

## Chapter 2 Consultation





## 2. Consultation

Chapter 2 summarises the community and stakeholder consultation activities undertaken before and during the exhibition of the EIS and provides a summary of the community and stakeholder submissions received and presented in the Response to Submissions report. This chapter also identifies future ongoing communications that would be undertaken during the construction and operation of the Project.

### 2.1 Activities prior to EIS exhibition

Chapter 5 – *Stakeholder and community consultation* of the EIS outlines the consultation activities undertaken for the Project before and during the preparation of the EIS. It includes an overview of the key issues raised by stakeholders and the community; and, where relevant, how these concerns have been addressed through the concept design and proposed mitigations. A summary of the key consultation activities undertaken is provided below:

#### 2.1.1 Consultation with the community

A detailed description of the consultation undertaken with the community prior to the exhibition of the EIS is provided in section 5.2.3 of Chapter 3 – *Stakeholder and community consultation* of the EIS and section 3.1.2 of Chapter 3 – *Consultation* of the Response to Submissions report. Consultation with the community began in 2010 and included a number of activities such as community information sessions, community newsletters (letterbox drops) and personal briefings. In addition, a Project website <http://www.micl.com.au/> was established to provide information on the Project and MIC has responded to enquiries made through the website. A Project Information Line (1300 382 239) was also established to enable the community and stakeholders to provide feedback and ask questions of the Project team.

#### 2.1.2 Consultation with key stakeholders

The level of consultation undertaken with stakeholders was reflective of the level of interest or concern shown by the stakeholders regarding the Project and its likely impacts. For those stakeholders with a high degree of interest in the Project – including key agencies such as Department of the Environment (DoE), NSW Department of Planning and Environment (NSW DP&E), NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and Liverpool City Council (LCC) – face-to-face meetings were undertaken. For stakeholders with a lesser interest in the Project, consultation occurred mainly through email and phone communication during the investigation activities of the Project. Section 5.2.1 of the EIS and section 3.1 of Chapter 3 – *Consultation* of the Response to Submissions report describes the key stakeholders for the Project, their level of interest and the consultation activities undertaken prior to the exhibition of the EIS.

### 2.2 Consultation during exhibition of the EIS

The EIS was publicly exhibited between 8 October and 8 December 2014. During the exhibition period government agencies, interest groups, business/industry organisations and the community were invited to make a written submission.

Exhibition material including hard copies of the EIS, information brochure and Project poster were provided at six different publically accessible locations. An electronic copy of the EIS was also available on NSW DP&E's website at:

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=5066](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=5066) and MIC's website at <http://www.micl.com.au/community/eis/environmental-impact-statement.aspx>.

Three community information sessions were held during the EIS exhibition period. These sessions were advertised through letters mailed to 12,000 residents/landowners in Wattle Grove, Moorebank and Casula two weeks before the first information session. Each information session was attended by 22 to 35 people and some community members attended more than one session. A total of 74 community members attended across the three sessions.

A detailed description of the consultation activities undertaken during the exhibition of the EIS is provided in section 3.2.2 of the Response to Submissions report.

## 2.3 Submissions received during exhibition of the EIS

NSW DP&E received a total of 1,793 submissions from community members and government agencies between 8 October and 8 December 2014. Of the 1,793 submissions received, 241 of these were from community members (including special interest groups), 9 were from key government agencies and 5 were received from local councils. (LCC completed a letter drop to 183,000 residents in 78 suburbs across south-west Sydney. The letterbox drop included a completed submission form that the community was encouraged to sign and send to the NSW Minister for Planning. A total of 1,538 submissions were received from this process.

A summary of the analysis process and the key issues raised in community and stakeholder submissions is provided below:

### 2.3.1 Community submissions

The content of each community submission was reviewed and categorised according to key issues (e.g. traffic, noise, air quality) and sub-issues (e.g. traffic impacts on the M5 Motorway). Due to the relatively large number and diversity of issues raised in community submissions, these matters raised in submissions were grouped based on their assigned key issue and sub-issue categories. This means that while the exact wording of the submission was not captured in the Response to Submissions report, the intent and the issues raised were identified.

The top five issues raised by the community were:

- Project site alternatives and justification;
- traffic, transport and access;
- noise and vibration impacts;
- local and regional air quality; and
- human health risks and impacts.

Under these top five issues, the sub-issues of most concern were as follows:

- Project alternatives:
  - > argues the IMT should be located at Badgerys Creek;
  - > argues the Moorebank site is not suitable for the purposes of an IMT;
  - > argues the Moorebank site should be developed for alternative uses (i.e. residential, commercial hub or public recreation/conservation area);



- Traffic, transport and access:
  - > concerned about the impact of the Project on traffic congestion, with congestion already experienced along local and regional arterials;
  - > concerned about the impacts of the Project on traffic safety including issues with trucks 'weaving' onto and off the M5 Motorway and trucks parking and using local roads;
  - > questions raised about the adequacy of the traffic assessment, including modelling and assumptions;
- Noise and vibration impacts:
  - > concerned about the impact of IMT operations, particularly at night;
  - > concerned about the noise impacts of wheel squeal and the adequacy of mitigations to address this;
- Local and regional air quality:
  - > concerned about the impact of diesel fumes generated from locomotives, heavy vehicles and other equipment;
- Human health impacts;
  - > concerned about the impacts on human health as a result of construction and operation of the IMT including exposure to pollutants and particulate matter, noise and other IMT construction and operational impacts.

Chapter 6 – *Response to community submissions* of the Response to Submissions report provides MIC's response to each of the issues and sub-issues raised in the community submissions.

### 2.3.2 Stakeholder submissions

Detailed submissions were received from local councils and government agencies including LCC, Campbelltown City Council (CCC), Hurstville City Council (HCC), Fairfield City Council (FCC), Bankstown City Council (BCC), Transport for NSW (TfNSW), NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, Sydney Catchment Authority, NSW Department of Primary Industries ((DPI) (including comments from NSW Office of Water and Fisheries NSW)), NSW Health and NSW Ports.

Submissions received from government agencies and local councils were reviewed and key issues raised were identified. Issues raised by government were not categorised as they were specific to each agency's assets and interests.

Key issues raised by stakeholders were similar to those raised in the community submissions and included:

- alternative locations for the IMT;
- cumulative impacts of the proposed development in combination with the SIMTA proposal;
- costs of infrastructure upgrades, contributions and commitments;
- traffic impacts;

- hydrology and water quality impacts;
- amenity impacts;
- noise and vibration impacts;
- air quality and human health impacts; and
- biodiversity impacts.

MIC's response to stakeholder submissions was provided in Chapter 5 – *Response to government agency submissions* of the Response to Submissions report.

## 2.4 Exhibition of Response to Submissions Report

The Response to Submissions report was placed on public exhibition between 28 May and 26 June 2015. During this time, MIC undertook the following consultation activities, to engage with and discuss the changes of the Project with the community:

- Newspaper advertisements were placed by the NSW DP&E at the start of the exhibition period.
- A copy of the Response to Submission report was sent by NSW DP&E to local councils and relevant NSW agencies (list below) at the start of the exhibition period:
  - > Liverpool Council
  - > Campbelltown Council
  - > Canterbury Council
  - > Nature Conservation Council
  - > Department of Primary Industries
  - > NSW Office of Water
  - > Department of the Environment
  - > Sydney Metropolitan Catchment & Management Authority
  - > Office of Environment & Heritage
  - > EPA
  - > Heritage Division
  - > Australian Rail Track Corporation
  - > Transport for NSW
  - > Sydney Ports Corporation
  - > Origin Energy
  - > Essential Energy

- > Transgrid
- > Sydney Water
- > Fire & Rescue NSW
- > NSW Rural Fire Services
- > NSW Health.
- A brochure was developed to communicate the key changes to the Project to community members, invite them to make a submission and provide MIC's phone and email contact details for more information, along with the translation and interpreting services available via TIS National and the MIC website. The brochure was:
  - > delivered to 12,000 homes in Moorebank, Wattle Grove and Casula;
  - > posted on the MIC website; and
  - > handed out at Westfield, Liverpool to reach interested people not in the letterbox drop catchment.
- A dedicated section was developed for the MIC website to explain the contents of the Response to Submissions report.
- An email was sent to MIC's website subscription and community member database to advertise the exhibition and provide details on how to make a submission.
- A number of letters were drafted in response to enquiries received from community members through MIC's email address and website contact form.
- Phone calls were fielded through the company information phone line.

MIC also wrote to local councils, members of parliament and other government and industry stakeholders to offer them briefings. As a result of this approach, MIC met with:

- Ned Mannoun (Mayor) and Carl Wulff (CEO), Liverpool City Council; and
- Melanie Gibbons MP, Member for Holsworthy.

## 2.5 Consultation: the next steps

Community consultation will continue as part of the Project development process, to ensure MIC clearly understands the views of people living in the surrounding area and can respond to these views to the greatest extent possible. MIC will consider feedback from the local community during the subsequent Stage 2 SSD application processes and will continue to consider feedback during the ongoing design development, construction and operation phases of the Project to ensure all relevant issues are addressed. Details of the further consultation are provided below:

### 2.5.1 Future community engagement activities

Consultation with key stakeholders and the community will continue during the next stages of Project development. Furthermore, with the exception of the Early Works (described in Chapter 8 – *Project development phasing and construction* of the EIS), under the EP&A Act the EIS approval would not provide the opportunity to construct any part of the IMT until further detailed environmental assessments are undertaken and approved (as part of future Stage 2 SSD applications). Further community consultation would be undertaken during preparation of these Stage 2 SSD approvals.

If the Project is approved, a Community Engagement Plan (CEP) will be prepared and implemented by the contractor selected for the construction and operation of the Project. This will outline the consultation and notification processes during the pre-construction, construction and operation phases. The CEP would be prepared to ensure that:

- the community and stakeholders have a high level of awareness of all processes and activities associated with the Project;
- accurate and accessible information is made available; and
- a timely response is given to issues and concerns raised by stakeholders and the community.

### 2.5.2 Future agency and businesses/infrastructure stakeholder consultations

During the next stages of the approval process, MIC will continue to consult with the relevant key agencies and businesses/infrastructure stakeholders. The EIS (if approved) would be issued with conditions of consent, which would include a schedule of additional and more detailed assessments to be undertaken during subsequent development applications. MIC will consult with relevant agencies and business/infrastructure stakeholders as required in relation to these subsequent development applications.

Following staged development consent, the CEP will detail further consultation and notifications to be undertaken during the pre-construction, construction and operation phases of the Project to ensure that agencies and business/infrastructure stakeholders are adequately informed.