

ATLAS-CAMPASPE

Mineral Sands Project

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



SECTION 3 › CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

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3 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CONSULTATION

This section describes the consultation undertaken prior to and during the preparation of this EIS, including a summary of the issues raised by stakeholders. Where relevant, references are provided to the EIS sections and/or specialist appendices where the issues are considered and addressed. Section 3.2 specifically identifies where the design of the Project has been amended in response to specific issues of concern or interest.

3.1.1 Objectives

The level of consultation undertaken during the preparation of this EIS is considered to be in accordance with the DGRs¹ (Attachment 1) and is adequate and appropriate for a State Significant Development under Division 4.1 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

Working with the community with the aim of achieving mutually acceptable outcomes has been encouraged during consultation, consistent with Cristal Mining's safety, health and environmental policy (Section 3.3.1).

Consultation conducted during the preparation of this EIS has provided the opportunity to identify issues of concern or interest to stakeholders and to consider these issues in this EIS.

3.1.2 Request for DGRs

A request for DGRs and Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) was lodged with the DP&I in November 2011. A revised PEA incorporating the Ivanhoe Rail Facility was subsequently lodged with the DP&I in March 2012 (Bemax, 2012b). DGRs were issued by the DP&I on 19 March 2012.

3.1.3 State Members of Parliament

The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP

The Honourable (Hon.) Andrew Stoner Member of Parliament (MP) (NSW Minister for Trade and Investment) was briefed on the Project in June 2011.

¹ It is relevant to note that the DGRs prescribe a consultation requirement with TransGrid. However, the relevant owner and operator of the electricity network is Essential Energy and, therefore, consultation has been undertaken with Essential Energy and not TransGrid.

The Hon. Chris Hartcher MP

The Hon. Chris Hartcher MP (NSW Minister for Resources and Energy) attended an update of the Conceptual Project Development Plan (CPDP) (Section 3.1.4) at a meeting held on 8 September 2011.

The Hon. Duncan Gay MP

Potential opportunities for upgrades to the road network were discussed with the Hon. Duncan Gay MP (NSW Minister for Roads and Ports) at meetings held in February 2012, May 2012 and August 2012.

Mr John Williams MP

Consultation with Mr John Williams MP (NSW State Member for Murray-Darling), was undertaken during the preparation of this EIS. Mr Williams was briefed on the Project at meetings held in June 2011, September 2011, October 2011, February 2012, May 2012 and August 2012.

3.1.4 State Government Agencies

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

An initial meeting to discuss the Project was held with the DP&I on 30 November 2010.

A follow-up meeting was held with the DP&I on 29 August 2011 prior to submission of the request for DGRs in November 2011 and the revised PEA in March 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Project and the proposed environmental assessment process.

Further consultation specific to the Project was conducted with the DP&I between November 2011 and November 2012 during the preparation of the EIS.

Key issues discussed with the DP&I included:

- the proposed biodiversity offset strategy for the Project (Sections 4.6.4 and 4.7.4 and Appendices A and B);
- Aboriginal cultural heritage survey findings within and surrounding the Project area (Section 4.8 and Appendix E);
- key findings of the Hydrogeological and Water Supply Assessment and Surface Water Assessment (Sections 4.4 and 4.5 and Appendices F and G);

- key findings of the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment and Noise Assessment proposed mitigation measures (Sections 4.10, 4.11 and 4.12 and Appendices J and K);
- mineral concentrate transport and transport routes (Section 2.6.6 and Appendix D);
- mineral concentrates and process waste material assessment findings (Sections 2.8.3, 4.13 and 4.15 and Appendix L); and
- the EIS consultation programme (this section).

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

A meeting was held with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) representatives on 3 July 2012 to provide an overview of the Project and to discuss a number of key issues including:

- key findings of the flora and fauna surveys and assessments conducted within the Project area, Mungo National Park and the proposed biodiversity offset area; and
- the proposed biodiversity offset strategy for the Project.

A separate meeting was held with OEH (cultural heritage) representatives on 12 July 2012 to provide an overview of the Project and to discuss the key findings of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

A representative of the OEH also participated in a site visit of the proposed biodiversity offset area on 14 August 2012.

A follow-up meeting was held with the OEH on 20 September 2012. Key issues discussed with the OEH included:

- flora and fauna survey methods and results (Sections 4.6 and 4.7 and Appendices A and B);
- biodiversity values of the proposed biodiversity offset area including threatened species and habitats present in the area (Sections 4.6.4 and 4.7.4 and Appendices A and B);
- potential impacts on threatened species and habitats present in the Project area (Sections 4.6.2 and 4.7.2 and Appendices A and B);
- long-term security and management of the proposed biodiversity offset area (Sections 4.6.4 and 4.7.4);
- Aboriginal cultural heritage survey findings within and surrounding the Project area (Section 4.8 and Appendix E);

- Aboriginal community consultation (Section 3.1.8 and Appendix E);
- avoidance, mitigation and management relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage (Section 4.8.3 and Appendix E); and
- EPBC Act matters (Appendix C).

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Initial discussions were held with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in March 2012 regarding the proposed flora and fauna surveys to be undertaken at Mungo National Park, as part of the flora and fauna assessments for the Project.

A meeting was held with the NPWS on 13 August 2012 to provide an update on the Project and the proposed biodiversity offset strategy. During the meeting, NPWS indicated that the proposed offset could potentially be added to the Mungo National Park but that the transfer could take time.

NSW Heritage Office

Cristal Mining provided a briefing package to the NSW Heritage Office in October 2012 providing an update on the Project and an overview of the assessment findings relevant to non-Aboriginal heritage (Section 4.9 and Appendix E).

NSW Environment Protection Authority

The EPA's comments and specific input to the Project DGRs were documented in a letter dated 31 January 2012.

A meeting was held with the EPA on 23 July 2012 to provide an overview of the Project and to discuss a number of key issues including:

- key findings of the Noise Assessment and Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment and proposed mitigation measures;
- key findings of the Surface Water Assessment;
- proposed surface water collection, storage, processing and disposal systems;
- land contamination investigation findings; and
- mineral concentrate and process waste management.

Key issues raised by the EPA at the meetings were generally consistent with the comments and input to the Project DGRs documented in the letter dated 31 January 2012. In summary these included:

- threatened species and biodiversity offsets (Sections 4.6 and 4.7 and Appendices A and B);

- noise (Section 4.12 and Appendix J);
- air quality (Sections 4.10 and Appendix K);
- groundwater and surface water (Sections 4.4 and 4.5 and Appendices F and G);
- land resources (Section 4.3 and Appendix H);
- Aboriginal cultural heritage (Section 4.8 and Appendix E);
- waste and chemicals (Section 2.8, 2.12 and 4.15); and
- actions that would be taken to avoid or mitigate impacts or compensate for unavoidable impacts (Sections 4, 5 and 7).

NSW Department of Primary Industries

The DPI, including the NSW Office of Water (NOW), NSW Forestry, Agriculture and Fisheries and the DPI-CLD (within the Catchment and Lands Division) were consulted during the preparation of this EIS.

NSW Office of Water

The NOW's comments and specific input to the Project DGRs were documented in a letter dated 18 January 2012.

A meeting was held with the NOW on 23 July 2012 to provide a Project briefing and to discuss the scope and data upon which the groundwater and surface water assessments would be based.

The meeting was used to discuss the following:

- interactions of the Project and potential cumulative impacts;
- proposed approach to groundwater licensing under the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray Darling Basin Porous Rock Groundwater Sources, 2011*;
- harvestable right and assessment of licensing requirements;
- site water balance;
- potential impacts on groundwater dependant ecosystems; and
- proposed Project water management approach.

In follow-up to the meeting, Cristal Mining provided the NOW with a briefing package in October 2012 providing an overview of the Project water supply/balance system and the groundwater model/design used in the Hydrogeological and Water Supply Assessment (Appendix F).

Key issues covered during consultation with the NOW included, but were not limited to:

- site water demands and reliability of water supply (Sections 2.9.2 and 2.9.5 and Appendix F);
- modelling and assessment of groundwater removal and groundwater disposal options both during operations and post-mining (Section 4.4 and Appendix F);
- Project water management system including capture and containment of any potentially contaminated mine site water and water diverting/capturing facilities (Section 2.9.1 and Appendix G);
- consideration of water licensing principles, water sharing plans and their licensing requirements (Attachment 5);
- potential impacts on surface water and groundwater resources, adjacent licensed water users, groundwater dependent ecosystems and basic landholder rights (Sections 4.4 and 4.5 and Appendices F and G); and
- surface water and groundwater monitoring and mitigation measures (Section 4.4.3 and 4.5.3 and Appendices F and G).

NSW Forestry, Agriculture and Fisheries

Cristal Mining provided a briefing package to NSW Forestry, Agriculture and Fisheries in October 2012 providing information on the Project and an overview of the Agricultural Impact Statement findings (Section 4.3 and Appendix H).

Crown Lands Directorate (Catchment and Lands Division)

A meeting was held with representatives of the DPI-CLD (within the Catchment and Lands Division) in Dubbo on 6 August 2012 to provide an overview of the Project and to discuss a number of key issues including:

- land tenure, Development Application area, tenements and zoning (Section 1.1.3); and
- long-term security mechanisms for the proposed biodiversity offset area (Sections 4.6.4 and 4.7.4).

Comments and specific input to the Project DGRs were documented in correspondence from the DPI-CLD dated 22 December 2011.

Division of Resources and Energy (within the NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services)

Cristal Mining presented the CPDP to representatives of the DRE on 30 November 2010. An update on the CPDP was presented to DRE representatives and the Hon. Chris Hartcher MP (NSW Minister for Resources and Energy) at a meeting held on 8 September 2011. The DRE's comments and specific input to the Project DGRs were documented in a letter dated 22 December 2011.

In summary, the issues raised by the DTIRIS were in relation to:

- mining titles (Section 6);
- mineral deposits (Section 2.2);
- Project description information including:
 - mine layouts and scheduling (Sections 2.3 and 2.5.5); and
 - mine infrastructure (Section 2.10);
- key environmental assessment issues including:
 - flora, fauna and ecological attributes of the disturbance area (Sections 4.6 and 4.7 and Appendices A and B);
 - groundwater impacts associated with mining operations and water supply (Section 4.4.2 and Appendix F);
 - impacts on surface water flow regimes (Section 4.5.2 and Appendix G); and
 - land use issues and impacts including soil characterisation and land capability characteristics of the Project area (Section 4.3 and Appendix H);
- rehabilitation and mine closure including:
 - rehabilitation objectives (Section 5.2);
 - final voids and waste material emplacements (Section 5.3);
 - final land use (Section 5.3.1);
 - performance standards and completion criteria (Section 5.7.1);
 - monitoring (Section 5.7) and research (Section 5.7.2);
 - post-closure maintenance (Section 5.8); and
 - MOP/rehabilitation management plan (Section 5.6).

A follow-up meeting was also held with representatives of the DRE on 17 September 2012. Key issues discussed with the DRE included:

- mining titles;
- mineral deposits;
- mine layouts and scheduling, including progressive mine development plans which had changed since the CPDP; and
- rehabilitation and mine closure.

Transport for NSW (including Centre for Transport Planning and Roads and Maritime Services)

Centre for Transport Planning

Cristal Mining provided a briefing package to the Centre for Transport Planning in October 2012 providing information on the Project (including the key findings of the Road Transport Assessment) and offering a further briefing if requested.

Roads and Maritime Services

The RMS' comments and specific input to the Project DGRs were documented in a letter dated 21 December 2011.

A meeting with representatives of the RMS was held on 7 March 2012 to provide a Project briefing. A follow-up meeting was held on 23 July 2012 to provide an overview of the Project and to discuss the following:

- roadworks along the mineral concentrate transport route (Section 2.4.10);
- Road Transport Assessment findings (Appendix D); and
- cumulative impact assessment.

In follow-up to the meeting, Cristal Mining provided the RMS with a copy of the Road Safety Audit for the proposed mineral concentrate transport route.

In summary, the issues raised during consultation with the RMS were in relation to:

- road transport and traffic impact assessment requirements including an independent Road Safety Audit (Section 4.13 and Appendix D);
- potential traffic impacts (Section 4.13.2 and Appendix D);

- potential road transport impacts, including impacts on existing road infrastructure (Section 4.13.2 and Appendix D); and
- transport management (Section 4.13.3 and Appendix D).

The issues raised by the RMS have been considered during the preparation of this EIS and specifically addressed in Appendix D.

3.1.5 Local Government Agencies

Balranald Shire Council

Cristal Mining provided initial briefing information about the Project to the BSC in February and March 2011. In follow-up, a meeting was held with the BSC on 19 May 2011 to discuss the Project.

The BSC's comments and specific input to the Project DGRs were documented in correspondence dated 19 January 2012.

Further meetings with the BSC were held in October 2011, February 2012, March 2012 and July 2012 to discuss the Project, the EIS and approvals process.

In follow-up to the meeting held in July 2012, Cristal Mining provided the BSC with a copy of the Road Safety Audit for the proposed mineral concentrate transport route.

Key issues discussed during consultation with the BSC included but were not limited to:

- the Road Transport Assessment findings;
- mineral concentrate transport and transport routes; and
- rehabilitation.

In summary, the issues raised by the BSC during consultation were in relation to:

- potential road transport impacts (Section 4.13.2 and Appendix D);
- cessation of mineral concentrate transport during periods of road closures due to weather events (Section 2.6.6 and Appendix D);
- identification of any necessary road network infrastructure upgrades and maintenance measures (Section 4.13.3 and Appendix D);
- potential socio-economic impacts associated with the construction of the Ivanhoe Rail Facility (Sections 4.16.2 and 4.17.2 and Appendix I); and

- rehabilitation and post-mining land use (Section 5).

Central Darling Shire Council

The CDSC's comments and specific input to the Project DGRs were documented in correspondence dated 9 January 2012.

Meetings were held with the CDSC on 7 October 2011 and 6 March 2012 to discuss the Project, the EIS and approvals process. Further meetings were held with the CDSC in March 2012, July 2012 and August 2012.

In follow-up to the meeting held in July 2012, Cristal Mining provided the CDSC with a copy of the Road Safety Audit for the proposed mineral concentrate transport route.

Key issues discussed during consultation with the CDSC included but were not limited to:

- mineral concentrate transport; and
- the proposed Ivanhoe Rail Facility.

In follow-up to the meeting held in July 2012, Cristal Mining provided the CDSC with a copy of the Road Safety Audit for the proposed mineral concentrate transport route.

In summary, the issues raised by the CDSC during consultation were in relation to:

- potential traffic impacts and the capacity of local and classified road networks (Section 4.13.2 and Appendix D);
- potential traffic noise impacts (Section 4.12.2 and Appendix J);
- identification of any necessary road network infrastructure upgrades and maintenance measures (Section 4.13.3 and Appendix D);
- potential noise and air quality impacts associated with the Ivanhoe Rail Facility (Sections 4.10.2 and 4.12.2 and Appendices J and K);
- potential socio-economic impacts associated with the construction of the Ivanhoe Rail Facility (Sections 4.16.2 and 4.17.2 and Appendix I); and
- potential impacts associated with the transport and handling of process waste materials and mitigation measures (Sections 4.13 and 4.15 and Appendices D, L, N and O).

Broken Hill City Council

The Broken Hill City Council's comments and specific input to the Project DGRs were documented in correspondence dated 21 December 2011.

A meeting was held with the Broken Hill City Council on 31 July 2012 to provide a Project briefing and to discuss the proposed scope of the Noise Assessment (including rail, road traffic and operational noise) and Socio-Economic Assessment.

In summary, the issues raised by the Broken Hill City Council were in relation to:

- potential transport impacts, including any potential impacts from transportation of mineral sands by rail within the Broken Hill City Council area (Appendix D);
- local socio-economic impacts (Section 4.17 and Appendix I); and
- potential impacts on rail crossings in Broken Hill associated with increased rail movements as a result of the Project (Section 4.13.2 and Appendix D).

Lower Murray-Darling Catchment Management Authority

The Lower Murray-Darling Catchment Management Authority's² (CMA) comments and specific input to the Project DGRs were documented in a letter dated 21 December 2011.

A meeting was held with the Lower Murray-Darling CMA on 12 July 2012 to provide a Project briefing and discuss the EIS and approvals process.

The meeting was used to discuss the following:

- proposed approach to the assessment of potential groundwater and surface water impacts;
- proposed approach to the assessment of potential agricultural impacts;
- Aboriginal cultural heritage survey findings within and surrounding the Project area;
- key findings of the flora and fauna surveys and assessments; and
- the proposed biodiversity offset strategy for the Project.

In summary, the issues raised by the Lower Murray-Darling CMA were in relation to:

- identification and survey of items of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance (Section 4.8 and Appendix E);
- biodiversity, native vegetation, threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas and biodiversity offsets (Sections 4.6 and 4.7 and Appendices A and B); and
- long-term security of the proposed biodiversity offset area (Sections 4.6.4 and 4.7.4).

Lachlan Catchment Management Authority

The Ivanhoe Rail Facility is located in the Lachlan catchment. Cristal Mining provided a briefing package to the Lachlan CMA in October 2012 providing an overview of the Project and detailing the key findings of the flora and fauna surveys and assessments relevant to the Ivanhoe Rail Facility (Sections 4.6 and 4.7 and Appendices A and B).

3.1.6 Commonwealth Government Agencies**Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities**

A meeting with the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) was held on 6 June 2012 to discuss the Project and Referral of the Project under the EPBC Act. At the meeting, SEWPaC requested that the Referral consider the values of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area. Cristal Mining subsequently lodged a Referral under the EPBC Act with SEWPaC on 4 July 2012. A follow-up meeting was also held with SEWPaC on 2 August 2012.

During the assessment of the Referral, SEWPaC requested additional information on the following:

- flora and fauna survey effort and habitat clearance for threatened species (letter response provided by Cristal Mining on 18 July 2012);
- potential impacts to the World Heritage and National Heritage values of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area and groundwater connectivity between the Project area and the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area (letter response provided by Cristal Mining on 20 July 2012);

² The Lower Murray-Darling CMA has since merged with the Murray CMA and Western CMA.

- radioactivity of the mineral concentrate and MSP process waste (letter response provided by Cristal Mining on 10 August 2012); and
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and potential impacts to the World Heritage and National Heritage values of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area (letter response provided by Cristal Mining on 17 August 2012).

Cristal Mining also provided SEWPaC with additional information about the description of the Action (i.e. the revised Ivanhoe Rail Facility location) in the letter dated 17 August 2012.

On 14 September 2012, a delegate of the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Commonwealth Minister) declared the Project to be a 'controlled action' for the purposes of the EPBC Act, due to potential impacts on the following controlling provisions under Part 3 of the EPBC Act:

- World Heritage Properties (section 12 of the EPBC Act);
- National Heritage Places (section 15B of the EPBC Act);
- listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A of the EPBC Act); and
- listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A of the EPBC Act).

A copy of the controlled action decision is provided in Appendix C.

The delegate of the Commonwealth Minister also determined on 17 September 2012 that the proposed action is to be assessed by accredited assessment under the EP&A Act pursuant to section 87(4) of the EPBC Act.

Information about the controlled action and its relevant impacts and matters (as outlined in Schedule 4 of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations, 2000* [EPBC Regulations]) is provided in Appendix C along with references to where the applicable content is provided in this EIS.

Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Property Technical Scientific Advisory Committee/Community Management Council

A meeting was held with a representative of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Property Technical Scientific Advisory Committee/Community Management Council on 12 July 2012 to provide a Project briefing and discuss the EIS and approvals process. The meeting was used to discuss the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, including the proposed assessment of potential impacts on the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area and its values.

Cristal Mining provided a presentation on the Project at the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Property Technical Scientific Advisory Committee/Community Management Council meeting held on 15 August 2012. The meeting was used to discuss the following:

- proposed approach to the assessment of potential groundwater and surface water impacts;
- preliminary groundwater modelling results;
- Aboriginal cultural heritage survey findings within and surrounding the Project area;
- key findings of the flora and fauna surveys and assessments;
- potential visual impacts from the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area; and
- the proposed biodiversity offset strategy for the Project.

Key issues raised by the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Property Technical Scientific Advisory Committee/Community Management Council were in relation to:

- potential visual impacts at sensitive viewpoints within the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area (including Mungo National Park) (Section 4.14.2);
- potential impacts associated with the transport and handling of mineral concentrate and process waste materials and mitigation measures (Sections 4.13 and 4.15 and Appendices D, L, N and O);
- final landform (Section 5);
- long-term security of the proposed biodiversity offset area (Sections 4.6.4 and 4.7.4);
- Aboriginal community consultation (Section 3.1.8);

- potential impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems (Sections 4.4.2 and 4.6.2 and Appendices A and B);
- potential impacts from the use of naturally saline water from the Project bores, spearfields and trenches on flora and fauna (Sections 4.6.2 and 4.7.2 and Appendices A and B); and
- potential groundwater impacts on the proposed biodiversity offset area (Section 4.4 and Appendix F).

3.1.7 Infrastructure Owners and Service Providers

Australian Rail Track Corporation

The ARTC is the authority responsible for the management of rail property relevant to the Project. Cristal Mining initially met with representatives of the ARTC on 10 February 2012 to discuss the Project and specifically, to discuss the proposed Ivanhoe Rail Facility and transport of mineral concentrates and MSP process wastes via the Orange – Broken Hill railway. The ARTC provided advice regarding the processes and procedures for rail siding development and construction, including the required standards, sighting and clearance distances.

A follow-up meeting was held with the ARTC on 12 April 2012 to further discuss the rail siding design and proposed site locations as well as indicative train paths between the proposed Ivanhoe Rail Facility and the MSP.

Cristal Mining provided a letter to the ARTC on 11 July 2012 seeking specific comments on the proposed alternative rail siding location³ (i.e. to the west of Balranald-Ivanhoe Road), including proposed siding spacing, the proximity of the Ivanhoe Rail Facility to the ARTC corridor and the required safe distance from the level crossing. The ARTC were supportive of the proposed alternative location.

Cristal Mining requested (letter dated 26 July 2012) confirmation of the indicative train path capacity between the proposed Ivanhoe Rail Facility and the MSP (i.e. three return services per week).

On 7 August 2012, the ARTC provided Cristal Mining with a letter confirming that:

... there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the requested train paths on the ARTC network.

....

The proposed rail traffic will not have a material effect upon any other services that operate on the ARTC network.

Essential Energy

Electricity at the Ivanhoe Rail Facility would be supplied by the local network, which is owned and operated by Essential Energy. An extension to the existing 11 kV powerline would be constructed along the easement for site access and powerline (Section 2.10.4).

Cristal Mining provided a briefing package to Essential Energy in September 2012 providing an overview of the Project and proposed electricity supply and distribution arrangements.

Telstra

Cristal Mining has consulted regularly with Telstra regarding the telecommunication requirements for the Project. Cristal Mining provided a briefing package to Telstra in September 2012 providing an overview of the Project.

3.1.8 Public Consultation

Local Community and Affected Landholders

During the preparation of this EIS, a Project-specific newsletter was produced by Cristal Mining in September 2012 and distributed to inform the local community of the Project, the EIS and approvals process. A copy of the Project newsletter is provided in Attachment 4.

The Project newsletters were distributed to local residents in the township of Ivanhoe and the Balranald LGA.

A community meeting for the Project was held on 15 June 2012 at the Balranald Ex-Servicemen's Memorial Club. The community meeting provided members of the local community (including representatives of the NSW Farmers' Association – Western Region) with the opportunity to raise any specific questions or issues of concern relating to the Project with Cristal Mining representatives. Notification of the community meeting was provided via flyers that were distributed within the Balranald LGA (Attachment 4).

³ Further detail on Project alternatives provided in Section 6.9.2.

Community information sessions for the Project were held on 26 September 2012 at the Kilfera Field Day (held south of Ivanhoe – Attachment 4) and on 10 October 2012 at the Balranald Senior Citizen's Club (Plate 3-1). Notification of the community information sessions was provided via the Project newsletter (Attachment 4).



Plate 3-1: Community Information Session

The information sessions were attended by Cristal Mining representatives and provided members of the local community with further opportunity to raise any specific questions or issues of concern relating to the Project. Over 200 community members (including representatives of the CDSC and BSC) attended the Kilfera Field Day and provided positive feedback to Cristal Mining representatives regarding the potential socio-economic benefits of the Project.

During 2011 and 2012, Cristal Mining staff and representatives also undertook one-on-one meetings as well as engaged in telephone and written correspondence with potentially affected landholders regarding the Project.

Project briefings were provided to Balranald Incorporated in October and December 2011 and Clare Primary School in July 2012.

Issues raised by members of the local community during the Project information sessions/landholder meetings relevant to the EIS included, but were not limited to:

- employment generating effects and regional economic benefits of the Project (Sections 4.16 and 4.17 and Appendix I);
- potential impacts on groundwater resources (drawdown impacts and water quality) and adjacent licensed water users (Section 4.4 and Appendix F);
- potential air quality impacts (dust) associated with use of Project haul roads (Section 4.10.2 and Appendix K);
- potential impacts on agricultural production/grazing land (Section 4.3.2 and Appendix H);
- Aboriginal cultural heritage mitigation measures (Section 4.8.3 and Appendix E); and
- flora and fauna management and mitigation measures (Sections 4.6.3 and 4.7.3 and Appendices A and B).

Aboriginal Community

Aboriginal community consultation was undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW], 2010a) and the *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC, 2005b).

In accordance with these guidelines, Cristal Mining notified the following parties regarding the Project:

- Dubbo OEH Environmental Protection and Regulation Group Office (EPRGO);
- Queanbeyan OEH EPRGO;
- Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC);
- Ivanhoe LALC;
- Office of the Registrar, NSW *Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983*;
- National Native Title Tribunal;
- Native Title Services Corporation Limited (NTSCORP Limited);
- CDSC;
- BSC;
- Lower Murray-Darling CMA; and
- Lachlan CMA.

In addition to the written notifications, a Public Notice was placed in the *Riverine Grazier* on 25 January 2012 and the *Sunraysia Daily* on 26 January 2012 seeking registrations from interested Aboriginal parties. The notice invited Aboriginal persons or groups who wished to be consulted in relation to potential impacts of the Project on Aboriginal cultural heritage to contact Cristal Mining.

Subsequent to the above, the following Aboriginal parties/groups registered their interest in being involved in the consultation process:

- Badger Bates;
- Balranald LALC;
- Barkandji Elders Council;
- Ivanhoe Community Working Party;
- Kullila Site Consultants;
- Michael Kelly (on behalf of Ngayampaa people);
- Mutthi Mutthi Nations;
- National Koorie Site Management; and
- Willandra Lakes 2 Traditional Tribal Groups Elders Council.

All stakeholders who registered were invited to participate in the assessment process, including involvement in the field surveys, review of the draft assessment report and meetings to discuss the assessment findings.

A detailed description of the consultation undertaken with the registered Aboriginal parties/groups during the preparation of this EIS is provided in the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix E) and Section 4.8.

Staff and Contractors

In addition to the mechanisms described in Section 3.3, a number of meetings and briefings for Cristal Mining employees have been conducted during the preparation of this EIS.

3.2 PROJECT DESIGN AMENDMENTS IN RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED

Key issues of concern raised during the consultation process that resulted in amendments to the Project design are summarised below. Alternatives to the Project are also discussed in Section 6.9.2.

Transport of Mineral Concentrate to the MSP

A number of potential road alignments were considered for the transport of mineral concentrate between the Atlas-Campaspe Mine and Balranald-Ivanhoe Road, including potential northern and southern alignment options. In consideration of the feedback from relevant local landholders and the BSC, Cristal Mining adopted the proposed route comprising sections of Link Road, Boree Plains – Gol Gol Road, Magenta Road, Hatfield – The Vale Road and Balranald-Ivanhoe Road.

Location of the Ivanhoe Rail Facility

Initially the Ivanhoe Rail Facility was to be located at the existing rail siding in Ivanhoe, to make use of existing infrastructure. However, through the iterative environmental assessment process (Section 6.9.2) and in consultation with the local landholder and CDSC, Cristal Mining evaluated potential alternative locations both north and south of the Orange – Broken Hill railway proximal to the Balranald-Ivanhoe Road that would reduce operational noise emissions in Ivanhoe and minimise potential impacts on existing agricultural production.

The optimal location was identified to the south of the railway, which also minimised the number of Project heavy vehicles crossing the Orange – Broken Hill railway.

3.3 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND INVOLVEMENT

3.3.1 Safety, Health and Environmental Policy

Cristal Mining's safety, health and environmental policy states:

At Cristal Global, we strive to be exemplary in our Safety, Health and Environmental Performance.

We manage our worldwide businesses and facilities focusing on the protection of the environment, and the safety and health of employees, contractors, customers, and the public. We believe that all workplace injuries, illnesses and adverse environmental impacts are preventable. Safety, Health, and Environmental Excellence is a global value which unites our company and contributes to our Sustainability.

In support of this policy, we are committed to:

Legislative & Standards Compliance

- *Meet or exceed all applicable laws, regulations and company standards in those countries where we do business.*

Workplace and SHE Accountability

- *Make safety, health, protection of the environment, and security the direct responsibility and accountability of all employees, contractors and visitors. Working in a safe, healthy, secure and environmentally responsible manner is a condition of employment or contract.*

- *Maintain a safe and healthy workplace, operate our facilities in an environmentally responsible manner and assure safe and secure supply chain practices.*
- *Promote and encourage safety, health and wellness programs on and off the job.*

Safety, Health and Environmental Priorities

- *Provide workplace policies, standards, procedures and training to ensure that employees and contractors can perform their jobs in a safe, healthy and environmentally responsible manner.*
- *Implement the principles of risk analysis and risk management in all areas of safety, health and environmental protection.*

Resource Conservation

- *Establish focused efforts to preserve natural resources through rational utilization of operating facilities and raw materials.*

Product Stewardship

- *Incorporate Sustainability and product stewardship in our product and process development efforts and decision-making process in a way that reduces the impacts of our products and processes on the environment and develops new products that contribute to a cleaner environment.*

Community Service

- *Actively participate in communities and support our employees' efforts to positively impact the quality of life locally and beyond.*

Continual Improvement

- *Investigate incidents to determine root causes and take prompt and appropriate actions to correct deficiencies. Communicate the knowledge gained and lessons learned to prevent recurrence in the company.*
- *Periodically review the Safety, Health and Environmental Management System with special emphasis on possible improvements.*

Safety, Health and Environmental Excellence

- *Establish Safety, Health and Environment measurable objectives to drive continual improvement, and routinely communicate the progress against objectives.*
- *Promote discussion, sharing of best practices across all company facilities.*
- *Actively engage in dialog with our stakeholders to promote safety, health, security and environmental outcomes which are mutually acceptable and fully compliant with regulations.*

3.3.2 Website and Community Call Line

Cristal Mining maintains a website (www.cristalmining.com) for the general public to keep up to date with Cristal Mining's existing/approved operations.

The web domain is a source of information including projects and operations, career opportunities and contact details. The website also provides information on the environmental management and performance of Cristal Mining's existing/approved operations, including rehabilitation, environmental approvals documentation and energy efficiency opportunities (EEO).

Cristal Mining operates the following call lines (during and after hours) for community members to contact a Cristal Mining representative with any questions or concerns they may have regarding Cristal Mining's existing operations:

Broken Hill MSP

Contact No. (Office Hours): (08) 8080 0800

Contact No. (After Hours): (08) 8080 0844

Ginkgo and Snapper Mines

Contact No. (Office Hours): (03) 5074 8900

Contact No. (After Hours): (03) 5074 8938

3.3.3 Community Programmes and Sponsorships

Cristal Mining strives to support local communities in the vicinity of its operations including financial support through sponsorships, support programmes, employment and the indirect economic growth and benefits that flow from significant company expenditure within these communities. Cristal Mining is also a regular contributor to schools, sporting groups, festivals, service organisations and the indigenous community. Cristal Mining has also maintained a strong and demonstrated research relationship with the University of Ballarat including financial contributions and in-kind support of regional environmental research projects. Cristal Mining will continue its support of local community programmes and groups during the life of the Project.

3.3.4 Public Reporting

Cristal Mining is a registered participant of the Commonwealth Government's *Energy Efficiency Opportunities program* (www.ret.gov.au/energy/efficiency/eoo), which requires corporations to identify, evaluate and report publicly on cost effective energy savings opportunities.

The most recent public report under the programme is made available on the Cristal Mining website.

3.3.5 Contractors and Suppliers

Local contractors engaged at Cristal Mining's existing operations include:

- Chisholm Earthmoving Pty Ltd;
- Basin Sands Logistics Pty Ltd;
- Cully's Earthmoving Pty Ltd; and
- Sunraysia Crane and Rigging Pty Ltd.

Wherever possible, Cristal Mining endeavours to utilise the services of local providers. Approval of the Project would allow Cristal Mining to continue to support local suppliers and contractors to Cristal Mining's existing operations, providing additional security and longevity of employment in the region.