

## 16.0 Community Consultation

### 16.1 General Consultation

MRM consults with a range of stakeholder groups about its operations at McArthur River and Bing Bong on a regular basis and has done so over several years. The mine's community relations staff have regular interactions with community groups. To assist in this process, MRM maintains an office in Borrooloola where community members can drop in for information, or give messages or raise concerns with MRM. The MRM Community Development Officer is in regular attendance at this office several days per week and a Borrooloola resident is also employed part-time under the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) scheme to staff the office for four hours per day.

In addition, the MRM Community Development Officer is an active member of a number of local community organisations. This includes serving on the Borrooloola Community Education Centre (BCEC) board, the NT Police Diversionary Borrooloola Youth Support Committee, and the Borrooloola Interim Health Committee which has been working over the past two years to establish a Gulf Regional Health Service with Territory and Commonwealth funding. MRM's General Manager addresses the Borrooloola school at least once a year about the mine's activities and mining in general. In addition, members of the MRM's environmental management department work with community groups such as the Aboriginal Sea Rangers and the McArthur River Landcare group on a number of occasions each year.

MRM also maintains contact with the following local people and organisations:

- Individual traditional owners, including the junggayi/djungai (caretakers) through personal contact with the mine's community relations staff and management;
- MAWA Aboriginal Corporation, Mabunji Aboriginal Corporation, Rumburrii Aboriginal Corporation and other local indigenous organisations;
- The residents of Borrooloola, including members of the Kudanji/Gurdanji, Mara, Garrawa and Yanyuwa/Yanyula language groups through regular personal contact with the mine's community relations staff and management;
- The Borrooloola Community Government Council (BCGC);
- The local Regional Development Steering Committee;
- Gulf Regional Health Services Inc;
- The King Ash Bay Fishing Club;
- The Borrooloola Show Committee;
- The Borrooloola Rodeo and Racing Club;
- Northern Land Council;
- McArthur River Landcare Group;

- Borroloola CEC;
- The Northern Territory Government, including the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), Department of the Chief Minister, the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD), Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE);
- NT Assembly Member for Barkly, Elliot McAdam;
- NT Environment Centre;
- NT Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- NT Heritage Committee Borroloola Region; and
- Local pastoralists.

## 16.2 EIS Consultation (2003-2004)

A wide range of community consultation was undertaken when MRM's open cut mining plans were originally announced. Many of the original consultations referred to MIM which was the owner of the McArthur River Mine at the time.

Consultations commenced in early January 2003 with traditional owners of the country in which the mine is situated. It included a helicopter inspection of the areas likely to be impacted so that the traditional owners could ascertain whether sites of significance to them and their community might be affected.

This was followed by arranging for a group of traditional owners and other Borroloola residents to Brisbane from 13 to 15 January 2003 to see the Albion pilot processing plant and to receive other briefings at Mount Isa Mines (MIM) offices to assist people to understand the project being proposed. In the following week, another group of traditional owners and residents attended a similar trip to Brisbane. A representative of the Northern Land Council (NLC) and two NT Government representatives were also in attendance.

To coincide with the release of the EIS Guidelines on 11 February 2003, consultations with stakeholders was undertaken in Darwin. In March 2003, consultation with Borroloola stakeholders was held with some further update meetings in Borroloola and Darwin in April 2003. The individuals, groups and government departments consulted during the preparation of this EIS are listed in the Table 16.1.

**Table 16.1**  
**Summary Table of Community Consultation Meetings**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Individual, Group or Agency</b>
Early January 2003	Traditional owners
13 - 15 January 2003	Traditional owners and other residents (visit to Brisbane)
20 - 22 January 2003	Traditional owners and other residents, NLC, NT Government (visit to Brisbane)
5 February 2003	NT Government
10 -13 February 2003	MPs and media
11 February 2003	Darwin Media Briefing
	Industry Bodies Briefing; NT Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Territory Construction Association; NT Mineral Council; ISO.
	NT Environment Centre
	Amateur Fishermen's Association of NT (AFANT)
12 February 2003	NT Seafood Council
3 March 2003	King Ash Bay Fishing Club and community
19 March 2003	Borroloola residents
20 March 2003	Secondary Education Unit
	Traditional owners and local elders
25 March 2003	Local indigenous women
1 April 2003	Traditional owners
	Mabunji Board
7 April 2003	NT Government
5 August 2003	Traditional owners, NLC
7 October 2003	AAPA, DBIRD, OEH
October 2003	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority – site clearance surveys
11-12 May 2004	IMETF (Indigenous Mining and Enterprise Task Force)
Not recorded	Northern Land Council
Generally available	Residents of the NT – media, MRM website, email enquiry service, telephone enquiry

A summary of the issues raised at each of the above consultations is provided in Table 16.2. Details of the consultation, including the responses given, are provided in Appendix E.1. Also included in Appendix E.1 are relevant changes to the responses as a result of the change from the originally proposed expansion project to the now-proposed open cut project. It should be noted that a number of the issues raised relate to the originally proposed expansion project which included a weir on the Glyde River, a zinc refinery, a sulfur plant, an additional power station, and a limestone quarry. These projects elements are no longer proposed as part of the open cut project. In addition, the scale of the following project components has considerably reduced from the original proposal:

- The open cut, TSF and OEF have all reduced in size;
- The construction workforce was originally up to 1,000 personnel and will now peak at 150; and
- The operational workforce was originally 700 personnel and will now be 270.

**Table 16.2**

**Summary of Issues Raised in Consultation**

Stakeholder	Issues Raised																
	X = Issues Relevant to Original Proposal O = Issues Relevant to Current Proposal																
	Infrastructure			Community				Processing				Environment					
	TSF & OEF size, Location & Visual Impact	Open Pit Operation & Water Management	Transport of Product and Personnel	Employment, Training, Community Impacts & Business Opportunity	Timing of EIS & Project Construction & Life	Consultation/Stakeholder Involvement	Economic Contribution & Project Viability	Power Source & Greenhouse Emissions	Zinc Processing Plant	Port Facility Operations	Chemical Processes and Waste Disposal	Decommissioning & Rehabilitation	Glyde Weir Water Use, Impact, Mitigation	Impact on Sacred Sites	River Realignment	General Impact & monitoring	Landform Stability (incl. river banks)
AAPA, DBIRD, OEH, DIPE		X O			X O	X O		X O				X O		X O	X O	X O	X O
Amateur Fishermen's Association of NT						X O							X		X O		
Borooloola Residents	X O	X O	X	X				X	X	X	X O			X			
Indigenous Mining and Enterprise Task Force				X O										X O			
Industry Bodies				X O	X O		X O										
King Ash Bay Fishing Club and community			X	X O		X O				X O			X		X O	X O	
Local Indigenous Women				X						X			X	X O		X O	
Mabunji Board				X O	X O												
Media		X O				X O	X	X							X O		

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	TSF & OEF size, Location & Visual Impact	Open Pit Operation & Water Management	Transport of Product and Personnel	Employment, Training, Community Impacts & Business Opportunity	Timing of EIS & Project Construction & Life	Consultation/Stakeholder Involvement	Economic Contribution & Project Viability	Power Source & Greenhouse Emissions	Zinc Processing Plant	Port Facility Operations	Chemical Processes and Waste Disposal	Decommissioning & Rehabilitation	Glyde Weir Water Use, Impact, Mitigation	Impact on Sacred Sites	River Realignment	General Impact & monitoring	Landform Stability (incl. river banks)
Northern Land Council				X O	X O		X O			X O	X O			X O		X O	
NT Environment Centre		X O						X		X O		X O		X O	X O	X O	
NT Residents				X O	X O												
NT Seafood Council										X							
Secondary Education Unit (no issues raised)																	
Traditional Owners and Local Elders	X O	X O	X	X O	X	X	X O	X	X		X O	X O	X	X O	X O		X O
EIS Section Where Issue is Addressed	7.4 7.2 15.4	4.2 12.9	5.4 5.5	15.4 17.4	1.4 1.5	16.2	17.4 2.1	5.6 8.14	NA	4.5	4.3 7.2 7.4 7.5	20.2 20.3	NA	14.3 14.5	12.10	8.9 9.6 10.5 11.10 12.10 13.2 13.4 13.5	10.5 12.10

Many of the issues raised in the consultation for the originally proposed expansion project are still relevant for the open cut project. Issues identified by residents of Borroloola (including local indigenous people) and traditional owners are listed below. The sections of the EIS where the issue has been addressed are given in parenthesis.

- Employment and training opportunities for locals (15.4);
- Community benefits (15.4);
- Stakeholder involvement (16.2);
- Timing of the EIS process (1.5);
- Impacts on sacred sites (14.3, 14.5);
- Location and capacity of the OEF and TSF (7.2, 7.4);
- Visual impact of the TSF and OEF (15.5);
- Quantity of chemicals required for operations (4.3);
- Waste products from ore processing (7.2, 7.4); and
- Recycling process for water collected in the open pit (12.9).

Issues raised by other stakeholders consulted about the open cut project include:

- Contribution of the project to the NT economy (17.4);
- Business opportunities and local flow-on economic benefit resulting from the mining operation (2.3, 17.4);
- Impact of the McArthur River realignment on the environment (12.10);
- Stability of the OEF, TSF and river banks (7.2, 7.4, 12.10);
- Decommissioning process and ongoing monitoring and rehabilitation of the mine site (20.3); and
- Ongoing use of the Bing Bong Port facility (4.5).

### **16.3 Community Consultation (2005)**

Further consultation with relevant stakeholders and the community about the open cut project was undertaken in August 2005. The objective of this round of consultation was to update relevant stakeholders about the changes to the project since the previous consultation and to advise them of the upcoming release of the draft EIS.

The following stakeholders were consulted:

- Traditional owners and Aboriginal community members
- King Ash Bay local residents and fishing community
- Borroloola community leaders and local residents

- Northern Land Council
- NT Environment Centre
- Amateur Fishermen Association Northern Territory
- NT Government Departments (DBIRD, DIPE, OEH, OTD and AAPA)

Details of the issues raised and the MRM responses are given in Appendix E.2.