

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

Chapter 6

Community and Stakeholder Consultation – Summary of Outcomes

A stakeholder consultation process was developed and implemented to advise community stakeholders, Council representatives and relevant government authorities about the details of the proposed project and to solicit issues that should be addressed during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

A Planning Focus Meeting (PFM) was held in Mildura and on site on 28 November 2006 and in August 2007 the DOP issued the Director-General's Requirements for the Environmental Assessment.

IPRA made a presentation regarding the project to the Wentworth Shire Council on 19 September 2007.

IPRA has consulted with the DOP and other relevant agencies in undertaking the various studies associated with this draft Environmental Assessment.

Key issues identified during this initial consultation phase included:

- demonstration of need for the project;
- justification of location and fuel selected;
- potential environmental impacts: water, noise, and air quality;
- management of potential bush fire risk; and
- water supply and water management.

It is intended that an additional consultation phase will be conducted with information session(s) proposed to be held at an appropriate location during the period when the Environmental Assessment report is on public display, where representatives of International Power (Australia) Pty Ltd (IPRA) and members of the URS study team would be present to answer specific queries from the broader community.

Following approval of the Buronga Peaking Power Plant, ongoing consultation with key stakeholders would be maintained during the key phases of construction and operation.

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6.1 Introduction

The consultation strategy was designed to facilitate open communication with key stakeholders and to provide a forum to proactively respond to key community and government agency stakeholders. The consultation program was undertaken by representatives of IPRA and members of the URS project team.

The key stakeholders identified for consultation for the Buronga Peaking Power Plant Project are:

- Leaseholder of the area immediately surrounding the proposed power plant site;
- General public via articles in the local press and electronic media;
- Wentworth Shire Council officers and elected councillors;
- Dareton Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Barkindji Elders Aboriginal Community Group; and
- State Government agencies, specifically the Department of Planning, the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Department of Water and Energy, Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources, TransGrid, RTA, NSW Rural Bushfire Service, and the Commonwealth Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

6.2 Objectives

The key objectives of the stakeholder consultation to date were to ensure that key stakeholders were:

- appropriately informed of the project parameters;
- aware of the approvals process; and
- provided with an opportunity to ask questions and to identify areas of concern in respect of the project.

It is also intended that information session(s) would be held at appropriate locations during the period when the Environmental Assessment report is on public display where representatives of IPRA and members of the URS study team would be present to answer specific queries from the broader community.

Ongoing consultation with the key stakeholders would be maintained during key phases of construction and operation.

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6.3 Consultation Program and Issues Raised

The consultation program was designed to introduce the project to key stakeholders, focusing in particular on Wentworth Shire Council and relevant government agencies. Where possible, participant questions were addressed immediately. Where this was not possible, a commitment was made to follow up specific questions in the Environmental Assessment.

The majority of consultations took place during the period from November 2006 to September 2007. In addition to discussions with the leaseholder, meetings and discussions were held with:

- Wentworth Shire Council officers;
- Wentworth Shire Council elected councillors; and
- Barkindji Elders Aboriginal Community Group.

The NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Department of Health, and the Commonwealth Civil Aviation Safety Authority were all consulted through telephone and / or written correspondence.

Further, in the period June through September 2007, a number of discussions were held and correspondence exchanged with officers of the Department of Environment and Climate Change to clarify aspects of IPRA's proposed peaking power plant projects, including the Buronga project, insofar as:

- the nature of the plant operating regime and fuel type proposed by IPRA;
- the air emission profile and characteristics of the proposed plant;
- assessment of potential human health effects of long term emissions; and
- appropriate air emission limits and monitoring and control technologies.

Table 6-1 provides a summary of the issues identified during this initial consultation process and references where in this Environmental Assessment these issues are addressed.

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Table 6-1 Summary of Issue Themes

Issue Theme	Summary	Consultee	Relevant Section of EA Addressing Issue Raised
Project Need & Design	Provide justification and explanation of location selected. Explore use of all potential fuels and provide justification of the fuel selected.	Planning Focus Meeting (PFM) – DoP PFM – DECC Wentworth Shire Council – Meeting.	Chapter 2 Project Need; Chapter 3 Alternatives.
Environmental Impacts: Water; Air Quality; Noise; Threatened Species; Cultural Heritage; Visual; Traffic; Bush Fire Risk.	An understanding of the proposed water supply, water management, drainage and water disposal strategy was requested.	PFM - DoP	Chapter 14 Water Cycle Management.
	Defining appropriate methodology for air quality modelling and assessment for this and for similar projects, including potential health impacts. An Air Quality Assessment is required. Project will need to meet 2002 Air Regulations.	DECC – telephone and letter correspondence	Chapter 7 Air Quality & GHG.
	Discussion on construction schedule and extent of earthworks. Requested consideration be given in particular to noise, dust and pollution of water.	PFM - DoP	Chapter 4 Project Description; Chapter Air Quality & GHG; Chapter 8 Soils, Geology & Groundwater; Chapter 11 Noise.
	Request URS obtain flood levels and Draft Flood Study being undertaken by Patterson Britton & Partners for Wentworth Shire Council.	PFM – Wentworth Shire Council	Chapter 14 Water Cycle Management.
	Confirmation of stack heights requested.	PFM - DoP	Chapter 4 Project Description; Chapter 9 Landscape & Visual.
	Threatened species, cultural heritage, construction impacts (in particular dust and pollution of water), identified as issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment.	PFM – DECC Wentworth Shire Council - Meeting	Chapter 12 Flora & Fauna; Chapter 15 Heritage; Chapter 7 Air Quality & GHG; Chapter 14 Water Cycle Management.
	Discussion on Arumpo Road, sight lines east and west of the proposed site, and existing level of trafficking.	PFM	Chapter 10 Traffic.

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Issue Theme	Summary	Consultee	Relevant Section of EA Addressing Issue Raised
	Request that a heritage assessment be undertaken including on site field survey.	PFM – DECC Heritage	Chapter 15 Heritage.
	The site was identified as bush fire prone within the Wentworth Bush Fire Prone Land Map. A request was made that the layout, design and EA take into consideration a number of items including minimising the impact of radiant heat; consider setbacks taking into consideration vegetation, vegetation type and slope; provision of adequate access and egress to / from the site; and minimising the vulnerability of buildings to ignition from radiation and ember attack. Site layout, active fire suppression and response, Asset Protection Zone management, and water provision discussed further with Rural Fire Service.	Consultation email – Rural Fire Service	Chapter 13 Bushfire Risk.
Operational Phase	Discussion on likely staffing during operational phase.	PFM – DoP Wentworth Shire Council - Meeting	Chapter 17 Socio-Economic.
	Discussion on potential water sources.	Wentworth Shire Council - Meeting	Chapter 14 Water Cycle Management.
	Discussion regarding incorporating consideration of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) into the EA.	PFM – DECC & DoP	Chapter 7 Air Quality.
	Hazards and management of potential hazards to be discussed within the EA.	PFM - DoP	Chapter 18 Preliminary Hazard Analysis.

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IPRA would ensure that ongoing dialogue with all relevant stakeholders continues to effectively monitor the social and environmental impacts of the development over time.

This may include initiatives such as:

- consultation with landholders in proximity to the site during key phases of project development i.e. pre-construction, construction and operation; and
- ongoing consultation with local landholders and Wentworth Shire Council to inform them of development progress.