensland 4001)	0
Verbal communication at meetings	17
Feedback form attached to Newsletter 1	2
TOTAL	23

17.6 Key Issues and Responses

A number of issues have been raised during the consultation program. The issues have been broadly categorised into groups. A description of the groups of issues, general responses to each, and where more detail on each issue can be found within the EIS is provided in Table 17.6.1.

Table 17.6.1 Key Issues Raised through the Consultation Program

Issue	Description	Response	EIS Section
Socio-economic	The impact of the ECMP on the broader community in terms of social or economic aspects.	Vale's strategy is to use Coppabella camp for the construction workforce with an overflow to Nebo. Originally the operational workforce was to also be handled the same way. However, following a meeting with the IRC, Vale is now looking at approximately 66% residency in Moranbah and 33% transient in Coppabella MAC camp. In regards to recruitment, it was stated that in the main Vale will employ its own workforce and not use contractors, ie with the exception of changeovers and during construction.	Section 16.2.6 Social Environment Section 2.6.9 Project Description
Human Resources	The ability of the ECMP to recruit and maintain employees.	Vale will look to try to hire people locally, ie to train and retain. Vale is considering at setting up a training centre in Mackay for training of apprentices and other Company training purposes. This would work on a model that is currently used in Brazil. It is expected that approximately 60% of the employees will be new to the industry.	Section 16.3.10 Social Environment
Cultural Heritage	The impact of the ECMP on cultural heritage, and negotiations regarding native title.	A CHMP and Native Title agreement has been agreed to by all parties.	Section 15.1.4.1 Cultural Heritage Section 6.1.3 Land Use
Powerline Easement Management	The impact of the project on the powerline easement that crosses the ECMP area.	An easement (132 kV transmission line) currently crosses the proposed subsidence area. The transmission line will need to be diverted around the boundary of the mining lease.	Section 2.6.2 Project Description

Issue	Description	Response	EIS Section
Traffic on Peak Downs Highway	The additional traffic generated by the ECMP on the Peak Downs Highway.	This is accepted by Vale. There was little that can be done. However, Vale will be using buses to move employees to reduce the number of vehicles.	Section 8.1.1 and 8.2.1 Transport
Waste Water	The generation of waste water by the ECMP.	No waste water will be released off-site and there is not expected to be significant waste water generated.	Section 9.3.2.1 Surface Water and Watercourses
Rehabilitation	The restoration of the land following closure of the mine.	The ECMP will endeavour to return the project area to the same land use capability as before the commencement of mining. This will mainly be low intensity grazing and native ecosystems.	Section 21.1.2 Rehabilitation and Decommissioning
Aquatic Ecology	The plants and animals within the waterways that could be impacted by the mine, particularly given the potential impact to waterways by subsidence.	The temporary ponding of water in the ECMP ephemeral creeks due to subsidence is not expected to have detrimental effects to the site or downstream ecological values.	Section 14.3.7 Nature Conservation Section 9.3.2.3 Surface Water and Watercourses

Table 17.6.2 highlights the number of times an issue was raised by each stakeholder group. For more detail, refer to Appendix C1.

All issues and comments raised by stakeholders were recorded in the consultation database with the database also providing a recording mechanism for the responses provided to the issues and comments raised.

Table 17.6.2 Summary of Issues Raised during the Consultation Program

Stakeholder Group	Socio-Economic	Human Resources	Traffic on Peak Downs Highway	Cultural Heritage	Powerline Easement Management	Waste Water	Rehabilitation	Aquatic Ecology
Local Government	1	1						
State Government	3	4	2	3	1	1		1
Federal Government								
State Corporations								
Local Interest Groups								
Native Title Claimants								
Land Holders and Neighbouring Landholders	1						1	
Community Service Providers	5	3	2					
Community		1						
Total	10	9	4	3	1	1	1	1

17.7 Ongoing Consultation

The EIS will be publicly displayed for a period of thirty business days to enable the public to make comment on the proposed ECMP. During that time it is expected that additional meetings and consultation will take place with relevant stakeholders.

Following project approval, a consultation program for the construction and operational phases of the ECMP will be developed. All or some of the tools and activities listed in Sections 17.3.3 and 17.3.4 will continue to be used to consult with stakeholders during the life of the project, with timing of the implementation dependent on the elements and staging of the ECMP.