



## SECTION 5.0

### **Consultation and Identification of Environment and Community Issues**

## 5.0 Consultation and Identification of Environment and Community Issues

### 5.1 Consultation

Consultation with the community, government authorities and other relevant stakeholders has been undertaken by PWCS throughout 2009. The consultation process aimed to inform stakeholders about the Project and to identify key issues to be investigated and assessed. Further details on the community and agency consultation undertaken for the Project are outlined below.

#### 5.1.1 Authority Consultation

A number of key government authorities were consulted throughout the assessment period to confirm:

- the application of the Section 75W approval path for the Project;
- the key agency issues for assessment; and
- specific issues relevant to the Project.

Project briefings were provided to DoP and a number of other key government agencies, as outlined in **Table 5.1**.

Following the lodgement of the Project Application, DoP provided the Preliminary Environmental Assessment to a number of relevant agencies to provide feedback for the preparation of the DGRs. DoP considered feedback from these agencies prior to issuing the DGRs for the EA (refer to **Appendix 2**).

**Table 5.1 – Summary of Agency Consultation**

Agency	Date	Purpose
DoP	6 December 2008	To provide initial Stage 4 Project briefing to DoP and confirm proposed approval path
	31 March 2009	DoP issue DGRs for the Stage 4 Project
	5 November 2009	DoP attended a site visit at KCT including a briefing on the Stage 4 Project
DECCW	February 2009	To provide initial project briefing and seek feedback on relevant DECCW issues for the EA
	7 July 2009	Discussion of specific requirements of the DGRs for the Stage 4 Project
NSW Maritime	February 2009	To provide initial project briefing and seek feedback on relevant NSW Maritime issues for the EA
Newcastle Port Corporation (NPC)	February 2009	To provide initial project briefing and seek feedback on relevant NPC issues for the EA

A project briefing was offered to the RTA in February 2009. The RTA advised of their unavailability to attend this meeting. Meetings were also sought with the Department of Industry and Investment (DII), NCC and Department of Water and Environment (DWE) in October 2009. These agencies advised of their unavailability to attend meetings at the time

and a standing offer was made to meet to discuss any queries they may have during review of the EA.

In addition to the specific meetings shown in **Table 5.1**, there was extensive correspondence, telephone calls and discussions with numerous agencies throughout the assessment process.

The ARTC and NSW Rail Infrastructure Corporation (RIC), along with PWCS and other members, form part of the Hunter Valley Coal Chain Coordinator (HVCCC). The HVCCC is a cooperative organisation responsible for planning all coal exports for the Hunter Valley coal industry. Through this forum PWCS advised ARTC and RIC the Project and the integrated infrastructure requirements to facilitate coal export capacity. In addition, PWCS has consulted ARTC specifically in relation to the rail transport capacity enhancement and improvement strategy and the specific requirements of additional arrival and departure tracks to the fourth dump station.

### **5.1.2 Community Consultation**

PWCS maintains an ongoing and active relationship with the local community by participation in a number of community forums and Council committees. PWCS also maintains a 24 hour phone enquiry line to allow notification of environmental and community issues. All notifications are recorded on a community enquiry register. In the previous six years of the operation, there have been a very low number of enquiries from the community. During 2008 and 2009, PWCS received four community enquiries, however investigation revealed that these were not attributable to PWCS operations.

PWCS also maintains strong relationships and communications with industrial neighbours.

For the neighbouring communities of Fern Bay, Stockton and Mayfield and industrial neighbours, the proposed changes to PWCS's existing operations, i.e. Stage 4 Project, will be of interest as they are significant stakeholders in the activities of PWCS. PWCS has conducted a comprehensive community consultation process specifically targeting these stakeholders to advise them of the Stage 4 Project and seek feedback on the issues addressed in the EA.

Those consulted include:

#### ***Neighbouring Industry – Existing and Proposed***

- Cargill Oil
- Kooragang Bulk Facilities
- Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG)
- Orica
- Boral Group
- Origin Energy
- Mountain Industries
- Pacific Carbon
- Cleanaway

- Transpacific
- Port Hunter Commodities

### **Community**

- Environmental Protection and Pollution Advisory Committee (EPAPAC)
- Fern Bay Community
- Citizens and Kooragang Alliance (CAKA)
- Stockton Community representatives
- Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project
- Hunter Coastal and Estuary Management Committee
- Mayfield Resident Action Group
- Carrington Residents

### **PWCS**

- Employees, contractors and suppliers.

In addition, the Newcastle Business Club and Hunter Business Chamber have been briefed in order to inform a wider network of the local business community of the Project.

The aim of consultation with the stakeholders was to notify, inform and receive feedback from a cross-section of the local community and neighbours to assist in the identification of key environmental and community issues. PWCS utilised a range of approaches for the community consultation process as outlined in **Table 5.2**.

**Table 5.2 – Community Consultation Methods**

<b>Method</b>	<b>Description</b>
Individual Briefing Meetings to Neighbouring Industry	PWCS undertook a number of briefing meetings with existing and proposed neighbouring industry stakeholders to outline the Project. These were carried out by a personal visit to neighbouring sites or through their visitation to the KCT site.
Individual meetings with community groups and representatives	PWCS provided project specific briefings and sought feedback at sessions of the relevant community and environment groups. In addition, individual meetings were held with community representatives who have previously expressed an interest in the ongoing operations of PWCS.
Community Mailout	A newsletter was sent to residents of the Fern Bay area to outline the Project and provide a specific invitation to members of the community to provide feedback on the Project. This method was utilised as this community was not represented in other forums.

PWCS has consulted with a number of the key community representatives and has committed to ongoing consultation with these groups throughout the assessment process.

The primary community issues relating to the proposed Stage 4 Project during the consultation process include:

- noise, particularly at night (refer to **Section 6.3.2** for Noise Assessment);
- dust from KCT operations including health issues associated with dust (refer to **Section 6.3.1** for Air Quality Assessment);
- climate change and the contribution of the Stage 4 Project to global greenhouse gas emissions (refer to **Section 6.4.1** for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Assessment);
- potential impacts to surface water and groundwater quality (refer to **Section 6.3.3** for Water Quality Assessment);
- ecological impacts, particularly in relation to threatened species and the adjacent Kooragang Nature Reserve (KNR) (refer to **Section 6.3.4** for Ecological Assessment);
- construction traffic impacts such as delays for commuters on Kooragang Island (refer to **Section 6.3.6** for Construction Traffic Assessment);
- impacts on visual amenity of the area and colour of the proposed Stage 4 infrastructure (refer to **Section 6.3.5** for Visual Assessment);
- Concern over the number of ships entering Newcastle Port in relation to safety (refer to **Section 6.4.2** for Maritime Safety Assessment).

A Community Information Sheet (CIS) detailing the Project was distributed to Fern Bay residents and PWCS employees in October 2009. The aim of the CIS was to provide community members and employees with information on the Project and key outcomes of the EA process. The CIS also sought feedback on the project and encouraged the community to indicate if they wish to be involved in further consultation. A prepaid self addressed envelope was provided with the CIS to assist those wishing to provide feedback. No feedback from the community has been received to date.

It is intended to maintain an ongoing dialogue with those consulted who have expressed a specific interest in the Project.