

05 | Social Impact Management Plans



Section 05 Social Impact Management Plans

It is understood that proponents of new or expanded major resource development projects must develop a social impact management plan (SIMP) in accordance with the Queensland Government's Sustainable Resource Communities Policy (Department of Infrastructure and Planning [DIP], 2008) and environmental impact assessment and resource development legislation, policies and procedures.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Alpha Coal Project (the Project) (refer to Part B Section 4.1.6 of TOR) require that a draft SIMP is developed to promote an active and ongoing role for impacted communities and local authorities through the Project life cycle from planning through to approvals, construction, operations and decommissioning.

Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd (HPPL) envisions a coordinated approach to finalisation of the SIMP with Barcardine, Isaac and Central Highlands Regional Councils as well as other relevant stakeholders (where appropriate) in order to align the SIMP with council plans and community programs. To achieve this end, the SIMP will be developed in a three-stage approach.

- **Stage 1:** Develop the draft SIMP based on the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) analysis and conclusions.
- **Stage 2:** Consult key stakeholders on the details of the SIMP, roles and responsibilities, benchmarks, reporting, monitoring and program evaluation.
- **Stage 3:** SIMP implementation.

This three-stage process will maximise local council involvement in the development of key SIMP criteria (Stage 2) and implementation through ongoing monitoring, review and adaptation (Stage 3).

The draft SIMP is modelled on the "Preparing a social impact management plan: draft guideline – for consultation" (DIP, 2010) and discussions with the DIP SIA Unit. The DIP SIA Unit has been consulted regarding the SIMP layout and contents, as well as the rationale behind developing two independent SIMPs for the mine and rail components of the Project. Modifications have been made to the SIMP format to better align with the SIA.

The following SIMP drafts were prepared for the Alpha Coal Project.

- The draft SIMP for the Alpha Coal Project (Mine) is presented in Volume 2, Section 27
- The draft SIMP for the Alpha Coal Project (Rail) is presented in Volume 3, Section 27.

The draft SIMPs draw on the baseline studies of the SIA for the Alpha Coal Project (Mine) and Alpha Coal Project (Rail) as reported in Volume 2, Section 20 and Volume 3, Section 20, respectively.

In its current form the draft SIMP is a template from which to refine with key stakeholder input. Further consultation with the DIP SIA Unit and local governments may be required to refine the template further prior to expansion of the various components.

On this basis, the SIMP comprises the following sections.

- Section A – Project Summary, overview and context of the Project, stakeholders, workforce and the Project's social and cultural area of influence, including key issues relevant to that area (as identified in the SIA) and to regional development.
- Section B – Identified Impacts, lists positive and negative impacts on socio-economic outcomes.

- Section C – Impact Analysis, probability assessment of consequence of impacts on environmental and social values, performance requirements of commitments and conditions, and management and mitigation measures.
- Section D – Monitoring, Reporting and Review, expresses measurable and auditable commitments to performance monitoring, reporting and review adequacy and effectiveness of management measures.
- Section E – Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, which describes actions to promote active consultation.
- Section F – Dispute Resolution, describes mechanisms to support dedicated pathway for issue raising and resolution, procedures, resources and record keeping.

In recognition of the changing nature of impacts over the life of the Project, the SIMP will be adaptive and reassessed at regular intervals, particularly following release of census data or substantial change in environmental or social impact. Benchmarks will be established and monitored continuously throughout implementation, and the management plan will be adapted as required.