

Community consultation by Edify has been disappointing in its engagement with stakeholders and the local community, the project manager engagement style could benefit from further training and development and Edify's city centric approach to regional and rural communities needs has been hampered to developing ongoing and collaborative working relationships.

- During the development stage an approach to key landholders that allowed more time for critical conflict discussions to occur would also have been helpful, especially if they facilitated paths to transparency and open discussion, and in turn built trust and equity with the Edify representative. Many of the landowners were left disillusioned, angry and upset by the forthright declarations of how the project was going to occur and left feeling that their concerns of the impacts were invalid.
- Adjoining property owners, neighbours and other key stakeholders not informed personally by Edify, for example at their community consultation meeting I was unable to find any reference to this upcoming meeting on Forbes Shire Website, the local newspaper, on facebook or straight out googling.
- Engagement was also problematic in that Edify took little consideration into the needs of local time frames during the sowing and harvest periods for engagement with key stakeholders, and I would recommend that engaging with rural farming communities is best done during quieter times of the year for any future proposals by Edify if they wish to build community capacity.
- Lack of transparency and withholding of critical data in the engagement with direct property owners to the proposed sites, personally finding out the sites proposals for the project by independent contractors than the project manager was counterintuitive to engagement by all parties.
- Community participation initiatives need to have a broader scope in their application and benefit to the directly impacted stakeholders and their participation and engagement in any future local initiatives and sponsorship projects. A local committee that would include members affected directly by the impact and that are local to the area that understands its own community and the needs that would make significant impacts and benefits from any investment, sponsorship or community engagement functions.
- The benefits claimed for the local community can largely only be measured as significant in the construction stages of the development for the Forbes Shire Region. How has the figure of 30% of capital deployed staying in the local area been reached? As none of the materials required are produced locally and with the current labour shortage in the area this figure appears highly inflated.
- The lack of extensive detail in the submission makes it challenging for stakeholders to address concerns and also to alleviate fears that any challenges will be addressed.

- The ongoing and current shortage of labour locally and Edify competing for this labour market with a workforce of 250 required short term does not benefit the long term growth in supporting and growing existing local communities that longer term investment would generate and employment of locals by locals.
- The lack of available housing and accommodation currently in an already undersupplied market, also suggests that the research and development by Edify have not engaged in enough consultation and realistic expectations of the availability of services needed to support its application in regional communities.
- Timetabling development for deliveries and staffing arrivals and departures to limit impact on the school bus service and the safety of our communities children should also be included in the proposal.
- I have concerns about Paytens Bridge Road not supporting the increased traffic by Edify that would be needed for the build stage of the project, and that their assessment of the road has not been extensive enough in its research.

I am in opposition to this project being built, due to the reasons above and that Edify has currently not allayed many of the complaints and concerns in the development stage of the project. I feel that further consultation and detailed planning is needed with the local community, landowners directly affected and key stakeholders in particular Forbes Shire Council for this Edify project. Edify would also need to take action in building positive and transparent relationships with the key stakeholders to incorporate the importance of local knowledge and experience that exists in the local community around key areas of concern and the area of Peninsula at Paytens Bridge.