



Phase 3 Development Project Factsheet 4: Your feedback – our response

January 2012

FACT SHEET 4: YOUR FEEDBACK – OUR RESPONSE

Since March 2011, we have met close to 300 people to explain the details and seek feedback on the proposed McArthur River Mining (MRM) Phase 3 Development Project.

Consultation with the community has been all-inclusive and comprehensive and has involved in-depth interviews, mine tours and focus group meetings. Feedback has been drawn from Borroloola residents, government representatives, businesses and community groups.

This fact sheet provides a summary of the key feedback received and our response to common themes raised during consultation. The full details form part of a Social Impact Assessment in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Employment

Employing more locals, especially young people, was seen as a great opportunity for Borroloola as a result of the Phase 3 Development. MRM will require an increased operational workforce of approximately 67% if this development proceeds. This represents 295 additional new jobs. Currently about 18.5% of the workforce is sourced from the local community. We plan to at least sustain this rate.

While MRM will continue to base employment on skills and capacity, we are committed to sourcing a willing and able workforce locally. As a result of programs already in place, we anticipate the pool of people considered to be 'work ready' will increase, providing long-term community benefits.

We remain committed to our Indigenous Employment Strategy which has now achieved a 25% Indigenous workforce participation, up from 9% in 2006. The strategy details a three-stage pathway that begins with programs to get ready for work and moves on to entry-level courses, formal training and career development.

There were no areas of significant, widespread concern raised by stakeholders in relation to the expansion project, rather areas of opportunity. Of the topics covered, the top five interest areas of the community were:

- employment opportunities
- MRM Community Benefits Trust
- traffic and roads
- rehabilitation
- housing, travel and other social issues.

MRM Community Benefits Trust

There was clear support in the community for the MRM Community Benefits Trust and the benefits it provides to the community, particularly through programs targeting youth. Community members also expressed curiosity about the decision-making process, the types of programs the Trust will support and whether the amount invested in the Trust annually by MRM would increase.

Extending the life of the Trust to match the proposed new mine life will represent a further \$11.3 million in funding, bringing the total fund over the life of the mine to approximately \$43.3 million. MRM currently invests \$1.35 million per annum into the Trust for an Initial Period of the Agreement for eight years. Following this eight-year period to July 2015, the contribution will be scheduled for review.

A Trust Project Officer visits Borroloola on a regular basis to provide assistance to individuals and groups regarding the grant submission process. To enhance the value of this resource, the Project Officer's visiting times and location will be promoted on a wider basis across the community.



Working as a laboratory technician and conducting sample testing to identify the quality and quantity of zinc for the Metallurgy Department.



Borroloola local Kathy Jupitor tries out the MRM heavy machinery simulator, usually used as a training device for MRM trainees, as part of a mine site tour.



General Manager – MRM Etienne Moller discussing community impacts and benefits of the proposed project at the Women's Safe House meeting.



Borrooloola local Marjorie Kieghran visits her granddaughter MRM's MST trainee Patricia Pluto on site before starting a tour of the mine.

Road maintenance

There were no concerns about the increase in traffic on the highway. Stakeholders were more concerned about the current state of maintenance of roads and road safety.

MRM will work with the NT Government to highlight the importance of undertaking an upgrade to the existing road, whether the project proceeds or not.

Environment, rehabilitation and mine closure plans

Increasing water testing at several locations at the mine and Bing Bong loading facility, as well as more transparency with monitoring results were important to the community during consultation. There was a high level of interest expressed by the Gurdanji community about being involved in the rehabilitation of the rivers and site.

MRM will consider providing the community and key stakeholders with increased access to and more detailed information on the monitoring results achieved, together with increased access to MRM environmental representatives to discuss the results.

MRM will explore opportunities to engage a Gurdanji ranger group to be actively involved in environmental management and care for country around the mine in conjunction with MRM environmental personnel.

Housing, travel and other social issues

There was recognition that overcrowding, availability and affordability of housing were issues in the community. Housing accommodation for workers was raised as an idea for MRM consideration.

Some were concerned that humpbugging, drugs and alcohol made the success of both retaining people in the community and retaining jobs at MRM difficult.

Significant feedback was also raised regarding the difficulties for medical patients seeking more advanced levels of medical care outside of Borrooloola and the long distances of travel required.

MRM will continue to provide local workers with the option to transfer to FIFO and relocate to Darwin where they can secure rental accommodation. Opportunities to secure housing within Borrooloola and surrounding areas will also be explored with the NT Government and private developers and consideration will be given to providing FIFO employees time in Borrooloola around their shift rotations.

MRM will also continue to support community health initiatives through the MRM Community Benefits Trust, sponsorships and donations. Such initiatives may include drug and alcohol education programs and substance abuse support services. Additionally, MRM supports the existing Alcohol Management Committee within Borrooloola and the draft Alcohol and Drugs Management Plan.



Health, Safety, Environment and Community Manager Gary Taylor takes Borroloola locals through rehabilitation to date on one of three mine site tours conducted for the Phase 3 consultation process.



A geologist identifies ore from overburden.



The MV Aburri docks to receive its load of bulk concentrate to transfer to waiting ships at sea.

Tailings and waste

There was a high level of satisfaction with how the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) performed in the last wet season, although there is a level of concern about the TSF, its design, purpose and impact on Surprise Creek.

There were no concerns about the proposed increase in height of the existing Overburden Emplacement Facility (OEF), only interest in how it would be ultimately rehabilitated at completion.

Since 2006, MRM has invested more than \$10 million to continuously improve the performance and management of the existing TSF. The expanded TSF will meet international best practice, drawing upon lessons learned through the decommissioning and rehabilitation of Cell One to ensure better integrity of the structure and to minimise the potential for seepage.

MRM is investigating a range of strategies to offset the visual impact of the higher OEF, including a potential voluntary conservation zone as a biodiversity offset.

Bing Bong loading facility

There was no concern raised regarding the increase in ship movements in the Gulf of Carpentaria and loading via the MV Aburri barge at sea, only interest in environmental monitoring along the Bing Bong coast and nearby Sir Edward Pellew Islands.

Cultural heritage management

The work MRM has done to protect cultural heritage to date was acknowledged. Questions were raised about the potential impact of the Project on sites of cultural significance, particularly Barramundi Dreaming.

Protecting cultural heritage sites remains of utmost importance to MRM. A cultural heritage study has been undertaken to review the site and confirm the presence of artefacts in consultation with archaeologists and Gurdanji Traditional Owners. The study identified that while artefacts were present, they were not considered to be significant and therefore the recommended management strategy is to document and remove the artefacts as per a process agreed with the Traditional Owners.

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