

## **Technical paper 6**

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Community consultation and social  
impact assessment

Client

Alinta Asset Management (3) Pty Ltd

Project

Rosehill Recycled Water Scheme  
Consultation outcomes report

Date

30 June 2008

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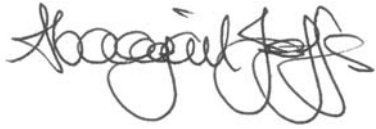


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# Contents

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<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Consultation process	1
1.3	Consultation objectives	1
1.4	Director General's requirements	1

---

<b>2</b>	<b>Government agencies and utilities consultation</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Planning focus meeting	2
2.2	Local government	2
2.3	Utilities	4
2.4	State Government agency consultation	4

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<b>3</b>	<b>Community consultation</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Internal stakeholder and risk analysis workshop	5
3.2	Stakeholder analysis and route survey	5
3.3	Consultation process	5
3.4	Community issues	7

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<b>4</b>	<b>Community Relations</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1	Community relations approach	10
4.2	Community relations principles	10

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<b>5</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>11</b>
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<b>6</b>	<b>Next steps for consultation</b>	<b>12</b>
6.1	Public exhibition	12
6.2	Assessment and determination	12

## Tables

**Table 1 – Issues raised at the planning focus meeting** 3

**Table 2 - Summary of issues identified through community information and feedback sessions** 8

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Letters sent to local members of parliament 13

Appendix 2 – Letters sent to Council General Managers 14

Appendix 3 – Letters sent to government agencies 15

Appendix 4 – Government agency responses 16

Appendix 5 – Route survey 17

Appendix 6 – Distribution catchment 18

Appendix 7 – Newsletter 19

Appendix 8 – Letter sent to North Street residents 20

Appendix 9 – List of newspapers 21

Appendix 10 - Advertisement 22

Appendix 11 – Feedback form 23

Appendix 12 – Story boards 24



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The Rosehill Recycled Water Scheme comprises the construction and operation of a reverse osmosis recycled water treatment plant at Fairfield, approximately 20 kilometres of water mains, three above ground storage reservoirs, and two pumping stations.

The proposal is a component of the NSW Government's 2006 Metropolitan Water Plan for long term water management in Sydney and would play an important part in reducing the consumption of drinking water through the supply of recycled water to large industrial and commercial customers in western Sydney.

## 1.2 Consultation process

Elton Consulting was engaged by Alinta Asset Management (3) Pty Ltd (Alinta) to coordinate stakeholder and community consultation during the planning, design and assessment phase of the project.

A consultation strategy was developed which proposed a schedule for community engagement and outlined a process through which government agencies, utilities and community stakeholders could gain information about the project and provide comment to members of the project team.

This report outlines the consultation activities undertaken with the community, authorities and other key stakeholders before and during the preparation of the environmental assessment, and discusses the issues raised during these activities.

## 1.3 Consultation objectives

Consultation aimed to proactively consult key stakeholders to increase their awareness of the project, so that issues could be identified, and information conveyed to foster greater understanding about the proposal.

In detail, the objectives of consultation aimed to:

- Ensure that the Director General's requirements for the provision of consultation during the environmental assessment process were fulfilled
- Encourage stakeholders to provide input into the environmental assessment and provide

them with information so that they could participate

- Foresee and address possible key issues of interest
- Listen, understand and seek feedback from stakeholders to ensure that relevant issues were considered during the design development and to gauge the level of support or otherwise for the project.
- Minimise the opportunity for speculation and misinformation about the planning process by ensuring that there were no information gaps
- Incorporate stakeholder feedback into the environmental assessment process in order to refine and improve the project.

## 1.4 Director General's requirements

The Director General's requirements (refer to Appendix A) state that consultation must be undertaken to an appropriate and justified level, with various government agencies, authorities and the public.

The requirements stipulate that public consultation had to be documented as part of the environmental assessment process together with a communications strategy and details on how the proponent had responded to issues raised by the public through consultation.

A consultation strategy was developed in accordance with these requirements to guide consultation.

## 2 Government agencies and utilities consultation

Consultation was undertaken with local government and relevant government departments and agencies throughout the environmental assessment process to ensure that key agency requirements were identified and addressed.

### 2.1 Planning focus meeting

A planning focus meeting (PFM) was held at the Pacific International Suites in Parramatta on 28 August 2007. The meeting was attended by representatives from Department of Planning, Department of Environment and Climate Change, various Councils (Bankstown, Fairfield, Holroyd, and Parramatta), the Roads and Traffic Authority (Traffic Management Centre), Railcorp, Sydney Water, Alinta, Elton Consulting and Parsons Brinckerhoff.

Representatives from the Department of Water and Energy, the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Health were unable to attend.

The PFM included a presentation, site tour, and general discussion. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the proposal, identify the key environmental issues, and provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to comment on the proposal and assessment process.

A list of agency issues raised during discussion at the PFM is noted in Table 1.

### 2.2 Local government

#### 2.2.1 Local members of parliament

A letter, including a copy of the project newsletter, was sent to The Honourable Joe Tripodi (Member for Fairfield), Tanya Gadiel (Member for Parramatta) and David Borger (Member for Granville) on 26 March 2008 (refer to Appendix 1 for a copy of the letters). The purpose of the letter was to advise them of the project and to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal in more detail.

At the time of writing, no comments were received from any of the local members of parliament.

#### 2.2.2 Local government workshop

A council workshop was held at the Rydges Hotel in Parramatta on 11 December 2007. The meeting was attended by representatives from Alinta, Elton Consulting, Veolia, Sydney Water, Fairfield, Parramatta, Bankstown and Holroyd councils. At least two representatives from each council attended.

A letter was sent to the General Managers at each council (Parramatta, Fairfield, Bankstown and Holroyd) to formally advise them of the project and invite council representatives to attend the workshop. Refer to Appendix 2 for a copy of the letter.

The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Advise each council of the project and seek comment during the environmental assessment
- Identify key issues and concerns that the project team need e.g. to be aware of for planning for the construction of the project
- Discuss the scope and impact of the project, the proposed consultation activities to ensure the communications approach was appropriate for local target audiences.

Various questions were raised at the workshop in relation to the construction methodology, potential cumulative impacts in reference to the Liverpool to Ashfield (LAP) pipeline and the estimated electrical usage of the water recycling plant. Where possible, issues and questions were clarified by relevant project team members.

A number of participants noted that potential disruption to industrial and commercial premises, particularly in the Smithfield area, would need to be managed. Another participant noted that, given ethnically diverse localities affected by the project that it would be necessary to use multi-lingual material to engage with these communities.

#### 2.2.3 Local council general managers

Letters were sent to the general managers of the four local councils that would be affected by the proposal on 19 March 2008.

The purpose of the letters was to:

- Inform the general managers about the proposed scheme
- Outline the planning approval process and at what stage the proposal was at

**Table 1 – Issues raised at the planning focus meeting**

Agency	Issues	Area addressed in EA
Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts to future network planning</li> <li>• Potential impacts to Woodville Road, Parramatta Road and Fairfield Road</li> <li>• The existence of a memorandum of understanding between RTA and Sydney Water, but not with Alinta</li> <li>• <i>Water Industry Competition Act 2006</i> would affect and impact on existing RTA policies and network planning and s138 of the <i>Roads Act 1993</i></li> <li>• Notify the RTA of works within 100 metres of traffic signals</li> </ul>	Section 8.1
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threatened species, low level risk, however, there may be isolated remnants</li> <li>• Aboriginal heritage, low level risk</li> <li>• Noise impacts during construction</li> <li>• Erosion and sedimentation controls, especially at waterway crossings</li> <li>• Licensing requirements the need for construction and/or operation licences by the appropriate regulatory authority</li> </ul>	Sections 3.3.4, 8.2, 8.3 & 8.5, 9.1, 9.2
RailCorp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works within the rail corridor to be closely managed. Large amount of detail required to obtain approval from RailCorp for works within the rail corridor and lengthy approval process</li> <li>• Works within the rail corridor to occur during rail possessions</li> <li>• Rail tracks are sensitive to vertical movement and, therefore, pipe bursting not permitted at Clyde</li> </ul>	Section 8.1
Bankstown City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Access to recycled water for Council use - de-ionised water may therefore be unsuitable</li> <li>• Potential construction traffic and noise impacts on Woodville Road</li> </ul>	Section 8.1 & 8.2
Parramatta City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duck Creek Floodplain Risk Study and Estuary Management Plan</li> <li>• Potential for hexavalent chromium contamination of soils along the alignment within Rosehill and Camellia</li> <li>• Potential construction traffic, noise and local business impacts</li> <li>• Potential heritage impacts</li> <li>• The condition of Council assets before and after the construction works – ensure damage to assets is repaired</li> </ul>	Section 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 9.2
Fairfield City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential construction impacts, particularly noise and traffic</li> <li>• Community engagement and ways in which the proposal could benefit the community such as enabling landowners to access recycled water potential. Access to recycled water for Council use (street cleaning).</li> </ul>	Section 8.1 & 8.2

- Outline the community consultation approach and invite the general managers to attend, and
- To offer to attend a local council meeting to give a brief presentation to councillors and interested council personnel.

At the time of writing, no response had been received from any of the general managers.

### 2.3 Utilities

At this stage of the project, consultation between Alinta and relevant utilities has largely been 'Dial Before You Dig' searches undertaken by Alinta. This information has been used by Alinta in determining suitable pipeline network alignment options that minimise direct impacts to major utility assets.

Further consultation will occur with potentially affected utilities such as Sydney Water Corporation, Optus, Telstra, Energy Australia and Integral Energy during the detailed design phase and throughout the construction process as required. Consultation would focus on potential impacts to significant utility assets due to the proposal.

### 2.4 State Government agency consultation

Consultation between the Department of Water and Energy and Alinta has been ongoing throughout the entire environmental assessment process regarding the development of the NSW *Water Industry Competition Act 2006*, the associated regulation(s) and licensing requirements of the scheme. Ongoing consultation between Alinta and the Department of Water and Energy would occur throughout the construction and operation of the proposed scheme.

During the project feasibility phase, discussions occurred between RTA and Alinta regarding the proposal to undertake pipe cracking and insertion along Woodville Road and other proposed works in Parramatta Road. Appropriate traffic management, working hours and road integrity issues were a feature of these discussions.

Ongoing consultation with RailCorp has been occurring throughout the life of the project regarding the proposed railway crossings at Yennora, Clyde and Camellia. Formal applications have been submitted to RailCorp. Alinta is in the process of working through the technical issues with RailCorp in accordance with their approvals process.

Letters and emails were sent to relevant government agencies including Department of Environment and Conservation, Department of Health and Department of Primary Industries (refer to Appendix 3 for a copy of related correspondence).

The purpose of these letters was to seek feedback from the agencies/departments in order to assist in the preparation of the environmental assessment prior to submission. Nearly all letters were accompanied by a copy of the route design plans, the preliminary environmental assessment report and a community newsletter where appropriate.

All letters requested that an agency representative review the proposed scheme and provide comments. The letters also stated that members of the project team were available on request to discuss the project further.

Alinta received feedback from the Department of Environment and Climate Change, who were interested in licensing requirements.

The Department of Primary Industries indicated that it would review and make comment on the Environmental Assessment at the request of the Department of Planning (Note: refer PORRW-GEN-0037).

The NSW Department of Health indicated that Alinta should produce a risk assessment document in accordance with the *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risk (Phase 1) 2006*. (Note: refer PORRW-GEN-0038).

Refer to Appendix 4 for a copy of the departments' responses.

## 3 Community consultation

### 3.1 Internal stakeholder and risk analysis workshop

An internal stakeholder and risk analysis workshop was held at Alinta offices on 30 October 2007. Participants included Parsons Brinckerhoff, Sydney Water, Alinta, Veolia and Elton Consulting.

The purpose of the workshop was to identify stakeholder groups and issues of interest, clarify project negotiables and key messages, discuss the preferred consultation approach and the roles, responsibilities and communication protocols between project team members.

### 3.2 Stakeholder analysis and route survey

A stakeholder analysis was undertaken to identify all key stakeholders for the project including local businesses/industries, special interest groups, community and educational facilities, care and health services, key individuals in Council (both elected and officers) and other local groups who needed to be aware of, or involved in, the project.

In addition, an initial 'walk of the route' was undertaken in order to get a feel for the community and stakeholders 'on the ground' and identify various sensitive receptors along the route. The route survey helped to identify sites such as schools, nursing homes, shopping areas, busy intersections, community facilities, sensitive land uses and other sites and associated stakeholders who may be impacted by the project. A copy of the route survey is located at Appendix 5.

#### 3.2.1 Establishment of project database and catchment area

A contact and issues database (*Consultation Manager*) was set up to manage the contact details, contacts made and the issues raised by stakeholders and community members. All contacts made with the project team were and will continue to be recorded in the database for the life of the project.

An appropriate project catchment area for information distribution was developed. The criteria used to define the distribution area were residential properties, business and industries that

fall within 500 metres to one kilometre of the proposed recycled water main (refer to Appendix 6 for a copy of the distribution catchment).

### 3.3 Consultation process

A range of communication tools were used during the consultation process to inform and update the community about the proposed development and to invite public participation and comment.

Given the area affected by construction covers four very ethnically diverse localities, the majority of published material (newsletter, public advertisements and sections of the website) was translated into six different languages (Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Spanish and Vietnamese).

#### 3.3.1 Newsletter

A newsletter was prepared and distributed to 24,500 properties between 17 to 19 March in the defined distribution area. These were mostly industries, businesses and private residential dwellings.

The newsletter provided an overview of the project and the environmental assessment process (a copy of the newsletter is provided in Appendix 7).

The newsletter advertised the date, time and location of three community information and feedback sessions as well as a project enquiry line (and interpreter service) for people to call in relation the project.

#### 3.3.2 North Street residents' letters

Individual letters were sent to residents living in North Street. The letter provided an overview of the proposal and invited residents to attend the community information and feedback sessions. Residents were also invited to discuss the proposal in more detail directly with a member of the project team via a one-on-one meeting.

A copy of the letter is provided in Appendix 8.

At the time of writing, Alinta received no enquiries from these residents.

#### 3.3.3 Print advertising

Print advertising was used to advise the public about the project.

A series of advertisements were placed in the local and ethnic press on 18, 19, 20 and 21 May 2008 (refer to Appendix 9 for a list of newspapers). The advertisements provided:

- A brief description of the proposal

- The date, time and location of the community information and feedback sessions
- The purpose of the community information and feedback sessions
- The project website address.

A copy of the advertisement is provided in Appendix 10.

### 3.3.4 Website

A project website was launched in late February 2008 ([www.rosehillrecycledwaterscheme.com.au](http://www.rosehillrecycledwaterscheme.com.au)).

The website contains a project overview, route information, frequently asked questions, fact sheets, multi lingual material and maps showing the proposed route of the scheme for download. The website will continue to be updated as the project progresses and will be maintained for the life of the project.

The website also contains a project team email address (rosehill@alinta.net.au), independently monitored by Alinta to provide a feedback function until the end of May. The website received emails.

### 3.3.5 Community enquiry line

A 24-hour / seven day a week community enquiry line (1800 790 722) was advertised widely to the community as a means of obtaining further information about the project. A 24-hour – emergency service number (131 909) was also advertised.

A project enquiry line, including an interpreter service, was advertised in the newsletter, website and newspaper advertisements to provide the community with an opportunity to discuss the project, ask questions, or seek further information.

Up until the end of May, a total of two calls about the proposal were made to the enquiry line.

One call was from a local Granville resident regarding potential traffic impacts and access restriction to his property in Kendall Street, Clyde. An Alinta representative provided them with a brief description of the project, potential impacts and likely mitigation measures and pre-construction notifications. A record of the contact details was kept for future consultation activities.

The other call was from a representative of Parramatta Raceway requesting to become a customer for the recycled water. This caller was referred to AquaNet Sydney, the proposed retailer of the recycled water.

### 3.3.6 Community information and feedback sessions

Three community information and feedback sessions were held during the planning, design and assessment phase of the project. The dates, times and locations are noted below:

- *Saturday 29 March between 11.00am-2.00pm.* Fairfield Community Centre, 25 Barbara Street, Fairfield
- *Thursday 3 April between 6.00pm-9.00pm.* Granville Youth and Community Recreation Centre, 3A Memorial Drive, Granville
- *Saturday 5 April between 11.00am-2.00pm.* Guildford Community Centre, 90 O'Neill Street, Guildford

Elton Consulting facilitated and managed the community, information and feedback sessions and independently collated and analysed feedback.

The sessions were open house meetings and attendees were offered a free sausage or sandwich. Members of the public were invited to view the route maps, ask questions and make comment to members of the project team. The sessions presented information about the scheme and the outcomes of the environmental assessment.

A reply paid feedback form provided an additional avenue for community feedback. A copy of the feedback form is provided in Appendix 11.

The presentation materials used at each of the sessions included 21 A0 storyboards with images and explanatory text on:

- Welcome and purpose of the session and a detailed map of the scheme
- Project overview outlining the scheme and proposed construction activities
- Strategic context of the proposal, in relation to the NSW Government's 2006 Metropolitan Water Plan for long term water management in Sydney
- Details on the planning process including a diagram highlighting the Part 3A Planning process
- Details of the proposed location of the water recycling plant, a photomontage presenting a view of the water recycling plant (once constructed) and a figure outlining components in the water recycling process

- Overview of the distribution system and route and detailed maps showing the proposed recycled water distribution network route
- Details and photographs of the construction techniques such as case boring, trenching and horizontal directional drilling
- Overview of the environmental assessment process and construction timing
- Details on traffic and transport impacts and mitigation measures such as case boring under Parramatta Road at Kendall Street to reduce the impact of construction on traffic flows
- Overview of noise and vibration impacts during construction and proposed mitigation measures
- Information regarding potential visual and odour impacts and various photomontages presenting views of the water recycling plant before and after construction
- Information on potential social impacts to individuals, businesses and the wider community along the pipeline route
- Flora and fauna biodiversity impacts
- Information regarding the implementation of the hazard and risk management plan
- Details of the proposed consultation activities throughout the construction process
- Next steps in the planning process and details of the anticipated exhibition phase.

Appendix 11 contains a copy of the story boards.

Approximately six project team members were present at each of the community information and feedback sessions. Members of the project team included:

- Alinta Asset Management (3) Pty Ltd – network construction, operation and overall project management
- AquaNet Sydney – intended retailer of the recycled water
- Veolia Water – builders and operators of the water recycling plant
- Parsons Brinckerhoff – environmental assessment
- Elton Consulting – community consultation and social impact assessment

Approximately 23 people attended the community information and feedback sessions.

A total of eight feedback forms were returned to Elton Consulting by 28 April 2008. Issues raised on these forms are noted in section 3.4 and Table 2.

### 3.4 Community issues

The consultation process identified factors which were considered to be important for achieving positive outcomes for the project or that people felt needed to be considered during the next phase of planning. A number of different environmental concerns were raised by individuals. The main issues were as follows:

- Impacts on flora and fauna, particularly in the area surrounding the Fairfield Sewage Treatment Plant
- Noise and vibration issues during construction and operation
- Property depreciation and visual amenity impacts
- Safety impacts during construction, especially the bike path in North Street and East Parade

Table 2 details the issues identified through the consultation. These issues were fed back to the project team and considered against the detailed technical investigations undertaken for the environmental assessment.

In general, consultations identified support for the overall aim of the proposed scheme, that is, to supply recycled water for industrial and irrigation use to help reduce the pressure on Sydney's drinking water supply. Attendees expressed a mixed response as to whether private sector involvement and competition in the water industry would lead to better provision of water services.

The majority of attendees felt that their knowledge and understanding of the environmental and social impacts associated with the proposal had improved through attending the community information and feedback session.

All participants were either residents or property owners and felt that the construction and operation of the scheme would have either a medium to low impact on their daily life.

Six attendees learnt about the community information and feedback session through a newsletter in their mailbox, one through walking past the presentation and another through an advertisement in the local paper.

**Table 2 - Summary of issues identified through community information and feedback sessions**

Issue	Details of issue	Area addressed in EA/design response
Noise and vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern expressed regarding noise from trucks and machinery during construction</li> <li>Clarification sought regarding the duration of construction time on North Street</li> <li>Suggestion to work within reasonable hours such as 8.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday only</li> </ul>	Section 8.2
Flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern conveyed regarding the impact on birdlife, such as kookaburras, galahs, parrots and cockatoos in North Street/East Parade land</li> <li>General feeling conveyed that bird life in the land surrounding the Fairfield Sewage Treatment Plant has increased since the land has been vacant</li> <li>Suggestion to use recycled water in parks and the golf course to plant trees/shrubs/flowers in order to attract native fauna to the area</li> <li>General statement that there would be little impact on the flora and fauna as the area is already urban and industrial</li> <li>Request not to disturb the colony of Bellbirds living in the trees near the Fairfield Sewage Treatment Plant</li> <li>Concern conveyed that the scheme would reduce healthy vegetation and birdlife in the area</li> <li>Unease expressed regarding possible subsidence in soft soils near Prospect Creek</li> </ul>	Section 8.3
Traffic, transport and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong concern expressed regarding potential traffic disruption</li> <li>Suggestion to control traffic in North Street and Orchard Road, Fairfield as there are only two exit/entries points</li> <li>Concern conveyed regarding possible disruption at Yennora railway station</li> <li>Interest expressed regarding rerouting traffic on Woodville Road</li> <li>Concern expressed regarding blocking driveways with trucks and equipment and disturbing access</li> </ul>	Section 8.1
Visual and odour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request to plant more trees in front of water tanks to make them less visible. Further suggestion to build them underground</li> <li>Concern expressed regarding the sightliness of the water tanks and request to further shield them from view</li> </ul>	Section 8.7
Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request to undertake constant quality control of treated water for coliforms</li> </ul>	Section 8.5
Property depreciation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Street resident expressed concern regarding property depreciation</li> </ul>	Section 8.8
Health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggestion to address safety issues associated with construction on North Street and East Parade – a lot of children and adults use the bike path</li> </ul>	Section 8.6
Miscellaneous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General point raised that local residents will find it difficult to understand the aims and methodology of the project</li> </ul>	various

Issue	Details of issue	Area addressed in EA/design response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion to be careful of overhead powerlines</li> <li>• Enthusiasm for the scheme and the aim of the project, to reduce pressure on Sydney's drinking water</li> <li>• Clarification sought as to whether water rates will decrease</li> <li>• One resident strongly opposed the project and expressed a lack of trust in the Government</li> <li>• Clarification sought as to whether the scheme would expand to supply residential properties in the future</li> <li>• Suggestion to include more local newspaper advertisements and highly visible street signage. Further suggestion to do a letter box drop when construction commences.</li> </ul>	

# 4 Community Relations

Given the small response to the community information and feedback sessions, Alinta will ensure that proactive community relations activities are undertaken during construction to establish open working relationships with the community and keep them informed as the project progresses.

## 4.1 Community relations approach

Closer to construction, a community relations management plan will be developed to outline activities that will ensure that the community is kept well informed throughout the construction process. This community relations plan will provide the framework, policy and procedures that will direct all communications and interfaces with customers and key stakeholders including residents and property owners for the Rosehill recycled water scheme.

A number of activities are proposed to ensure the community is kept well informed during the construction process:

- Community pre-construction surveys with property owners along the route, including industrial and commercial stakeholders such as Parramatta City Raceway, Mitsubishi, TAFE and Shell
- Public announcements via local newspapers
- Fact sheets
- Newsletters
- Free call 1800 community contact enquiry line
- Translation and interpreter services
- Website with up-to-date information about the project
- Notifications prior to and post construction
- Weekly construction updates to key project stakeholders (councils, emergency services, bus operators etc)
- Community, business and stakeholder satisfaction surveys.

## 4.2 Community relations principles

The principles of the community relations activities will be to:

- Build and maintain a positive interface with the community
- Develop flexible information delivery systems that are able to work ahead of and respond to changes in the construction schedule
- Provide timely, relevant and targeted information
- Identify and report community issues and special needs so as to build solutions into the construction schedule in advance where possible
- Respond in an effective manner to individual concerns
- Record community relations activities in a data management system (*Consultation Manager*)
- Measure and assess community relations activities for effectiveness and relevance.

## 5 Summary

Overall, the feedback from community consultation indicated general support for the proposed Rosehill Recycled Water Scheme. Feedback from community stakeholders tended to indicate an interest in being kept informed of the progress of the project, rather than expressing any concerns, opinions or suggestions.

However, some community stakeholders did express specific concerns and these were mainly related to environmental impacts, as outlined in Table 2. Positive comments were received in relation to the aim of the project to reduce pressure on Sydney's drinking water.

Comments received from key government agencies and regulators focused on issues pertaining to the design requirements and impacts on the environment.

The issues raised have been addressed in relevant parts of the environmental assessment and appropriate mitigation strategies developed. The potential social impacts of the scheme are discussed in Section 8.8/Appendix E of the Environmental Assessment.

Stakeholders were advised that the planning process would provide further opportunity for community input during the exhibition stage.

A second newsletter will be developed and distributed advising local residents and businesses that the environmental assessment is on exhibition.

## 6 Next steps for consultation

### 6.1 Public exhibition

The Department of Planning will place the environmental assessment on public exhibition for at least 30 days. During the exhibition period, submissions will be invited from relevant agencies and members of the public.

The Department of Planning will provide Alinta with a copy of the submissions or summary of the issues raised in the submissions. Alinta will be asked to respond to these issues and may modify the project and the draft statement of commitments to minimise impacts on the environment if required.

If the project is modified in response to issues raised, a preferred project report may be required to describe the scope of the revised project. The Director General of the Department of Planning may require that this report be made publicly available.

### 6.2 Assessment and determination

Following the exhibition period, the Department of Planning will, on behalf of the Minister for Planning, review the submissions received through the environmental assessment. Once the Department of Planning has completed its assessment, a draft assessment report will be prepared for the Director General of the Department of Planning, which may include recommended conditions of approval.

The recommended conditions will refer to the statement of commitments and may modify them and/or add additional conditions.

The assessment report will then be submitted to the Minister for Planning for determination. The Minister may refuse the project, or approve it with any conditions considered appropriate. The Minister's determination and the Director General's report will be published on the Department of Planning's web site immediately following determination (see [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)).

Consultation with the community and other stakeholders will be ongoing during future stages of the project.