

5. Engagement

5.1 Introduction

Section 5 of the EIS presents the engagement undertaken during preparation of the EIS. The following subsections present an overview of engagement undertaken between the exhibition of the EIS in May and June 2024 and finalisation of this document in June 2025.

5.2 Community Engagement and Views

Since exhibition of the EIS, the Applicant has undertaken a range of community engagement activities, both formal and informal. **Table 5.1** presents a summary of the more substantive engagement undertaken. In addition to the consultation described below, the Applicant has met and consulted informally with a wide range of community members and landholders in relation to matters including land access, employment opportunities and requests for support for a range of community organisations.

Table 5.1
Community Engagement – June 2024 to August 2025

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Date	Engagement Methodology, Attendees and Matters Discussed
June and July 2024	The Applicant met with the owners of Nulla, Bunnerungie, Coleraine and Glen Esk Stations to discuss concerns related to submissions each of those individuals made in relation to the EIS and the proposed Good Neighbour Agreements
20 August	The Applicant and RWC met with the owner of Bunnerungie to further discuss the Project, including potential impacts associated with intersection lighting requested by Transport for NSW at the upgraded intersection of Anabranth Mail Road and the Silver City Highway.
22 August 2024	The Applicant and RWC attended the opening of the Applicant’s new office in Wentworth, with approximately 30 community members in attendance. Matters discussed included employment and business opportunities, timing for commencement of the Project
23 and 24 August 2024	The Applicant continued its past practice of manning a stall at the Wentworth Show. The Applicant spoke with approximately 24 individuals or groups of individuals during the Show in relation to a range of matters including employment and business opportunities, timing for commencement of the Project and concerns related to water-related impacts on Lake Victoria as well as radiation, biosecurity, traffic and noise-related impacts.
4 September 2024	The Applicant met with the owners of Nulla Station to discuss matters related fencing and frustration in relation to a perceived breakdown in communication associated with a change of the Applicant’s personnel.
1 October 2024	The Applicant spoke with the owner of Dunedin Park in relation to groundwater impacts. A hardcopy of the groundwater assessment was provided.
October 2024 to February 2025	The Applicant consulted with the owners of Nulla Station in relation to biodiversity field work being undertaken at that time.
16 and 17 December 2024	The Applicant advised surrounding landholders of the proposed Amendment to the project via email.

Table 5.1 (Cont'd)
Community Engagement – June 2024 to August 2025

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Date	Engagement Methodology, Attendees and Matters Discussed
14 May 2025	The Applicant contacted surrounding landholders to offer individual meetings with RWC on 14 May 2025 to discuss the Amendment Report. No requests to meet on that day were received, however, the owners of Belmore Station requested a meeting for 28 May 2025 (see below)
15 May 2025	<p>The Applicant held a community drop in session at its office in Wentworth from 11am to 6pm, with the final community member departing at 7:30pm. Approximately 25 community members attended, including but not limited to representatives of Huntingfield, Warrananga, Dunedin Park Stations, the local Aboriginal community and interested members of the public. A wide range of matters were discussed, with RWC providing an update on the amended Project and impact assessments completed to date, and answering questions in relation to the proposed activities. Matters raised by the community members included the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater impacts, in particular potential impacts to Lake Victoria, contamination of surface water by saline groundwater. • Radiation, in particular impacts to humans and livestock. • Consultation with the Aboriginal community and the location of the “Water Jelly” settlement (see Section 6.3). • Amenity impacts, including those related to noise and air quality. • Biodiversity impacts and potential biodiversity offset agreements. • Rehabilitation and liability in the event that rehabilitation operations are not successful.
28 May 2025	<p>The Applicant and RWC met with the owners of Belmore Station via Teams. RWC provided an update on the amended Project and responded to questions. Matters discussed included the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiation, in particular in relation to impacts to livestock. • Groundwater, with the Applicant committing to monitor bore GW004716 within Belmore Station and seek further clarification from the groundwater consultant in relation to the risk of cracking of the clay lining of surface water dams as a result of groundwater drawdown. • Traffic, including a commitment by the Applicant to consult with users of Nulla Road during preparation of the Traffic Management Plan. • Biosecurity – including a commitment to comply with Belmore Station’s Biosecurity Plan when accessing that property • Surface water, including a commitment to undertake pre-mining survey of dams on Belmore Station

In addition to the above, the Applicant has met with and agreed to support the following community groups and organisations.

- Wentworth Show Society.
- Wentworth District Racing Club.
- Wentworth Bowls Club.
- Wentworth Preschool.
- School of the Air.
- Lower Anabranche Sporting & Landcare Group Annual Picnic & Sports Day.

5.3 Government Agency Engagement

The Applicant, RWC and the specialist consultants engaged to assess the Project have consulted extensively with a range of government agencies since exhibition of the EIS. This consultation may be summarised as follows.

- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).
The Applicant and RWC have met with DPHI on a number of occasions, including on 12 September 2024 (via Teams), 21 November 2024 (on site) and 1 May 2025 (via Teams). The purpose of the meetings were to keep the Department updated on the status of the Amendment Report and updated specialist assessments.
- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW)
The Applicant, its biodiversity consultant, Biodiversity Australia and RWC has met with NSW DCCEEW in relation to biodiversity-related matters on numerous occasions, including on site on 21 November 2024 to discuss preparation of the amended BDAR. Further requests for information in relation to technical aspects of the of assessment were provided and responses received by Biodiversity Australia.
In addition, the Applicant met with NSW DCCEEW in relation to groundwater-related allocations on 13 August 2024, as well as subsequently.
- Regional NSW
The Applicant and RWC met with representatives of the Resources Regulator on 8 May 2025 and Mining, Exploration and Geoscience on 12 May 2025. Recommendation in relation to rehabilitation from the Resources Regulator have been incorporated into the amended Project and information in relation to price assumptions relied upon by the Applicant have been provided confidentially to Mining, Exploration and Geoscience.
- Transport for NSW
The Applicant's traffic consultant, Tonkin met and corresponded with Transport for NSW in relation to the conceptual design of the upgraded Anabranh Mail Road and Silver City Highway intersection, with Transport for NSW confirming acceptance of the concept design presented in Tonkin (2025).
- Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Cth DCCEEW)
The Applicant and RWC met with the Cth DCCEEW on multiple occasions in relation to a referral of the Project under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Cth DCCEEW have subsequently advised that the Project should be referred under the EPBC Act and the Applicant will submit that referral shortly.

- Broken Hill City and Wentworth Shire Councils

The Applicant met with both Councils on multiple occasions since exhibition of the EIS to discuss a range of matters, including:

- upgrading and maintenance of roads that would be affected by the Project;
- use of the Rail Facility in Broken Hill;
- transportation of Monazite Product through Broken Hill; and
- terms for Planning Agreements with each Council.