21 SOCIAL

21.1 INTRODUCTION

Social impact assessment (SIA) is a study concerned with predicting and understanding likely consequences of a proposed action on a community. This social impact assessment focuses on the construction of a proposed coal seam methane (CSM) water supply pipeline (the proposed pipeline) between the Wandoan Coal Project (the Project) and the Origin and Santos CSM areas located approximately 91 km to the west of Wandoan at Spring Gully and Fairview.

The assessment comprised a desktop study of the demographic and social characteristics of the region as well as community consultation to define current social values and lifestyles. The study of the existing social environment was conducted concurrently with the social impact assessment of the Project. This information and consultation with stakeholders and the community related to this overarching Project has helped inform the understanding of existing environment and potential impacts of the proposed pipeline.

21.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

For the purpose of this assessment two key study areas have been investigated, within the former Bungil Shire Council (now within Roma Regional Council) and the former Taroom Shire Council (southern section now within Dalby Regional Council). Section 21.4.1 provides further details on the local government amalgamations.

The proposed pipeline traverses these two former local government areas. The southern area of the former Taroom Shire includes the Wandoan Township, the closest population centre to the Project and the eastern most point of the proposed pipeline. The combined data of these two former shires provides an understanding of the wider community demographics and values, and is identified as “the region” in this report.

Data focussing on Queensland is provided, where appropriate, to offer a comparison of regional trends.

21.2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed pipeline involves the construction and operation of a water pipeline from a reverse osmosis plant at Spring Gully to the Wandoan Coal Project mine infrastructure area as part of the Wandoan Coal Project.

It is anticipated that construction of the proposed pipeline would take 9 months and begin in the first year of construction. It would likely be constructed by an approved WJV contractor over multiple, concurrent stages in order to ensure completion by the commencement of Project operations. The construction workforce would depend upon the final construction schedule but is estimated to be between 20-50 people.

21.3 METHODOLOGY OF ASSESSMENT

21.3.1 HOW THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED AND INFORMATION OBTAINED

These studies were conducted to meet the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Project EIS.

The assessment of social impacts of the proposed pipeline is informed by a desk top study of the existing social environment, analysis of demographic data and community trends and robust consultation with the local community, identified stakeholders and providers of community service and facilities to the study area and the region.

Information related to this study was gathered from sources including:

- statistical information from a range of sources including Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census data, Queensland Planning and Information Forecasting Unit and the Queensland Office of Economic and Statistical Research
- social service providers' websites, including local councils and relevant government websites (including Queensland Health and Department of Education, Training and Arts)
- consultation with the community through activities such as workshops, surveys, community displays and face to face meetings
- consultation with government and non-government stakeholders
- review of technical studies prepared as part of the Project EIS
- existing WJV documentation
- case studies and examples of similar projects.

The assessment process also included the identification of qualitative and quantitative changes in the community as a result of the proposed pipeline. Information developed as part of the Project in relation to mine planning and development has assisted the identification of:

- workforce requirements
- housing and accommodation requirements and changes
- impacts to local services and facilities
- impacts to community values and lifestyles
- changes to access, amenity, and services
- impacts to affected properties, including property management, property values and compensation, productivity losses, movement and access.

Mitigation measures were identified through desk top research that focussed on management strategies used for communities affected by existing WJV operations. Social research associated with the mining industry and the development of associated infrastructure has also been used as a reference for management strategies during the construction and operation of the pipeline.

21.3.2 LIMITATIONS

Council amalgamation

The Queensland Government amalgamated a number of local governments on 15 March 2008. These amalgamations saw the Taroom Shire (Division 1) absorbed into the Banana Shire Council and the Murilla, Wambo, Tara, Chinchilla shires, Taroom Shire (Division 2 – Wandoan) and Dalby Town amalgamated to form the Dalby Regional Council. Bungil Shire was absorbed into the larger Roma Regional Council along with Bendemere, Booringa and Waroo Shire Councils and Roma Town Council.

This report recognises the change in local council boundaries. However, statistical data for the region has been modelled on data obtained for the former Taroom and Bungil Shires as historical data suitable for comparison is not readily available for Dalby Regional Council.

ABS introduced random error

Statistics obtained from the ABS include an "introduced random error" to ensure that any data released does not risk the identification of individuals. The ABS employ a method of randomly adjusting the data provided to avoid this potential identification. When the technique is applied, all cells are slightly adjusted to prevent any identifiable data being exposed. These adjustments result in small introduced random errors. However, the information value of the table as a whole is not impaired.

The totals and subtotals in summary tables are also subjected to small adjustments. These adjustments of totals and subtotals include modifications to preserve the ability to total figures in tables. Although each table of this kind is internally consistent, comparisons between tables which contain similar data may show some minor discrepancies. This feature may be most evident in the statistics of small populations such as the proposed pipeline's identified study area.

Cumulative effects

This assessment has been written to consider the development of a single pipeline, along the preferred alignment. Studies into the potential social impacts associated with the Project have considered cumulative impacts. Aspects of a number of projects influences the potential impacts of the proposed pipeline, particularly in relation to timing, traffic impacts and potential cumulative effects. This SIA is informed by these wider project studies and should be read in conjunction with the relevant technical report.

The Wandoan Coal Project is the first mine development of its kind in the region and may prove to be a catalyst for similar projects to commence operations. A number of enterprises currently hold exploration permits on properties throughout the region. The Surat Basin Rail, other CSM pipelines, Cockatoo Coal mine, Glebe Weir Raising and Nathan Dam are all potential projects surrounding the study area, which may produce their own individual positive and negative impacts on the study area and the region. The CSM industry already has some key infrastructure throughout the region with the expansion of this industry is likely during the life of the proposed pipeline construction and operation.

This assessment does not consider the individual impacts of each project on the study area. However, overall changes to the region including the potential cumulative effects of changes to the region are provided in Section 21.6.

21.4 DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The social environment includes housing, education, recreation, health, emergency services and community support facilities as well as community values and social interaction and the characteristics of the community.

21.4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

An analysis of the existing environment has been conducted by considering its social characteristics, informed by population and demographic data, and its social infrastructure through the types of facilities and support available. This information provides an understanding of baseline conditions with which to measure any changes that may potentially occur.

This section details the socio-economic profile of both the study area and the region through analysis of population, income, education levels and labour participation. The profile highlights age and gender composition and household characteristics of the area and how these aspects have changed over time.

Population

At the time of the 2006 Census the population of the region (Taroom and Bungil statistical areas) was 4,438 persons. this accounted for 0.11% of the total population of Queensland.

The population in the combined region at the 2001 Census was 4,712 persons, up just one person from the Census taken in 1996. While the general population only increased by one during this time, the data indicated that there was a considerable loss of persons from Taroom during that period, while Bungil gained persons, evening out the combined region total. As shown in Table 21-1, this trend of population loss in Taroom continued between 2001 and 2006 where a loss of 11.5% of the population was experienced. Meanwhile Bungil experienced a small rise of 3.1%. However, the overall community lost 6.2% of its combined population leaving a total of 4,438 persons residing in the area. These losses were not replicated in the state, where there continued population growth over all the census years including a total growth of 8.2% recorded in 2006.

Table 21-1: Population changes by gender by Census year

Study areas	Census 1996	Census 2001	Person Change 96-01	% Change 96-01	Census 2006	Person Change 01-06	% Change 01-06
Taroom							
Males	1,408	1,396	-12	-0.5%	1,203	-193	-16.0%
Females	1,324	1,267	-57	-2.1%	1,186	-81	-6.8%
Persons	2,732	2,663	-69	-2.6%	2, 389	-274	-11.5%
Bungil							
Males	1,056	1,078	22	1.1%	1,090	12	1.1%
Females	923	907	-16	-0.8%	959	52	4.4%
Persons	1,979	2,049	70	3.4%	2,049	64	3.1%
Combined							
Males	2,464	2,474	10	0.2%	2,293	-181	-4.1%

Study areas	Census 1996	Census 2001	Person Change 96-01	% Change 96-01	Census 2006	Person Change 01-06	% Change 01-06
Females	2,247	2,174	-73	-1.5%	2,145	-29	-1.4%
Persons	4,711	4,712	1	0.02%	4,438	-274	-6.2%
Queensland							
Males	1,673,220	1,775,554	102,334	6.1%	1,935,381	159,827	9.0%
Females	1,695,630	1,810,085	114,455	6.7%	1,969,151	159,066	4.1%
Persons	3,368,850	3,585,639	216,789	6.4%	3,904,532	318,893	8.2%
The combined study areas as a percentage of Queensland population in 2006							0.11%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1996, 2001 and 2006

Future population

In September 2006 the Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU), in the Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning, predicted a continuing decrease in the population of Taroom Shire of -0.4% between 2006 and 2016 and -0.2% in the ten years to 2026.

A small increase in population was predicted Bungil Shire over the next 10 to 20 years with growth of 0.1% to 2016 and 0.1% to 2026. The projections are shown in Table 21-2. However, this forecast does not consider the growth of resource-based enterprise in the region. PIFU is currently undertaking studies to ascertain the potential population effects of the resource extraction industry's growth in the area; however, this information is not currently available.

Table 21-2: Projected population with no resource extraction impact

Shire	2006 Census	Projected average annual population change				
	Population	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026
Taroom	2,389	-1.1%	-.2%	-0.4%	-0.3%	-0.2%
Bungil	2,049	0.9%	-0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

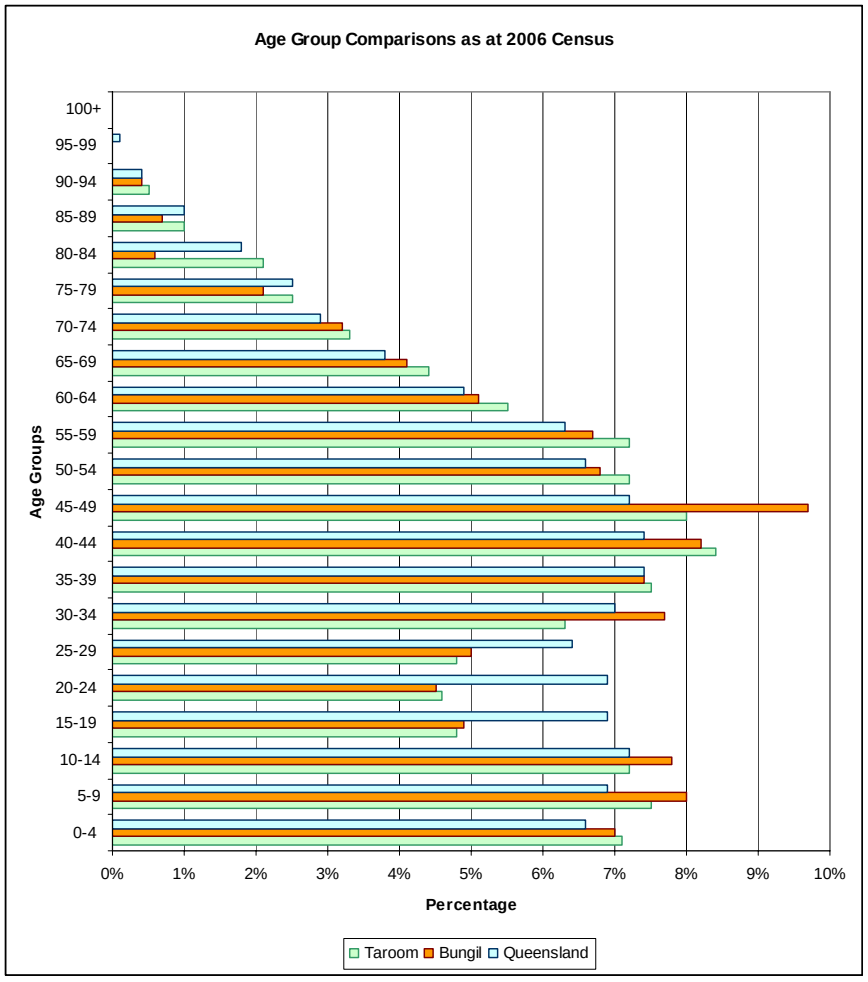
Source: Planning Information and Forecasting Unit – Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (September 2006)

Age structure

Those aged 35-49 years represent the largest percentage of the population in both study areas. As shown in Figure 21-1, 8.0% of the Taroom population are aged 45-49 and 9.7% of in Bungil. These proportions are greater than the Queensland comparison of 7.2%. The population in the region is generally made up of young children and older-middle aged persons. Throughout consultation the communities reported that they felt the region was a good place to raise children and statistically there is a higher proportion of children within

the population. There is a high percentage of the population aged under 14 and a similar large number of people aged between 35 and 49.

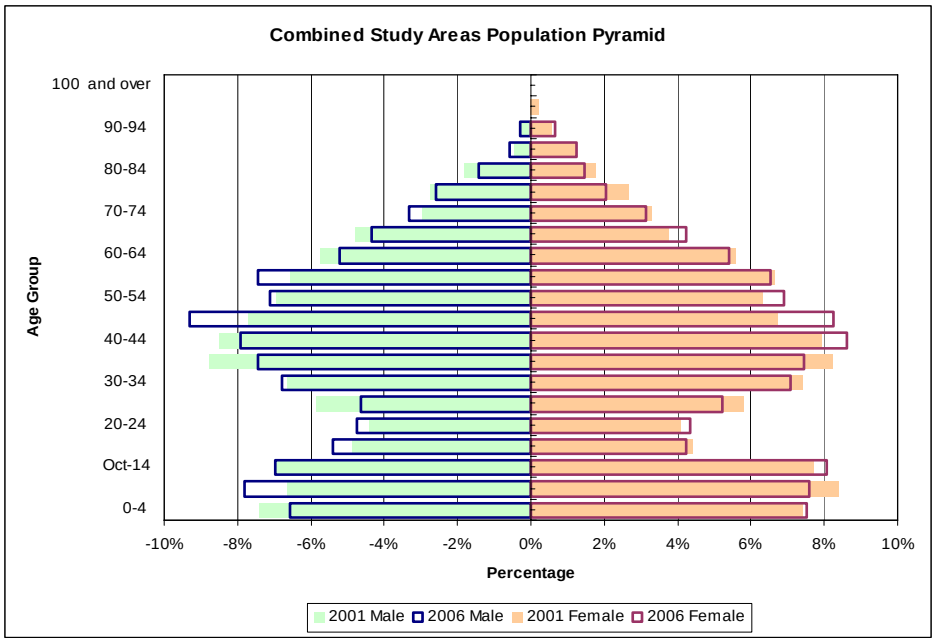
The decrease in those aged 15-29 in both Taroom and Bungil is clear in comparison to State figures. Those aged 20-24 make up just 4.6% of the population of Taroom and 4.5% of the population of Bungil, considerably lower than 6.9% in Queensland.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

Figure 21-1: Age comparisons at 2006 Census

The age and gender representation of the population in the region at both the 2001 and 2006 census can be seen in Figure 21-2. The loss in young adult population, or those aged between 15 and 25 is apparent in both the male and female populations of the combined study areas and this was a consistent pattern over two census years. This is consistent with the feedback received during consultation that indicated many young people leave the region during or after secondary studies to continue their studies or find other opportunities for work outside of the region. The proportion of 20-24 year olds in Queensland is 6.9%, considerably higher than the 4.6% in Taroom and 4.5% in Bungil.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 & 2006 Census

Figure 21-2: Combined study area population pyramid for 2001 and 2006 census

Ethnicity

The indigenous population in Taroom is low at 1.5% compared to 2.4% in Bungil and 3.3% in Queensland. The majority of the population in both Taroom and Bungil was born in Australia, as shown in Table 21-3. Most of the community speak English at home. The community in the study areas is highly anglicised and there is very little multi-cultural mix in the community in comparison to Queensland.

Table 21-3: Study of ethnicity characteristics

Ethnicity	Taroom	Bungil	Queensland
Indigenous persons (comprises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)	1.5%	2.4%	3.3%
Australian citizenship	95.5%	94.1%	86.1%
Persons born overseas	2.1%	3.0%	17.9%
Place of Birth	**Taroom**	**Bungil**	**Queensland**
Australia	93.3%	92.5%	75.2%
New Zealand	0.3%	0.8%	3.8%
England	1.1%	0.7%	4.1%
Language spoken at home	**Taroom**	**Bungil**	**Queensland**
English only spoken at home	97.5%	95.7%	86.4%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census

Dwelling structure and tenure

The most common form of dwelling structure in the study areas is that of 'separate house', 86.5% of dwellings in Taroom and 95.0% in Bungil are separate houses. This is typical of

the rural setting of the area which also relates to the limited number of flats and apartments in the areas in comparison to Queensland as shown in Table 21-4.

Both areas have a considerable number of unoccupied dwellings with 1,297 vacant dwellings identified in Taroom and 1,012 in Bungil.

The median rent per week in Taroom is half that of the median rent in Bungil. However, both these are considerably less than the Queensland median of $200. This trend is followed for the median monthly housing repayments with Taroom at $542 and Bungil at $932, both noticeably less than the Queensland median of $1,300.

Table 21-4: Dwelling characteristics, 2006

Dwelling characteristics	Taroom	Bungil	Queensland
Occupied private dwellings:	949	786	1,508,522
Separate house	86.5%	95.0%	76.5%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc	8.5%	0.5%	7.5%
Flat, unit or apartment	2.3%	1.1%	13.0%
Other dwellings	2.6%	3.3%	2.8%
Unoccupied private dwellings:	*348*	*226*	*152,228*
Total private dwellings (includes unoccupied private dwellings)	**1,297**	**1,012**	**1,660,750**
Median rent ($/weekly)	$25	$52	$200
Median housing loan repayment ($/monthly)	$542	$932	$1,300
Average household size	2.4	2.6	2.6

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census

There are a greater number of dwellings in both study areas that are fully owned at 49.0% in Taroom and 44.4% in Bungil compared to 30.4% in Queensland. This could be representative of anecdotal reports that many properties are often passed on through family connections. It may also reflect the traditionally lower real estate prices of rural properties and the longer tenure of ownership. These characteristics are shown in Table 21-5.

There are more properties being rented in Taroom at 27.6% than in Bungil at 19.3%. While in Queensland the majority of rentals are sourced through real estate agents, in the study areas most tenants identified themselves as renting through “other” landlord types. This again could represent the anecdotal evidence of family connections to housing as well as the inclusion of houses in farm management agreements.

Table 21-5: Dwelling tenure and landlord characteristics, 2006

Tenure type	Taroom	Bungil	Queensland
Fully owned	49.0%	44.4%	30.4%
Being purchased (includes being purchased under rent/buy scheme)	17.9%	26.0%	31.4%
Rented (includes rent-free)	27.6%	19.3%	30.0%
Other tenure type	1.9%	3.6%	1.0%
Not stated	3.4%	6.9%	7.3%
Landlord Type	**Taroom**	**Bungil**	**Queensland**
Real estate agent	0.0%	7.9%	49.9%
State or Territory housing authority	3.1%	6.6%	10.7%
Other landlord type	71.8%	61.8%	36.3%
Landlord type not stated	25.2%	23.7%	3.2%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census

Household structure

The majority of families in both study areas identify themselves as family households. Taroom's 68.3% representation and Bungil's 72.1% of the population are slightly higher than Queensland's 67.1%. As shown in Table 21-6, there are slightly more families who identify themselves as couple families with children at 45.9% and 50.0% in Taroom and Bungil respectively compared to 43.3% in Queensland.

There are a higher number of people living along in Taroom at 25.2% while 18.3% of the population of Bungil identify themselves as lone-person households. In Queensland the percentage is 21.0%. A larger majority of the population in Taroom and Bungil identify as being married at 62.0% and 63.8% compared to 49.1% in Queensland.

Table 21-6: Household characteristics

Household composition – occupied private dwellings	Taroom	Bungil	Queensland
Family household	68.3%	72.1%	67.1%
Lone person household	25.2%	18.3%	21.0%
Group household	2.2%	1.9%	4.2%
Marital Status (Population aged 15 years and over)	**Taroom**	**Bungil**	**Queensland**
Married	62.0%	63.8%	49.1%
Never married	23.1%	23.9%	33.2%
Separated or divorced	7.7%	8.2%	12.3%
Widowed	7.2%	4.2%	5.4%

Family characteristics	Taroom	Bungil	Queensland
Total families	647	566	1,032,034
Couple families with children	45.9%	50.0%	43.3%
Couple families without children	46.2%	42.9%	39.1%
One parent families	6.8%	6.2%	15.9%
Other families	1.1%	0.9%	1.7%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census

Occupation and industry

In Taroom, the occupation most represented in the population is that of manager at 45.8% of the population. This is also the most common occupation in Bungil at 41.2%. Only 12.4% of the Queensland population identify themselves as managers. The high percentage of managers in the region is consistent with the study area and region's strong representation in agriculture. Labourers are also well represented in both Taroom (17.3%) and Bungil (11.9%), though these are in range with the state comparison of 11.9% as shown in Table 21-7.

Table 21-7: Occupation and Industry of employment

Occupation (employed persons aged 15 years and over)	Taroom	Bungil	Queensland
Managers	45.8%	41.2%	12.4%
Labourers	17.3%	11.9%	11.9%
Machinery Operators And Drivers	9.5%	8.5%	7.2%
Technicians and Trades Workers	6.6%	8.4%	15.4%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	6.4%	9.2%	14.8%
Professionals	5.6%	8.2%	17.1%
Community and Personal Service Workers	5.2%	5.5%	9.1%
Sales Workers	2.5%	5.2%	10.4%
Industry of employment (Employed persons aged 15 years and over) Examples of industry:	**Taroom**	**Bungil**	**Queensland**
Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming	51.7%	38.3%	
School Education	4.9%	3.6%	4.7%
Hospitals	2.3%	3.1%	3.2%
Road Freight Transport	1.8%	3.1%	
Local Government Administration	5.4%	3.0%	

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census

Labour force participation

Labour force participation in the study areas is strong with 75.9% of the population employed in Taroom and 83.1% % in Bungil compared to just 66.3% in Queensland. There was a low employment rate in the study areas with 1.5% of the community in Taroom

identified as unemployed and just 0.8% of the population in Bungil, both generally lower than the 4.7% Queensland comparison as shown in Table 21-8.

Table 21-8: Labour force participation

Labour force (population aged 15 years and over)	Taroom	Bungil	Queensland
Total labour force (includes employed and unemployed persons)	75.9%	83.1%	66.3%
Employed full-time	73.7%	73.1%	61.6%
Employed part-time	20.1%	19.3%	27.7%
Employed away from work	1.8%	3.7%	3.3%
Employed hours not stated	2.9%	3.0%	2.6%
Unemployed	1.5%	0.8%	4.7%
Not in the labour force	429	254	971,831

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census

Income and earnings

As detailed in Table 21-9, the community in Taroom has a median individual weekly income of $442.00 ($34.00 less than the Queensland median) and the Bungil community has a median individual weekly income of $546.00 ($70.00 more than the Queensland median).

Table 21-9: Household Income

Income (population aged 15 years and over)	Taroom	Bungil	Queensland
Median individual income ($/weekly)	$442.00	$546.00	$476.00
Median household income ($/weekly)	$810.00	$1,062.00	$1,033.00
Median family income ($/weekly)	$1,017.00	$1,172.00	$1,154.00

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census

21.4.2 SUMMARY OF DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Taroom has shown consistent population losses over the years between 1996 and 2006, while Bungil has experienced a small amount of growth. The loss of population from Taroom could be attributed to impacts on rural lifestyle and enterprise (such as the drought, increased farm running costs and steadily increasing fuel prices), which may have affected the availability of employment and enterprise opportunities. This could be a result of the limited educational facilities and employment prospects in both study areas.

The Planning Information and Forecasting Unit in the Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning have predicted limited growth in the region over the next 20 years although this forecast does not take into the account the potential impacts of resource extraction industry growth on the region and the associated employment and lifestyle benefits.

The population in the region is generally made up of young children and older-middle aged persons. There is a high percentage of the population aged under 14 years and a high percentage of people aged between over 35. The largest proportion of the population in the region is those aged in their late 40's and early 50's. This age bracket is also most widely represented in Queensland. Residents who currently fall into this age bracket would reach retirement age in the following decade. This would potentially impact upon the employment and population statistics for both study areas as it is common for retired individuals and couples to leave the area, particularly those who worked in the agricultural sector.

There is a strong sense of family and unity with the majority of families in both study areas identifying themselves as family households. Taroom's 68.3% representation and Bungil's 72.1% representation of family households is slightly higher than Queensland's 67.1% representation of the population. The Bungil community consists of a higher percentage of couple families with children as opposed to the representation of Queensland. Taroom on the other hand has a slight increase of 1.7% in couple families without children in contrast to Bungil which has a majority of couple families with children. Population characteristics for the region identify that most families in the region consist of married, middle aged parents with primary school aged children.

There are high percentages of full-time employed people residing in both study areas when compared to the Queensland average. Unemployment statistics in both study areas are also significantly lower than that of Queensland.

The importance of agricultural industry in both study areas is emphasised by the prominence of managers, labourers and machinery operators and drivers. Percentages of people working in the aforementioned occupations in both study areas exceeds that of Queensland percentages.

The median individual weekly income levels for Bungil are significantly higher than that of both Taroom and Queensland. However, the median household weekly income of Bungil is similar to that of Queensland, while Taroom's is below the average income level for the State. The prevalence of family-type households may have an effect on the cost of living.

21.4.3 SOCIAL AMENITY, VALUES, VITALITY AND LIFESTYLES

Social amenity can be described as the attributes that a community sees as adding comfort, attractiveness, enjoyment or value to their everyday lives. Community values also consider the principles, standards and ideals that a community expects from the people who live in it.

The description of the social amenity of the study areas has been derived from studies undertaken for the Project and the associated community consultation activities undertaken for the Project, as well as through meetings with property owners potentially affected by the proposed pipeline. The communities identified that they:

- enjoy a quiet, rural lifestyle
- live in a close-knit, community-minded area
- have close social connections with friends and family in the area
- feel high levels of personal security and safety
- enjoy a low cost of living
- consider the area ideal for raising a family.

Generally, the people who participated in consultation activities identified a number of key issues for the community including the:

- impact of drought and ongoing access to water
- lack of suitable employment opportunities
- lack of skilled employees for business
- need to keep people in the community, especially the young.

Community members enjoy a busy but relaxed lifestyle and often find the time to participate in community and recreational activities. Employment is often home/property based and relatively flexible, though often dictated by the season, weather or availability of resources such as equipment or labour.

During the consultation process community members provided feedback outlining their satisfaction with the quality of services currently available. However, the quantity and variety of services available was limited. When describing what they do not like about living in their area, the majority of responses suggested that the lack of access to services (education, health, and community) posed an ongoing issue for the community. This view was also associated with the lack of employment opportunities available to residents and the difficulty some employees have in finding suitable employees. The availability of education, opportunities and employment for young people was also noted in responses.

21.4.4 COMMUNITY IDENTITY

The communities in the region identify themselves as being rural-focussed, and people value the contribution that rural property owners make to the area. The community expressed enjoyment of their ‘clean, green’ natural environment throughout the consultation process, particularly in relation to the lack of noise and air pollution.

21.4.5 SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AND RURAL ISOLATION

The study areas feature the ability to enjoy a rural lifestyle, with an income-producing property, without the need to travel extensively between properties or to the nearest town. Throughout the consultation activities, the community expressed its strong family and social connections with many families living in the region. Properties are generally family-orientated and have often passed through multiple generations of the one family.

21.4.6 CURRENT LAND USE

The proposed pipeline is located on land predominately used for cattle grazing with some cropping activities. Beef production is the major land use. Two properties along the proposed alignment are cattle studs. Properties in the alignment also cultivate crops such as wheat and chickpea.

The majority of the site has been cleared in the past for agricultural purposes, winter forage crops regularly grown in the area. Properties are typically rural-focussed and large in size with few residences.

The region is traversed by a number of recognised stock routes, which enable local farmers to transport stock between properties.

21.4.7 RECREATION, LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Social interaction through sport, leisure and recreational activities is an important feature of the region, particularly for those with children.

The region supports a number of gardening clubs, arts and craft groups, Apex, Lions and the Country Women's Association groups. Landcare and the Wildlife Preservation Society are also active in the community.

Non-organised sporting and leisure activities described by the community in the study area include hunting, fishing and boating.

21.4.8 CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Discussion on Indigenous cultural heritage is included in Chapter 20A.

A full analysis of the region's non-indigenous cultural heritage is included in Chapter 20B.

21.4.9 TOURISM

The study area is not considered a prominent tourist destination and few formal tourist sites and facilities are located along the proposed pipeline alignment. The region is interconnected by a highway and the towns often act as stop over points for travellers, particularly retired motor home and caravan enthusiasts. There are a number of national parks located within the former Bungil Shire that draw tourists, particularly during school holidays.

21.4.10 BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE

The study areas feature a number of small, locally run businesses operating in the town centres throughout the region. Throughout the study areas there are a number of businesses open for limited hours or days during the week. These businesses are often run as a second business, with the main focus on farming activities, or as shared services where an office exists in each location and are staffed on a set routine.

The closest major shopping precinct is located in Toowoomba, some 280 km away from Wandoan.

21.4.11 EDUCATION

The schools closest to the eastern side of the proposed pipeline are Wandoan State School, a co-educational state school catering for students in preparatory year through to Year 10 and Grosmont State School, a small enrolment primary school.

The western section of the proposed pipeline is serviced by Peek-A-Doo State School, which has eight students. Larger schools are located to the south in Roma and include preparatory year through to Year 12 at Roma College.

Often children located in Taroom Shire attend high school in Miles, study via distance education or attend boarding school outside the district.

The smaller enrolment schools are often run with composite classes with a mixture of years represented in the one classroom. Many students access schools via local school bus runs.

Primary and secondary education facilities located in the region are shown in Table 21-10.

Table 21-10: Education centres in the region as at September 2008

School name	Years catered	Current enrolment
Grosmont State School	Prep-7	13
Peek-A-Doo State School	Prep-7	8
St Mary's Primary School (Taroom)	Prep-7	28
Taroom State School	Prep-10	140
Wandoan State School	Prep-10	126
Roma State *	Prep-12	970

Source: Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts Schools Database 2008
*Enrolment over three campuses.

Higher education opportunities

Higher education opportunities including technical and trade studies in the region are limited. There is a campus for the Southern Queensland institute of TAFE located in Roma. The campus is a shared facility with Education Queensland and students can undertake TAFE certificates across a range of industry areas in combination with their Senior Studies subjects.

The Central Queensland Institute of TAFE has campuses north of the study area in Biloela (260 km or approximately three hours drive from Wandoan) and Rockhampton (362 km or approximately 4.5 hours drive from Wandoan). Both institutes offer courses in vocational education and training, traineeships, and apprenticeships across a number of key industry areas including business, children's services, construction, engineering, general education, hospitality, information technology, and rural studies.

Distances to University campuses are also considerable with the university campuses situated in areas such as Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Townsville and Maroochydore. Access to a selection of these universities is available via distance education.

21.4.12 HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION

Residential housing

The dwellings within the region are mainly single storey structures of either timber or brick. During consultation, community members identified the lack of easy and affordable access to construction and home maintenance supplies, and services such as builders and electricians.

Housing availability in the region was static for a number of years. However, demand in the region has increased steadily, particularly since the announcement of Wandoan Coal

Project pre-feasibility studies and the development of a number of resource extraction projects around Miles. Land sales around Roma have also been active in recent years. The region's main cattle sales yards are located there and a number of resource extraction activities are occurring in its surrounds. Generally, the increase in property prices around Queensland in recent years has not been restricted to urban areas.

The ABS provides information on rental prices from 2006 that shows the median rent paid per week in the region is low when compared to the state. In Taroom Shire the Median rent was $25 and Bungil Shire has a median rent of just $55, which is considerably lower than the Queensland median rent per week of $200. Houses in the area are sometimes provided at reduced rental rates or as part of a salary package for those who work and manage agricultural properties for the owners.

Temporary accommodation

The availability of short-term accommodation in the region has increased over the last few years, particularly within Roma. There has also been a strong increase in available temporary accommodation in Wandoan since the announcement of pre-feasibility studies for the project. However, availability has increased over that time, often related to the various resource extraction projects operating within the region and the studies associated with the pre-feasibility of the Project.

21.4.13 PROPERTIES DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSED PIPELINE

The proposed pipeline route travels through a number of properties, with a total of five directly affected property owners, with 11 property owners who own properties adjoining the corridor. These properties are predominately used for agricultural purposes including stock grazing and cropping activities. The alignment does not impact the residential areas of the properties.

Further information about the issues and concerns of affected property owners can be found in Chapter 4 Community Consultation.

21.4.14 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Centrelink services are available in Miles and Roma. Employment agencies operating across the wider region are located in Roma. There are a number of issues relating to employment in the region including the need for up-skilling the under-employed and long-term unemployed. This would provide better opportunities for potential employment.

Employment and training opportunities for local youth are limited in the region and young people often need to move away to seek suitable employment opportunities. The Queensland Government Department of Education, Training and the Arts currently operate a mobile customer service centre which visits the region. This service provides free support and advice on addressing skilling solutions, including providing information on training and career opportunities and information on registered training organisations, including those with the ability to provide recognition of prior learning advice.

21.4.15 HEALTH

Health facilities in the study area are reasonable for current demand though could be considered limited by urban standards. There are small hospital services located within the region providing basic medical services, often with visiting specialists. Roma is the most well serviced town in the region, though Taroom also has a small hospital which also services the Wandoan area.

Most towns within the region are equipped with a pharmacy and general outpatient service running on a share basis.

21.4.16 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency services including police, fire (including the rural fire brigade) and ambulance are available throughout the region, however there are often long distances to patrol. The existing staffing levels and available services are either at or near capacity and service providers have indicated that delays in recruiting available positions often occur to the difficulties of recruiting staff into regional areas.

21.4.17 PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

There is limited public transport available to the region. This issue was identified by the community during the consultation process. There are a number of private bus services that operate to various parts of the region one or twice each week.

The closest regional airport is located in Roma. The closest international airport is located in Brisbane. There is a small airport in Taroom and a small grass strip to the north of the Wandoan Township.

21.4.18 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Study area residents are able to access some Queensland Government services such as Queensland Transport and Births, Deaths and Marriages, through small dedicated agents in the larger towns. Service availability in Roma is generally greater than the rest of the region due to its population size. It also acts as a district base for many regional government departments.

Taroom has a Youth Development officer available who can help young people with information on available services, referrals and counselling.

Medicare claiming facilities in the region are operated out of local pharmacies including the Wandoan, Taroom and Roma pharmacies.

21.4.19 SUMMARY OF EXISTING SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The community has a strong connection with the region's agricultural history and the land itself. The people are very community-focussed with strong social connections and a healthy enjoyment of the rural lifestyle they share. Community members are family-focussed and many have expressed their belief that the region is an excellent place to raise children.

The properties in the region are used for agricultural purposes, usually a mixture of cattle and crops. The properties affected by the proposed pipeline are also predominantly agriculturally-orientated.

There are opportunities for farming families to live close to a town which helps to manage the isolation rural lifestyles produce including the ability to work off-farm and participate in social and sporting recreational activities. A number of organised sporting and leisure groups operate in the community and rely heavily on local volunteers.

Retail facilities in the study area and the region are typical of regional settings with businesses catering for local needs. Businesses common in the region include pharmacies, post offices, service stations, hairdressers and small grocery stores. The nearest major shopping centre precinct is located in Toowoomba. Services available in Roma outweigh those available throughout the rest of the region.

Access to local schooling in the region is good though enrolment numbers for many schools in the area are small. There is only one high school in the region, which is located in Roma. Often children located in Taroom Shire attend high school in Miles, study via distance education or attend boarding school outside the study area. Access to higher education opportunities is limited outside of Roma, with considerable travelling distances required to access the nearest TAFE and university campuses. This is particularly evident for those in Taroom Shire.

Rental prices in the area are relatively low when compared to Queensland averages and there is a good quantity of properties available anecdotally, though few are listed through real estate agents. Short-term accommodation in the study area is currently undergoing growth with the development and improvement of a number of motels over the last five years.

Services such as employment and training services and health are available in the study area and are adequate based on current demand. Basic access is available to most services required though many are only available on rotation with other areas in the region. Sourcing suitable employees, particularly in health service position can prove difficult due to the area's remote rural location. Emergency services for the area are considered adequate based on the community's needs though recruiting suitable employees can also be difficult.

21.5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO EXISTING SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The following section identifies the potential impacts that the communities in the study area and the region may experience as a result of construction and operation of the proposed pipeline.

21.5.1 IMPACTS ON DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Based on the current population, and unemployment rates in the study areas and future workforce requirements, it is anticipated this workforce cannot be sourced in full from the local community. As such, there would be a requirement to source the necessary workforces from outside the study area, region and potentially Queensland. Construction

workforces would be sourced primarily from contractors and would be primarily transient as they maintain residences in other areas.

The proposed pipeline is unlikely to cause ongoing impact on the demographic profile of the study area and the region. The changes to the population and its characteristics would primarily occur during construction when crews, staffed predominantly by males between the ages of 20 and 35, move temporarily to the area. The proposed pipeline would require a workforce of up to 50 people during construction. Ongoing maintenance staff would likely be sourced from the region or brought into the area on a short- term contract for required works.

On completion of construction works it is expected that very few of the construction crew would choose to remain in the region, unless they are employed in other construction projects in the area. There is not expected to be a permanent change to the population associated with the operation of the proposed pipeline.

21.5.2 SOCIAL AMENITY, VALUES, VITALITY AND LIFESTYLES

It is likely that the biggest affect on the social amenity of the study area would be felt during construction of the proposed pipeline. This would predominantly be experienced by those whose properties are directly affected by the corridor or adjoin it. It is expected that the wider community would experience little impact associated with the pipeline.

An increase in activity on rural roads through the continued supply of materials to pipeline construction sites, as well as the increase in unfamiliar people and construction noise and dust would affect those in the community who are used to living in relative seclusion, on large properties with limited through traffic.

Rural lifestyles are enjoyed by the community, who have spoken of their feelings of safety and security and the suitability of the area for raising children. These feelings may be challenged by the initial activity related to the construction of the pipeline. However, overall it is not expected to diminish the values the community share.

There is expected to be little ongoing impact to the community's lifestyle on completion of the construction and throughout the proposed pipeline's operation.

21.5.3 SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AND RURAL ISOLATION

The social connections in the region may be impacted if road safety and access issues are not appropriately managed during construction of the proposed pipeline. Negative perceptions of safety and accessibility of neighbouring properties or local community destinations may increase the likelihood of residents choosing to stay at home rather than venturing out.

The community may have negative perceptions about the way construction crews are likely to behave. However, project Proponents and their contractors have demonstrated a low tolerance for staff displaying anti-social behaviour and current employment protocols and employee benefits help to promote appropriate behaviour from their workforces.

Those whose properties directly impacted by the pipeline corridor would have the most contact with crews during construct. The construction crew and the property owners would need to communicate openly to ensure that issues which could potentially affect the other are known and addressed.

21.5.4 CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

There may be a number of factors contributing to increased noise that may be experienced by the community; however these impacts would be predominantly experienced during construction. Once buried and operational, the pipes would not generate any noise.

Dust impacts are most likely to be caused by construction and an increase in traffic on local roads. It is not anticipated that these impacts would continue once the pipeline was operation.

Light impacts would be experienced primarily during the construction phase of the pipeline with no impact expected during operation. Any lighting impacts would be experienced by those residing in close proximity to the pipeline corridor, such as those on directly-affected properties and properties adjacent to the corridor. Construction lighting impacts would be most likely experienced if a multiple shift construction program is implemented to fast-track construction.

21.5.5 VISUAL AMENITY

The proposed pipeline is proposed to be constructed underground and therefore it is not expected to contribute to on-going visual amenity impacts. However, vegetation clearing would be required in order to facilitate construction of the pipeline and such works may have visual amenity impacts.

During construction there would be some impact to visual amenity caused by the gathering of construction equipment close to the corridor. It is expected that these areas would be returned to their original state on completion of construction activities.

Impacts on visual amenity would be most experienced by those affected by or adjoining the corridor. This would potentially include general changes to their views due to construction activities, the building of safety fences, use of large equipment and the clearing of areas for construction. The inclusion or breathing holes at 800 m lengths affect visual amenity, as these would likely be signed or boxed in some way. General signage notifying the position of the pipe would also be required.

While it is expected that construction impacts would be temporary, suitable mitigation strategies should be employed to minimise the visual disruption (refer Chapter 19 Visual Amenity).

21.5.6 CURRENT LAND-USE

The agricultural uses of the properties affected by the alignment would experience limited impacts to their existing land use. Agricultural activities such as grazing cattle and growing cops would initially be affected during construction of the pipeline. However, once the pipeline is operational existing activities would be able to continue. There are likely to be some ongoing restrictions to agricultural activities on properties affected by the proposed pipeline.

Generally the land use impacts would include restrictions to:

- construct dams and water ponds over or near the pipeline
- large scale construction over the pipeline.

Concerns raised by property owners include:

- the spread of parthenium weed
- impact on community bores
- lack of communication between the Proponent and stakeholders
- breathing hole design
- impact on future irrigation operations
- construction staging and timing
- soil erosion
- potential affects on cattle
- potential affects on established stock routes
- impact on fences during construction.

Further information regarding these issues can be found in the Chapter 4 Community Consultation.

21.5.7 WATER

Some property owners have indicated concerns regarding water use, access to water and the potential for water leakage from the pipeline. Further studies into water are included in Chapter 11 Water Resources.

21.5.8 EXISTING LIFESTYLES

The community has indicated they enjoy their healthy, rural-based lifestyle as well as the peaceful and quiet atmosphere. While the impacts associated from construction would likely provide some impacts to farming activities and paddock access during construction, there are not expected to be ongoing impacts associated with the operation of the western pipeline.

21.5.9 RECREATION, LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

It is anticipated that the pipeline would have little affect on local facilities for sport, leisure and recreation. There is little likelihood that recreation, leisure and sporting facilities would experience major changes during either construction or operation of the pipeline. Depending on the shift arrangements employed by WJV contractors during construction, and the length of construction, some workers may seek interaction with the community in the form of sporting or recreational activities.

21.5.10 CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Access to culturally-important areas and landscapes as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed pipeline is unlikely.

21.5.11 TOURISM

It is not expected that the proposed pipeline would affect tourism in the area. During construction there may be an increased number of vehicles on local roads. The availability of short-term accommodation may be affected during the initial construction stage should construction workforces increase demand for rooms.

21.5.12 ACCOMMODATION

There are limited accommodation options close to the western extremity of the pipeline route. The nearest available accommodation is located in Roma to the south of Spring Gully. A number of hotels and motels operate in Roma and provide a high standard of short-term accommodation.

There is short-term accommodation available at the Wandoan end of the proposed pipeline. The availability of this accommodation may be affected by the demand created by other aspects of the Project and associated developments.

Any affect on accommodation and housing availability would most likely be driven by the choices of the proposed pipeline construction workforce. If the construction workforce chooses to move to the region with their families, there may be some increased demand for local property. This demand would be expected to decrease on completion of construction, unless other employment opportunities for the workforce are available in the region.

21.5.13 EDUCATION

There are no anticipated affects to local schools as a result of construction or operation of the project. The crews associated with construction are likely to be contractors and live externally to the project area and are not likely to bring families into the region. Increased traffic, particularly of wide and long roads, may result in decreased road safety, which may affect school busses. Traffic access and management for construction may cause some road delays which may also affect student transport during construction.

21.5.14 HEALTH SERVICES

The proposed pipeline is not anticipated to directly affect health services. The relatively small construction crew will establish workplace health and safety procedures for illness and emergencies. With Roma likely to be the closest hospital to the western end of the proposed pipeline and Taroom hospital to the east, it is likely that any injuries would be initially treated by these services. These facilities have the capacity to handle this increased demand if required. The WJV will work with health providers to ensure appropriate illness and emergency procedures are developed and implemented during construction. Impacts to health services would not be ongoing and would be most likely during construction.

21.5.15 EMERGENCY SERVICES

The main contributors to impacts on emergency services would potentially be through road accidents as the number of vehicles on local roads increases with the construction of the proposed pipeline. There will be an increased number of wide and long load trucks carrying equipment and materials to the site which would need to be suitably managed. There are

adequate facilities within the region to deal with these potential impacts. However, the WJV and its contractors would need to implement robust traffic management plans and liaise directly with local authorities to ensure that these services are adequately informed and prepared for the onset of construction.

21.5.16 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

There is not expected to be an increased demand for social services as a direct result of the proposed pipeline. Property owners directly impacted by the alignment on their properties may experience increased stress levels as a result of valuation and negotiations.

The impact on social housing in the area is not expected to be impacted by the development of the proposed pipeline. Property access is provided in terms of an easement as opposed to an ownership requirement. There are no properties that will be required in full and no residents on affected properties are expected to be displaced by construction or operation of the proposed pipeline.

21.5.17 ROADS

Road safety may be affected during construction due to the increase in commercial traffic on local roads, especially heavy vehicles. Traffic is likely to peak during the construction period and may result in the potential for an increase in traffic incidents. Construction of the pipeline may have other affects on these roads and on travellers. Drivers are likely to experience some time delays due to construction works, particularly in relation to equipment movement and traffic control for worker safety. There will also be an expected increase in traffic along those roads related to pipeline construction and movement of workers, equipment and materials. This could impact negatively on the safety of these roads and travellers.

There are not expected to be ongoing affects to roads on completion of construction, with the exception of minor traffic and access impacts possible during general maintenance of the proposed pipeline.

21.5.18 PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

There is not expected to be ongoing impacts to public and community transport. However, the increase in traffic along the highway may affect travel times and road safety.

21.5.19 LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

There is a high rate of employment identified within the region which may reduce the capacity of existing residents to provide labour to the pipeline construction workforce. Displacement from existing industries or the need to introduce employees to the study area and region may therefore result during construction.

The proposed pipeline is unlikely to impact employment opportunities in the local communities. Some contract work may be sourced during construction, should the provision of suitable local equipment be available for activities such as earthmoving and clearing.

During operation it is likely that maintenance crews will either be sourced locally, or be bought into the region on short-term contracts by the appointed maintenance contractor.

21.5.20 PROPERTIES DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED PIPELINE ALIGNMENT

The negotiation of easement rights over private property for construction of infrastructure can create anxiety for those affected. Negotiation process can be more complex if a large number of property owners are involved. The proposed pipeline corridor is therefore deliberately located, wherever feasible, within local- and state-administered road reserves in order to reduce potential impact to local landholders and reduce the complexity and cost issues associated with the establishment of easements. However, there are still a number of private property owners directly affected as the proposed pipeline route traverses their land.

During consultation a number of concerns were raised by property owners. These concerns included the potential spread of parthenium weed, the impact on established community bores and the access of water for domestic and stock purposes as the pipe networks are also established along road easements and property boundaries, there was also concern about the impact on future irrigation operations. There was some concern over the design of proposed breathing holes along the pipeline and their potential impact on cattle and the impact of cattle on the breathing holes. Property owners noted a concern about the management of soil erosion during construction, the impact on existing stock routes and their agricultural activities and livestock. These issues are described in more detail in Chapter 4 Community Consultation.

Those properties affected by the alignment are primarily used for cattle grazing with some cultivation activities and these activities are expected to continue during construction and during operation of the proposed pipeline.

21.5.21 POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The proposed pipeline is infrastructure to provide water for the WJV's Wandoan Coal Project. There are also a number of other project proponents in the region that are investigating the potential for other resource extraction activities and the construction of supporting infrastructure. Some of these studies are running in parallel with the Project such as the Surat Basin Rail, others are independent of the Project.

It is anticipated that some of these projects would commence in a similar timeframe to the Project, or in five to ten years of the Project's operation, which would lead to a sharp increase of activity in the region. This activity would include the movement of traffic on regional roads, an increase in rail transportation activities, an increase in transient population into the area, a change in demographics from a predominance of agricultural industry workers to a shared demographic between agricultural industry workers and mining and resource industry workers.

These combined projects would, in the long term, generate new opportunities for local communities especially in relation to employment, education and training opportunities.

Many of the potential impacts attributed directly to the proposed pipeline, particularly any adverse impacts, would likely be intensified activities associated with these other projects.

21.5.22 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO EXISTING SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The development of the proposed pipeline would likely produce few, if any, ongoing impacts to the local communities.

Demographically, the wider communities to both the west and east of the proposed pipeline would experience little, if any, impact during the operation of the pipeline. During construction, however, there is likely to be an increase in non-resident population as workforces enter the communities. As the workforce is unlikely to be sourced locally it is assumed that the construction teams would be sourced by WJV contractors on a contract basis. The non-resident population would therefore increase quickly once construction begins. It is unlikely that many of these workers would choose to continue residence in the local area once construction of the pipeline is completed, unless suitable employment opportunities are found elsewhere in the region.

Construction of the pipeline is unlikely to impact employment opportunities in the local communities. Some contract work may be sourced during construction should the provision of suitable local equipment be available for activities such as earthmoving and clearing.

This increase in temporary population may impact short-term accommodation availability during construction. There is expected to be little, if any, increase demand for long-term residential accommodation.

The impact of the development of the proposed pipeline is not expected to alter the community's social identity. It is expected that any ongoing impact to the area's character and lifestyle would be as a result of the cumulative affects of projects in the area, rather than specifically due to the construction or operation of the project. If any of these issues are to be experienced, it is likely to occur in the early construction phases of the project as clearing begins and the community's sense of stability is shaken by the changes.

Construction of the pipeline does not require the purchase of entire properties so there is not expected to be any direct loss of families residing in the area. The proposed pipeline is also not expected to draw large numbers of people to reside in the community. There may be some impacts on tenanted local properties, should landlords decide better income could be obtained through leasing properties to project contractors for housing construction workforce.

The local community may gain some benefit from a boost in the local economy as a result of pipeline workforce spending money in the local area during construction shifts.

Additional commuter and commercial traffic, especially heavy vehicle traffic will be generated during the construction period.

The spread of Parthenium weed and potential affects on community bore pipelines is a concern for affected property owners as are the affects on recognised stock routes along the alignment and general concerns about construction, their agricultural activities and water supply and irrigation.

Residents may be temporarily adversely affected by construction noise, road noise, lighting as well as the impact of dust on their lifestyle and agricultural activities. However it is expected that these impacts will cease during operation.

The visual amenity impacts will potentially be most strongly experienced during construction, due to the clearing required along the alignment to allow the development of the pipeline. Environmental studies indicate this clearing would be relatively minimal over the length of the pipeline route, as the proposed alignment was chosen to avoid densely vegetated areas.

In the longer term, there are not expected to be ongoing impacts associated with the operation of the proposed pipeline though there may be the need to access the easement for maintenance purposes. On closure of the over-arching Project, the pipeline may be able to be used for other purposes or used in the provision of water services for agriculture or mine rehabilitation.

21.6 MITIGATION MEASURES

This section aims to provide a selection of measures to manage any potential negative impacts of the pipeline on the social character and infrastructure of both the study area and the region. Strategies have also been developed to enhance the potential benefits to the local communities. The WJV has a number of existing policies in relation to social and community engagement, sustainability, employment, environment, climate change, hazard and risk, and health and safety. It is expected that any contractor to the WJV will have similar policies in place. These mitigation and enhancement strategies are developed to work with those existing policies but are targeted specifically to the proposed pipeline. However, due to the number of potential projects proposed for the region there are some methods which have been suggested to mitigate the effects of cumulative impacts on the community.

Mitigation of potential social impacts and the maximisation of benefits to the community are crucial to the development of the proposed pipeline. However, the responsibility for the effectiveness, and meeting and managing these requirements extends beyond the responsibility of the WJV. All measures implemented require the full support, participation and commitment of the employed construction contractors, local communities, service providers and government agencies to ensure ongoing success. It is the WJV's responsibility to effectively facilitate and inform their involvement to ensure success.

21.6.1 COMMUNICATION

Effective two-way communication between the WJV, its contractors and the local community, particularly property owners directly impacted along the length of the proposed alignment, is crucial. The cumulative affects of the many resource extraction and related infrastructure projects in the region is likely to cause anxiety in the community as changes to their existing environment occur. Confusion or misinformation in the community would only increase this anxiety. Therefore, effective communication channels and procedures need to be established between all parties, with information shared between all projects, to ensure accuracy and validity of information provided to the public.

21.6.2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The activities associated with the development of the proposed pipeline will be included in the ongoing community consultation activities proposed for the Project. A strong link between the two is required to provide the community with a single, easily accessible

source of dependable information. Ongoing community engagement opportunities are also required to ensure that feedback from the community is able to be managed and actioned where necessary by the WJV. The WJV has committed to engage a community liaison representative (CLR) for the Project and it expected that this role would also manage community contacts for the pipeline.

This role would help ease ongoing community anxiety and would act as an intermediary between the WJV and the communities, and encourage active engagement through proactively addressing questions and concerns during construction and operation. Information about the construction and operation of the proposed pipeline would also benefit from inclusion in any continued Community Reference Group meetings as well as ongoing inclusion in community workshops planned for the Project.

21.6.3 SOCIAL AMENITY, VALUES, VITALITY AND ASPIRATIONS

The WJV is supportive of its workers and contractors participation in local activities and embracing the local communities.

Social integration is important and helps develop a sense of community which has flow-on effects of increased feelings of safety and community well-being. In any tender process for contractors, the WJV will take into consideration how potential companies propose to maintain and enhance community connections and manage workforce behaviour and community interaction during construction.

21.6.4 IMPACTS TO SOCIAL ORDER

Strategies will be implemented to manage potential impacts associated with anti-social behaviour. Many of these issues would need to be managed internally by the WJV and its contractors to ensure an appropriate induction and establishment of expectations of behaviour.

Behaviour protocols will be established for employees either working under contract or as employees of the WJV or its contractors, particularly during the construction of the proposed pipeline. These guidelines are imperative to the ongoing maintenance of good social order and it is recommended that these be included in a robust site induction process.

The provision of an advertised contact point for the community is encouraged and the point of contact offered for the Project may be an appropriate contact. This would enable the community report any anti-social behaviour, should it occur.

21.6.5 CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

The WJV will undertake appropriate mitigation measures as identified in EIS technical studies in relation to light, dust and noise impacts associated with construction. A point of contact will be provided for the community should they wish to alert the Project to dust or light impacts caused by the project.

21.6.6 VISUAL AMENITY

The impacts to visual amenity will be managed through the choosing of the best possible route alignment, particularly one which features the least amount of vegetation clearing

necessary. Providing the community, and particularly property owners directly impacted by the alignment, an accurate understanding of what to expect during construction through a robust consultation process is recommended.

21.6.7 PROPERTIES DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED PIPELINE ALIGNMENT

Ongoing communication with affected property owners is required to ensure the least amount of negative impact on their lifestyles and in particular, their agricultural activities, is experienced. Suitable notice and practical arrangements for the movement of stock from paddocks in the alignment will be required as well as the implementation of suitable livestock protection barriers around any access points or breathing holes located along the length of the alignment, such as cattle-proof fencing.

Suitable notice of access to the proposed corridor will be required as well as a detailed briefing on the type of activities which would be undertaken on properties, or any restrictions to access which residents are likely to encounter.

The WJV will seek to engage with property owners to decrease the potential impacts on agricultural activities during construction. This would include early negotiation to consider construction schedule impacts on seasonal activities such as cultivation, planting and/or harvesting to ensure the least amount of impact on crop yields. It may also be necessary to discuss stock movement with affected property owners, particularly in relation to stud cattle management during breeding cycles. Suitable compensation for economic loss caused by unavoidable affects on crop yields or livestock will be considered.

21.6.8 CURRENT LAND USE

A robust environmental restoration process will be implemented to restore land affected by the construction of the pipeline. This restoration will include any gates, fencing or access tracks which are affected during construction. During operation any access points or ‘breathing holes’ included for pipeline maintenance will be fenced off to reduce any impact on stock.

21.6.9 ACCOMMODATION

Extended stays in local accommodation facilities such as hotels and motels located near the MLA areas for the proposed pipeline construction workforce will be discouraged to decrease the potential supply versus demand issues possible as a result of the cumulative impacts of projects in the region. It may be more appropriate to house construction workforce in or around Miles.

The WJV and its contractors will actively engage with government stakeholders and departments to devise ongoing strategies for management of accommodation needs to ensure activities do not displace members of the community.

21.6.10 EDUCATION

The WJV will work with contractors who value the provision of training and experience and who may consider entering into partnerships with local schools and training institutions. This may extend to provision of trade experience to local apprentices or allowing the use of mechanical equipment to provide ‘hands on’ experience.

21.6.11 HEALTH SERVICES

While impacts to health services are expected to be limited, it is recommended that where possible, WJV and its contractors provide support to existing providers.

The WJV will work with local health providers and government agencies to plan for future health service needs (refer Volume 1, Chapter 28 Commitments and Mitigation Measures).

21.6.12 EMERGENCY SERVICES

The WJV will work with emergency service providers in the region, and their associated government agencies, to ensure robust emergency management plans are determined and implemented. These plans should consider the ongoing need for staff versus the current difficulty in obtaining staff in suitable timeframes. The ongoing need for equipment and specialised services in relation to mining operations will need to be considered.

The WJV will work closely with the local police force particularly in relation to traffic management and associated road safety issues. The policing of driver behaviour is recommended.

21.6.13 LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The WJV will maintain an open dialogue with its contractors and regional employment and training agencies, particularly those funded by the Queensland Government. This would ensure that employment requirements and opportunities are managed from within the region. Contractors for construction work will be encouraged to include a facet of how well they are able to utilise local employees and training providers.

21.6.14 ROADS AND TRANSPORT

The increase in heavy vehicles on regional roads will need to be managed by the WJV, its contractors, local authorities, Queensland Transport and the Department of Main Roads, particularly during construction. Road safety sessions for local schools, community information sheets and the provision of a free-call community hotline number are recommended to educate and inform the local communities as is ongoing consultation with the Department of Main Roads and local councils.

21.6.15 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The WJV will work proactively with other project proponents in the area to develop plans to mitigate the cumulative effects of projects proposed for the region. The WJV will work with local service providers and government agencies to ensure ongoing management and mitigation of cumulative social impacts from the projects in the region are proactively managed.

Throughout construction, the WJV will work closely with Queensland Transport to develop robust traffic management plans particularly in relation to road safety. This may require a joint community awareness campaign on how to manage the potential increase in traffic safely.

21.7 CONCLUSIONS

The communities in the region attribute much of their identity, social values and amenity to the rural atmosphere and agriculturally-based lifestyles. There is unlikely to be a dramatic change to the area's demographics as a result of the proposed pipeline. There may be a temporary increase in young adult males moving to the area during the nine month construction period; these workers are not expected to remain in the region permanently.

Construction itself would cause the most affects to the community, particularly those residing on properties directly affected by or adjoining the proposed pipeline corridor. These impacts are expected to be easily managed, and in some cases mitigated, with the development of detailed construction and traffic management plans and a consistent and informed communication and consultation process. These impacts would include noise, dust and potentially lighting impacts associated with construction, traffic delays and road and safety impacts due to the corridor's proximity to the road reserve.

Impacts on accommodation supplies in the area may be affected by the accommodation choices favoured by the construction contractors.

Mitigation strategies are focussed on providing proactive solutions to possible impacts and reducing the stress and anxiety that may be felt by the community during construction and operation of the Project. In summary these mitigation strategies include:

- effective and focussed communication of project activities to those affected by the proposed alignment particularly in relation to potential interruptions to farming activities and changes to access requirements
- continued inclusion of information in community consultation activities, particularly those related to the Wandoan Coal Project
- traffic and access management plans with appropriate monitoring guidelines
- detailed construction management plans with appropriate monitoring guidelines to decrease construction impacts such as noise and dust
- reducing the potential impacts associated with housing the construction workforce by choosing accommodation located in or around the western end of the pipeline rather than near the Project MLAs.

The implementation of mitigation strategies recommended in the other technical studies is also encouraged. Managing the impacts of construction and operation in these ways would assist in ensuring the community has confidence in the project, the WJV and its contractors. This would assist in reducing community stress and anxiety and help manage impacts to the social character and infrastructure of the region.