

Tropicana Gold Project: Public Environmental Review

4. Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation



4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

The Joint Venture recognises the importance of an open and transparent approach to stakeholder consultation. With the commencement of exploration activities within the region in 2002, the Joint Venture established communication channels with a wide range of interested parties which included the local Indigenous community, government departments and the local councils. Following the identification of the Tropicana/ Havana deposits, it was recognised that stakeholder engagement activities needed to be broadened to include a wider range of stakeholders. This chapter provides an overview of the key stakeholders, engagement activities and summary of the feedback obtained during the Tropicana Gold Project (the Project) consultation activities.

4.1. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROGRAM

The objectives of the Project stakeholder consultation program have been to:

- facilitate consultation with key stakeholders and the general community regarding the Project;
- provide information on the Project to stakeholders to increase their knowledge and involvement in the Joint Venture's decision making;
- provide a means for open communication that facilitate a mechanism for stakeholders to feel comfortable about raising concerns and improvement opportunities;
- minimise the risk of delays to the project by ensuring that concerns are identified and dealt with in advance of the environmental assessment process;
- obtain input into proposed management strategies during their development rather than during the assessment process; and,
- provide the basis for ongoing consultation over the life of the Project.

4.2. STAKEHOLDER

The Joint Venture defines a stakeholder as an individual, group or government body that can potentially influence or are potentially influenced by the Project. To ensure that all applicable stakeholders were identified a two pronged approach was adopted. Firstly the Project team developed a stakeholder matrix. This matrix was then reviewed by an external party (the review was undertaken by Q and A Communications Group; Q and A have extensive experience in the Goldfields and with mining-related stakeholder engagement) to ensure that all relevant stakeholders were identified and to ensure an appropriate communication strategy was developed for each stakeholder group.

The proposed Project is located in a relatively unexplored and undeveloped part of Western Australian where there are no residential populations. The nearest neighbours for the Project are located over 200 km south on the station of Kandanah and about 350 km away at the Tjuntjuntjarra Community to the east. The bulk of the Project falls in the Shire of Menzies, with the proposed infrastructure and access corridors cross section of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Shire of Laverton.

Table 4.1 lists the Project's primary stakeholders by their main interests. Other stakeholders not listed include Kalgoorlie-Boulder residents, politicians, local media and local supplier/ contractors.

Table 4.1: Primary Stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Organisation	
Indigenous Groups	Central Desert Native Title Service Central East Goldfields People Coonana Community Goldfields Land and Sea Council Great Victoria Desert Group Kurkula Language and Cultural Aboriginal Corporation	Maduwongga People Nooda Ngulegoo Aboriginal Corporation North Eastern Independent Body Nullarbor People Tjuntjuntjarra Community ¹ Wangkanji Language Centre
Environmental Interest Groups	Australian Conservation Foundation Carbon Neutral Conservation Council of WA ² Conservation Volunteers of WA Friends of the Great Victoria Desert Goldfield Naturalist Group Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group	Malleefowl Preservation Group ² Rangeland NRM The WA Naturalist Club Wilderness Society ² Wildflower Society of Western Australia ² WWF Threatened Species Network ²
Utility and Infrastructure Groups	Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd Main Roads WA ¹	Western Power
Local Government Authorities	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder ¹ Shire of Laverton	Shire of Menzies ¹
Industry Groups and Regional Services	Chamber of Minerals and Energy Goldfield-Esperance Development Commission ¹	Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc
Infrastructure Corridor Adjacent Land holders	A1 Minerals Ltd Athena Resources Aura Energy Pty Ltd Ausgold Exploration Pty Ltd Avoca Down Station Black Flag Station Boonderoo Station Corvette Resources Cowarna Down Station Gel Resources Pty Ltd Hampton Hill Station	Hawthorn Resources Heron Resources Kanandah Station King Eagle Resources Pty Ltd Mt Monger Station Narnoo Mining Pty Ltd Newmont Exploration Pty Ltd Pinjin Station Ponton Minerals Pty Ltd Yindi Station
State Government Departments and Agencies	Department of Environment and Conservation Department of Health Department of Indigenous Affairs (Perth and Kalgoorlie ¹) Department of Mines and Petroleum (Environment Division; Mineral Titles) Department of Planning (Perth and Goldfields) ¹ Department of Regional Development Department of State Development	(Environmental Regulation, Goldfields Region ¹ , Nature Conservation) Department of Water Environmental Protection Authority Forest Products Commission Office of Climate Change Office of Development Approvals Coordination Office of Energy Public Transport Authority ¹
Federal Government Departments	Civil Aviation Safety Authority Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (Indigenous Coordination Centres – Kalgoorlie) Office of Native Title	

1. Members of the Mine Access Road Steering Committee

2. Members of the Non-government Organisation Liaison focus Group

4.3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

During the consultation process to date, the following key issues have been identified:

- infrastructure provision or improvements; particularly road, telecommunications and power;
- emergency response assistance to remote communities;
- Indigenous enterprise and employment programs;
- contribution to local government authority areas in terms of financial support and participation;
- residential location of workforce and the impacts of shifts and rosters;
- use of local suppliers and labour;
- environmental management, particularly around water, biodiversity/ threatened species protection, weed introduction, greenhouse gas generation and land rehabilitation;
- Indigenous heritage; and,
- tourism access to local reserves.

The overall risk-based approach of the Joint Venture has required consultation on a variety of issues to accurately assess the design options by understanding environmental, social and economic impacts. Since 2006, the Joint Venture has progressively expanded its consultation program and has aimed to keep all stakeholders informed about the progress of the Project and to provide a means for them to influence the strategies and designs adopted by the Joint Venture (Figures 4.1 and 4.2).

To address specific requirements or needs of some stakeholders, the Joint Venture has established a Mine Access Route Steering committee and an NGO Liaison focus group. The aim of these groups was to identify road synergies and key concerns associated with the Project.

Face-to-face meetings, group meetings with stakeholders, local community groups and presentations have been delivered. Figure 4.3 summarises the key consultation methods to date as part of the Project and shows the main communication method has been face-to face meetings. Additional public presentations have been carried out in response to requests by the local government and management councils. It is the experience of the Joint Venture that face-to face meetings are the most effective method to seek feedback and engage with interested stakeholders. To provide easy access to information on the Joint Venture has established a Project website (www.tropicanaajv.com.au).

In February 2009 the project team held public briefing sessions at the Perth Zoological Gardens and the Goldfields Arts Centre in Kalgoorlie with the aim of providing stakeholders with a project update and timelines. Consultations with stakeholders will be ongoing for the life of the project.

To date, the Joint Venture has employed a range of engagement tools. Going forward, and depending on the nature of the information to be disbursed, a number of methods will continue to be used for distributing information. These include:

- local newspapers;
- local radio;
- information boards in Kalgoorlie;
- 'Open Day' information sessions; and,
- direct personal visits and telephone calls.

Key messages the Joint Venture will continue to communicate and demonstrate are:

- the Joint Venture anticipates to commence construction in 2010. Project updates are available to key stakeholders if and as required;
- compliance with environmental regulations with regard to the approvals, construction and operation of the Project is the minimum standard for the Project. The Joint Venture partners have an excellent track record of environmental performance and the Project will be implemented in such a way that impacts are minimised and/ or mitigated;
- the Joint Venture will aim to contribute positively to environmental management in the region as a result of the Project;
- the Joint Venture will work with local communities to seek mutually beneficial outcomes; and,
- the Joint Venture is pro-actively managing greenhouse gas emissions.

Environmental Milestones September 2008 Draft ESD submitted February 2009 Final ESD submitted March 2009 ESD approved by EPA April 2009 Draft PER submitted for DMA comment July 2009 Draft PER submitted to EPA SU		
September 2002 – 2005 Indigenous Liaison – Heritage Protection Exploration Activities DoIR/ DEC Management Liaison		
2006 Onwards Indigenous Liaison – Goldfields Land and Sea Council, NEIB – Heritage Management. DMP (Former DoIR)/ DEC Environmental		
June 07 – Formal Consultations Commence		
June 07 TGP DMA Briefings DEC DMP (former DoIR) DEWHA	July 07 Access Road Steering Committee Shire Menzies, City of Kalgoorlie/ Boulder DPI, DIA Goldfield, DoIR AED, Main Roads, DEC-Kalgoorlie, DMP Kalgoorlie Environmental Branch Tjuntjuntjarra, GEDC MLA John Bowler Central Desert Native Title Service (CDNTS)	October 07 Access Road Steering Committee Curtin University Kalgoorlie NOODA Wangkanji Language Centre DPI DMP
November 07 NEIB Menzies Council KBC Council, DoIR, Industry Traineeship Council, Working Group – Field Traineeship, Curtin University, ICC, Employment Agencies, Industry Groups	December 07 Access Route Landholders Existing Tenement Holder GLSC DEC Kalgoorlie DoIR	December 07 ODAC Briefing sessions: DMA – DEC EPASU, DEC EMS, DMP, DoW, DoH, DIA, DPI, Local Government
February 08 Access Road Steering Committee DEC Kalgoorlie, DIA, MRWA, DEWHA City of Kalgoorlie Boulder Indigenous Stakeholder Briefing Indigenous Business NEIB	March – May 08 NGO Liaison Groups - Conservation Council, Wildflower Society, Wilderness Society, WWF, Malleefowl Preservation Group, Friends of Great Victoria Desert, Goldfields Naturalist Group, Kalgoorlie Boulder Community High School, Kalgoorlie LSC Kurkula Language and Cultural Aboriginal Corp, Tjuntjuntjarra NEIB	June/ July 08 DMA Post Referral Briefing – Perth and Kalgoorlie Friends of GVD Malleefowl Preservation Group Pastoralists (10) Forest Products Commission CDNTS
August/September 08 Access Route Landholders Compass Group Shire of Menzies CDNTS Laverton Shire Council	October 08 ESD Scoping Document Submission Conservation Council, Wildflower Society, Wilderness Society, WWF, Malleefowl Preservation Group GLSC, NEIB Peer Review Panel First Meeting	November 08 CDNTS Peer Review Panel Site Visit DIA GLSC, NEIB EPASU meeting on draft ESD
December 08 Access Road Steering Committee Peer Review Panel Shire of Menzies site visit DIA DoH	January 09 CDNTS Peer Review Panel EPA presentation - ESD DEC Science Division	February 09 EPASU - ESD Final issued for approval DMA, NGO, Neighbour & General CDNTS Ethnographic site identification and management Stakeholder Briefings: Perth: 3 February 2009 Kalgoorlie: 5 February 2009
February 09 (cont.) DEC/ DMP Contaminated Sites Assessment DMP Conceptual Closure and Rehabilitation Plan DEC (EMB and Goldfields) - Conceptual Offset Strategy DEC (EMB and Goldfields) - Restricted Species Discussion	March-April 09 EPA approved final ESD EPASU - draft PER Peer Review Panel Indigenous Stakeholder liaison DMA Review DEWHA Conservation Council briefing	May-July 09 Peer Review Panel DMP (Kalgoorlie and Director [Perth]) DEC EMB Restricted Species and PEC Discussion Kalgoorlie Indigenous Business forum Update Carbon Neutral CDNTS Chief of Staff, Minister for Mines

Figure 4.1: Summary of Key Milestones and Consultations to Date

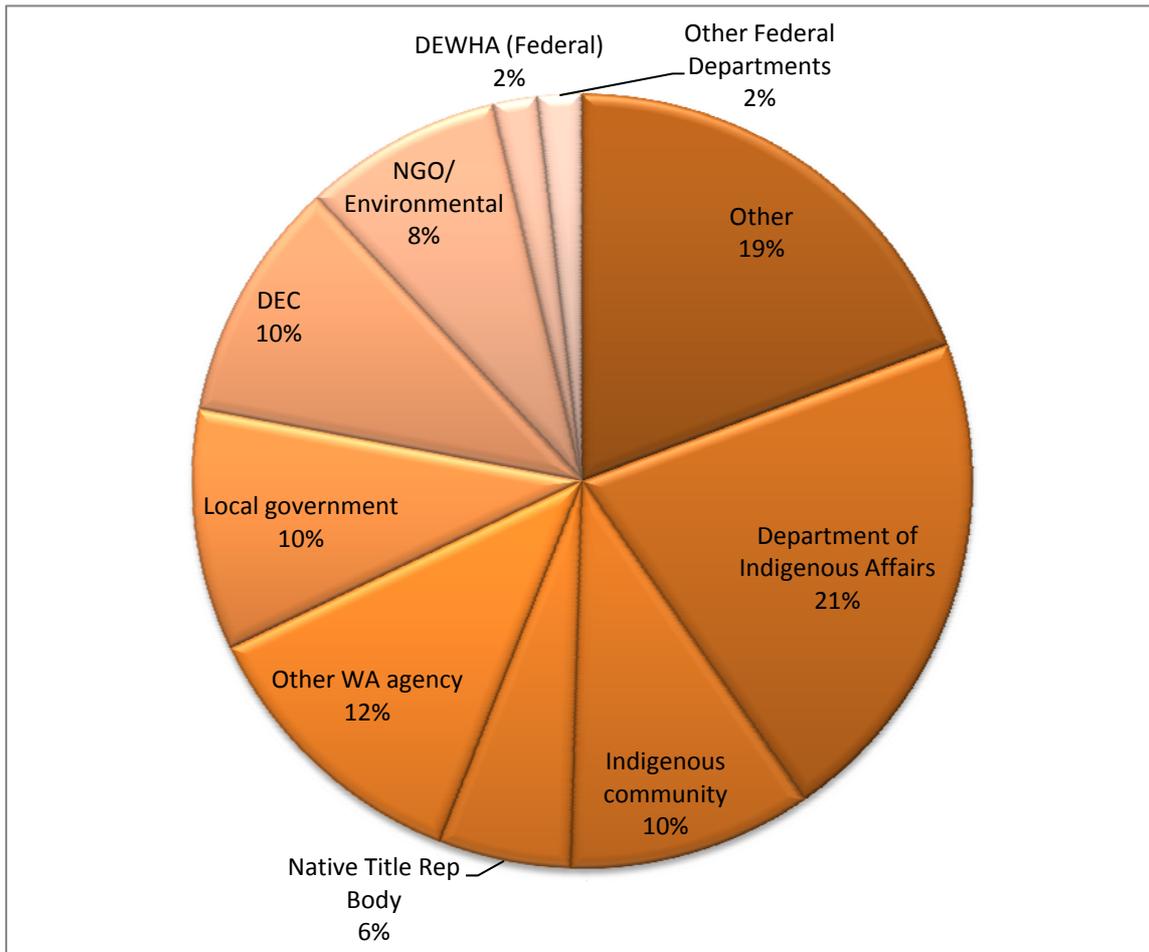


Figure 4.2: Summary of Consultations By Group Shown as a Percentage

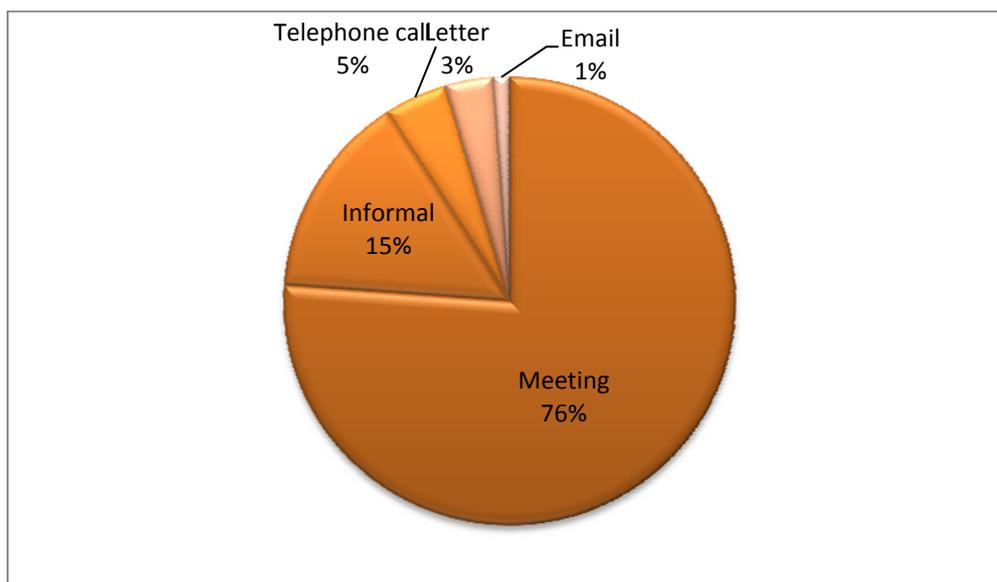


Figure 4.3: Summary of Main Consultation Methods to Date Shown as a Percentage

A summary of the key issues raised during the consultations are summarised in Table 4.2. All issues have been taken on board as part of the PER development and have been addressed.

Table 4.2: Summary of key Stakeholder Issues Raised During Consultations

Group/ Agency	Consultation Topic	Feedback/ Comments	Joint Venture Management of Issues Raised
<p>Environmental NGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Council of WA • Malleefowl Preservation Group • The WA Naturalist Club • Wilderness Society • Wildflower Society of Western Australia • WWF Threatened Species Network 	<p>General project briefing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that splitting the approvals (access road approvals separate to mine) could result in a 'road to nowhere' and that the cumulative impacts of both proposal may not be fully considered. • Concern that road will introduce weeds into the area and place extra pressure on the conservation reserves. • Suggestion that the Joint Venture could work with DEC and other regional stakeholders regarding an appropriate fire management strategy for the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine and road approvals for the Project combined into a single proposal. • The Joint Venture will work with regulators and other stakeholders to educate road users in appropriate behaviour and discourage un-authorised users from accessing the private Mine Access Road. • Fire management is a significant consideration for the Project from the environmental, rehabilitation and safety perspective.
<p>Road Steering Committee</p>	<p>Mine Access Road Route and Management Considerations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No real preference for either road option. • One group indicated that they would prefer to have Haulage vehicles separate to light vehicles to limit interaction and safety issues. • Suggestion to install shed tanks along the route in case of breakdowns. • Concern that road will introduce weeds into the area and place extra pressure on the conservation reserves. • Could increase the risk of fire to the region. • Could facilitate the movement of feral animals into the pastoral areas adjacent to the road. • Pastoralists interested in assistance with station infrastructure, i.e. fencing, grids, water points etc. • Increased pressure on regional emergency and health services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues noted and incorporated into Design for Road Alignment and as part of management considerations. • No ore haulage will occur on the road.
<p>Landholders and land managers along the two proposed access road routes</p>	<p>Proposed access road routes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objection to Miscellaneous Licenses along the two proposed access road routes. • Access Agreements. • Main issues identified are "public road" acceptance and concessional rights to use the new road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access agreements have been developed and the key issues raised by landholders and managers have been considered. A balance between the provision of improved infrastructure and improved access has had to be achieved i.e. a balance between social and environmental outcomes.

Group/ Agency	Consultation Topic	Feedback/ Comments	Joint Venture Management of Issues Raised
ODAC (multi-departmental meeting)	General project briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined that Joint Venture was well positioned to facilitate approval without ODAC assistance. • Initial timeline assumptions were incorrect. EPASU assessment will align with IPAS timelines. • Must liaise with relevant government agencies on environmental issues, note that EPA will only assess significant impacts. • Access Road independent assessment remains problematic for some agencies. • Risk remains the Access Road may need formal impact assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access road incorporated into overall mine environmental impact assessment (originally it was proposed to separate the road and mine approvals due to timing constraints). • EPASU providing advice to ensure a suitably detailed PER report. Community, DEC agencies and appropriate stakeholders continue to be consulted as summarised in Figure 4.1.
EPA Service Unit	Referral strategy and timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends referring the largest probable mining project for Tropicana, while being realistic the maximum size. • The amount of clearing proposed by the project will be considered significant. • Separate referrals for the mining project and road is risky and prefer the mine to be referred first. • Consider the road as a potential sleeper that could significantly increase the pressures on the region. • Commitments to be outcome based. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road and mine combined as one referral for assessment by the EPA. • Clearing has been minimised where possible and protected species avoided where possible. • This issue of 'Improved infrastructure and increased access to the region' has been addressed in this PER (access will be controlled) and offsets will contribute to management of the region in a positive manner. • Commitments detailed are outcome based (refer Chapters 7 and 13).
EPA	ESD finalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA are only interested in the significant environmental risks, not issues managed by normal practices. • Include chemical characterisation in PER. • Is solar thermal really likely? • Include Mine Closure Strategy and Cyanide Management Strategy in PER. • Offset hierarchy to be covered in the PER document. Some of the offsets proposed (rehab of surplus tracks and degraded areas and assistance with managing access impacts on nature reserves) would not be considered an offset but be considered standard practice under the environmental management of the mine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical characterisation incorporated in PER (Chapters 6 and 7). • Options in the event solar thermal is not adopted as the preferred power source have been included in Chapter 13 (Offsets). • Conceptual Mine Closure and Rehabilitation Strategy and Tailings Management Strategy included in technical Appendices of PER. • Offset hierarchy incorporated in Chapter 13.

Group/ Agency	Consultation Topic	Feedback/ Comments	Joint Venture Management of Issues Raised
DEC Contaminated Sites Branch	Material Characterisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed content and scope of work to be undertaken. Guidelines agreed for comparative assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical characterisation incorporated in PER (Chapters 6 and 7).
DMP Kalgoorlie	Mine Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wanted to see a care and maintenance plan as part of the Mine Closure Strategy in the event of a sudden closure or planned closure. Timing of key components for the plan to be included aligned to phases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Mine Closure and Rehabilitation Strategy incorporates the need for a care and maintenance plan. Timing included in the Conceptual Mine Closure and Rehabilitation Strategy.
DEC-EMB	Offsets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEC generally supportive of offsets proposal to enhance land care in GVD region. Offsets should consider incorporation of additional conservation areas into GVD to reach target 15%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offsets incorporated in Chapter 13. DEC items raised are considered as detailed in Chapter 13.
DEC-EMB	Restricted Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of putative Short Range Endemics discussed, species are pending identification. Troglofauna species identified in the Operational footprint. Agreed further surveying is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7 details the management of putative Short Range Endemics. A Threatened Species and Communities Management Strategy is included in this PER (Appendix 3-E)
DIA - Kalgoorlie	Management strategy for archaeological, ethnographic sites and community consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorse the approach being employed to identify archaeological and ethnographic sites. Request survey reports be lodged with the DIA. DIA keen to work with Joint Venture on the development of the Project's Section 18 submission. DIA keen to assist with community consultations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys have been lodged with the DIA. Section 18 will form part of the Project approvals. Extensive community consultations are ongoing.
DEWHA	Referral strategy and timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some acceptance of separate referral strategy - recommend mining project 1st, road 2nd. Acknowledged Joint Venture plan to make use of the Bilateral Agreement between WA and Federal Governments. Recommend we make it clear the mining project is a 'controlled action' under our referral. Accept the proposed referral timeline. Greenhouse Emissions offset. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road and mine combined as one referral for assessment by the EPA and DEWHA. Bilateral Agreement between WA and Federal Governments will be used for the Joint Venture PER. The mining project is a 'controlled action'. Greenhouse Gas Emission offset outlined in Chapter 13.

Group/ Agency	Consultation Topic	Feedback/ Comments	Joint Venture Management of Issues Raised
Public Briefings – Perth and Kalgoorlie	Project Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment opportunities. • Interest in biological data. • Queries raised on void and whether backfilling had been considered. • Main issues identified are “public road” acceptance and concessional rights to use the new road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Venture discusses economic benefits in Chapter 3. • Joint Venture aim is to employ local people and utilise local businesses where possible. • A balance between the provision of improved infrastructure and opening up of country has had to be achieved i.e. a balance between social and environmental outcomes.
Central Desert Native Title Service	Management of ethnographic sites and community consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work completed to date may not have consulted with all relevant informants • Work completed to date may not have recorded all culturally important sites / areas • Interested in how the community may be benefited by the Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder consultation is ongoing in an effort to establish whether or not other people exist with knowledge of the region • Additional work will be undertaken if Stakeholders feel that a site of cultural importance may not have been appropriately documented.