



STAKEHOLDER & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO) is committed to actively seeking community feedback on the Bylong Coal Project (the Project), and implementing engagement mechanisms which ensure that our stakeholders and the community are heard and respected.

Throughout the exploration and approvals phase of the Project, local community stakeholders, particularly affected landholders and near neighbours, have been engaged on a regular basis. Specifically, consultation with the local community has included:

- Face-to-face briefings and meetings with Bylong Valley residents, state and local government, key services providers and community groups.
- Community information sessions and stalls held in December 2013, February and November 2014, September and October 2015, February, March, April and August 2016, and February, March and May 2017.
- The appointment of dedicated Community Liaison Officers in the Bylong area, who are available to local residents and community groups.

The wider community has also been engaged through various channels including:

- The establishment of a Project-specific website (www.bylongproject.com.au).
- Distribution of newsletters and ongoing information briefs.
- The production of project fact sheets addressing specific community interests or issues (for example, exploration process, water resources, approvals process).
- The availability of a project site office in Bylong, a 1800 phone number (1800 BYLONG or 1800 295 664) and project email address (bylong@worleyparsons.com).

As part of the preparation of the Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), consultation has been carried out with landholders, near neighbours, local communities, local service providers, Aboriginal stakeholders, government regulators and relevant industry groups. Specifically, a series of project briefings and presentations have been provided to inform stakeholders of the Project and assist in the identification of key issues.

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A focused consultation program was also undertaken for the Social Impact Assessment and most recently during the preparation of the Preliminary Social Impact Management Plan. Landholders, local service providers and the community were engaged to help develop and update the socio-economic profile for the study area, and identify local community values and social issues that may result from each stage of the Project's lifecycle.

Engagement of local Aboriginal stakeholders was completed in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, with 27 Aboriginal organisations registering an interest and participating during the assessment process.

The key interests and issues raised by the local community included land access, potential air and noise impacts, agricultural land practices, and potential impacts to water resources. Stakeholders also expressed anticipation around the generation of business and employment opportunities.

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS ON THE EIS

The Project Development Application and supporting EIS were placed on extended public exhibition from 23 September to 6 November 2015. During the exhibition period, the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) received a total of 383 submissions from the community and other stakeholders.

In March 2016 KEPCO submitted a Response to Submissions report to provide additional information and / or clarification in relation to matters raised by the community and other stakeholders. Additional matters raised by a small number of stakeholders were addressed in a Supplementary Response to Submissions report submitted in August 2016.



Community information session held at Bylong in September 2015

PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION

In April 2017, the Project was referred to the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) to conduct review, including a public hearing.

The PAC is an independent panel set up under section 23B of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) to review and determine major developments and provide expert advice on planning and development matters. The panel is made up of experts in planning, architecture, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism, heritage or government and public administration.

As part of the review and consideration process, the PAC held a public hearing of submissions from residents, the local community and other stakeholders on the Project. On 25 July 2017, the PAC released the Bylong Coal Project Review Report. The Review Report and other information relating to the Project approval assessment is available at:

<http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au/projects/2017/02/bylong-coal-project>.

KEPCO prepared a detailed response to address the issues raised by the PAC in relation to the benefits of the Project, to definitively quantify residual impacts and to illustrate how these residual impacts will be appropriately mitigated and managed in accordance with regulatory requirements and industry leading practice.

DP&E will now prepare a final Assessment Report considering the information provided in KEPCO's Response to PAC Review Report. The Project will then be delegated back to the PAC as the delegate of the NSW Minister for Planning for a final determination (this may or may not include a public meeting).

If the DA is approved by the NSW Government, it will also require Australian Government approval as a 'controlled action' under the *Environment Protection and Bio diversity Conservation Act 1999*.

ONGOING CONSULTATION

Engagement with the community and key stakeholders will continue throughout the approvals process and beyond into the construction and operation phase of the Project. Various engagement mechanisms will continue to be implemented to ensure effective and ongoing engagement with project stakeholders, including:

- Face-to-face engagement with landholders and near neighbours through the Community Liaison Officers and other senior project staff
- Provision of regular project updates and documentation on the KEPCO Project website
- Project newsletters and fact sheets
- Community information sessions
- State and local government briefings and meetings
- Project1800 phone number
- Project email address



Project fact sheets

CONTACT US:

For more information, please contact the Bylong Coal Project team:

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