

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE	1000 / 9000
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Economy / Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.4.2

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

3,500 construction jobs, 2,360 permanent employees, 70,000 indirect flow through jobs.

Detailed information as to the specific impacts on the regional economy, particularly on local providers and suppliers and contractors is required. The local suppliers could possibly service only part of the predicted extent of the operations.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

An economic analysis of the project was completed as part of the EIS and included an assessment of regional economic impacts (see Appendix 24 of the EIS. In this report the 'Mine Catchment' encompasses Barcaldine Regional Council and Central Highlands Regional Council). It is acknowledged in the report that not all flow-on activity will be able to be serviced by the regional economy, and that some goods and services will need to be imported. Sections 5.1.1, 5.1.2, and 5.2.1 provide information on the level of activity that may be supported within the regional economy over various phases of the project. While acknowledging limitations in the capacity of local suppliers to service the project, Waratah Coal will give preference to local suppliers, and will provide support to improve the capacity of local suppliers to bid for project contracts. Refer *SIMP*, Section 6.6.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9001 / 4038
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Cumulative Impacts / Social
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.5

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Refers to the cumulative impacts assessment section of the EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 5):

- Table 2 lists projects and status.
- The proposed 'Townsville model' community fund is not seen to be the best model for the Galilee region and further consultation with regional councils is required.
- Any community fund to mitigate cumulative impacts needs to be based on local/regional needs and led by local community representation in placement and distribution of funds through governing body.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As outlined in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Sections 5.1 and 6.1, Waratah Coal recommends that Galilee Basin proponents make financial contributions to an Infrastructure Fund and a Community Development Fund, both aiming to improve infrastructure and services in Alpha.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9003 / 4039
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Cumulative Impacts / Social
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.5

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Cumulative Impact Assessment misses social and economic impacts of local infrastructure and services and local council abilities to service the projects, both in terms of approvals and ongoing management.

How will the project address labour shortages in the region? Main issues will be housing, inadequate infrastructure, this could be highlighted now. There is a lack of Council skills and funds to cope with the regional growth.

The proponent and Queensland Government can now attempt to identify cumulative effects from the various projects proposed in the region and provide a strategy to help the local communities assess process, manage and cope with the developments. BRC request the Coordinator-General to assist council in reviewing policy, conducting planning, and developing strategies to address the cumulative impacts.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As described in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Section 5.1, Waratah Coal would prefer to address the cumulative social and economic impacts by using the proposed Galilee Basin Cumulative Social Impact Assessment (CSIA) Roundtable to prepare and implement a development plan for Alpha, with financial contributions from the Galilee Basin proponents, rather than initiate additional research. The development plan would address housing and infrastructure, including affordable housing for non-mining employees/families.

To help overcome capacity constraints within the Barcaldine Regional Council, Council could appoint a Fund Manager or Project Officer to assist in the planning, management and administration of the proposed Infrastructure and Community Funds. The costs associated with this position could be met from the Community Fund.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9005
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	2.1.7

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Will the local regional council and community have access to the fibre optic cable?

The impacts from the mine also provide benefits through provision of services that supporting contractors, local and regional council and the community may be connected. This is particularly important due to the distances in the region and also the need for council to participate in ongoing communications, committees and groups.

A cable network for local council and the community may also be included as part of the ongoing community engagement strategy whereby telecommunications may be used to supplement existing engagements and increase participation numbers (i.e. currently average approx. 5-10 persons per engagement currently).

PROPONENT RESPONSE

While supporting suggestions for improved communications, the need to access the fibre optic cable must be assessed against the plans for the National Broadband Network. As discussed in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Section 6.1, it is recommended that communications are addressed by the proposed Galilee Basin Cumulative Social Impact Assessment Roundtable as part of the infrastructure needs for Alpha and the Galilee Basin.

Waratah Coal will however be looking at methods as to how the business sector and the general public can have commercial access to the fibre optic cable network within the Waratah Coal corridor.

SUBMITTER No.	534	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9018
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Security of locals. Better security force required.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 6.5 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS*), Waratah Coal will apply a Code of Conduct to all employees, contractors and sub-contractors, which aims to enhance relationships between employees and contractors and the local community and minimise adverse social impacts. A draft Code of Conduct is included as an attachment to the *SIMP*

SUBMITTER No.	152	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9019
SUBMITTER TYPE	NGO	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Reef Line Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- No allowance made in the SEIS to deal with increased pressure due to fishing from recreational fishing by additional employees at the port and charter fishing from miners
- Loss of employees from commercial fishing to mining sector
- Impacts from sedimentation from construction activities will impact on commercial fisheries
- Remove commercial effort via a competitive tender process, and
- Financial compensation be given to commercial fishers to not fish during times of sedimentation caused from rail.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Amateur and commercial fishing is managed in Queensland through a range of initiatives including fishing zones, closed seasons, bag limits and minimum sizes. These requirements are regularly reviewed to ensure higher population, and more specifically increased fishing pressure, is not adversely affecting fish stocks. It is up to the regulatory authorities to balance the needs of recreational fishers against those of commercial fishers.

Sedimentation from the rail is not expected to impact on commercial fishers operating in the Bowen area.

SUBMITTER No.	376	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9020
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Mines affecting local communities through mine employment policies – No further information.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal proposes a wide range of initiatives to help maximise positive social impacts and help minimise negative social impacts arising from the Galilee Coal Project. Included in these are commitments to give preference to local employees and provide training, including apprenticeships for local people (refer *SIMP*, Section 6.5). Waratah Coal has prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal’s approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	565	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9021
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Pressure on existing accommodation. Project should be disallowed.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As discussed in the *SIMP* (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Sections 5.1, 5.2, 6.1 and 6.4, Waratah Coal intends to provide accommodation for its employees in Alpha, and expects to provide financial contributions towards affordable housing, as part of an overall development plan for Alpha.

While the housing market in Bowen is substantially larger than that for Alpha, and Waratah Coal expects employees to source their own accommodation, Waratah Coal has suggested that financial contributions are made by all Abbot Point proponents to contribute towards the development of Bowen’s infrastructure and services (refer *SIMP*, Sections 5.1, 6.2 and 6.4), including support for affordable housing.

SUBMITTER No.	746	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9022
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Change in Alpha due to people and workers.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

In response to local preferences and aspirations, Waratah Coal aims to contribute to Alpha's growth and prosperity through a well planned and effectively managed expansion in population, physical infrastructure and economic opportunities, while trying to preserve and contribute positively to the existing lifestyle and friendly, rural atmosphere. Refer *SIMP*, Sections 5.2 and 6.1.

Waratah Coal has also prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal's approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	763	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9023
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Lack of certainty around project leads to stress for landowners.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The stress on landowners is acknowledged as one of the main adverse social impacts arising from the project (refer *SIMP*, Section 4.2). Waratah Coal aims to understand the impacts on property owners, minimise impacts as much as possible, ensure fair compensation when impacts can not be avoided, provide opportunities to landowners to benefit from the project when available (eg. contracting), and provide every opportunity to engage with property owners in a meaningful and effective manner. Further details are provided in the *SIMP* (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Section 6.3.

SUBMITTER No.	778	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9024
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- High impact to local community
- Doesn't meet terms for IAIA (2003), and
- Partnership with locals to share power in planning.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As reflected in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS, Sections 5 and 6)*, Waratah Coal has outlined a detailed approach to the management of social impacts, and is guided by the need to:

1. Understand the communities in which the project is located, and the visions that these communities have for their future
2. Prepare strategies to maximise the contribution that the project can make towards realising these visions
3. Build productive relationships with these communities to help realise their visions for their future, and
4. Support efforts to enhance coordination between proponents.

The *SIMP* follows and supports, as much as possible, the intent of the guidelines, principles and core values described by the IAIA in its *International Principles for SIA (Special Publication Series #2), May 2003*. Although the impacted communities are not currently in a 'power sharing' position, Waratah Coal has proposed that the Barcaldine and Whitsunday Regional Councils take the lead responsibility for preparing local development plans and manage infrastructure and community development funds which proponents of the Galilee Basin, and Abbot Point, respectively, make financial contributions towards. This is regarded as an appropriate approach towards establishing and building local partnerships.

SUBMITTER No.	1240	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9025
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

No detail given.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

An assessment of social impacts and details on social impact management strategies are outlined in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*.

SUBMITTER No.	494	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9026
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

EIS does not detail how and to what extent, Waratah would ensure that local amenities and services were maintained properly so that they could cope with the increased use and demand from the project.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As reflected in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS, Sections 5 and 6)*, Waratah Coal has outlined a detailed approach to the management of social impacts, and is guided by the need to:

1. Understand the communities in which the project is located, and the visions that these communities have for their future
2. Prepare strategies to maximise the contribution that the project can make towards realising these visions
3. Build productive relationships with these communities to help realise their visions for their future, and
4. Support efforts to enhance coordination between proponents.

Waratah Coal supports the proposed Galilee Basin Cumulative Social Impact Assessment (CSIA) Roundtable, which will be tasked in preparing a Social Infrastructure Plan for the Galilee Basin.

Waratah Coal recommends that Galilee Basin and Abbot Point proponents make financial contributions to Infrastructure and Community Development funds aiming to improve infrastructure and services in Alpha and Bowen, respectively. Waratah Coal has also proposed that the Barcaldine and Whitsunday Regional Councils take the lead in preparing local development plans to help ensure local amenities and services are not only maintained, but significantly enhanced, as a result of the Galilee Basin projects.

SUBMITTER No.	670	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9027 / 17172
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individuals	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Names withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Potential impacts and mitigation measures
- Community Engagement – No further information
- Consultation and compensation to landholders for disturbance to land, lifestyle, adverse results of subsidence / dust / noise / livestock performance / ground and surface water supplies, and
- Negotiations and compensation to landholders to consider social and long term investment values to landowners. Negotiations to be transparent, fair and equitable manner.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The proposed approach for minimising adverse impacts on landholders is outlined in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, refer Sections 5.4 and 6.3. The community engagement approaches are outlined in the *SIMP*, Section 7, including a Landowner Engagement Strategy (refer Section 7.4).

SUBMITTER No.	877	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9028
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Greater analysis of consequences needs to be completed (social, economic and environmental benefits)
- Impacts of FIFO – Large settlements, and
- Impacts on indigenous workers.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As reflected in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS, Sections 5 and 6)*, Waratah Coal has outlined a detailed approach to the management of social impacts, and is guided by the need to:

1. Understand the communities in which the project is located, and the visions that these communities have for their future
2. Prepare strategies to maximise the contribution that the project can make towards realising these visions
3. Build productive relationships with these communities to help realise their visions for their future, and
4. Support efforts to enhance coordination between proponents.

An estimated 1,950 operational workers are expected to be engaged on either a DIDO or FIFO basis at the mine site. Notwithstanding a strong preference among mine workers for DIDO or FIFO employment (surveys indicate more than 83% of non-resident workers in the Bowen Basin prefer DIDO/FIFO)¹, Waratah Coal has outlined a strategy to support Alpha’s growth while preserving and contributing positively to the existing lifestyle and friendly, rural atmosphere. Without a large number of DIDO or FIFO workers Alpha would become a ‘mining town’ – consultation with the local community has revealed that this is not the preference of the majority of Alpha residents. To help ensure this does not occur, Waratah Coal will require all employees, contractors and sub-contractors to abide by a Code of Conduct, aiming to enhance relationships between employees and contractors and the local community and minimise adverse social impacts (refer *SIMP, Section 6.5, in Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS,*).

Waratah Coal has prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal’s approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP (see Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*.

¹ *Workforce Accommodation Arrangements in the Queensland Resources Sector – Queensland Resources Council Workforce Survey*, Queensland Resources Council. May 2012. Page 38.

SUBMITTER No.	493, 517, 671, 685, 694, 696, 699, 711, 712, 726, 783, 1255	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9029, 9030, 9031, 9032, 9033, 9034, 9035, 9036, 9037, 9038, 9039, 9040/ 17173, 17174, 17175, 17176, 17177, 17178, 17179, 17180, 17181, 17182, 17183, 17184
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individuals	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Names withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Reduction of adequate and suitable workers for remote properties due to mining. No mention of what the specific strategies (in Appendix 24, p36) to minimise impacts on employment in agriculture industry are and what responsibility WC will take for developing and implementing them
- Overload of Amenities and service due to increased use of infrastructure and services
- Vague and unsubstantiated claims are made in the EIS to future actions WRT agreements with landholders
- Assurance of fair and full compensation
- Payment of landholders project related expenses
- Commitment to practical means of boosting rural workforce before project approved. Supporting rural training
- Waratah Coal must specify prior to EIS approval, the strategies for expansion and maintenance of local amenities and services
- Waratah Coal must put in place legally binding agreements to specify the rights and protect the interests of landholders prior to project approval
- Conditions regulating buy-out process and relocation expenses must be accepted in writing by Waratah before the project is approved, and
- Waratah Coal should be required to reimburse landholders for all reasonable expenses incurred in responding to the imposition of the project.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Workforce

As discussed in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Section 5.4, Waratah Coal believe it possible to help minimise the loss of staff to the mining industry by:

- Outsourcing goods and services and using established, local contractors when possible
- Making financial contributions to affordable housing, particularly in Alpha and Bowen, and
- Providing financial support for apprentices that are engaged by local businesses (not necessarily involved in or related to the mining industry).

While not necessarily addressing the loss of agricultural workers to the mining industry, Waratah Coal is willing to participate in discussions with local councils or other fora to try and develop other approaches to deal with this issue.

As discussed in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Section 6.5, Waratah Coal will have a substantial training program, including the provision of local apprenticeships.

Local amenities and services

Waratah Coal's planned contributions to local amenities and services is described in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1 and 6.2. This includes a preference for the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point proponents to provide annual financial contributions to both the Barcaldine and Whitsunday Regional Councils for both infrastructure and services, based on priorities identified by the Councils.

Landholders

Waratah Coal is not legally bound to enter agreements with property holders prior to project approval. However, Waratah Coal has outlined its approach to minimise adverse impacts on landholders. As discussed in the *SIMP (refer Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Sections 5.4 and 6.3, Waratah Coal aims to understand the impacts on property owners, minimise impacts as much as possible, ensure fair compensation when impacts can not be avoided, provide opportunities for landholders to benefit from the project when available, and provide every opportunity to engage with property owners in a meaningful and effective manner.

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9041
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Chapter 4 – Social Values and Management of Impacts, section 4.1.3, p62

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS states that the coal mine project will employ a workforce of approximately 2,500 contractors at peak construction period.

It also proposes a workforce of 2,360 permanent employees/ contractors to be required during the mine operations.

Comment:

- The timeframes for workforce staging are not clear, and
- The department requests that an approximate timeline and associated staff numbers at each stage of the project be provided in the final EIS.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The workforce numbers have been updated and are presented in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Section 2.3.

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9042
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	4.1.5 Mitigation Measures and Management Strategies (p62 & 72).

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

During the finalisation of the Social Impact Development Plan (SIMP), an Action Plan will be prepared for each impact. Action Plans must be finalised in collaboration with other impacted stakeholders to encourage and allow their input. The Department's Central and Regional Offices should be listed as key stakeholders with a project area of interest in employment, training, housing and economic participation.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The list of stakeholders and their interests have been amended to include the above.

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9043
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Chapter 7 – Management Plans, section 7.2 Social Impact Management Plan, p71

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS states that the project is one of four large coal mines being developed in Galilee Basin. The three other coal mines in the vicinity of Alpha, all of which have been identified as ‘significant’ by the Queensland Government, include Alpha Coal, Kevin’s Corner and South Galilee.

Other large scale projects are being developed and are expected to have significant impacts within the same geographical area. These include BMA Bowen Basin Coal Growth, Drake Coal, Abbot Point Expansion, and Abbot Point Multi Cargo Facility.

It is likely several of the proposed projects will be developed within similar timeframes to that proposed for the development of this project.

The proponent should acknowledge that the project is likely to contribute to cumulative impacts on housing affordability and availability issues in local communities when considered in conjunction with other current and future projects in the Galilee Basin region.

The department would like to see a commitment from the proponent to work with other proponents, local government and other stakeholders (e.g. local community housing providers) to address methods to manage and mitigate any short, medium or long-term adverse impacts on housing affordability and availability, including the rental market.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal has stated openly that the project will contribute to cumulative impacts on housing affordability and availability. As stated in the *SIMP*, Sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2 and 6.4 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal has also proposed to provide housing for its staff based in Alpha, and to contribute to affordable housing in both Alpha and Bowen through financial contributions to infrastructure and community development funds, which are managed by the local Councils.

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9044 / 15000
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Project Facilitation Unit)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 2, Chapter 16, 16.5.6; Volume 3, Chapter 16, 16.4.6; Volume 1, Chapter 9, 4.3.4

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS presents limited details regarding the project’s impact on housing. There is no statistical data provided in relation to the supply and demand for housing or review of similar situations within Queensland.

Additional households will likely re-locate to the area. This possibility should be investigated as part of the EIS and cumulative impact assessment.

The Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) does not include specific strategies to minimise impact on housing. While the action plan in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) includes an intention to prepare an Accommodation and Housing Plan, it is difficult for DEEDI to respond until this information is available.

The EIS should investigate potential impacts on housing in Alpha and adjacent regional centers (including Emerald and Bowen) to identify potential impacts. The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) should include a review of current house prices and availability within the study area. Case studies in which major projects have impacted local housing markets should be identified within the SIA and referenced to when developing mitigation strategies

The SIMP should identify specific strategies to minimise the project's impact on housing. Action Plan #3 should include a list of strategies likely to be included within the proposed Accommodation and Housing Plan. Where impacts are the result of several resource projects, mitigation strategies should include consultation and cooperation with relevant projects.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Section 2.6 of the SIA included information on house and rental prices, housing availability and housing affordability. Nevertheless, considerably more information is now available, including a recent assessment commissioned by Waratah Coal and completed by RP Data.

The SIMP contains a number of strategies to address housing and housing related issues. Refer to Sections 5 and 6.

Alpha and Jericho

Townships central to the proposed mine site currently show median house prices which are well below larger established townships. The median house price in the town of Alpha was \$262,500 at the time of RP Data's analysis and the median house price was lower in the town of Jericho at an estimated \$195,000. Both suburbs are recording very few home sales (four house sales in Alpha over the twelve months ending March 2012 and one sale in Jericho over the same time frame). The number of house sales over the twelve months to March 2012 is significantly lower than the five year average which suggests properties within these townships are becoming tightly held.

Vacancy rates in both Alpha and Jericho are estimated to be lower than 1 per cent which is partly a reflection of the fact there is only a small number of rental properties (the 2011 Census identifies 68 homes as rented in Alpha and 38 in Jericho; around one third of all dwellings in each township) but also that demand for these properties is high in relation to supply.

With vacancy rates so low and limited turnover in housing we would presume there is likely to be further upwards pressure on property prices, a trend which may be compounded by investor speculation in the market. Based on the current median prices, housing affordability does not appear to be an issue with typical monthly loan payments estimated to be \$1,840 in Alpha and \$1,365 in Jericho; much lower than major service centres such as nearby Emerald where average monthly home loan repayments are estimated to be \$3,020.

The local area demonstrates very little to no capacity to house additional residents. Based on the additional housing demand that will be created by the mining activity and associated infrastructure development, it will be necessary to construct new housing in the local area.

Note that more detailed information on these locations can be found across pages 4 and 5 of the *Galilee Basin Housing Market Analysis*, which is in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS.

Bowen

The township of Bowen has seen some downwards pressure on house prices recently with the median price of houses sold over the year to 2012 falling by 4.2 per cent to \$350,000. The median house price in Bowen has been as high as \$390,000 based on house sales transacted over the twelve months ending July 2011. The number of house sales recorded over the twelve months to March 2012 was well below the five year average; 106 sales were recorded compared with the average transaction count of 150 sales.

The depreciation in the median price together with lower home sales suggests housing demand in the Bowen area has diminished post Global Financial Crisis (GFC), however, the benefit is that that housing affordability has improved. Based on the median house price, we estimate a typical monthly mortgage payment would be \$2,451.

Vacancy rates in the township are estimated to be between 2.1 per cent and 4.3 per cent suggesting there is likely to be some upwards pressure on rental rates going forward.

The relatively low rate of rental vacancy in the township of Bowen indicates there is only modest scope to house additional residents. It is likely there will be a requirement for additional housing supply in order to ensure sufficient accommodation is available for resident workers living in the local community.

Note that more detailed information on these locations can be found on page 7 of the *Galilee Basin Housing Market Analysis*, which is in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS.

Emerald

The township of Emerald acts as a major service centre for the surrounding area including the towns closest to the proposed mining site, Alpha and Jericho. Housing prices at Emerald have been under upwards pressure for most of the past decade, with the median house price rising by 10.2 per cent over the twelve months to March 2012 to reach \$431,000. Transaction volumes have been ramping up in the township over the past eighteen months as demand for housing accelerates on the back of the resources sector.

Vacancy rates are very low; at the time of analysis RP Data estimated the rate of rental vacancy to be between 1.8 per cent and 2.4 per cent. The low rate of rental vacancy is likely to result in further upwards pressure on local rents which have already risen by 5.1 per cent over the twelve months to March 2012.

Considering the low rate of rental vacancy and the rising number of homes transacting at Emerald, we would expect there to be further appreciation of home prices in the local area. Typical monthly mortgage repayments are estimated to be \$3,020 which is significantly higher than other townships analysed in the Galilee Basin.

Housing additional residents is likely to be a challenge within the township of Emerald. With vacancy rates so low and demand escalating, it is reasonable to assume there will be a requirement for further housing construction in order to meet any additional demand from workers.

Note that more detailed information on these locations can be found on page 8 of the *Galilee Basin Housing Market Analysis*, which is in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS.

Examples of established resource driven towns that have been impacted by mining operations

The town of Moranbah is arguably the best example of a local township where resources related activity has affected housing market conditions. The median house price in Moranbah was recorded at \$670,000 in March 2012, having risen by 74 per cent since January 2009. The median house price in Moranbah is 53 per cent higher than Brisbane's median house price and 20 per cent higher than Sydney's.

Rental rates have seen an even larger rise, up by 177 per cent over the same time frame to reach a weekly median rental rate of \$1,800.

Due to the high cost of housing, typical monthly mortgage repayments are around \$4,711. The high cost of renting indicates that for many residents it is actually more affordable to pay a mortgage than to pay rent.

The housing market conditions can be tied back to a significant gap between housing supply and demand. An influx of permanent workers as well as FIFO and DIDO workers; the OESR estimates population growth of 12 per cent between 2010 and 2011 and is projecting further population growth of 7.1 per cent in 2012 and 8.8 per cent in 2013.

The Moranbah experience highlights the need to plan for additional housing in line with increases in demand.

Note that more detailed information on these locations can be found on page 9 of the *Galilee Basin Housing Market Analysis*, which is in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS.

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9045
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Project Facilitation Unit)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 2, Chapter 17, 17.4.2.1 and vol 1, chpt 9

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

As identified within the EIS, the project represents a significant opportunity for regional development through the positive impacts associated with employment opportunities. These benefits can be maximised by specifically targeting regions of Queensland with high unemployment.

It is suggested that the proponent develop strategies to source employees from high unemployment regions in Queensland as a means to maximise the positive impacts associated with employment opportunities. This could be achieved through recruitment and training strategies or by establishing innovative arrangements with relevant local governments and airlines.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 6.5 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal has included strategies to recruit workers from areas in Queensland that have relatively high levels of unemployment, including:

- Participating in any further Job Expos arranged by the Queensland Government, and
- Liaising with the FIFO Coordinator in Cairns, and any other FIFO Coordinators that are appointed.

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Waratah Coal has a strong commitment to maximizing the economic benefits of the project in Central Queensland and the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regions (refer Section 5.5).

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9046
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Project Facilitation Unit)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 2, Chpt 9, 4.1 (including Attachment 4)

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

When discussing cumulative social impacts the EIS identifies several large scale projects that are being developed and expected to have significant impacts within the study area. Successful engagement and consultation with the proponents of these projects is fundamental to the effective management of cumulative social impacts.

It is suggested that the Stakeholder Engagement Summary (Attachment 4) include those proponents currently developing large scale projects within the study area. Relevant 'Engagement Actions' and 'Management Strategies', like those developed for other stakeholders, should also be developed to facilitate engagement.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Other proponents have been included as key stakeholders in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*.

In late 2011 Waratah Coal joined a Community Reference Group and Technical Reference Group established by AMCI for the South Galilee Project.

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS*), Waratah Coal also supports the coordinated approach as stipulated by the Coordinator-General in the evaluation of the Alpha Coal Project EIS (May 2012), and specifically, the establishment of the Galilee Basin CSIA Roundtable.

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9047
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Employment & Indigenous Initiatives Division)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9, Section 4.3.3

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The Recruitment and Training (Action Plan #2) Action Plan and the Social Impact Management Plan (*SIMP*) needs to include the following:

- a breakdown of skills and occupations needed. This is necessary to identify potential training needs over the life of the project and to match employment opportunities in the existing local work force
- highlight known skills shortages and strategies to mitigate them over the life of the project, and
- information about how you intend to source the required workforce for the project.

The profile of the local region and regional areas needs to be strengthened to inform the availability, suitability and composition of the local and regional work force.

It is also suggested that the Action Plan include strategies to:

- match employment opportunities to the existing local workforce
- address skills shortages over the life of the project. In particular include lead time for training before the skills or employees are required, and
- source the required workforce in a way that considers the multiple significant projects across Queensland that will all require a large workforce.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

It is difficult to predict with any certainty where the workforce will be recruited from due predominantly to changing economic conditions globally and in Australia. However, the skills shortage is well documented, and the *SIMP* (refer *Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS*) includes the main occupations in which the greatest shortages are likely to occur (refer to Section 6.5).

Section 6.5 in the *SIMP* also outlines Waratah’s commitment to:

- Boosting female employment
- Boosting Indigenous employment
- Providing training, including local apprenticeships
- Strengthening links between schools and the mining industry, and
- Strengthening links between training organisations and the mining industry.

These strategies aim to boost workforce participation in the local area and region, and build the level of skills, particularly in the mining industry, in the longer term.

In terms of sourcing workers in a way that considers the development of other large projects, Waratah Coal is competing for labour and will provide salaries and conditions that are suitably attractive.

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9048 / 18002
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Employment & Indigenous Initiatives Division)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9, Section 4.3.3

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) at pages 266-267 identifies a range of considerations for development of a recruitment and training Action Plan. This general overview of considerations would be enhanced by the inclusion of specific projects.

There could be more detail on how contractors will provide training and employment opportunities for local people. For example, while Indigenous people are mentioned there is no information about how they would be provided with opportunities and supported to ensure they are able to access and retain employment through the project.

Additional activities that can be implemented to improve Indigenous employment outcomes as part of the recruitment and training Action Plan include; cultural awareness programs; culturally appropriate support and mentors; pre-work development programs, including pathways from schools to employment such as scholarships and traineeships; and training programs.

Further pathways to employment could include accessing:

- Federally funded Job Services Australia providers
- TAFEs and registered training organisations
- Schools (in recognition that the project is long term and will wish to attract local youth in out-years)
- Recruitment agencies, and
- DEEDI’s Skilling Queenslanders for Work participants (past and present).

Skills Queensland and Employment and Indigenous Initiatives can provide advice on how and what can be considered in the development of specific strategies and projects. While it is recognised that the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) will change as the project develops and that detail may not be available in the initial planning stage, it is beneficial to consider strategies as early as possible to allow for sufficient lead time.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

A number of the suggested initiatives have been included in the *SIMP* (refer to Section 6.5, *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), including:

- Cultural awareness programs as part of the induction training
- Work-ready and on-the-job training for Indigenous people
- An Indigenous mentoring program
- Strengthening links between schools and the mining industry, and
- Establishing links with local recruitment and employment agencies.

Waratah Coal has also made commitments and outlined preliminary strategies to:

- Boost female employment
- Engage apprentices (including a target that 50% are from the local region), and
- Provide financial support for external apprenticeships (ie. apprentices engaged by other local businesses).

As stated in the *SIMP* (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Section 6.5, Waratah Coal will insist that all contractors and sub-contractors incorporate strategies (at least the equivalent to those of Waratah Coal) to give preference to local recruitment, promote a healthy lifestyle, promote female employment, promote Indigenous employment and provide training.

More detailed discussions with Skills Queensland will be welcomed as Waratah Coal approaches the recruitment stage.

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9049
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Employment & Indigenous Initiatives Division)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The *SIMP* (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) mentions further consultation will occur in July 2011 and an expanded *SIMP* would be released after this.

This needs clarification. The current document contains statements of intent to consult; it is unclear what consultation has actually been undertaken.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The third round of public meetings, initially scheduled for July 2011, was not held until November 2011. Public meetings were held in Barcaldine, Jericho, Alpha, Blackall, Emerald, Clermont, Collinsville and Bowen. Additional discussions were also held with the Barcaldine and Whitsunday Regional Councils in 2011 and 2012, and Waratah Coal joined the Community Reference Group and Technical Reference Group for the South Galilee Project in late 2011.

The results of the above meetings have been incorporated in the revised *SIMP* (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9050
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Employment & Indigenous Initiatives Division)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9, Social Impact Management Plan

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Tourism Industry stakeholders are increasingly becoming concerned about the cumulative impacts of resource projects and related growth in the service industry on the availability of affordable tourist accommodation in regional communities.

The Department recognises that the issue is likely to be most prevalent during the peak construction period, however the staggered timing of other resource projects in the Galilee Basin may further exacerbate the issue.

It is suggested that proponent contact DEEDI's Tourism Division and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council to ensure the project's impacts on the supply of tourist accommodation in the affected areas are considered and appropriate mitigation strategies included in the Social Impact Management Plan.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As described in the *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal has recommended that the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point proponents contribute funds annually to the Barcaldine and Whitsunday Regional Councils for the improvement and maintenance of infrastructure and services. This could include funding for tourist accommodation and other facilities or services that could potentially attract tourists to the Alpha and Bowen areas.

Waratah Coal would be pleased to discuss this further with appropriate government agencies and industry bodies, but it is believed the Councils will be in a better position to lead any such discussions, and use the funding contributions from the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point proponents according to their priorities.

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9051
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Employment & Indigenous Initiatives Division)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9, Section 4.3.2

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS acknowledges the Local Industry Policy, including an action plan for development and implementation of a Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP).

It is suggested that the proponent engage early with the Office of Advanced Manufacturing and the Industry Capability Network (ICN) to maximise local industry participation. The success of the LIPP will depend on the proponents level of engagement with relevant stakeholders and practical implementation of the plan following the Final Investment Decision.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal has engaged with the Office of Advanced Manufacturing and the ICN and has placed a description of the project on the ICN website. The *SIMP* (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) includes the commitment to prepare an Australian Industry Participation Plan (AIPP) or LIPP and outlines a number of initiatives to increase the value of locally-sourced goods and services.

It is anticipated that the AIPP or LIPP will be prepared following a Final Investment Decision to proceed and between 3 to 6 months prior to tendering for construction works commence.

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9052
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Employment & Indigenous Initiatives Division)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Executive Summary, 2.1.1 Workforce and Accommodation, Page 27; Volume 4, Port, Chapter 1, Page 9

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS deals with the need for workforce and accommodation and temporary construction accommodation however insufficient detail is provided.

It is noted Waratah proposes to locate non-resident workforce accommodation within or adjacent to the township of Bowen.

Refer to the results of the Bowen Abbot Point Accommodation and Community Infrastructure Study (BAPACI) to inform planning for non-resident workforce accommodation, particularly for the northern part of the project in the Bowen Abbot Point region.

Any non-resident workforce accommodation will need to consider broader impacts on existing communities (and infrastructure) and will need to take into account a number of key requirements for quality living environments.

Consultation should occur with State and local government, in addition to local communities and businesses prior to seeking approval for non-resident workforce accommodation.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal plans to utilise existing work camps at or near Merinda to accommodate part of the rail construction workforce. Discussions will be held with the Whitsunday Regional Council and other relevant agencies before constructing additional facilities.

Discussions with the Whitsunday Regional Council to date have focused on strategies to maximise the economic benefit from the project to Bowen and surrounding areas. As stated in the Bowen Abbot Point Accommodation and Community Infrastructure Study, a key challenge is to attract and retain younger families to the area. As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 5.3 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal has responded by stipulating that all rail and port employees will reside in or near Bowen. Although focusing more on the operating workforce, this is believed to achieve the greatest economic benefits for Bowen.

SUBMITTER No.	364	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9053
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DEEDI (Employment & Indigenous Initiatives Division)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1 – Chapters 5 & 7; Volume 5 – Appendix 25 Attachment 1 & Section 7.2

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

In the Public Consultation Report finalised in December 2010, no landholders were shown on Attachment 1 'List of Stakeholders consulted during the EIS'.

In that report Waratah Coal noted that they ‘will commence a formal process with property owners in early 2011’.

Ensure that the property owners within the mining lease area are fully informed regarding the proponent’s intentions for the future use and or viability of their grazing properties.

Provide full details (including location, names and dates) of consultation with affected landholders within an update Public Consultation Report.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal has had ongoing discussions with property owners with land in the MLA since the start of exploration activities. Some property owners – including some with land in the MLA and a number along the proposed rail corridor – have refused further consultation due to land access and/or other compensation requirements. However, a large proportion of the participants in the public meetings in Jericho, Alpha, Clermont, Mt Coolon and Collinsville were potentially impacted property owners. The meeting summaries provide a good account of their concerns. Detailed maps were displayed in the public meetings, including mine layout, so most property owners are believed to be reasonably well informed in terms of proposed landuse and viability of grazing operations.

SUBMITTER No.	417	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9054
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Isaac Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS should clearly identify the long term social integration strategies for mine workers who over time chose to live locally and provide for the long term growth of Alpha and Jericho communities. The provision of long term intergenerational equity and community sustainability has been largely over looked in the EIS.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As reflected in the *SIMP*, Section 5.2 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal aims to contribute to Alpha’s growth and prosperity through a well planned and effectively managed expansion in population, physical infrastructure and economic opportunities, while trying to preserve and contribute positively to the existing lifestyle and friendly, rural atmosphere.

The focus on Alpha and the surrounding area reflects (i) the intentions of Council to develop Alpha as a result of mine development in the Galilee Basin, and (ii) its proximity to the mine site, which will enable some workers to commute between the town and the mine on a daily basis. The focus on Alpha, rather than spreading impacts between Alpha and Jericho, is regarded as the most effective method – certainly in the short to medium term – of building a community and increasing the population and range of public services available in Alpha.

As stated in Section 6.4, Waratah will contribute to its objective for Alpha by:

- Placing at least 50 staff in Alpha
- Providing all mine employees with the opportunity to reside in the local area
- Providing incentives for mine employees to relocate to Alpha with their families, and
- Encouraging contractors to establish facilities and base staff in Alpha by giving preference to businesses and contractors that have locally-based staff.

As stated in Section 6.5, the incentives include:

- Provision of financial assistance to employees to enable them to purchase a house in either Alpha or Bowen (eg. providing a discount on interest charges or a housing deduction for each year of service with the company), and
- Providing a one-off bonus to any employee that relocates with their family to Alpha and stays for at least a year.

Some strategies to help employees integrate within the local community are also outlined in Section 6.5, and include:

- Placing employees based in Alpha on day shifts and working a five day week, whenever possible, to increase participation in social and sporting activities at night and on weekends
- Giving preference to employees with families, whenever possible, as families are far more likely to integrate within the local community than single workers
- Providing funding to local organisations and events and encouraging staff participation, and
- Attempting to organise an informal gathering of local residents to welcome new employees and new families to Alpha and outline potential social and sporting events that they may wish to participate in.

Waratah Coal has also prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal's approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9055
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.7

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

It is expected that the BRC will seek the approvals necessary for the upgrade of Alpha Airport.

Council require assistance from the proponent in terms of utilisation, predicted movements, long term proposed staffing utilisation and details on any variance from discussions held with council so that impacts can be assessed. Whilst council will take into consideration forward planning undertaken by proponents for the airfield they will lead any proposed upgrade and may require financial assistance.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As stated in the *SIMP*, Sections 5.1 and 5.2 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal is prepared to make financial contributions to the BRC for infrastructure development in Alpha. Approximately 1,950 workers are expected to be engaged at the mine site on either a DIDO or FIFO basis during operations. The majority are expected to be engaged on a FIFO basis on a 7 days on – 7 days off roster. However, Waratah Coal will continue to liaise with the BRC over workforce numbers and FIFO projections.

SUBMITTER No.	416	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9056
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Queensland Police Service	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Entire EIS

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS has not considered the impact, if any, of the construction phase (mine and rail) or operations on the regional centres of Mackay, Rockhampton and Emerald.

Further work should be undertaken in a supplementary EIS to understand the relationship between the proposal and its impacts on the regional service centres of Mackay, Rockhampton and Emerald, including in relation to service provisions and accommodation for the workforce.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

A summary of the social and economic impacts of the project was included in the EIS draft SIMP (Attachment 1) and included Emerald, Mackay and Rockhampton and surrounds. Extracts follow:

For Emerald the following impacts are expected:

- Emerald will become the main location for contractors providing services to mines near Alpha
- The development of the Galilee Basin will result in a substantial increase in traffic on the Capricorn Highway from Emerald to Alpha, and initially between Rockhampton and Emerald, leading to an increase in accidents, and increased demand on police, health and emergency services
- Emerald's population will continue to grow rapidly (possibly exceeding the State Government's long term projection of 2.5% per annum) and will continue to be relatively young
- The quality and coverage of public infrastructure and services will continue to improve in line with population growth and the emergence of Emerald as a major regional centre
- Employment levels will remain high and average income levels will continue to rise, and
- Emerald will continue to be an attractive place for people to live and have a strong sense of community.

The high population growth rate forecast for Mackay will result in a number of changes, and these can be attributed, in part, to the cumulative impact of multiple resource projects being developed in Central Queensland:

- Strong employment growth and increasing income levels
- Continued upward pressure on house prices and rental costs
- Sustained demand for residential and industrial land and supporting infrastructure
- Increasing demand on public and private services, and
- Growing problems associated with larger cities, such as homelessness and criminal activities.

Rockhampton and the nearby coastal towns are expected to be the home for some of the project's FIFO mine workers. As for Mackay, most FIFO workers that reside in the Rockhampton area are expected to migrate to the area from other parts of Queensland or interstate. The population increase directly attributed to the Galilee Coal Project is expected to be no more than 0.5% of the area's forecast population in 10 years time. The Rockhampton area can expect:

- Employment growth and increasing income levels
- Continued upward pressure on house prices and rental costs
- Sustained demand for residential and industrial land and supporting infrastructure
- Increasing demand on public and private services (including the police, health and emergency services as a result of increased traffic during the construction of mines), and
- Growing problems associated with larger cities (eg. homelessness and crime).

While Rockhampton will remain the main centre for health, education and business, the coastal towns of Yeppoon, Emu Park and Keppel Sands will support an increasing proportion of the area's population.

As noted in Section 4 of the revised *SIMP* (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), the Galilee Coal Project will have social and economic impacts through much of Queensland. However, when considering the cumulative impacts from the development of multiple large-scale coal projects in the Galilee Basin, the most impacted community will clearly be Alpha. In addition, the massive expansion of Abbot Point will also impact significantly on the Bowen community. The most impacted individuals will be property owners with land in the MLA, followed by property owners with land in the rail corridor, then employees and contractors. The revised *SIMP* promotes regional development (Section 5.5), but has a clear focus on Alpha and Bowen, which is considered appropriate.

The impact of the Galilee Coal Project on cities such as Mackay and Rockhampton and even Emerald is considered to be relatively minor when compared to the cumulative impacts of multiple mining and gas projects, for which Waratah Coal is not in the best position to assess.

SUBMITTER NO.	764	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9057 / 17188
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individuals	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Names withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Lack of certainty around project leads to stress for landowners.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The stress on landowners is acknowledged as one of the main adverse social impacts arising from the project (refer *SIMP*, Section 4.2). Waratah Coal aims to understand the impacts on property owners, minimise impacts as much as possible, ensure fair compensation when impacts can not be avoided, provide opportunities to landowners to benefit from the project when available (eg. contracting), and provide every opportunity to engage with property owners in a meaningful and effective manner. Further details are provided in the *SIMP*, Section 6.3 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9058 / 15001
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	EIS 2.1 Associated infrastructure Waratah Coal – Galilee Coal Project –Social Impact Management Plan P 267 Action Plan #3

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS states that the workforce will be predominantly fly in/fly out however, it is predicted that approximately 28 Senior Staff will be accommodated in Alpha and 460 workers will require accommodation in the workers village, with a total proposed workforce of 2,360 permanent employees and contractors over the duration of the project.

The document does not discuss the impact that accommodation of workers families may also have on the area. The Department commends the intentions of the project to include an Accommodations and Housing Plan. However, limited details are provided regarding areas to be addressed in this report. It is noted that the report indicates a likely increase in demand for housing and a significant rise in the cost of living, locally and regionally. It does not, however, fully investigate the potential increase in housing demand in other communities such as Rockhampton and possibly Gladstone. There is a well-documented affordable and social housing crisis, particularly in the Gladstone Region at present, which needs to be fully considered in any assessment undertaken as part of this EIS and SIMP. The SIMP (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) also discusses a high risk of shortages in trade and community services but does not adequately provide mitigation strategies to address these issues.

The EIS and the Accommodation and Housing Plan requires further investigation of the impacts in relation to accommodation impacts which may be seen in both Rockhampton and Gladstone, including the potential changes to the cost of rental, purchasing accommodation, social and affordable housing. Strategies such as providing mine employees with financial counselling and loans to assist with purchasing properties but there is limited mention of how other members of the community may be affected by this or ways in which other community residents may be supported to reduce the impact of economic disparity.

There is still considerable accommodation pressure existing in these areas as a result of multiple mining projects. It is important that the cumulative impacts of this project are assessed, and appropriate mitigation strategies are developed.

Further information is required in relation to mitigation strategies to address the potential shortages in trade and community services.

The Department would like the Waratah Coal Accommodation and Housing Plan to include appropriate strategies that manage and mitigate the potential adverse housing impacts on the surrounding communities and any rural properties adjacent to the mine. These strategies may address:

- Potential net loss of affordable housing
- Availability of social housing
- Support for workers relocation, including strategies to support workers to find and secure appropriate accommodation in a tight housing market, and
- Alternative housing options for accommodating workers if local housing markets are unable to absorb the additional demands.

These strategies should be developed in consultation with key stakeholders including the Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC), not-for-profit housing providers and the Department of Communities.

The Accommodation and Housing Plan should also detail how impacts on housing will be monitored over the life of the project; and ensure sufficient housing options remain available should the project reach full capacity.

Some key data that should be considered in the development of a monitoring framework include:

- Home ownership market: size and number and percentage of houses for sale
- Rental market: size, vacancy rate and seasonal variations
- Private ownership: typical costs of houses for sale in project area and monthly housing repayments with percent of dwellings in each category published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- Rental: weekly rent with percent dwellings in each category published by the ABS, and
- Housing affordability separately for private ownership and rent.

Ongoing monitoring of these indicators may assist in determining if and how the project is impacting on local housing markets. The department encourages the proponent to work proactively with proponents of nearby projects in monitoring and managing housing impacts.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal recently commissioned a Housing Market Analysis, which was undertaken by RP Data, and included assessment of the housing market in Alpha, Jericho, Emerald, Bowen, Collinsville, Gladstone and Moranbah.

The main impacts on housing as a result of the Galilee Coal Project and other large-scale projects being developed in the Galilee Basin are anticipated to be in Alpha and Bowen, where the majority of activity will occur, and where the majority of staff will be based, and to a lesser extent in Emerald, the nearest city to the mine with the capacity to supply many of the required goods and services.

Key data is outlined in the table below (reference page 3 of the *Galilee Basin Housing Market Analysis* contained in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS). Monitoring changes in these key indicators from period to period will provide an alert as to whether housing conditions are deteriorating in terms of affordability levels and housing availability.

	Suburb					Moranbah	Gladstone	Rockhampton
	Alpha	Jericho	Collinsville	Bowen	Emerald			
Number of houses/townhouses	187	112	502	3,039	3,537	2,458	17,651	35,025
Number of units	9	0	29	356	452	30	1,154	2,843
Rental properties (#/%)	68 (34.2%)	38 (32.5%)	176 (32.5%)	1,324 (36.5%)	1,720 (41.8%)	1,760 (67.5%)	5,892 (30.4%)	11,926 (30.9%)
Vacancy rate	Less than 1%	Less than 1%	6.20%	2.1% to 4.3%	1.8% to 2.4%	5.1% to 8.9%	3.50%	1.50%
Median house price	\$262,500	\$195,000	\$186,750	\$350,000	\$431,000	\$674,000	\$459,000	\$328,000
Change over last year	na	na	0.9%	-4.2%	10.2%	46.0%	14.8%	-0.6%
Change per annum last five years	na	na	2.5%	2.4%	4.0%	89.9%	55.1%	19.3%
Median unit price	na	na	na	\$155,000	\$310,000	na	\$365,000	\$275,000
Change over last year	na	na	na	-4.6%	5.1%	na	-0.5%	-3.5%
Change per annum last five years	na	na	na	-11.0%	2.1%	na	65.9%	16.0%
Median rental rate, houses	\$150-\$190	\$150-\$190	\$350	\$330	\$600	\$1,800	\$525	\$330
Median rental rate, units	na	na	na	\$320	\$475	na	\$400	\$310
Loan payments/month	\$1,840	\$1,365	\$1,308	\$2,451	\$3,020	\$5,245	\$3,572	\$2,553

Dwelling counts and number of rental properties are taken from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Vacancy rates are based on a survey amongst active property managers in each location and an assessment of rental advertisements compared with total rental properties. Median prices are current as at March 2012 and based on sales recorded over a 12 month period. Median rental rates are based on advertised rents, current to March 2012 and based on a 12 month period. Loan payments/month are based on the median house price using a 90 per cent LVR, principal and interest mortgage with monthly repayments over 20 years at an interest rate of 7.05 per cent. All areas are based on the suburb boundary except for Gladstone and Rockhampton which are based on the council area boundary.

Further information and key indicators are included in the *Galilee Basin Housing market analysis*, located in the *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS.

In the evaluation of the Alpha Coal Project EIS, the Coordinator-General tasked the proponent to:

1. Conduct a Housing and Accommodation Study
2. Develop an Integrated Housing Strategy (in consultation with other proponents), based on the results of the Housing and Accommodation Study, and
3. Provide investment into affordable housing if low to moderate income non-resource households are affected by increased housing costs.

As stated in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Section 5.1, there is no doubt that low to moderate income households will be impacted by higher housing costs, as housing prices have already risen substantially over the past five years (refer *SIMP*, Section 5.2). However, Waratah Coal welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Integrated Housing Strategy and will provide financial support to help address affordable housing in line with recommendations from the Galilee Basin CSIA Roundtable.

Bowen has a much larger housing market that currently has surplus capacity. Recent discussions with the Whitsunday Regional Council confirmed their belief that the market could accommodate all of Waratah Coal’s rail and port employees. Nevertheless, as stated in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Section 5.1, Waratah Coal recommends:

1. The WRC prepares a development plan for Bowen, with input by other government agencies and Abbot Point proponents, initially focusing on water supply and sewerage and including cost estimates, and updates this annually including broadening the scope of the plan to include other infrastructure and possibly other areas in the WRC over time.
2. Annual contributions made by Abbot Point proponents to an Infrastructure Fund to support the development of infrastructure in Bowen (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support the development of infrastructure in other parts of the WRC area.
3. Annual contributions are made by Abbot Point proponents to a Community Development Fund to support local organisations and the delivery of services in Bowen.

Affordable housing requirements in Bowen should be addressed through the above arrangements.

The Central Highlands contains thirteen operating coal mines, of which four are proposing major expansions, and another twelve new coal mines are proposed. Emerald has a rapidly expanding housing market, and while house prices and rental costs are very high, a significant boost to current housing and rental stocks are expected to come onto the market over the next year. The impact of the Galilee Coal Project in Emerald is regarded as relatively small in comparison to coal mines and CSG activities in the Central Highlands. Waratah Coal is not proposing any housing related strategies for Emerald.

SUBMITTER NO.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9059 / 18003
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	EIS – p270 Stakeholder Engagement Strategies

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)* does not adequately reflect strategies to ensure community consultation processes are physically accessible and information being provided in accessible formats.

Further detail required regarding the efforts made to provide information in various and accessible formats, and what strategies will be employed to ensure community members with disabilities or from culturally and linguistically diverse background will be well informed and be able to attend and contribute meaningfully at all future consultations.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

During the development of the project’s EIS Waratah Coal undertook significant consultation with community groups, government bodies and departments, interested groups and individuals. During the consultation process Waratah Coal visited a variety of geographic locations to ensure appropriate coverage. This ranged from Barcaldine in the west to Bowen in the north. This involved updating interested parties during this consultation as well as providing ongoing information that was accessible via the internet. During the process, Waratah Coal also operated a free call number

which provided an opportunity for any interested party to call and discuss the project. With respect to Indigenous organisations, specific consultation and negotiations were undertaken with the traditional owners of the project areas. This included receiving feedback with respect to general project scope.

Waratah Coal's stakeholder engagement strategy has been updated and is outlined in the *SIMP*, Section 8 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS). As noted, the 23 public meetings held by Waratah Coal were beneficial in terms of providing project details to the public, gauging public perception, identifying key issues or areas of concern, and developing possible mitigation strategies. Nevertheless, few meetings had more than 20 participants, and participants often cited difficulties attending meetings because of the time and/or distance required to travel to the venue.

Other approaches are now considered more effective both in terms of providing information to the public, and involving the public in discussion about social impacts and mitigation strategies. More attention will be given to electronic media, and once construction commences, the opportunity to meet face-to-face by establishing an office in Alpha.

Waratah Coal will also appoint a Project Liaison Officer and Indigenous Liaison Officer to help ensure more effective communication with stakeholders. The appointment of two dedicated liaison officers will provide the opportunity for them to travel to where people are to meet, which will help overcome access and time constraints.

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9060
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	SIMP – p252 1.10 Summary of Commitments; p267 4.3.3 Action Plan #2 Recruitment and Training; p262 3.7 Key social and cultural issues

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The Department commends the inclusion of an induction procedure which discusses the code of conduct. It is however suggested the community continues to have concerns about Alpha becoming a 'mining town' and the impacts of workers who may not consider themselves community members. There are also concerns regarding excessive alcohol use within the community and particularly in relation to underage youth.

It is suggested that the community would benefit from the inclusion of more detailed information within the induction in relation to a 'Good Citizen's Policy' promoting positive community culture in relation to alcohol use and positive interactions within a community. This may also include encouragement and incentives for workers to become more actively involved in the community by volunteering or participating in community events.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 6.5 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal will implement a Code of Conduct, which is described during inductions and agreed (in writing) by all employees, contractors and sub-contractors prior to commencement of work, with the aim of defining:

- Responsibilities towards other employees and contractors and local residents
- Acceptable behaviour on-site, and
- Acceptable behaviour while in local communities (particularly Alpha and Bowen).

Waratah Coal will also encourage integration with the local community by:

- Placing employees based in Alpha on day shifts and working a five day week, whenever possible, to increase participation in social and sporting activities at night and on weekends

- Giving preference to employees with families, whenever possible, as families are far more likely to integrate within the local community than single workers
- Providing funding to local organisations and events and encouraging staff participation, and
- Attempting to organise an informal gathering of local residents to welcome new employees and new families to Alpha and outline potential social and sporting events that they may wish to participate in.

Waratah Coal has prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal’s approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

The strategies will be monitored by Waratah Coal annually, and an external, independent assessment of social impacts and social impact management strategies will be undertaken every two years.

SUBMITTER NO.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9061 / 18004
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	SIMP – 4. Impact mitigation and management 4.3.3 Action Plan #2 Recruitment and Training

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The *SIMP* (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) states that the proponent will develop a recruitment and training strategy which promotes the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals by collaborating with organisations such as the HiHo Group in Bowen.

The Department recommends that the *SIMP* provides more detailed information regarding their employment policy to maximise employment opportunities for :

- People with disabilities, and
- People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, particularly individuals from Australian South Sea Islander backgrounds.

It is also recommended that further detail is required about how the proponent intends to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in terms of recruitment and training, including strategies related to pre-employment skill development where required.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal will liaise with employment agencies such as ‘Epic Employment Service Inc’ in Emerald, which provides employment opportunities for people with a disability (including provision of training for people prior to employment). Other strategies will be developed as part of the overall workforce management plan.

As described in the *SIMP*, Section 6.5 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal will ensure that accommodation and recreation facilities at the mine site cater for a diverse workforce, including separate accommodation areas for women and culturally appropriate facilities for Indigenous workers or workers from other cultural backgrounds (eg. separate recreational areas, alcohol free areas, etc). In addition, Waratah Coal will:

- Provide appropriate food and food-handling procedures
- Show flexibility, as far as possible, in terms of meeting religious and cultural requirements (eg. for worship), and
- Provide cultural awareness for overseas workers during the induction training, and include awareness on their cultures in induction training provided to other workers.

Waratah Coal will promote Indigenous employment by:

- Collaborating with organisations such as the HiHo Group in Bowen in the provision of work-ready and on-the-job training, along with apprenticeships and scholarships to encourage further training and education (and when possible direct links between the provision of training and project employment)
- Trialling an Indigenous mentoring program, and
- Working with the VET and tertiary education institutions to provide Indigenous people with access to courses that will give them the appropriate qualifications to work in the mining sector (refer *SIMP*, Section 6.5).

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9062
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	SIMP – 4. Impact mitigation and management

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

This section describes a range of factors which is considered to likely result in a significant disparity in wealth between those employed by the mine and other residents who are not. The Department considers that these factors are not adequately addressed in the *SIMP* (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

The *SIMP* would be improved by incorporating a more detailed description of how these community issues will be monitored and addressed. It would also be relevant to include information on strategies that may benefit the residents within this community long-term including encouraging and supporting local business and enhance social capital.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Detailed strategies have been outlined for the development of Alpha and Bowen (refer *SIMP*, Sections 5 and 6, in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS). A Community Cohesion strategy has been drafted and included in the *SIMP*, outlining a range of initiatives to improve relationships between workers and the community and help the families of workers integrate with the local community. Contributing to infrastructure and community development funds will contribute substantially towards improved social capital, but a range of other initiatives has been included in the draft Community Cohesion Strategy.

Monitoring strategies, including measures of community well-being, are outlined in the *SIMP*, Section 8 and Attachment 6.

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9063
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Appendix 24, Economic Impact, Skills Shortages (xxvii).

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Mitigation Strategy 1: Address Skills Shortages. Objective: Develop the local and regional skills base through a combination of training programs, apprenticeships and traineeships.

The Department acknowledges and supports the recommended Mitigation/Enhancement Strategy 1. The Department would also recommend that there be a specific commitment to Indigenous:

- traineeships and apprenticeships across all areas including construction, mining operations, transport and hospitality and other services including managerial opportunities
- traineeships and apprenticeships should include a firm offer of permanent employment, for suitable participants, within the Project on attainment of relevant qualifications, and
- scholarships to encourage and assist Indigenous people to participate in further training and education.

The Department endorses collaboration with the identified Government agencies and non-Government groups to identify potential strategies for increasing the capacity for local job seekers and further recommends:

- Working with schools to ensure young people are able to make the right choices in education that will prepare them for traineeships, apprenticeships and other employment within the mining industry and associated industry such as hospitality and transport, and
- Working with the VET and tertiary education institutions to provide Indigenous people with access to courses that will give them the appropriate qualifications to work in the mining sector in areas such as engineering, metallurgy, business development, management, finance *the Department* (sic) tendering and procurement.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Refer *SIMP*, Section 6.5 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	356	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9064 / 15002
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	DTMR	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 3 – Rail, Chapter 6 – Social Impact Statement, Section 16.3.2 Workforce, p490; Chapter 4 – Social Values and Management of Impacts, section 4.2.3 workforce, p64

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The draft EIS states that:

“the construction of the railway will extend for a three year period and require 1,000 workers. The construction workforce is expected to be based in camps at the mine site and at Merinda (near Bowen) and three temporary camps along the railway alignment (e.g. one near Collinsville, one near Mt Coolon and one mid-way between Mt Coolon and the mine site). The temporary construction camps are each expected to accommodate around 150 workers, who are likely to work 12 hour shifts on a FIFO basis (e.g. 21 days on 7 days off).

It is Waratah Coal’s intention to permanently base and accommodate all 460 workers involved in the railway and port in the Bowen area.”

The project is expected to contribute to a cumulative increase in the demand on the housing market in surrounding communities. Given the significant number of projects proposed for the Galilee Basin the department suggests the proponent consider and outline a range of housing options for the 460 rail and port workers that are expected to permanently reside in the Bowen area.

This should include strategies and procedures for monitoring changes in key local conditions (e.g. housing stress) and methods to ensure that the role that cumulative impacts are playing in these changes as they arise are addressed.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Census data shows there are 3,039 dwellings houses/townhouses and 356 units located within the suburb of Bowen with about 36.5% of these homes owned by investors. Rental vacancy rates are estimated to be between 2.1 per cent and 4.3 per cent. Further details for Bowen can be found in the Galilee Basin Housing market analysis.

Although Census data is not available for the smaller suburbs located close to Bowen, an assessment of ownership records held in RP Data’s database indicates there are about 96 dwellings in the suburb of Merinda located to the west of Bowen and there are no rental advertisements for properties in Merinda.

Considering the low vacancy rates and small number of homes (see page 7 of the *Galilee Basin Housing market analysis* located in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) it is likely there will be an additional requirement for dwelling construction within the local area of Bowen and Merinda if these 460 workers are to be based in the area.

Housing for operational staff in the Bowen area will be provided by the private sector, as the market currently has surplus capacity (in terms of available land for new residencies, and the quantity of houses currently for sale). Recent discussions with the Whitsunday Regional Council confirmed this a reasonable approach.

However, Waratah Coal has also recommended that Abbot Point proponents provide financial contributions to infrastructure and community development funds that are managed by the WRC. This could be utilised to provide affordable housing in the Bowen area.

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 8 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), annual reviews of social impacts will be undertaken, including housing impacts. An external/independent assessment of social impacts and social impact management strategies will also be undertaken every second year.

SUBMITTER No.	417	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9065
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Isaac Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS should address the process of the social impacts from the change in operational work method of operating transitional work forces and not housing workers locally. The social impacts of isolated families and fragmented caring arrangements for families is not supported by the proposed housing model associated with the Waratah Coal Project.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As stated in the *SIMP* (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), all port and rail employees working for Waratah Coal during the operating phase will reside permanently in Bowen. There will be no FIFO staff at Bowen during the operating phase.

Approximately 50 mine workers will be based in Alpha. However, as discussed in the *SIMP* (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS, Section 6.5), Waratah Coal will:

- Provide the option – to all mine employees – to reside in the local area should they desire
- Provide financial assistance to employees to enable them to purchase a house in either Alpha or Bowen (eg. providing a discount on interest charges or a housing deduction for each year of service with the company)
- Provide a one-off bonus to any employee that relocates with their family to Alpha and Bowen and stays for at least a year
- Provide induction training to all staff, contractors and sub-contractors to ensure they are familiar with project facilities; local Indigenous cultures and values; occupational health and safety including emergency response strategies; fatigue management policies; employment conditions and entitlements; Waratah Coal’s contributions to the local community; and the grievance mechanism, and
- Implement a Code of Conduct, which is described during inductions and agreed (in writing) by all employees, contractors and sub-contractors prior to commencement of work, with the aim of defining:
 - Responsibilities towards other employees and contractors and local residents
 - Acceptable behaviour on-site, and
 - Acceptable behaviour while in local communities (particularly Alpha and Bowen).

For DIDO and FIFO workers:

- Ensure accommodation and recreation facilities at the mine site cater for a diverse workforce, including separate accommodation areas for women and culturally appropriate facilities for Indigenous staff (eg. separate recreational areas, alcohol free areas, etc.)
- Provide bus services (to reduce traffic and issues relating to fatigue) between the mine site and any nearby regional centre that contains a sufficient number of employees, and
- Draw attention to support networks (such as Mining Family Matters) and the resources they provide (eg. Working Away: A Survival Guide for Families).

The proposed strategies are believed to be in the interest of local communities and non-resident workers.

It should also be acknowledged that high salary levels are attracting increasing numbers of workers to the mining industry. Surveys conducted in 2007 indicate that 89% of non-resident mine workers in Moranbah and 88% of non-resident mine workers in Nebo preferred to continue with DIDO or FIFO arrangements rather than move permanently to these towns.² DIDO or FIFO enables a worker to keep living in their preferred location, which is often in larger urban centres on or near the coast. This provides continuity with friends and family; greater access to public and commercial services and entertainment; and the flexibility to take new jobs without relocation. It provides the families of mine workers with continuity and reduces the disruption and stress involved in relation.

Additional surveys of mine workers in the Bowen Basin in 2011/12 indicated that 13% of non-resident workers were interested in buying a house near their place of work.³ The remaining 87% were happy with their DIDO or FIFO arrangements. (Note 3% already have purchased a house).

² Petkova, Lockie, Rolfe & Ivanova, 2009, p. 218.

³ *Workforce Accommodation Arrangements in the Queensland Resources Sector – Queensland Resources Council Workforce Survey*, Queensland Resources Council. May 2012. Page 38.

SUBMITTER No.	417	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9066
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Isaac Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS social impact management plan should include information and responses on the relocation of the Rural Land holders as this is fundamental to a long term sustainable community future and education options, integrity for local residents, and the wider rural community in the region.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 6.3 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), four of the seven properties in the MLA contain permanent residents.

Based on air quality modelling results and recommended acquisition criteria, the following properties will need to be relocated or acquired:

- Kia Ora
- Monklands
- Spring Creek
- Glen Innes (BNR).

Refer to Issue reference 12018 in Part C – 17 – Cumulative Impacts for more information.

SUBMITTER No.	417	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9067
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Isaac Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The assessment should address the process of allocating additional water and housing resources to the Barcaldine and Isaac region from the economic stimulant the new expanded operation will have on the economy, both direct and indirect. The process needs to make a firm and unbiased assessment of the triple bottom line of economical, environmental and social impacts on the Barcaldine and Isaac regions not the fragmented and isolated approach taken in considering the proposal in isolation. The proposal is now located on the fringe of the amalgamated Local Governments Area of Isaac Regional Council and the presentation of the project in a light of isolation does not reflect the guiding intent of the integration process of the local communities.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal has stated that it will construct houses for all its staff residing in Alpha. As noted in the *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal has also proposed the following:

1. Annual contributions are made by Galilee Basin proponents to an Infrastructure Fund to finance the development plan for Alpha (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support the development of infrastructure in other parts of the BRC area
2. Annual contributions are made by Galilee Basin proponents to a Community Development Fund to support local organisations and the delivery of services in Alpha (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support local organisations and the delivery of services in other parts of the BRC area

3. Annual contributions are made by Abbot Point proponents to an Infrastructure Fund to support the development of infrastructure in Bowen (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support the development of infrastructure in other parts of the WRC area, and
4. Annual contributions are made by Abbot Point proponents to a Community Development Fund to support local organisations and the delivery of services in Bowen (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support local organisations and the delivery of services in other parts of the WRC area.

Water, housing and a wide range of other infrastructure and service needs should be addressed in the Alpha and Bowen areas if the above recommendations are implemented.

The focus on Alpha and Bowen is a response to the SIA, which concludes that when considering the cumulative impacts from the development of multiple large-scale coal projects in the Galilee Basin, the most impacted community will clearly be Alpha. However, the anticipated expansion of Abbot Point will also impact significantly on the Bowen community. The most impacted individuals will be property owners with land in the MLA, followed by property owners with land in the rail corridor, then employees and contractors (refer *SIMP*, Section 4.2).

Furthermore, the focus on Alpha and the surrounding area reflects (i) the intentions of Council to develop Alpha as a result of mine development in the Galilee Basin, and (ii) its proximity to the mine site, which will enable some workers to commute between the town and the mine on a daily basis. The focus on Alpha, rather than spreading impacts between Alpha and Jericho, is regarded as the most effective method – certainly in the short to medium term – of building a community and increasing the population and range of public services available in Alpha.

Considerable effort has been made by Waratah Coal, through the recommendations outlined above, to maximise the social and economic benefits from the project. The approach is considered best practice, and is not considered as fragmented or taken in isolation from other projects. Furthermore, it provides opportunities for local councils to play a lead role in the allocation of funds provided by mining companies to meet the aspirations of their local communities.

SUBMITTER NO.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9068
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Whitsunday Regional Council would like to commence discussions with the proponent as well as the Queensland Government in order to seek financial assistance from both parties for the provision of a grant or financial contribution towards the works that will be required to be undertaken to the Whitsunday Coast Airport.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Recent discussions with the WRD highlighted the need to improve Bowen’s water supply and sewerage. As Waratah Coal intends that all its port and rail employees will reside in Bowen on a permanent basis, it has less need for the airport than would an operation engaging staff on a FIFO basis. Nevertheless, Waratah Coal recommends that:

1. The WRC prepares a development plan for Bowen, with input by other government agencies and Abbot Point proponents, initially focusing on water supply and sewerage and including cost estimates, and updates this annually including broadening the scope of the plan to include other infrastructure and possibly other areas in the WRC over time, and
2. Annual contributions are made by Abbot Point proponents to an Infrastructure Fund to support the development of infrastructure in Bowen (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support the development of infrastructure in other parts of the WRC area.

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9069
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Public Concern

As part of the Social Impact Assessment (Volume 3, Chapter 16) for the proposed rail line, several issues were identified by the public (through consultation) as being areas of contention, or where further information was sought. It was identified that most of the concern centred on whether there would be more than one line and the need for greater certainty regarding the alignment of the rail line.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Both Hancock Coal and Waratah Coal prepared independent feasibility studies for their Galilee Basin projects, and both included rail components, as there was no guarantee that the other proponent would proceed or would provide access to the other's rail. The LNP has stated that a single rail easement will be selected for the Galilee Basin. However, approval of the Hancock/GVK railway for 60Mtpa does not meet the requirement for all Galilee Basin proponents, and Waratah Coal is therefore proceeding with the proposed rail component. This has capacity of 400 Mtpa, which would meet the requirements of Galilee Basin proponents.

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9070
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Compensation

The proponent has outlined that they intend to provide compensation to property owners affected by the proposed rail line. There are four dwellings located within 2km of the proposed route. Independent property assessors will assess properties in 2011 and base values on their pre-railway values. The department must ensure that these assessments not only take into account the value of the property post operations of the rail, but the ongoing loss to production due to construction and operations of the rail line.

The EIS states that the proponent will provide assistance to the Barcaldine Regional Council to prepare development plans and to financial support specified priority projects. However, Waratah Coal outlines that they do not intend to initiate or play a lead role in projects within the Whitsunday Region, on account that the Whitsunday Regional Council has 'greater resources available' (Volume 1, Chapter 9, page 251). The construction and maintenance of the proposed rail line will have a significant impact on Council's resources. The department should ensure that the proponent be conditioned to provide contributions to Council's infrastructure network. The proposed water required for construction, and waste generated will place pressure on Council's infrastructure network, water supplies and waste treatment. Although Council has the ability to provide these services to support the project, Council should be remunerated for providing these services. Council can suggest that, rather than a monetary compensation for the impact on road networks, that the department ensure the proponent provide a haul route road within the rail corridor easement. This would alleviate the pressures and danger of having large amounts of equipment travel along the public road network during the construction of the rail line. The rail easement should also be capable of providing for the co-location of other resource transportation infrastructure such as gas pipelines.

It is identified that if the population increase of Alpha is not managed properly it could result in a ‘transient population and drug and alcohol related issues’ (Volume 1, Chapter 5, page 86). Considering existing poor socio-economic state of areas such as Merinda and existing and proposed temporary accommodation camps proposed for these areas could also further exacerbate current situations, if not managed properly. The department must ensure that the proponent is accountable for the future welfare of the people in these areas, ensuring that levels of disadvantage are not exacerbated as a result of the construction and operation of the rail line. The proponent should be required to further investigate the impact the operation and construction of the rail line (including the influx of a transient work force) will have on the levels of disadvantage in these areas. The proponent should be responsible for developing and implementing projects within the Whitsunday Regional Council to ensure that levels of disadvantage are not compounded.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Property assessments

It is proposed that a one-off payment be made to those landowners that will forego an area of their property for the rail corridor. As discussed in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Section 6.3, the proposed railway corridor will occupy an average of 46 hectares per impacted property, which represents 0.28% of the 44 impacted properties, on average.

The compensation payment will reflect the lost income from the area of land, in addition to other potential negative impacts the loss of this land will have on grazing management.

Contributions to WRC

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Sections 5.1, 5.3 and 6.2 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS*), Waratah Coal has proposed that all Abbot Point proponents provide annual funding to Infrastructure and Community Development Funds that are managed by the WRC. Rather than playing a leading role in determining how these funds are allocated, Waratah Coal would like to give Council the opportunity to play the lead role. If Council feels it lacks the resources to do this, Waratah has recommended that the WRC is provided with the option of appointing a full-time or part-time Fund Manager to assist in the planning, management and administration of the Infrastructure and Community Funds, and the costs associated with this position are met from the Community Fund.

Reference to ‘playing a greater role in the development of Alpha’ reflects the extent of development required in Alpha; the fact that Waratah Coal is one of four mines in relatively close proximity to Alpha (whereas several other companies will use Abbot Point, including BMA, QCoal and Adani); and the fact that the BRC has relatively few resources, given its population, in comparison to the WRC.

Proposed haul road

The majority of construction traffic will be contained within the rail corridor with particular emphasis on balanced mass haul earthwork designs. As construction progresses, and with the need for maintenance access, a haul road effectively along the entire corridor will be used. Access to the existing road network will still be required. The Bowen Development Road, and other roads in the area, do not have exceedingly high vehicle movements, and it is believed that with appropriate traffic management strategies, which may include construction of some parking bays and possibly overtaking lanes, that the traffic load can be effectively managed during the construction period.

Welfare

Waratah Coal disagrees that it ‘is accountable for the welfare of the people in these areas.’ However, Waratah Coal believes it certainly has a responsibility for the areas impacted by the project and aims to:

1. Contribute to Alpha’s growth and prosperity through a well planned and effectively managed expansion in population, physical infrastructure and economic opportunities, while trying to preserve and contribute positively to the existing lifestyle and friendly, rural atmosphere

2. Maximise its contribution to population growth and economic development in the Bowen area
3. Minimise impacts on property owners as much as possible, ensure fair compensation when impacts can not be avoided, provide opportunities to property owners to benefit from the project when available, and provide every opportunity to engage with property owners in a meaningful and effective manner, and
4. Maximise the economic benefits arising from the project Central Queensland and the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regions through a range of targeted employment, contracting and training strategies.

Waratah Coal has developed detailed strategies to maximise social and economic benefits arising from the project, and to minimise adverse social impacts, and has made a number of commitments to this effect. As noted in the *SIMP* (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS, Section 5.1), Waratah Coal has recommended that the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point proponents contribute annual funding towards infrastructure and community development funds to ensure local communities benefit from the development of mines, rail and port. It is expected that the BRC and WRC will play leading roles in the allocation of these funds.

Waratah Coal has also prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal's approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9071
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.2.6 Supporting Infrastructure

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Please advise alignment of 200km Powerlink power supply for Waratah Coal and AMCI and how this will benefit the local community

Please advise fibre optic cable availability to community.

Request to proponent and Queensland Government for equity and access to services also for those not associated with mining (therefore not receiving the same level of economic compensation) to be considered including power, telecommunications, etc. within Barcaldine Region. This would assist in supporting access to services for those residing in Alpha and Jericho and thereby the mining expansion. Request for further discussions between proponent(s), service providers, local and state government to co-ordination.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The development plan for Alpha, described in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS, Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 6.1)*, will address power and communications and other infrastructure requirements for Alpha. The proposed Galilee Basin CSIA Roundtable, in which BRC is regarded as a key participant, should take responsibility for leading investigations into the provision of power and communications and other infrastructure. It may be that the power supply for the Galilee Coal Project and South Galilee Project can be used to increase capacity in Alpha, but this and other options need to be assessed in a coordinated manner. Similarly, access to the fibre optic cable must be assessed against the planned expansion of the NBN and any other available options.

Waratah Coal will however be looking at methods as to how the business sector and the general public can have commercial access to the fibre optic cable network within the Waratah Coal corridor.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9072
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	2.1.1.2

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Will the construction contractor seek approval for the temporary workers villages once the locations are selected? What will be the impacts on the unknown sites?

Airfield upgrade, associated facilities upgrade, access upgrade all require BRC input. BRC own the airfield site and will lead rather than input into this infrastructure item with input and support from the proponents to enhance this facility for both the mining sector and for the long term benefit of the community.

Council see the airfield and surrounding council lands as a significant local infrastructure item which will retain the site for the community benefit both locally and regionally as discussed in engagements with Waratah. Alpha airport requires an upgrade to meet the FIFO requirements. It is understood that 1872 are proposed to be FIFO and that they will utilise Alpha Airport. The proponent does not plan to utilise existing commercial providers. Please respond.

Council are poised to lead planning studies in the provision of infrastructure to support the prospective mining expansion. Council require financial input from proponents in order to undertake investigations into the airfield upgrade and associated facilities attributable to the increase in access and numbers.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal will seek approval from the relevant Councils for the work camps.

Waratah Coal has proposed that financial contributions are made by all Galilee Basin proponents to an Infrastructure Fund that is used to improve infrastructure and services in Alpha, and subsequently in other areas of the BRC (refer *SIMP*, Section 5.1, in *Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS*).

Waratah Coal will continue to liaise with the BRC in terms of estimated FIFO workforce numbers and commercial/private flight arrangements.

SUBMITTER No.	418	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9073
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Baseline Study)
NAME	Dept. of Local Government and Planning (DLGP)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Executive Summary, 4.1.2 and 4.2.2 Social Baseline Study

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Demographic basis for the EIS is unclear. The source of the demographic data used as baseline information in the EIS is unclear. Note that the Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU) is now a part of the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR) within Queensland Treasury.

Provide references to the sources (publication, author and year) of demographic data, utilising the most up to date data available.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The primary source of data for the SIA was the 2006 population and housing census, however other data sources were also used. All data presented in the SIA was acknowledged and fully referenced (ie. author, date, title and publisher/ location). See SIMP Reference List in Appendix 23 of the EIS.

SUBMITTER No.	420	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9074 / 4116
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Mitigation)
NAME	Queensland Health	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The SIA, draft SIMP and EIS have comprehensively identified the cumulative impacts of 14 other large scale resource projects (later refined to 8 key projects) being developed in the same region over a similar time frame but no collaborative higher level strategies to manage these impacts with other proponents have been included in these documents. Most of the mitigation and management strategies for the identified cumulative impacts are identical to those proposed for the specific impacts of this project.

Recommend the proponent make more specific mitigation and management strategies that will address cumulative impacts as the consequences of these impacts will be greater than for the specific impacts identified. A *Good Practice Guide to Managing Cumulative Impacts in the Australian Coal Industry*⁴ has been produced by the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute and may be useful for this purpose.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The *Good Practice Guide to Managing Cumulative Impacts in the Australian Coal Industry* is a useful report, with interesting examples, but falls short in its recommendations in relation to empowering local authorities or local communities in the management of social impacts.

Waratah Coal supports the recent initiatives of the Coordinator-General in responding to the EIS for the Alpha Coal Project (May, 2012). As stated in the SIMP, Section 5.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal supports the Coordinator-General's collaborative approach, including the preparation and implementation of a development plan for Alpha, and the contribution by Galilee Basin proponents to one or more combined development funds. However, Waratah Coal would prefer to see more emphasis on planning and implementation rather than

⁴ *Cumulative Impacts – A good practice guide for the Australian Coal Mining Industry. The University of Queensland. Franks, DM, Brereton, D Moran, CJ, Sarker, T and T, Cohen. 2010.*

additional studies; would prefer to see separate strategies for the Alpha and Bowen areas (as the Abbot Point proponents include others in addition to the Galilee Basin proponents); and see additional clarity around the funding models. Waratah Coal would also prefer to elevate the role of the Councils, and therefore makes the following recommendations:

1. A development plan is prepared for Alpha, overseen by the Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) but with input by other government agencies and Galilee Basin proponents, and including detailed cost estimates, with annual updates, including broadening the scope of the plan to include other infrastructure and possibly other areas in the BRC over time.
2. Annual contributions are made by Galilee Basin proponents to an Infrastructure Fund to finance the development plan for Alpha (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support the development of infrastructure in other parts of the BRC area. It is envisaged that annual contributions will reflect infrastructure needs (as per the development plan for Alpha), and will fall significantly once key infrastructure in Alpha has been funded.
3. Annual contributions are made by Galilee Basin proponents to a Community Development Fund to support local organisations and the delivery of services in Alpha (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support local organisations and the delivery of services in other parts of the BRC area. It is envisaged that combined annual contributions up to \$2 million will be provided by Galilee Basin proponents once four or more mines enter construction or are operational.
4. The Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) prepares a development plan for Bowen, with input by other government agencies and Abbot Point proponents, initially focusing on water supply and sewerage and including cost estimates, and updates this annually including broadening the scope of the plan to include other infrastructure and possibly other areas in the WRC over time.
5. Annual contributions are made by Abbot Point proponents to an Infrastructure Fund to support the development of infrastructure in Bowen (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support the development of infrastructure in other parts of the WRC area. It is envisaged that annual contributions will reflect infrastructure needs (initially focusing on water supply and sewerage in Bowen), and will fall significantly once this infrastructure has been funded.
6. Annual contributions are made by Abbot Point proponents to a Community Development Fund to support local organisations and the delivery of services in Bowen (for which the majority of funds shall be allocated), and subsequently, to support local organisations and the delivery of services in other parts of the WRC area. It is envisaged that combined annual contributions of \$2 million will be provided by Abbot Point proponents once facilities at Abbot Point have been expanded to meet the increased demand for coal export facilities from the Galilee Basin and other areas.

Waratah Coal agrees that ongoing monitoring of social impacts should inform and contribute to the annual updates of the development plans for Alpha and Bowen, but believes that sufficient information currently exists for the BRC and WRC to develop initial plans rather than be subjected to further research.

The above approach and recommendations are believed to be the most appropriate to address cumulative social impacts in the Galilee Basin.

SUBMITTER No.	420	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9075
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Mitigation)
NAME	Queensland Health	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The grant funding proposed to be provided for Barcaldine and Whitsunday Regional Councils is supported, however the majority of this funding is likely to go towards hard infrastructure (roads, sewerage, water). Funding, as has been suggested, will be vitally important for soft infrastructure (community facilities etc.) as well as for programs to run from them, and positions to facilitate these.

Funding provided by the proponent to the Regional Council's should be provided for programs and community development type positions to encourage and support community cohesion and social inclusion, in addition to funding for hard AND soft infrastructure.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal has also proposed annual contributions by Galilee Basin and Abbot Point proponents to Community Development Funds, managed by the respective Councils (refer *SIMP*, Section 5.1, *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

Waratah Coal has prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal's approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	1346, 1424	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9076, 9077
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individuals	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Names withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

FIFO workers are not conducive to local community development and effectively reduce the local community.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The majority of mine workers will be engaged on a DIDO or FIFO basis. This is essential to avoid Alpha becoming overwhelmed with mine workers. However, as reflected in the *SIMP*, Section 5.2 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of

this SEIS), Waratah Coal aims to contribute to Alpha’s growth and prosperity through a well planned and effectively managed expansion in population, physical infrastructure and economic opportunities, while trying to preserve and contribute positively to the existing lifestyle and friendly, rural atmosphere.

The focus on Alpha and the surrounding area reflects (i) the intentions of Council to develop Alpha as a result of mine development in the Galilee Basin, and (ii) its proximity to the mine site, which will enable some workers to commute between the town and the mine on a daily basis. The focus on Alpha, rather than spreading impacts between Alpha and Jericho, is regarded as the most effective method – certainly in the short to medium term – of building a community and increasing the population and range of public services available in Alpha.

As stated in Section 6.4, Waratah Coal will contribute to its objective for Alpha by:

- Placing at least 50 staff in Alpha
- Providing all mine employees with the opportunity to reside in the local area
- Providing incentives for mine employees to relocate to Alpha with their families, and
- Encouraging contractors to establish facilities and base staff in Alpha by giving preference to businesses and contractors that have locally-based staff.

In addition, Waratah Coal will implement a Code of Conduct, which is described during inductions and agreed (in writing) by all employees, contractors and sub-contractors prior to commencement of work, with the aim of defining:

- Responsibilities towards other employees and contractors and local residents
- Acceptable behaviour on-site, and
- Acceptable behaviour while in local communities, particularly Alpha and Bowen (refer *SIMP*, Section 6.5).

Furthermore, employees living in Alpha will be encouraged to integrate with the local community. This will be achieved by:

- Placing employees based in Alpha on day shifts and working a five day week, whenever possible, to increase participation in social and sporting activities at night and on weekends
- Giving preference to employees with families, whenever possible, as families are far more likely to integrate within the local community than single workers
- Providing funding to local organisations and events and encouraging staff participation, and
- Attempting to organise an informal gathering of local residents to welcome new employees and new families to Alpha and outline potential social and sporting events that they may wish to participate in (refer *SIMP*, Section 6.5).

All port and rail employees will be expected to reside in Bowen as Bowen can accommodate the estimated 360 employees and will benefit from them being permanently located in town.

Waratah Coal has prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal’s approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy

- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER NO.	782	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9078
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Increased cost of living in Alpha catchment
- Wage pressures on local businesses, and
- Loss of jobs to Australians c/o 457 visa.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Cost of living

Mine development is expected to put upward pressure on wages and this is expected to lead to increases in the cost of some goods and services. However, the growth of Alpha should include establishment of more commercial enterprises. This should bring competition to Alpha and while some living costs are likely to rise, increased commercial competition may actually lead to a reduction in some other costs.

Waratah Coal has proposed that Galilee Basin proponents make financial contributions to Infrastructure and Community Development Funds that are managed by the Barcaldine Regional Council. This should help address affordable housing issues. Waratah Coal realises it will need to construct new houses for its staff in Alpha, which should help limit the increase in housing prices in Alpha.

Wage pressures on local businesses

Businesses in Alpha are expected to benefit substantially as Alpha's population grows from approximately 400 at present to possibly 1,500 within five years. Waratah Coal has stated its intention to give preference to local businesses in the provision of goods and services, which should add to the potential benefits available to local businesses.

However, while mining can substantially boost the local economy, it can also draw staff from government agencies and businesses in the local area, including grazing and agricultural businesses, and can leave these agencies and businesses with staff shortages and higher recruitment, salary and training costs. While not always easy to differentiate between long-term structural changes and short-term impacts occurring as a result of the mining boom, the development of large mining projects will no doubt challenge the viability of some businesses in Central Queensland. The response by the Commonwealth and State Governments to date has largely focused on strategies to address skill shortages, and making it easier to source overseas workers through Enterprise Migration Agreements.

While acknowledging the complexity of dealing effectively with this issue, Waratah Coal believe it possible to help minimise the loss of staff to the mining industry by:

- Outsourcing goods and services and using established, local contractors when possible
- Making financial contributions to affordable housing, particularly in Alpha and Bowen
- Providing financial support for apprentices that are engaged by local businesses (not necessarily involved in or related to the mining industry), and

- Participating in discussions with local councils or other fora, particularly focusing on strategies to the loss of agricultural workers to the mining industry.

Overseas workers

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 6.5 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal aims to maximise employment, in order of priority, in (i) the project area, (ii) the region, (iii) the rest of Queensland, and (iv) elsewhere in Australia before overseas. To help achieve this, Waratah Coal will:

- Recruit workers from areas in Queensland that have relatively high levels of unemployment:
 - Participate in any further Job Expos arranged by the Queensland Government, and
 - Liaise with the FIFO Coordinator in Cairns, and any other FIFO Coordinators that are appointed
- Promote female employment
- Promote Indigenous employment, and
- Boost training:
 - Aim to engage 25 new apprentices each year, of which 50% are recruited from Central Queensland and the Whitsunday, Isaac and Mackay Regions
 - Consider funding an additional five apprentices each year (with four year funding commitments subject to satisfactory performance), to be engaged and managed by businesses based and operating in the project area
 - Provide support to local schools, including mine tours, workplace training, classroom presentations and other interactions (possibly sponsoring schools under the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy) with the aim of strengthening linkages between schools and the mining industry, and
 - Aim to establish a long-term link with local training organisations (including TAFE centres) to provide guest lectures by skilled trainers (who work for the project) and accommodate workplace training for apprentices and other trainees.

SUBMITTER No.	752	ISSUE REFERENCE:	1010 / 9079
SUBMITTER TYPE	NGO	TOR CATEGORY	Economy / Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	AMWU	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Project may impact on manufacturing sector, and
- Assumptions regarding potential manufacturing job losses are not fully explained in the EIS.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

While the AMWU are correct in indicating the Economic Impact Assessment identifies the manufacturing sector may be adversely affected by the project, the quoted loss of 12,000 jobs in the next eight years is a misinterpretation of the modelled results.

With regards to the impacts on manufacturing outlined in the report:

- Firstly it is important to note the modelling provides a picture of the future economy with the project compared to a scenario of what would otherwise be expected to happen (rather than comparing it to the existing economy). The “loss” of, for example, 2,215 jobs per annum between 2013/14 and 2017/18 does not mean 2,215 manufacturing jobs currently held today will be lost. Rather, with the Galilee Coal Project, the ‘future’ economy will move towards a higher level of mining employment than would otherwise be observed without the project. In the ‘with project’

scenario, manufacturing does not grow as rapidly as would be the case in the ‘without project’ scenario, due to the resource (labour) constraints and the relative transferability of skills between the manufacturing sector and mining. The assumption here being that employment skills between mining and manufacturing are more easily transferrable than, say, between mining and professional services – though it should be noted this is only an assumption for modelling purposes and the actual effects and interplay between industries may be slightly different.

- The modelled estimates do not represent cumulative losses, they are simply the annual difference between the ‘with’ and ‘without project’ scenarios. That is, in 2013/14, the manufacturing sector is estimated to record 2,215 less jobs compared to what would be expected to occur without the project. In 2014/15, there is not a loss of another 2,215 jobs, rather the initial reduction from the base case carries forward to this year (i.e. there are still 2,215 less jobs than what would otherwise be expected).
- It should also be noted that over time the divergence between the ‘with’ and ‘without project’ effects on manufacturing declines. That is, the average difference of 2,215 between 2013/14 and 2017/18 reduces to an average of 1,666 between 2018/19 and 2036/37. This reflects that over time the economy will likely structure towards anticipated long term growth patterns with or without the project – the Galilee Coal Project is providing a boost to the economy over its life time but in consideration of labour requirements will result in some restructure compared to what otherwise would occur without the project.
 - The results presented in the report only outline the average annual impact over each time period. In fact, when examining modelled impacts on an annual basis, the impact on manufacturing trends downward each year.
- The modelling assumptions used play a role in the quantum of the estimated impacts from modelling. The modelling, in line with Queensland Treasury standard assumptions, reflects a constrained labour market and continuation of existing migration policy (i.e. assumes a relatively low level of un- or under-utilised labour (i.e., low unemployment) and a constrained labour mobility assumption (i.e. labour will move between industries and regions based on wage rates, with those industries that have a higher capacity to pay being more likely to secure labour)). As a result, the future labour pool does not change between the ‘with’ and ‘without project’ scenario, meaning labour must be secured from alternative uses (in this case, manufacturing is the industry modelled to be the hardest hit).

SUBMITTER No.	420	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9080
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Queensland Health	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The location of NRW accommodation can assist with the integration of non-resident workers into existing rural centres and promote sense of belonging, community identity and access to social networks as important factors in the preservation of mental health. Whitsunday Shire Council has expressed preference NRW accommodation to be located close to or within existing residential areas.

Where possible, NRW accommodation facilities associated with the construction of rail and port infrastructure should be located close to Bowen and their design should accommodate other housing uses after the construction period has ended. Should the workforce be located at Merinda, key issues relating to service access and potential impacts on Merinda need to be satisfactorily addressed.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The rail construction workers will be based in work camps, including at Merinda. The operational workforce, for both the port and rail, will be based permanently in or near Bowen.

Waratah Coal will liaise with the Whitsunday Regional Council in regard to construction numbers and rosters, work camp locations and design (and other relevant features) prior to the finalisation of the work camps.

SUBMITTER No.	416	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9081
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Queensland Police Service	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Vol 3, 13.3.2

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The location and control measures for the construction camps.

The QPS requests the proponent engage with the relevant District Officers in advance of the establishment of these camps to ensure local police are aware of locations and conditions.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal will liaise with the QPS in regard to work camp locations and design (and other relevant features, such as work rosters and transport routes to/from the work camps) prior to the finalisation of the work camps.

Waratah Coal has also prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal's approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	418	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9082
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Dept. of Local Government and Planning (DLGP)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Executive Summary, 2.1.1.2 Rail

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Workers Accommodation. The EIS does not appropriately assess, analyse and make recommendations on mitigation of impacts of the temporary (three years) camps, particularly given their proximity to existing settlements (Collinsville and Mount Coolon).

Recommend that further work is undertaken in a supplementary EIS to understand the relationship between the proposed temporary camps and their social impacts on surrounding communities, as well as the impact on local infrastructure (such as roads). A map which shows the intended locations of temporary camps would be useful.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The initial construction workforce estimates for the rail were based on a single rail line with nine passing loops, with 60 Mtpa capacity. At this level it was expected that approximately 1,000 workers would be required over a three-year construction period and they would reside in four work camps.

Waratah Coal is planning for an ultimate capacity of 400 Mtpa of export coal through its corridor to cater for all Galilee Basin coal producers as well as a selection of coal producers from the Bowen Basin. This increase will be a staged increase and will depend largely on world demand for thermal coal and the rate at which the Galilee Basin coal mines are developed and expanded. It is estimated that this increase to ultimate design capacity would be staged over 25 plus years.

It is likely that the expansion beyond the initial 60 Mtpa will be staged through a number of increases which would typically follow the indicative ramp-up as indicated below:

- 120 Mtpa – 3 more passing loops
- 180 Mtpa – 4 more passing loops
- 240 Mtpa – selected duplication, and
- 400 Mtpa – full duplication.

Further to the additional track capacity, it is expected that additional holding roads and capacity for maintenance windows would also be required.

The extent of construction beyond the initial construction is not extensive as the system, once established, will require relatively small incremental expansions.

The intention would be to use the maintenance camps as a base for the expansion and construct small camps (150-200 men) at other strategic locations. During these expansion programs, further assessment will be undertaken by Waratah Coal in respect to social impacts, and strategies developed, where appropriate to use as much local labour, contractors and sub-contractors as possible to maximise efficiencies and minimise social impacts and construction costs.

Map 1 in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)* includes the location of the construction work camps.

Waratah Coal has also prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal's approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP (see Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*.

SUBMITTER No.	420	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9083
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Queensland Health	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	SIA Vol 2 and 3 Chapter 16

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Assessments of the social and health impacts of the project are reliant upon accurate and consistent estimates of the construction and operational workforces and the multiplier effects on local service and supply chain jobs. Across the five documents there are inconsistent references to the size of the operational and construction workforces. The number of workers has major implications for the non-resident worker accommodation.

A refinement and clarification of these workforce numbers is an essential prerequisite to the development of plans to effectively manage and mitigate adverse affects of the proponent's development. Accurate numbers also assist Queensland Health and other agencies to plan for direct impacts to services they provide.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Revised workforce estimates are included in the *SIMP*, Section 2.3 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9084
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Baseline Study)
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	4.1

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The social baseline study is of interest to Barcaldine Regional Council and further works are needed for the integration of 30% workforce within the Alpha area and surrounds (as noted in consultation 14.11.11 Alpha Council).

Council suggest the proponent and Queensland Government assist in a proactive housing introduction strategy developed in conjunction and consultation with associated energy provision/services and a component of subsidised housing for long term local residents/low income, aged etc to ensure an integrated community. Based on figures provided by Waratah Coal, a nominal minimum 600 staff would be housed locally within Alpha and Jericho to meet the minimum 30%.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Although BRC recommended 30% of the workforce be based in Alpha (and subsequently in Alpha and Jericho), this is firmly against the desires of local residents who wish to maintain the existing lifestyle and friendly, rural atmosphere, and at all costs, avoid becoming a mining town.

If the proponents of the four proposed mines near Alpha placed 30% of their staff in Alpha and Jericho, the towns would support 1,860 mine workers, which irrespective of the number of contractors working in the mining industry, exceeds the 1,829 workers engaged in the mining industry in Moranbah in 2006 (ABS population and housing census, community profile series).

A more conservative and culturally acceptable approach for the development of Alpha is outlined in the *SIMP*, Sections 5 and 6 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9085
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Baseline Study)
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	16. Social impact assessment

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

BRC note the suggestion for a state managed UDA, however the council are already undertaking alignment of planning schemes and land use availability in the Alpha and Jericho areas

Barcaldine Regional Council understand that the proponent will likely review SIA details based on comments received and council wish to continue discussions and development of management actions based on the commitments proposed by Waratah.

An assurance that the commitments will be incorporated as part of the conditions and an ongoing component of the mining activities regardless of ownership or changes is required by the proponent and the Queensland Government.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal's response is clearly outlined in the *SIMP*, Sections 5 and 6 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), and includes strategies to ensure long-term funding for BRC.

Waratah Coal no longer supports the UDA proposal and notes proposals from private developers to develop land in Alpha.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9086
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Community Engagement) & Social (Social & Cultural Area)
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.9

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

"...committed to effective community engagement..."

What is the current position on the suggestion by BRC for shared infrastructure?

Please elaborate further and provide further details.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The provisions for shared infrastructure are outlined in the *SIMP* (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 6.1. The community engagement strategies are outlined in the *SIMP*, Section 7.

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9087
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Indigenous)
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Appendix 23, Social Impact, 7. Forecast Change and Social Impact (pp. 50-52).

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

There are a number of issues identified including increases in the cost of living (including increases in the cost of housing and increased cost of goods and services resulting from higher wages). Increasing income inequality has also been identified as a consequence of this Project.

No mention of any Indigenous specific issues or concerns. Did Indigenous groups have input or discussions? If yes, what particular issues were raised?

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The growth of Alpha should include establishment of more commercial enterprises. This should bring competition to Alpha and while some living costs are likely to rise, increased commercial competition may actually lead to a reduction in some other costs.

Waratah Coal has proposed that Galilee Basin proponents make financial contributions to Infrastructure and Community Development Funds to help address affordable housing issues and the demand on welfare services in the Alpha area.

Nevertheless, higher incomes are expected for those working in the mining industry and this is expected to lead to greater income inequality. If housing costs are effectively managed, and other costs increases not excessive, increased inequality does not necessarily lead to increased social disadvantage (it simply means that some people have higher incomes). However, managing the growth of Alpha, and particularly the housing market, will be instrumental in minimizing social disadvantage. The recommendations relating to the Infrastructure and Community Development Funds are believed to be an appropriate response to this challenge. Refer *SIMP*, Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 6.1 (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

As stated briefly in the *SIMP*, Section 3.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), the main issues raised by Indigenous people during public meetings and other discussions (eg. focusing on cultural heritage issues), focused on employment, training and commercial opportunities.

In response, Waratah Coal will prepare an Indigenous Engagement Strategy, including development of strategies to maximise Indigenous participation through employment and contracting opportunities, for example:

- Collaborating with organisations such as the HiHo Group in Bowen in the provision of work-ready and on-the-job training
- Trialling an Indigenous mentoring program, and
- Giving preference to locally-based businesses and contractors, and in some cases providing support to local organisations to help ensure they are able to make a competitive bid (eg. the HiHo Group in Bowen and Indigenous organisations they represent or support).

Refer to *SIMP*, Sections 6.5, 6.6 and 7.4 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9088
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Indigenous)
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Appendix 23, Social Impact, 7.9 Impacts on Disadvantaged Groups (p. 60).

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

It has been identified that the increase in the cost of living may disadvantage low income earners.

It has also been identified that the development of multiple mines in the Alpha area could significantly increase the demand for welfare services.

No mention of any Indigenous specific issues or concerns. Did Indigenous groups have input or discussions? If yes, what particular issues were raised?

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The growth of Alpha should include establishment of more commercial enterprises. This should bring competition to Alpha and while some living costs are likely to rise, increased commercial competition may actually lead to a reduction in some other costs.

Waratah Coal has proposed that Galilee Basin proponents make financial contributions to Infrastructure and Community Development Funds to help address affordable housing issues and the demand on welfare services in the Alpha area.

As stated briefly in the *SIMP*, Section 3.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), the main issues raised by Indigenous people during public meetings and other discussions (eg. focusing on cultural heritage issues), focused on employment, training and commercial opportunities.

In response, Waratah Coal will prepare an Indigenous Engagement Strategy, including development of strategies to maximise Indigenous participation through employment and contracting opportunities, for example:

- Collaborating with organisations such as the HiHo Group in Bowen in the provision of work-ready and on-the-job training
- Trialling an Indigenous mentoring program, and
- Giving preference to locally-based businesses and contractors, and in some cases providing support to local organisations to help ensure they are able to make a competitive bid (eg. the HiHo Group in Bowen and Indigenous organisations they represent or support).

Refer to *SIMP*, Sections 6.5, 6.6 and 7.4 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9089 / 18005
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Indigenous)
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Appendix 23, Social Impact, 8.10 Stakeholder Engagement (pp.50 & 69).

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

There is limited detail about actual consultation with the identified Traditional Owners, and in particular with other Indigenous people, groups or organisations specifically.

The Department would like to see a more detailed Indigenous response to the issues raised by Indigenous people in the consultation process in addition to what has been documented (Appendix 23, page 50).

PROPONENT RESPONSE

During the development of the Galilee Coal Project extensive community consultation was undertaken. Numerous indigenous people attended the public meetings. Various issues were raised during these meetings; these issues included investigating provision for opportunities for employment and training throughout the development of the project as well as the potential for commercial opportunities. These issues were also highlighted during meetings with the various traditional owner groups whose lands may be impacted by the project. Waratah Coal plans to continue to engage with indigenous groups with respect to the proposed project and potential impacts as a result of the proposed project.

As stated briefly in the *SIMP*, Section 3.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), the main issues raised by Indigenous people during public meetings and other discussions (eg. focusing on cultural heritage issues), focused on employment, training and commercial opportunities.

In response, Waratah Coal will prepare an Indigenous Engagement Strategy, including development of strategies to maximise Indigenous participation through employment and contracting opportunities, for example:

- Collaborating with organisations such as the HiHo Group in Bowen in the provision of work-ready and on-the-job training
- Trialling an Indigenous mentoring program, and
- Giving preference to locally-based businesses and contractors, and in some cases providing support to local organisations to help ensure they are able to make a competitive bid (eg. the HiHo Group in Bowen and Indigenous organisations they represent or support).

Refer to *SIMP*, Sections 6.5, 6.6 and 7.4 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9090 / 18006
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Indigenous)
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Appendix 25, Community Consultation, (pages 4, 6, 31-34, 40, 66-67).

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

There is limited detail about actual consultation with the identified Traditional Owners, and in particular with other Indigenous people, groups or organisations specifically.

The Department would like to see longer term and identified Indigenous engagement strategies as part of the monitoring of social impacts (also outlined in the Social Impact Management Plan, page 35) that includes specified reporting and meeting timelines.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Significant consultation and negotiations have been undertaken with the identified Traditional Owners for the project area. These negotiations were undertaken on a confidential basis and therefore the detail of these has not been documented within the context of the EIS project. However, these negotiations did address statutory requirement such as the management and identification of cultural heritage as well as other matters such as employment and training opportunities for indigenous people within the project.

As stated in the *SIMP*, Section 7.4 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal plans to prepare an Indigenous Engagement Strategy, which will include:

- Identifying key organisations that deal with or represent Indigenous people
- Meeting on a regular basis
- Providing information on the project (newsletters and other published information)
- Developing strategies to maximise Indigenous participation through employment and contracting opportunities, including but not limited to work-ready and on-the-job training and mentoring programs
- Addressing any other issues raised by the Indigenous parties
- Raising awareness of the grievance mechanism, and
- Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the strategies.

In addition, Waratah Coal will appoint an Indigenous Liaison Officer to oversee the Indigenous Engagement Strategy, once construction commences.

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 8 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), annual reviews of the Indigenous Engagement Strategy, and strategies to maximise Indigenous participation through employment and contracting opportunities, will be reviewed by Waratah Coal annually, while an independent, external review will be conducted every two years.

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9091 / 18007
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Indigenous)
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	SIMP, Table 5, Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (pp. 37-39)

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

There is limited detail about actual consultation with the identified Traditional Owners, and in particular with other Indigenous people, groups or organisations specifically.

The Department notes that the proposed independent review of the initial *SIMP*, and periodic external review ‘every five years’ in terms of Indigenous employment and representation across the project presents a risk in terms of providing a more regular evaluation of consultative process revision and refinement. The Department recommends regular planning meetings with Indigenous groups, and an annual review of all areas of the project affecting Indigenous persons directly and indirectly.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Significant consultation and negotiations have been undertaken with the identified Traditional Owners for the project area. These negotiations were undertaken on a confidential basis and therefore the detail of these has not been documented within the context of the EIS project. The negotiations have however, addressed statutory requirements such as identification and management of cultural heritage as well as broader issues associated with employment, training and business opportunities associated with the project. The Traditional Owner agreements provide for ongoing consultations with the groups regarding these matters. Outside these negotiations, various Indigenous people were involved in the community consultation process.

As stated in the *SIMP*, Section 7.4 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal plans to prepare an Indigenous Engagement Strategy, which will include:

- Identifying key organisations that deal with or represent Indigenous people
- Meeting on a regular basis
- Providing information on the project (newsletters and other published information)
- Developing strategies to maximise Indigenous participation through employment and contracting opportunities, including but not limited to work-ready and on-the-job training and mentoring programs
- Addressing any other issues raised by the Indigenous parties
- Raising awareness of the grievance mechanism, and
- Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the strategies.

In addition, Waratah Coal will appoint an Indigenous Liaison Officer to oversee the Indigenous Engagement Strategy, once construction commences.

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 8 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), annual reviews of the Indigenous Engagement Strategy, and strategies to maximise Indigenous participation through employment and contracting opportunities, will be reviewed by Waratah Coal annually, while an independent, external review will be conducted every two years.

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9092 / 18008
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Indigenous)
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	The project will generate an additional 3,000 jobs during construction and 4,000 jobs during operations (when including direct, indirect and induced employment) and provide training to many staff, including Indigenous employees (SIMP p19)

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Develop a human resources management plan to increase skills levels in the workforce and local communities and promote Indigenous and female employment.

The Department notes the KPI target for Indigenous employment has been set at 2% in the 3rd year of operations and 4% in the 10th year of operation. The Department would also like to see specific KPIs set for Indigenous training opportunities.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

It is difficult to assess the labour market in future years given:

- Recent volatility in world and Australian economic conditions
- The potential for further commodity price fluctuations
- The impact that tsunamis and other natural disasters can potentially have on the demand for different fuel sources
- Australian immigration policies (impacting both long term and short term migrants), and
- Queensland’s ability to attract migrants both from overseas and other parts of Australia.

Because of the uncertainty that exists, setting employment targets (eg. proportion of local staff, proportion of Indigenous staff) is unwise from a business perspective if these targets are to be made conditions for approval.

Waratah Coal is committed to having a well-trained, healthy and relatively stable workforce and aims to maximise local employment through increasing female and Indigenous employees. However, it is again a business risk to commit to training a certain number of people without knowing the potential market that is available for this training in future years.

It is therefore recommended that training KPIs be developed over time (and certainly following a Final Investment Decision to proceed with the project), and reflect both workforce needs and the availability of training candidates at the time.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9093
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Social & Cultural Area)
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.2.1

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

“upgrade of existing Alpha Airstrip or construction of new airstrip”

Barcaldine Regional Council have consistently noted that they consider the aerodrome as part of the essential infrastructure to the region which should remain in local government ownership. The suggestion by the proponent they may construct a new airstrip is not considered a basis on which BRC can support investment in capital upgrades to the Alpha Aerodrome. As per the Central West Regional Plan, planning needs to consider the future expansion of regional airports to maximise operational safety and efficiency, and minimise adverse impacts on the amenity of adjacent communities. Airport facilities are crucial also due to anticipated reduction in accessibility to health services in the region.

Please provide firmer numbers on likely utilisation of the Alpha Aerodrome which are required in order to support the expansion of the mining industry in the region and to enable BRC to maintain or develop the airport facilities and infrastructure at an appropriate level to cater for demand. In particular this information from the proponent will assist in planning particularly in relation to support portion of FIFO workforce.

Please clarify notation regarding ‘new airstrip’.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal intends to use the Alpha airstrip and will continue to liaise with Council in regard to the expansion of the existing runway (to accommodate larger jets) and the timing and number of workers envisaged during the construction and operational phases of the project.

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9094
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile) & Social (Social & Cultural Area)
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Cumulative Impact

There are four other projects currently proposing the construction of rail infrastructure from the Galilee Basin for the transportation of coal to the APSDA. These projects are the Alpha Coal Project (Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd), South Galilee Coal Project (AMCI Alpha Pty Ltd), Alpha Coal Pty Ltd (Bandanna Energy) and Carmichael Coal Project (Adani Mining Pty Ltd). The final maximum capacity of the rail line is proposed to be 400Mt per annum. Considering that the Galilee Coal Project will only produce 40Mt per annum of saleable coal there is significant opportunity for the third party usage of the line. The proponent outlines that they have an 'in principle agreement' with AMCI (the proponents of the South Galilee Coal project as well as initiating discussions with Adani Mining Pty Ltd (the proponents of the Carmichael Coal Project). It is identified that it is unlikely that any agreement for co-location or sharing of rail will be achieved between Galilee Coal Project and the proposed Alpha Coal Project (Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd). This is due to apparent 'engineering differences'.

The EIS outlines that there are several impacts that are associated with the influx of persons on towns as they transform into mining communities. The EIS fails to recognise that there could be similar impacts on regions that provide infrastructure ancillary to these activities, such as rail and ports. The impact of the construction and operation of several rail lines through the Whitsunday region could mimic those that affect poorly managed growth of mining communities such as increases in the cost of housing, an increase in the cost of goods and services resulting from higher wages, loss of employees from existing business activities as they take jobs in mining related projects, increases in the cost of living, the potential loss in economic benefits from a downturn in the industry; and, increasing income inequality. The EIS needs to provide mitigation measures to reduce the impact of the Whitsunday Region that may result if completed co-location or sharing of facilities can not be achieved.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The LNP has made a commitment to a single rail route for coal sourced from the Galilee Basin⁵. However, both Hancock Prospecting and Waratah Coal prepared independent feasibility studies for their Galilee Basin projects, and both included rail components, as there was no guarantee that the other proponent would proceed or would provide access to the other's rail. The LNP has stated that a single rail easement will be selected for the Galilee Basin. However, approval of the Hancock/GVK railway for 60Mtpa does not meet the requirement for all Galilee Basin proponents, and Waratah Coal is therefore proceeding with the rail component, which is for 400Mtpa capacity, which would cater for all Galilee Basin proponents.

At the same time, Waratah Coal has outlined a range of measures to promote positive social impacts and minimise adverse social impacts. These measures focus on Alpha and Bowen, as the communities that will be most impacted by the project should it proceed, but other measures are outlined in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) to address the impacts on property owners, and the broader region. Several of the action plans in the *SIMP* include a focus on the Whitsunday Region, including:

- #2 Assistance to Bowen
- #3 Minimising Impacts on Property Owners
- #4 Accommodation and Housing

⁵ LNP Resources and Energy Strategy. 2011. Page 26.

- #5 Workforce Management, and
- #6 Local Industry Participation.

Waratah Coal welcomes the opportunity for ongoing consultation with WRC on the effective management of social impacts.

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9095
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile) & Social (Social & Cultural Area)
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Social Infrastructure Fund

Whitsunday Regional Council is in the initial stages of planning a guideline in developing a social infrastructure fund in respect to developing local community infrastructure that is essential to maintain strong, resilient and sustainable communities. Such infrastructure includes community recreation facilities, sporting facilities and community interaction facilities. Whitsunday Regional Council would like to have discussions with the Coordinator-General and the proponent to discuss ways in which the proponent can contribute towards this fund to assist with this essential infrastructure that assists Council in developing strong, resilient and sustainable communities.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal is supportive and has recommended a similar fund in the *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9096
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile) & Social (Social & Cultural Area)
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Provision of Essential Infrastructure

Since the announcement of the Abbot Point State Development Area, Whitsunday Regional Council has undertaken a review of major infrastructure within the Bowen and Collinsville region. This review has been undertaken in order to determine whether or not there is sufficient capacity within already existing infrastructure in order to cater for the expected population growth associated with infrastructure and industry growth within the Bowen Basin, Abbot Point and the State Development Area. Whitsunday Regional Council have identified that Bowen requires both a sewerage treatment plant (STP) and a water treatment plant (WTP) in order to cater for the predicted increase in population.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal has recommended that all Abbot Point proponents provide financial assistance to the WRC for infrastructure development. Refer *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9097
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile) & Social (Social & Cultural Area)
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Sewerage Treatment Plant

Whitsunday Regional Council in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) have identified that a new STP is required in Bowen. The estimated costs of the STP for Bowen is \$40 million. The Whitsunday Regional Council is requesting that the Coordinator-General request that developers of large scale infrastructure projects such as this one be required to provide a cash component of funding towards the construction costs of this infrastructure. Given that the current STP is at capacity and that further infrastructure is required because of the increase in population associated with infrastructure and industry growth within the Bowen Basin, Abbot Point and State Development Area, Council sees that it is a social responsibility of both the Queensland Government and project proponents to provide financial assistance towards these projects. Whitsunday Regional Council would like to commence discussions with the proponent in order to seek financial assistance from both parties for the provision of a grant of financial contribution towards the establishment of a STP for Bowen.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal has recommended that all Abbot Point proponents provide financial assistance to the WRC for infrastructure development. Refer *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9098
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile) & Social (Social & Cultural Area)
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Water Treatment Plant

Currently Bowen does not have a WTP. Whitsunday Regional Council are currently in the process of preparing a full cost pricing model for the construction of a water treatment plant for Bowen. At this point in time the estimated cost for the construction is \$25 million. Whitsunday Regional Council would like to commence discussions with the proponent in order to seek financial contribution towards the establishment of a WTP for Bowen.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal has recommended that all Abbot Point proponents provide financial assistance to the WRC for infrastructure development. Refer *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9099
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile) & Social (Social & Cultural Area)
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Upgrades to the Whitsunday Coast Airport. In May 2010, Whitsunday Regional Council engaged Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) to undertake an inspection of the airfield pavements at the Whitsunday Coast Airport and prepare an initial scoping report for any major pavement rectification works recommended subsequent to the inspection. The scoping study examined the following pavement areas of the main apron, TWY A (taxiway A) and RWY 11/29 (Runway). As a result to the scoping study it has been identified that works will be required to be undertaken by Whitsunday Regional Council.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal intends to base its staff in Bowen and therefore has less need for upgrading the airport at Proserpine than, for example, a company engaging a FIFO workforce. However, Waratah Coal has recommended that all Abbot Point proponents provide financial assistance to the WRC for infrastructure development, and that the WRC should take the lead in identifying priorities and allocating funds. Refer *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	355	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9101
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- What is Waratah planning to input into Alpha business' to sustain them after they lose business from local graziers to bring viability to the town, and
- The viability of agriculture in the local areas will be adversely affected as graziers are forced to leave their livelihoods, and the ones who remain/struggle due to a shortage of skilled labour, unable to compete with wage agreements.

Suggested Solution:

- Ask Waratah Coal these questions, and
- Mines compensate graziers for gap in wages.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Businesses in Alpha are expected to benefit substantially as Alpha's population grows from approximately 400 at present to possibly 1,500 within five years of construction commencing. Waratah Coal has stated its intention to give preference to local businesses in the provision of goods and services, which should add to the potential benefits available to local businesses.

It is important to realise that not everyone wants to work in the mining industry. However, the shortage of agricultural workers is a serious issue in much of Queensland. The loss of stockmen, in particular, can make it difficult to complete the necessary stock-work to run a viable business. Recruiting new stockmen takes time and usually requires substantial training, not only to become familiar with the property, its livestock and its management practices, but often in terms of basic skills (horsemanship, fencing, operating machinery, etc). Recruiting new staff usually results in higher labour costs and, initially, lower productivity.

This is not a problem that is necessarily unique to the agricultural and grazing industries, as several other industries face mounting pressures in the wake of lower product prices and/or rising production costs. While mining is contributing to the problem in some areas, including for example, the Bowen Basin, long-term structural changes are also occurring. In the past the response to labour shortages and/or rising labour prices has been a range of labour-saving initiatives, including mechanisation. Waratah Coal is not suggesting further mechanisation is possible, and is not aware of an appropriate solution to this particular problem as it relates to beef cattle producers. Providing wage subsidies is not considered as an appropriate or sustainable solution, although providing financial support for a training program for rural workers may be helpful. Waratah Coal is willing to participate in discussions to try to address the issue.

SUBMITTER No.	466	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9102
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Social dislocation of workers and locals through FIFO, and
- Poor family and youth outcomes for home populations leading to ongoing social disintegration.

Investment in local social infrastructure to establish a long term viable population including family accommodation, schools, sporting and medical facilities.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As stated in the *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal proposes that financial contributions are made to Infrastructure and Community Development Funds to support improved infrastructure and services in Alpha and Bowen.

As stated in the *SIMP*, Sections 5.2 and 5.3, Waratah Coal aims to:

- Contribute to Alpha’s growth and prosperity through a well planned and effectively managed expansion in population, physical infrastructure and economic opportunities, while trying to preserve and contribute positively to the existing lifestyle and friendly, rural atmosphere, and
- Maximise its contribution to population growth and economic development in the Bowen area.

The above objectives are believed to reflect the aspirations of the local communities and will significantly enhance social outcomes in both areas.

Waratah Coal has also prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal’s approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy

- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	417	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9103
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Isaac Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS must clearly demonstrate short and long term mitigation strategies for the social, housing and population demands which will accompany the construction and operational workforces associated with the project on the small rural network communities. Special attention will need to be detailed on how operational and contractor employee numbers will be serviced in the areas of health and medical, police and dental services as the capacity of the local community to sustain the large transient workforce will be under considerable duress and prone to significant failure without careful management.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As described in Sections 5 and 6 of the *SIMP* (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal has outlined a planning framework for the development of Alpha and Bowen and the surrounding communities. Although discussions will need to be held with Queensland Health, the Queensland Police Service and other agencies (and should be led by the Galilee Basin CSIA Roundtable), this planning framework should accommodate the needs of local communities and contractors.

Waratah Coal has also prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal's approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9104
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile) & Social (Social & Cultural Area)
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Housing

Construction and the operation of the port facility (coal stockyards and terminal) and the rail line will place housing pressures on residential and accommodation stocks within the Whitsunday Regional Council area. Council has several concerns regarding the housing of these employees needed for construction and operation and the effect that this will have on the immediate surrounding towns. Council is concerned that these temporary workers camps will become somewhat permanent, especially the one proposed to be located at Merinda, which is described as the 'base camp'. Merinda, Collinsville and Mt Coolon have the lowest Socio Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) ratings for the Whitsunday Region. Areas of Bowen exhibit economic disadvantage, low income, low education attainment, high unemployment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. The Social Impact Assessment in Appendix 23 (pg. iix) supports this statement, yet the Social Impact Statement did not provide any consideration to the effect 1,000 extra workers for a period of three years will have on the vulnerable communities located along the proposed rail line.

Investigations should be undertaken to determine the effect the continued influx of itinerant workers will have on the already vulnerable townships within the Whitsunday Regional Council area. The design of the proposed structures can also have a significant impact on the amenity of the towns in which they are located.

The construction of proposed structures viewable from the Bowen Development Road can impact on the landscape and character of the nearby towns, which in turn can potentially deteriorate the acceptable design standards for accommodation within these towns. Proposed housing plans or designs for the accommodation have not been provided as part of this EIS. The proponent has heavily misled the Department in detailing that the construction will only take three years to complete, when in actual fact significant continuing upgrades to the rail network will continue over the following 15-20 years.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Housing for operational staff in the Bowen area will be provided by the private sector, as the market has currently considerable surplus capacity (in terms of available land for new residencies, the quantity of houses currently for sale, and the size of the rental market). Recent discussions with the Whitsunday Regional Council confirmed this a reasonable approach.

The initial construction workforce estimates for the rail were based on a single rail line with several overtaking bays, with 60Mtpa capacity. At this level it was expected that approximately 1,000 workers would be required over a 3-year construction period and they would reside in four work camps.

Updated construction numbers will be provided by Waratah Coal for a dual carriage railway, capable of transporting 400 Mtpa. The revised estimates need to include construction workforce numbers, timeframe and accommodation arrangements.

It is reasonable to expect that a larger workforce would be required, and this may necessitate work camps accommodating 500 workers each (rather than the 250 envisaged for a railway with 60 Mtpa capacity).

Waratah Coal will also provide information confirming the workforce camp locations, their designs and other pertinent information required by the respective Councils. To this end, Waratah Coal will welcome the opportunity of discussing the work camps with the Councils prior to the finalisation of their locations and designs.

It is almost certain the rail will be upgraded from 60 Mtpa to 400 Mtpa over a period exceeding three years; further assessment will be undertaken by Waratah Coal in respect to the social impacts, and strategies developed, where appropriate, to ensure local communities (including but not limited to Bowen, Collinsville and Mt Coolon) benefit as much as possible from the rail construction, and adverse social impacts are minimised.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9105
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.2.1

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

“...a 2,000 person accommodation village including an appropriate scale wastewater treatment plant and irrigation system”

This conflicts with comment 1.4.2 for 2,360 permanent workforce and details on DEEDI project overview of 1,500?

The Council have requested that the proponent consider a percentage resident workforce within Alpha and Jericho, which has also been part of the engagement between council and the proponent.

Please confirm workforce numbers for operational and construction and further details in regards to the accommodation village.

Please provide further details regarding inclusion of resident workforce population within Alpha and Jericho as per discussions held with Barcaldine Regional Council.

Any water or waste water discharges need to best-practice environmental management to protect or enhance environmental values and meet water quality objectives of receiving waters, please include further information.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Workforce projections have been updated (refer *SIMP*, Section 2.3, *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS). Waratah Coal plans to base 50 staff in Alpha (refer *SIMP*, Sections 5.2 and 6.1).

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9106
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	2.1 Associated infrastructure 2.1.1 workforce and accommodation 2.1.1.1 Mine

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

“ .. a proportion of local workers...”, Exactly how many available local workers are there considering the cumulative requirements of the various projects?

“... purpose built 2,000 people village...” , How was the 28 housed in Alpha determined? Was it based on other central Qld coal projects? What is the percentage of the work force that are likely to want to be locally housed at Alpha?

Impacts from the project cannot be determined without adequate data.

A more detailed study into the impacts on Towns like Alpha and their needs for essential services including housing are immediately required.

Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives for receiving waters are discussed in Issue Reference 2017 in Part C – 4 – Water Resources.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Refer to *SIMP*, Sections 5 and 6 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9107
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile)
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	4.1.3

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- How can there be a portion of local workers used when, unemployment is males 1%, and females 1.4.0%?
- The predicted 120 Mtpa identifies the high impact on the region. If Qld is currently (08/09) 190 Mtpa?
- 26 people to live in Alpha, multiplied by four mines equates to 100 dwellings?
- Draft Social Impact Development Plan (SIMP). This document is required to assess if it contains the appropriate mitigation strategies and the likelihood of success?

More assessments and information on potential workforces is required.

The proponent and Queensland Government can now attempt to identify cumulative effects from the various projects proposed in the region and provide a strategy to help the local communities assess, process, manage and cope with the developments.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Some workers will be recruited from the local area (despite low unemployment rates):

- Some local people will choose to leave their current employer to work on the project. Their replacements may need to be sourced from outside the local area, and
- Other local people – who are currently working outside the local area – may choose to return to the local area to work on the project.

The project provides an opportunity to help redress the declining population in the Barcaldine Region by providing some school leavers with an opportunity to gain employment in the local area, rather than seek employment in Brisbane or other urban centers. The cumulative impacts of multiple projects has been assessed (refer to *SIMP*, Section 4) and appropriate management strategies outlined (refer to *SIMP*, Sections 5 and 6, *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	251	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9108 / 4118
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social / Hazard & Risk
NAME	DCS (QFRS – Central Region)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	EIS – Workforce & Transport

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

QFRS notes that travel arrangements for the majority of the workforce will be a fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) strategy directly to the project site and mine accommodation facilities. However it would be expected that there would be an increase in vehicle movements, both heavy and light, on the local road networks during the development of the mine site and accommodation facilities, regardless of the project phase.

As the site is to be located 30 kilometres from the Alpha township, the QFRS Alpha auxiliary service will be the primary respondents to any road traffic crashes. Further assistance will be provided from the QFRS Emerald and Barcardine auxiliary services which would have an extended response time.

The mine development may have an impact on the staffing resources of the Alpha Fire and Rescue Station with some QFRS auxiliary personnel seeking employment at the mine project. This may diminish the QFRS response capabilities in this area.

The QFRS requests future consultation be held with the proponent to implement an agreement between both parties and formulate an arrangement to ensure staffing and equipment resources are available to provide life and property protection to the residents of the surrounding townships and their infrastructure, as well as providing response and support capabilities to any emergency incident that may occur on the mine site.

The transport proposal highlights that the majority of the work force will be transported to the site as FIFO, however a fatigue management plan is to be implemented to address the issue of locally based employees/contractors choosing to travel in their own vehicles and driving immediately after completion of their shifts. This would assist in preventing road crashes through workers driving while fatigued.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As discussed in the *SIMP*, Section 6.2 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), the capacity of emergency services will be addressed under the recommended Galilee Basin CSIA Roundtable. It is envisaged that all Galilee Basin proponents will contribute funding to improve infrastructure and services in Alpha and the surrounding area (refer to *SIMP*, Section 5.1).

Waratah Coal has prepared a draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, to help articulate Waratah Coal's approach to the management of social impacts and to facilitate input to the management of social impacts by various stakeholders. The overall objective of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy is to promote a safer and healthier workplace and to enhance the contribution made by the project to the communities in which it is located. A number of policies and procedures have been drafted in support of the Health and Emergency Services Strategy, including:

- Workplace Induction
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Fatigue Management Plan
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Code of Conduct, and
- Grievance and Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

The draft Health and Emergency Services Strategy, and above policies and procedures, were prepared in consultation with various government agencies and have been included in the *SIMP* (see *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

Waratah Coal welcomes the opportunity to consult further with QFRS during the finalisation of the above strategies.

Waratah Coal has prepared an *Initial Emergency Response Plan Framework* which is included in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9109
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social / Waste / Land
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.1.4

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Other Project Components that will impact on the BRC are as follows:

- Power & water
- Temp and permanent accommodation
- Roads and tracks
- Upgrade airstrip
- Sewerage
- Borrow pits and quarries
- Waste facilities
- Weed & pest management, and
- Disaster management (flood/fire/drought/mine issue).

Specific discussions are required with BRC on all of these issues. A more important discussion is required as to BRC's current and future needs and resourcing requirements to administer all of these proposed projects, assessments, decisions and processes, now and in the future.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal welcomes further opportunities to consult with the BRC over the above issues. Some issues, including power and water, roads and the airstrip, will be addressed under the proposed Galilee Basin CSIA Roundtable. Other issues will be addressed by Waratah Coal with Council as requested.

SUBMITTER No.	416	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9110 / 15003
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Mitigation)
NAME	Queensland Police Service	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9 – SIMP

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS does not appropriately reflect issues of land supply in the Bowen area to accommodate the proposed permanent workforce. The intended strategies for the delivery of housing in Bowen should be identified in the EIS. The Coordinator-General has commissioned the Bowen Abbot Point Accommodation and Community Infrastructure Study to identify these issues, but this has not been reflected in the EIS.

Further work should be undertaken in the Bowen area, and then reflected in a supplementary EIS to demonstrate that the impacts of an additional 460 permanent workers will not impact on housing supply and affordability. This is given that approval of multiple projects at the Port of Abbot Point and the State Development Area could negatively impact on available housing stock. DLGP is aware of several constraints to development in the Bowen area, including the protection of good quality agricultural and, flooding, storm tide inundation and potential impacts of climate change. These issues are appropriately reflected in statutory planning instruments including the draft Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan and the (former) Bowen Shire Council Planning Scheme 2006, and they should be considered in this EIS. Bowen has many of its residents in rental accommodation, and a sudden increase in demand and/or shortage of supply in the area could leave existing residents and disadvantaged groups unable to find affordable accommodation.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As outlined in the Bowen Abbot Point Accommodation and Community Infrastructure Study, at the time this report was commissioned there were already supply constraints evident in the community. Since that report was released, there has been a slowdown in house price appreciation and transaction numbers, however, a large influx of workers will require additional housing and accommodation to be made available.

However, recent discussions with the Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) confirm that WRC believe that Bowen has excess capacity in its housing and rental markets and the project should be able to accommodate its rail and port employees in town without adversely affecting the market. However, any shortfalls could be addressed through the proposed financial contributions of Abbot Point proponents to infrastructure and community development funds, which are to be managed by Council, as proposed in the *SIMP*, Section 5.1 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER NO.	416	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9111
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Mitigation)
NAME	Queensland Police Service	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9 – SIMP

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS does not appropriately reflect issues of location for service industries.

Further work should be undertaken in a supplementary EIS to understand the relationship between the proposal and its impacts on the town of Jericho.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As stated in the *SIMP*, Section 5.2 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS), Waratah Coal aims to contribute to Alpha's growth and prosperity through a well planned and effectively managed expansion in population, physical infrastructure and economic opportunities, while trying to preserve and contribute positively to the existing lifestyle and friendly, rural atmosphere.

The focus on Alpha and the surrounding area reflects (i) the intentions of Council to develop Alpha as a result of mine development in the Galilee Basin, and (ii) its proximity to the mine site, which will enable some workers to commute between the town and the mine on a daily basis. The focus on Alpha, rather than spreading impacts between Alpha and Jericho, is regarded as the most effective method – certainly in the short to medium term – of building a community and increasing the population and range of public services available in Alpha.

Nevertheless, resources can be allocated to develop Jericho under the proposed Infrastructure and Community Development Funds (refer to *SIMP*, Section 5.1).

SUBMITTER No.	418	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9112
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Mitigation)
NAME	Dept. of Local Government and Planning (DLGP)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9 – SIMP

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

In regard to accommodation and housing, and assistance for land use planning in Alpha, the EIS should be clear in the process it intends to adopt. This process will be either a development application through the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS), or assistance for Council to amend its planning scheme for development of land in Alpha for residential purposes.

Provide clarity on the implementation process to facilitate development of land for residential purposes in Alpha. One option would be for the proponent (with landowner’s consent) to lodge an application for preliminary approval under section 242 of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. This process can establish a land use planning framework for a site including a plan of development and establish levels of assessment for the site. The preliminary approval can be reflected in the planning scheme later if the proposal is approved. Further details on the constraints to development of housing stock in Alpha should also be identified, including an assessment against the provisions of the planning scheme.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

A private developer has submitted an application for a subdivision development in Alpha. The proposal is situated between the current town and the aerodrome. Council is also developing an area on the southwest part of Alpha (approximately 20 lots). At this stage there appears to be no shortage of potential land for residential or industrial development in Alpha and Waratah Coal prefers this is left in the hands of Council and/or the private sector.

SUBMITTER No.	418	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9113
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Mitigation)
NAME	Dept. of Local Government and Planning (DLGP)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9 – SIMP

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The proponent has identified several current social issues in Alpha, including no provision for Years 11-12 at the local school, no full-time doctor in the town, and no sewerage infrastructure. Therefore, the proponent is seeking to assist the community by monetary funding to ensure strategies for provisions of necessary hard and soft infrastructure to support the community are in place.

For ease of certainty and management by the local government (Barcaldine Regional Council), an Infrastructure Agreement should be prepared in line with the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, detailing what infrastructure will be delivered and when. The Infrastructure Agreement would not necessarily have to detail how the infrastructure would be delivered. The parties to the Infrastructure Agreement should be the proponent (linked back to the mine site), Barcaldine Regional Council and the Coordinator-General.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Refer to SIMP, Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 6.1 (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	418	ISSUE REFERENCE:	9114
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Mitigation)
NAME	Dept. of Local Government and Planning (DLGP)	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 1, Chapter 9 – SIMP

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Given the number of proposed projects near Alpha, it is likely that investment and delivery of infrastructure and community facilities and services will be inefficient and inequitable.

All the proponents in the Galilee Basin should collaborate to ensure shared investment in services provided to the community. This is necessary to ensure efficient use of any contributory funding from proponents for community development in Alpha.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Refer to *SIMP*, Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 6.1 (*Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	350	ISSUE REFERENCE:	1009 / 9100 / 9119
SUBMITTER TYPE	NGO	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Workforce Profile) / Economy
NAME	The Australia Institute	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	p xii, p xvi, p xxv, p 24, p 52, p 31, p 60, p 62, p 36, p viii, p xxii, p 51, p 57, appendix 23 p xviii, p 2

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Net economic benefits will be small
- Potential loss of manufacturing jobs; potential of the project to impact upon local businesses and agriculture
- Increase in coal exports may assist in maintaining the value of the Australian dollar
- Adding more demand to an already booming sector may add fuel to wage and price increases
- No assessment of the projects impact on the CPI
- Project may lead to increase in interest rates
- No analysis of the impact of the project on net exports, and
- The estimates of tax revenue in the economic assessment are based on an exchange rate of \$US0.80c.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Net Economic Benefits

The Economic Impact Assessment of the Galilee Coal Project conducted by *AECgroup* acknowledges a range of potential adverse implications of the project on segments of the broader Queensland and Australian economy. However, the assertion that the economic benefits of the project will be small is not supported by *AECgroup's* analysis.

Table 5.1 on page 24 of the Economic Impact Assessment outlines the following:

- The three year construction phase of the project will result in an average annual increase in total industry output in Queensland of \$231.9 million compared to what would otherwise be expected if the project does not proceed.

- During the first five years of operation, the project is estimated to generate an additional \$5.2 billion in total industry output per annum on average compared to what would be achieved without the project. Of this, \$4.5 billion is estimated to accrue the mining industry. That is, on a net basis, the project is estimated to result in \$700 million per annum more output generated in Queensland overall, not including the impacts to mining output. This includes consideration of a draw down on some sectors of the economy, most notably manufacturing. This net increase is driven by additional demand for a range of goods and services in the domestic economy generated by the project and its workforce.
- Over time, as the Queensland economy rebalances, the net increase in economic activity is expected to rise (compared to the without project scenario), as adverse effects on other segments of the economy are alleviated by natural growth in labour supply.

Similar effects are estimated for employment in Tables 5.5 and 5.6 (pages 32 and 34).

Impacts to Manufacturing, Local Business and Agriculture

The Economic Impact Assessment acknowledges the potential adverse effects of the project on some sectors (relative to what would be expected without the project) due to factors such as a draw of labour and support for the Australian dollar. The Australian Institute has recounted AECgroup's analysis of these effects without considering or mentioning the significant net increase in economic activity resulting from the project outlined above, or the fact that some other sectors of the economy not directly linked to the project will record significant increases in activity that would otherwise not be expected.

Wages and Inflation

The Economic Impact Assessment acknowledges the potential for the project to place upward pressure on wages and inflation.

Effects on CPI

The Economic Impact Assessment acknowledges the potential for the project to place upward pressure on inflation. The report acknowledges this could lead to higher input costs for businesses and households. Quantifying the effects of the project on CPI is beyond the reasonable scope of the assessment.

Effects on Interest Rates

RBA decisions on interest rate movements are driven by a significant range of factors. Understanding the ramifications of one project on interest rates is not possible. In general, the RBA has a stated goal to maintain inflation at between 2% - 3% per annum. Costs of goods and services are more likely to be affected in the short to medium term by factors such as slowing global economic growth and government policy (e.g. the Carbon Tax). Suggesting that it is "likely" that the project will be linked to an increase in interest rates is not supported. It is possible, but not likely.

As with all other comments by the Australian Institute, they have only focused on the negatives of high interest rates. It should be recognised that low interest rates also provide negative outcomes, in particular as a result of reduced levels of savings and interest on savings. Typically, low interest rates are a reflection of a slow or slowing economy. The RBA has recently been cutting the cash rate in response to a slowing domestic economy.

Net Exports

Analysis of the project's impacts on exports and the balance of trade is provided in section 5.6 of the Economic Impact Assessment.

Tax Revenue

The royalty revenues are based off an assumed coal price of AUD\$115 per tonne. Coal will be sold on a contractual basis. The average coal spot price through Newcastle between May 2010 and May 2012 averaged approximately

US\$115 to US\$120 per tonne⁶, while the exchange rate averaged around parity over this period⁷. Predicting future exchange rates and coal prices over the next 20–30 years is not possible, but basing the average revenue on approximately the average price for the last two years is a reasonable assumption.

Where the price received is less than AUD\$115 per tonne, royalty revenues will be less than those outlined in Appendix 24. However, this would not be expected to result in a significant change in the modelled outcomes of economic impacts.

The analysis did not include potential Australian Government royalties flowing from the Mineral Resource Rent Tax (MRRT) and Carbon Tax. The exclusion of these taxes suggests the tax estimates provided will likely understate the total tax revenues generated by the project.

SUBMITTER NO.	417	ISSUE REFERENCE:	4037
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Cumulative Impacts / Economy / Social
NAME	Isaac Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS needs to reflect the cumulative impacts of numerous proposed mining operations in the vicinity with a focus on the triple bottom line being economic, environmental and social outcomes. There needs to be action taken on a broad spectrum cumulative study contributed to by the mining industry, which establishes the base line effects being experienced by the Rural and Urban Community of Isaac Regional Council.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

An updated Cumulative Impact Assessment has been undertaken. See the *Updated Cumulative Impact Assessment* contained in the *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS.

SUBMITTER NO.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	4117
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social / Economy / Transport / Waste
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	3.1.17

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

It is expected that the townships of Jericho and Alpha will expand to provide services associated with the mine and any increase in the local population which services the mine site.' What will be the cumulative effects on the towns from all f the proposed developments. Including the following:

- Increase demands on local transport network
- Increase demand on local sewerage systems
- Increase demand on local waste management system, and
- Increase demand on all essential services.

Capacity of the local services may be compromised with the cumulative effects of other proposals.

⁶ World Bank (2012). *GEM Commodities: Coal, Australian thermal coal, 12000- btu/pound, less than 1% sulfur, 14% ash, FOB Newcastle/Port Kembla, US Dollars per Metric Ton*. Available from: <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/commodity-price-data>.

⁷ RBA (2012). *Statistical Table F11 – Exchange Rates*. Available from: <http://www.rba.gov.au/statistics/tables/index.html>.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

As described in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Waratah Coal would prefer to address the cumulative social and economic impacts by using the proposed Galilee Basin Cumulative Social Impact Assessment (CSIA) Roundtable. It is expected that this forum will address the impacts of increased demand on essential services.

With regards to sewerage and waste the demands on sewerage and waste of the project have been investigated and they are summarised below:

- There are five Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) waste management facilities, at Alpha, Aramac, Barcaldine, Jericho and Muttaborra, with the mine site located closest to the Alpha facility. All facilities accept general municipal waste, with the Barcaldine landfill also accepting regulated waste. Waste oil is accepted at the BRC Depot in Barcaldine. There are no transfer stations within the BRC.
- The project is expected to generate approximately 217,000m³ of waste across the 34-year mine life, including the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. A landfill facility will be constructed on-site to accept all general waste. Regulated waste will require transportation to the Barcaldine landfill for treatment, while all recyclable material will be transported to off-site facilities via licensed contractors.
- The project may indirectly contribute to the increased demand on the local sewerage and waste management systems. The majority of the mine workforce will be housed in purpose-built accommodation on the mining lease, which will be serviced by package sewage treatment facilities.
- Some contractors are expected to establish a base in Alpha or Jericho – if the workforces of these contractors reside in the townships, this will increase the overall level of sewage and domestic waste produced by the town.

The overall effects and mitigation measures will be determined during the detailed technical studies being undertaken, and during development of the EM Plan, as well as through negotiations and discussions with relevant stakeholders.

SUBMITTER No.	534	ISSUE REFERENCE:	19099
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Land (Land Use & Tenure) / Social
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Coal dust covering the grass that cattle eat.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The revised Mine EM Plan and Rail EMP will contain management measures for control of dust emissions generated from mine and rail activities.

Note also that Waratah Coal commits to the following control measures that will significantly reduce coal dust from the rail and unloading operations:

Use of tippler wagons (gondola) rather than the more traditional bottom dump wagons. This will eliminate or reduce to negligible any coal hang up, which is frequently associated with bottom dump wagons, particularly in wet weather, and the use of covers for wagons. The covers proposed for use are approved for, and have been proven in, the service of contaminated material in the USA.

SUBMITTER No.	425	ISSUE REFERENCE:	17041, 17042
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individuals	TOR CATEGORY	Land (Land Use & Tenure) / Social (Community Engagement) / Transport
NAME	Names withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Vol 2 16.5.4

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Disturbance of cattle
- Access roads

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Operational issues such as disturbance of cattle will be negotiated with the affected landowners as part of ongoing consultation.

It should be noted that Waratah Coal abides by a Code of Conduct which sets out requirements for appropriate behavior on landowners' properties. Waratah Coal also use experienced contractors who understand that speed should be limited to reduce disturbance to cattle and generation of dust, that gates should be left as they were found etc. Waratah Coal's contractors are also bound by Waratah Coal's Code of Conduct.

SUBMITTER No.	765	ISSUE REFERENCE:	17185
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Powerlink	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	General

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Powerlink is seeking that the land required for the Galilee Basin transmission project is to be designated for community infrastructure under Section 201 of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. Powerlink notes that the proposed Waratah Coal rail line Option 3 passes close to the proposed Powerlink Surbiton Hill substation and is adjacent to, or crossing over, various proposed transmission lines in the area.

Both parties have stated their intent to work together to develop a mutually acceptable outcome

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Powerlink and Waratah Coal are in discussions to ensure that the rail and power alignments do not impact upon each other.

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	17187
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Proposed housing plans are required to be provided to the council and public for comment. This should include the approximate siting and the design of the proposed temporary workers camps. The design of camps should ensure obscurity from the approach and departure roads to towns. Alternatively the proponent should support or initiate

local area plans in partnership with the Council, to ensure the protection of the built form of these townships in the wake of increasing accommodation pressures from mining and ancillary activities.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The comments provided are valid and are incorporated into good design criteria for this style of accommodation. Approval for these camps will be sought through the local councils post SEIS under the IDAS process when better detail on exact requirements are known.

SUBMITTER No.	417	ISSUE REFERENCE:	11055
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Transport / Social
NAME	Isaac Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS should address the process of the road transport impacts from the change in operational work method of operating transitional work forces and not housing workers locally and the significant impact the development will have on the service levels of social and built infrastructure.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Built infrastructure impacts operating FIFO work force

- Reduction in road traffic with the use of buses to transport workers from the airport to site

Built infrastructure impacts operating DIDO work force

- Increase in maintenance required for local roads
- Intersection improvements required due to increase in road traffic
- Increase impact on service vehicle operations due to more residential development
- Increase impact on Emergency Services due to an increase in road traffic

Please refer EIS Volume 5 Appendix 23 *Social Impact Assessment* and Volume 1 *Social Impact Management Plan*.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	11056
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Transport / Social
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	13

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Includes annotation for proposed airport.

Subcontractors may use FIFO... or use accommodation in Alpha or Jericho

There is no indication on the need for escort/support services including police resources for wide transport/heavy loads etc. Please note impacts and expected resource requirements during stages proposed.

Suggested Solution

Airport – see other BRC comments

Please elaborate on comments regarding subcontractors.

The noted potential for impacts during construction phase also indicates the priority for upgrades and intersection works to occur to minimise potential impacts and improve road surfaces for trafficability and road transport as noted.

Support services including escort services require resources to be diverted from local community, please provide further details on potential or estimated requirements during phases including any proposed road closures (number, duration, location).

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal is not planning on constructing an airport, all air traffic is proposed to come through the existing Alpha Airport.

Waratah Coal expects up to 10% DIDO from local areas including Alpha and Jericho. Please refer to *Traffic Engineering* report contained in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS for amended figures.

As part of the construction and operation phases of the development it is necessary that some indivisible components will be delivered by Over Dimensional (OD) vehicles. Where OD access is required it is necessary to provide pilot vehicles and police escorts, dependent on the size of the vehicle. These requirements are shown below in the figure contained in Volume 2. DTMR also maintains a “Conditions of Operation Database” for OD operation. This should be reviewed periodically along the full length of OD haulage routes to ensure adequate access is available. Once confirmed, permits for such movements are required from DTMR for the operation of OD vehicles.

SUBMITTER NO.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	17014
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Cumulative Impacts / Social / Economy
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	1.8

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

The EIS process – “... the nature and extent of potential direct and indirect environment, social, and economic impacts...” Please provide the adequate assessment data so that the impacts can be assessed. Particularly, groundwater, hydraulic studies, availability of offset prioritised areas, extent of soil impacts on potential land form.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

A revised Cumulative Impact Assessment has been undertaken. See the *Updated Cumulative Impact Assessment* contained in the *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS.

SUBMITTER No.	779	ISSUE REFERENCE:	17170
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individuals	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Names withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	V2, Chp11, figure 1; V5, App20, figure 2; V5, App8, pp26-27; V5, App 23, p17

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Increase in cost of living for non-mining employees
- Loss of employment in agriculture and manufacturing sectors
- The proponent failed to acknowledge that the BNR is a part-time home for the owners and managers and for researchers and volunteers

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Increase in cost of living for non-mining employees

Mine development is expected to put upward pressure on wages and this is expected to lead to increases in the cost of some goods and services. However, the growth of Alpha should include establishment of more commercial enterprises. This should bring competition to Alpha and while some living costs are likely to rise, increased commercial competition may actually lead to a reduction in some other costs.

Waratah Coal has proposed that Galilee Basin proponents make financial contributions to Infrastructure and Community Development Funds that could be used to help address affordable housing issues. Waratah Coal realises it will need to construct new houses for its staff in Alpha, which should help limit the increase in housing prices in Alpha.

For more information on housing see also response to Issue Reference 9058.

Loss of employment in agriculture and manufacturing sectors

Waratah Coal proposes a wide range of initiatives to help maximise positive social impacts and help minimise negative social impacts arising from the Galilee Coal Project. Included in these are commitments to give preference to local employees and provide training, including apprenticeships for local people (refer *SIMP*, Section 6.5).

BNR is a part-time home for the owners and managers and for researchers and volunteers

Wherever appropriate, the assessments in this SEIS that deal with homesteads and sensitive receptors have acknowledged that the BNR is inhabited on a part-time basis.

SUBMITTER No.	74	ISSUE REFERENCE:	17171
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Dept. of Communities	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Executive Summary, 1.9 – Public and Stakeholder Consultation (p23).

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

There is limited detail about actual consultation with the identified Traditional Owners, and in particular with other Indigenous people, groups or organisations specifically.

The Department supports extensive consultation involving Indigenous groups: Wangan and Jagalingou People, Jangga People and the Birri People. The Department would like to see more detail about consultation with other Indigenous

people, groups or organisations. The Project needs to demonstrate more evidence and detail about the consultation processes and the outcomes of these engagements, as well as succession planning.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

During the development of the Galilee Coal Project extensive community consultation was undertaken. Numerous indigenous people attended the public meetings. Various issues were raised during these meetings; these issues included provisions for opportunities for employment and training through the development of the project and well as the potential for commercial opportunities. These issues were also highlighted during meetings with the various traditional owner groups whose lands may be impacted by the project. Waratah Coal plan to continue to engaged with indigenous groups with respect to the proposed project and potential impacts as a result of the proposed project. This will be undertaken through a variety of means. Waratah Coal will also seek to develop and implement an Indigenous Engagement Strategy for the project. This strategy will outline how Waratah Coal will seek to maximise indigenous involvement in the project. See the *SIMP* contained in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS for more information.

SUBMITTER No.	1840	ISSUE REFERENCE:	17186
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social
NAME	Barcaldine Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Social impacts – Delivery of indicated actions to mitigate and manage social impacts, including provision of greater numbers within resident population for Alpha/Jericho.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Actions to mitigate and manage social impacts are presented in the *SIMP*, contained in the *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS.

With reference to resident populations, although BRC recommended 30% of the workforce be based in Alpha (and subsequently in Alpha and Jericho), this is firmly against the desires of local residents who wish to maintain the existing lifestyle and friendly, rural atmosphere, and at all costs, avoid becoming a mining town.

If the proponents of the four proposed mines near Alpha placed 30% of their staff in Alpha and Jericho, the towns would support 1,860 mine workers, which irrespective of the number of contractors working in the mining industry, exceeds the 1,829 workers engaged in the mining industry in Moranbah in 2006 (ABS population and housing census, community profile series).

A more conservative and culturally acceptable approach for the development of Alpha is outlined in the *SIMP*, Sections 5 and 6 (refer *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS).

SUBMITTER No.	697	ISSUE REFERENCE:	17189
SUBMITTER TYPE	Individual	TOR CATEGORY	Social (Community Engagement)
NAME	Name withheld	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

- Inadequate community consultation
- Uncertainty regarding the project leading to stress and negative effects on landowners' health and businesses, and
- Greivances with the uncertainties associated with the project making business planning for directly affected landowners difficult.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Inadequate community consultation

During the development of the project's EIS Waratah Coal undertook significant consultation with community groups, government bodies and departments, interested groups and individuals. During the consultation process Waratah Coal visited a variety of geographic locations to ensure appropriate coverage. This ranged from Barcaldine in the west to Bowen in the north. This involved updating interested parties during this consultation as well as providing ongoing information that was accessible via the internet. During the process, Waratah Coal also operated a free call number which provided an opportunity for any interested party to call and discuss the project. With respect to Indigenous organisations, specific consultation and negotiations were undertaken with the traditional owners of the project areas. This included receiving feedback with respect to general project scope.

Uncertainty regarding the project leading to stress and negative effects on landowners health and business, and greivances with the uncertainties associated with the project making business planning for directly affected landowners difficult

The stress on landowners is acknowledged as one of the main adverse social impacts arising from the project (refer *SIMP*, Section 4.2). Waratah Coal aims to understand the impacts on property owners, minimise impacts as much as possible, ensure fair compensation when impacts can not be avoided, provide opportunities to landowners to benefit from the project when available (eg. contracting), and provide every opportunity to engage with property owners in a meaningful and effective manner. Further details are provided in the *SIMP (Appendices – Volume 2 of this SEIS)*, Section 6.3.

SUBMITTER No.	664	ISSUE REFERENCE:	17190
SUBMITTER TYPE	Council	TOR CATEGORY	Social / Transport / Water Resources
NAME	Whitsunday Regional Council	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Rail Line Route

The proposed rail line route will connect the mine (near the town of Alpha within the Barcaldine Regional Council area) to the coal stockyards and terminal within the APSDA. Over the proceeding 15-20 years the capacity of the rail is to increase to 400Mt per annum. The proposed 'gradual' increase of rail capacity over the proceeding 15-20 years will require significant further construction. No project timeframe or housing plans for these works are provided as part of this EIS, this inturn, severely distorts the impact the project will have on housing and employment in the region.

Field assessments in 2010 determined a 1.6km wide corridor of investigation for the proposed rail route. The alignment proposed within this EIS has varied slightly to this 1.6km wide corridor. The EIS states that the proposed alignment is yet to be finalised. The proposed rail route will be better defined following airborne laser scanning, outlining that the current proposed alignment is 'indicative, not definitive'. Fluctuation of 50m or 100m of the rail corridor might not appear to have a large overall affect on the outcome on a regional scale, yet at a site based investigation this fluctuation can have significant impacts on the utilisation and value of a single property. To provide certainty to property owners and to calculate the true environmental and social impacts the department should ensure the proponent include detailed design and timelines that reflect the entire life of the project (15-20 years).

This would include projected number of workers required and plans for their accommodation over the projected 15-20 year period. By not providing this information the proponent is misleading the department in its intentions. The Department can not reasonably consider the impact of the rail line without plans of the final route.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

The rail construction workers will be based in work camps, including at Merinda. The operational workforce, for both the port and rail, will be based permanently in or near Bowen.

Waratah Coal will liaise with the Whitsunday Regional Council in regard to construction numbers and rosters, work camp locations and design (and other relevant features) prior to the finalisation of the work camps.

Waratah Coal has commissioned a concept design of the 453km of rail corridor (from the boundary of the APSDA to the beginning of the rail loop at the mine site) – see *Railway Concept Design* report in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS. This engineering provides the vertical alignment of the rail, which in turn provides the width required for the rail easement. At present, 421km of the rail vertical alignment has been engineered (with the balance 32km awaiting the completion of the Digital Terrain Model (DTM)), which will be completed as soon as possible.

The final railway easement will be an average width of 49.5m⁸. In relatively flat terrain the rail will be 40m wide and in areas where cross-slope cuttings are required the width of the easement will be wider – up to a maximum width of 184m (however there are only two areas exceeding 150m). The easement includes both the rail and a service road. In the 32km of the corridor which have not yet been engineered, a footprint area of 40m was assumed based upon the relatively flat topography.

⁸ Average width was calculated by dividing the total area of the rail footprint (2215ha) by the length of the rail (453km).

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