

4 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

4.1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SCOPE

As part of the Project feasibility and EIS process, the WJV developed a program of community and stakeholder consultation and established a Project team to obtain feedback from property owners and stakeholders who are potentially affected by the western coal seam methane (CSM) water supply pipeline (the proposed pipeline). This consultation program was developed to ensure that all issues and concerns raised by affected property owners and stakeholders were incorporated into technical studies and further planning for the Project's EIS.

The broad objectives of the consultation program were to increase awareness of the proposed western CSM water supply pipeline, the alternative infrastructure options and the overarching Wandoan Coal Project (the Project).

The consultation program was designed to conduct an open and transparent public consultation process, allowing for community and stakeholder feedback in regards to pipeline design, proposed construction materials, project timing, staging and construction.

4.2 CONSULTATION APPROACH AND ACTIVITIES

4.2.1 PROPERTY OWNER CONSULTATION

A letter was distributed to 15 directly affected property owners in July 2008. The letters provided affected property owners with a project overview, information about the potential route alignment and projected water quality and usage. The letter also advised a follow up call would be made to arrange a one-to-one meeting to discuss the Project.

Following these letters, telephone contact was made with 14 property owners (one property owner owned two separate properties) to arrange meetings to discuss the proposed western water supply pipeline corridor in further detail.

One-to-one meetings provided property owners with the opportunity to learn more about the water supply studies and other potential supply options. Information was also provided about pipeline design, project timing, staging and construction.

4.2.2 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Two meetings were held between the WJV and key stakeholders in June and August 2008.

Representatives from the WJV met with a Dalby Regional Council (DRC) representative in June 2008 at the Council's Chambers in Dalby. The project team also met with a senior engineer (water management) from Origin Energy (Origin) in August 2008.

The purpose of the stakeholder meetings was to provide these stakeholders with a Project overview, including information about the proposed pipeline design, project timing, staging and construction. The proposed consultation process was also discussed during the stakeholder meetings. The meetings provided the WJV with the opportunity to record and collate stakeholder feedback for inclusion in technical studies.

Additionally, the purpose of the meeting in August was to provide Origin with an overview of feedback received to date from property owners. The project team also sought clarification about Origin's Expression of Interest (EOI) which invited property owners to submit a business case to use CSM water treated at the Spring Gully plant.

4.2.3 COMMUNITY CONTACT POINTS

Community contact points established for the Project were provided to property owners and stakeholders potentially affected by the pipeline corridor. The Project team did not receive calls or enquiries about the proposed pipeline.

4.3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FINDINGS

4.3.1 SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED AT PROPERTY OWNER MEETINGS

The main issues (in order of frequency raised) resulting from one-to-one property owner meetings are summarised below.

Parthenium weed

The potential spread of parthenium weed was a key issue raised by six property owners. Three property owners confirmed the presence of parthenium on their property and three property owners have sighted the weed along the Roma-Taroom Road. As the Wandoan area is classified as a parthenium free area, it is important that project protocols (ie. weed management plans) are followed to limit the spread of weed.

Community bores

Established community bores transport water for domestic and stock purposes through pipelines. Five property owners were concerned about the impact the proposed pipeline may have on existing bore pipelines and water supply as their pipeline network is established along road easements and property boundaries. Property owners raised concerns that segments of the community bore pipeline network may be situated within the proposed pipeline corridor. The Project team noted these concerns to assist in further planning should the proposed western CSM water supply pipeline be required.

Support for reuse of CSM water

Five property owners communicated their support for the productive use of Origin's Spring Gully CSM water. As water is a scarce resource in the area, property owners indicated they were pleased to learn water would be managed effectively.

Proposed pipeline materials

Four property owners indicated their interest in the materials that would be used to manufacture the pipe. The Project team did not have the technical information available to confirm the precise material to be used as further investigations were being carried out to test the quality of water at Spring Gully. The Project team discussed various pipeline materials that could be considered and assured property owners that pipelines would be tested and maintained throughout the life of the mine to monitor any potential damage or corrosion to the pipeline.

Lack of communication between the Proponent and stakeholders

Four property owners outlined their concern about the perceived lack of communication between the WJV and Origin. Property owners were concerned that Origin did not appear to be aware of the western CSM water supply pipeline project and were concerned their (the property owners') application for CSG water was in direct competition with the WJV's proposal for that water. This concern was noted with the Project team informing property owners of the communications that had already occurred between WJV and Origin.

Air valve design

A total of three property owners also raised questions about proposed air valves along the proposed pipeline corridor, their purpose and design. Property owners asked about the impact air valves may have on cattle and if cattle were at risk of falling into or knocking these over.

Impact on future irrigation operations

Three property owners were concerned about the impact the proposed pipeline corridor could have on future planned irrigation operations. These property owners recently submitted an EOI proposing to use RO water from Origin's Spring Gully gas fields. The Project team explained that water required for coal washing and dust suppression could be raw water and it was doubtful the Project would require all of Spring Gully's available RO water.

Construction staging and timing

Two property owners asked questions about the construction process. The Project team explained the construction staging and timing schedule to property owners. Following the selection of a preferred water supply corridor, a detailed design and construction tender process will be carried out before construction starts on the pipeline corridor. The Project team confirmed the pipeline would be operational to support the commencement of mining operations in 2012.

Soil erosion

Soil erosion was another concern raised by property owners who asked for erosion management practices to be applied during construction of the pipeline.

Potential impact to cattle

Property owners were concerned about the potential impact to cattle, crops and dams as a result of the pipeline. Property owners were seeking assurances that further consultation and communication would be conducted prior to detailed design and construction so property impacts are managed.

Potential impact to established stock routes

Two property owners also raised a point regarding stock routes. The proposed pipeline corridor follows part of an established stock route. The impact the pipeline may have on stock routes will need to be considered and further investigations will also need to analyse potential impacts travelling stock may have on the water supply pipeline and air valves.

Related projects

Three property owners made enquiries about a historical project they were consulted on three to five years ago. The project involved a proposal for a powerline that followed the proposed western water supply pipeline corridor. Property owners asked if there was any

connection between the powerline and the western water supply corridor. The Project team confirmed that to their knowledge there was no intention to construct a power line along the same easement.

Impact on fences during construction

Three property owners were concerned about the potential impact to their fence lines during pipeline construction. The Project team reassured property owners that temporary fences would be erected during construction and contact would be made with property owners to ensure fences are constructed in suitable locations at appropriate times. Two of the property owners were particularly concerned about fences due to requirements to separate stud cattle.

4.3.2 SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED AT STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

On 8 August 2008, the project team met with a Senior Engineer (Water Management) from Origin Energy. This meeting followed several initial contacts by the Project team, to organise meetings with key representatives. Due to staff being off-site the meeting was not able to be held before property owner contact had been made. All property owner correspondence and information materials were forwarded to Origin for their review and records.

4.4 RESULTS

Property owners and stakeholders were provided with project information and were encouraged to provide feedback on potential issues and impacts.

Meetings with potentially affected property owners provided the project team with an understanding of key issues:

- potential spread of parthenium weed
- impact to community bores
- perceived lack of communication between the Proponent and stakeholders
- material of pipe
- air valves
- impact on future irrigation operations.

Property owners indicated a good understanding of the proposed western CSM water supply pipeline. However, their concerns will need to be addressed by the WJV during future consultation activities.

Property owners voiced concern about the potential spread of parthenium weed and potential impact the weed may have on their stock and livelihood. Property owners were generally satisfied with the WJV's weed management protocols. Weed management guidelines will need to be reviewed and implemented in the ongoing maintenance and management of the pipeline. A long term commitment to managing and reducing parthenium weed will also promote trust and respect in the community.

The location of community bore pipelines should be considered during further route investigations and impact on these pipelines will need to be considered during construction. Affected property owners will seek assurances that bore water supplies will

be maintained and impact to the community pipeline network will be minimal. Ongoing contact with property owners will help in the early identification and management of issues and concerns.

Property owners were also concerned about the perceived lack of communication between the WJV and Origin. Regular contact and updates between the WJV and all stakeholders, including Origin, will ensure consistent messages are communicated to the community. A designated contact person who is on site could act as the first point of contact for all project related questions. A stakeholder and communication management group involving the WJV, Origin Energy and contractors would also assist in the early identification and management of issues.

Following selection of a preferred pipeline corridor, the WJV will need to confirm technical aspects of the project (including the type of pipe materials, expected maintenance required on the pipes, air valves design, frequency of maintenance and expected pipeline lifetime) to affected property owners.

Air valves constructed along the pipeline corridor will need to withstand cattle movement and should be closed and visible to minimise damage to cattle. Further investigations will also need to consider the impact stock may have on the pipeline in areas where stock routes run adjacent to the western water supply pipeline corridor.

The continuation and development of community consultation processes is essential for ensuring that all participants involved in the project are kept well informed of all developments and have the opportunity to provide input and discuss issues.