



Section 5

Engagement

PREAMBLE

This section describes the engagement undertaken with the local and wider community, including the Aboriginal community, and government agencies during the design and planning of the Project, as well as during the preparation of this Environmental Impact Statement.

Due to the extended nature of the exploration and planning phase for the Project and long running presence in the local community, the Applicant has been able to engage with the local community on a wide ranging and extensive basis. This has enabled the Applicant to develop a thorough understanding of the community's concerns and interest in the Project.

This Section has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 3.6 of "State significant development guidelines – preparing an environmental impact statement."



5.1 Engagement Carried Out

5.1.1 Community Engagement Strategy

The Applicant's Community Engagement Strategy was initially prepared in a manner consistent with the following documents published by the Department of Planning and Environment.

- Draft *Engagement in EIA* guideline (June 2019).
- *Social Impact Assessment Guideline* (September 2017).

The Strategy has been revised and updated to ensure it is also consistent with the following updated guidelines.

- *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (October 2022).
- *Social Impact Assessment Guideline* (October 2022 and February 2023).

The Strategy has been implemented throughout the design and planning phase of the Project, commencing in 2018, and during the preparation of this *Environmental Impact Statement*.

The overarching goals of the strategy are to:

- Work in a proactive way with local communities and stakeholders to build confidence and positive, enduring relationships.
- Enable the Applicant to establish a reputation as a good corporate citizen and neighbour, with a visible, ongoing commitment to maintaining a long-term presence in the Region and delivering enduring value to those living and working in the areas that the Project will serve.
- To meet the Applicant's key risk requirements for Community and Stakeholder Management.

The key principles of the Applicant's Community Engagement Strategy remain as follows:

- Openness and honesty – to provide at all times open and honest information about the Project from exploration prospect to resource definition, to project design and permitting.
- Approachable – encourage two-way communication with community members and stakeholders, offering various formal and informal opportunities for engagement with all sectors of the community.
- Meaningful, relevant, and respectful – to deliver relevant and meaningful information to the community in respectful manner that is cognisant of community values, needs, and concerns.

The Applicant sought to engage early with the Wentworth community and landholders in the vicinity of the Mine Site following granting of its Exploration Licences in November 2017. Since mid-2018, the Applicant has had a full-time Exploration Manager resident within the Wentworth LGA, with the exploration team now expanded to more than 20 people on a full-time equivalent basis. The Applicant's site office, storage shed and yards, situated in Wentworth have been occupied since 2017, along with a permanent presence at the local motel accommodation.



To support the team in Wentworth, the following senior management personnel are present on site on a monthly basis, within the community speaking to business owners, landholders and neighbours. This has been ongoing since early 2020 and will continue for the life of the Project.

- Chief Operating Officer.
- General Manager Exploration.
- General Manager Environment, Sustainability and Governance.
- Senior Legal Counsel.
- General Manager Technical Services.

Additionally senior management positions including the Managing Director, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and many board members have attended site, met with landholders, local council and state government representatives and attended community events.

The Wentworth LGA is a relatively small community with a resident population of approximately 7,500 people and many of the Applicant's management team and site personnel are well known within the local community. The engagement strategy has evolved both formally and informally over time as COVID-19 related restrictions were imposed and subsequently relaxed, permitting in-person consultation with community members, landholders and key stakeholders.

The Applicant has identified the following broad groups with particular interest in the Project.

- Landholders within the Mine Site and in the vicinity of the Site Access Road and Anabranh Mail Road (direct impacts).
- Landholders in the vicinity of the Mine Site, including those located in the vicinity of or who use Anabranh Mail and Nulla Road (near neighbours).
- Residents of Wentworth and surrounds.
- Businesses within Wentworth and surrounds.
- Residents of Broken Hill in the vicinity of the proposed Transportation Route - North, particularly residents of Wentworth Road, Patton Street, Comstock Street, Eyre Street and Holten Drive.
- Businesses within Broken Hill, particularly those located in the vicinity of the Patton Street and Comstock Street intersection and those likely to provide services to the Project.
- Community groups, including clubs, service organisations and special interest groups.
- Local Aboriginal Community.
- Local Councils (Wentworth and Broken Hill).
- Government and non-government service and infrastructure providers.
- Government regulators.
- Elected representatives (and advisors).



Table 5.1 presents the Applicant’s Engagement Strategy for the Project. Landholder, stakeholder, and community consultation opportunities were significantly constrained during 2020 and 2021 due to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Implementation of the engagement strategy was reinvigorated from June 2021 onwards once restrictions were eased and lifted, with the reintroduction of face-to face meetings with landholders, near-neighbours, business, and community members, elected representatives at all levels of government and other interest groups.

**Table 5.1
Engagement Strategy**

Key Stakeholder	Consultation Methods	Frequency
Landholders within the Mine Site and in the vicinity of the Site Access Road and Anabranh Mail Road (direct impacts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face/telephone discussions Site visits/inspections Negotiated access and other agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout exploration and Project planning Prior to, during and following site surveys Once Project description available Once preliminary environmental impact assessment results available Individual meetings during exhibition of the EIS
Landholders in the vicinity of the proposed Mine Site, including those located in the vicinity of or who use Nulla Road (near neighbours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face/telephone discussions Site visits/inspections Post/email (for non-resident landholders) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout exploration and Project planning Once Project description available Once preliminary environmental impact assessment results available Individual meetings during exhibition of the EIS
Residents of Wentworth and surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information stall at the Wentworth Show Face-to-face/telephone discussions Public meetings/displays/drop in sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout exploration and Project planning Once Project description available During exhibition of the EIS
Businesses within Wentworth, and surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face/telephone discussions Public meetings/displays Presentations to business groups Consultation with selected suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout exploration and Project planning Once Project description available During exhibition of the EIS During pre-procurement process
Residents of Broken Hill along the transportation route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media articles Letter box drop to all properties along the transportation route Community meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once Project description available During exhibition of the EIS Once preliminary environmental impact assessment results available (on request)
Businesses within Broken Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media articles Community meeting Presentations to business groups Consultation with selected suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once Project description available During exhibition of the EIS During pre-procurement process
Community groups, including clubs, service organisations and special interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public meetings/displays Presentation to meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout exploration and Project planning Once preliminary environmental impact assessment results available During exhibition of the EIS



Table 5.1 (Cont'd)
Engagement Strategy

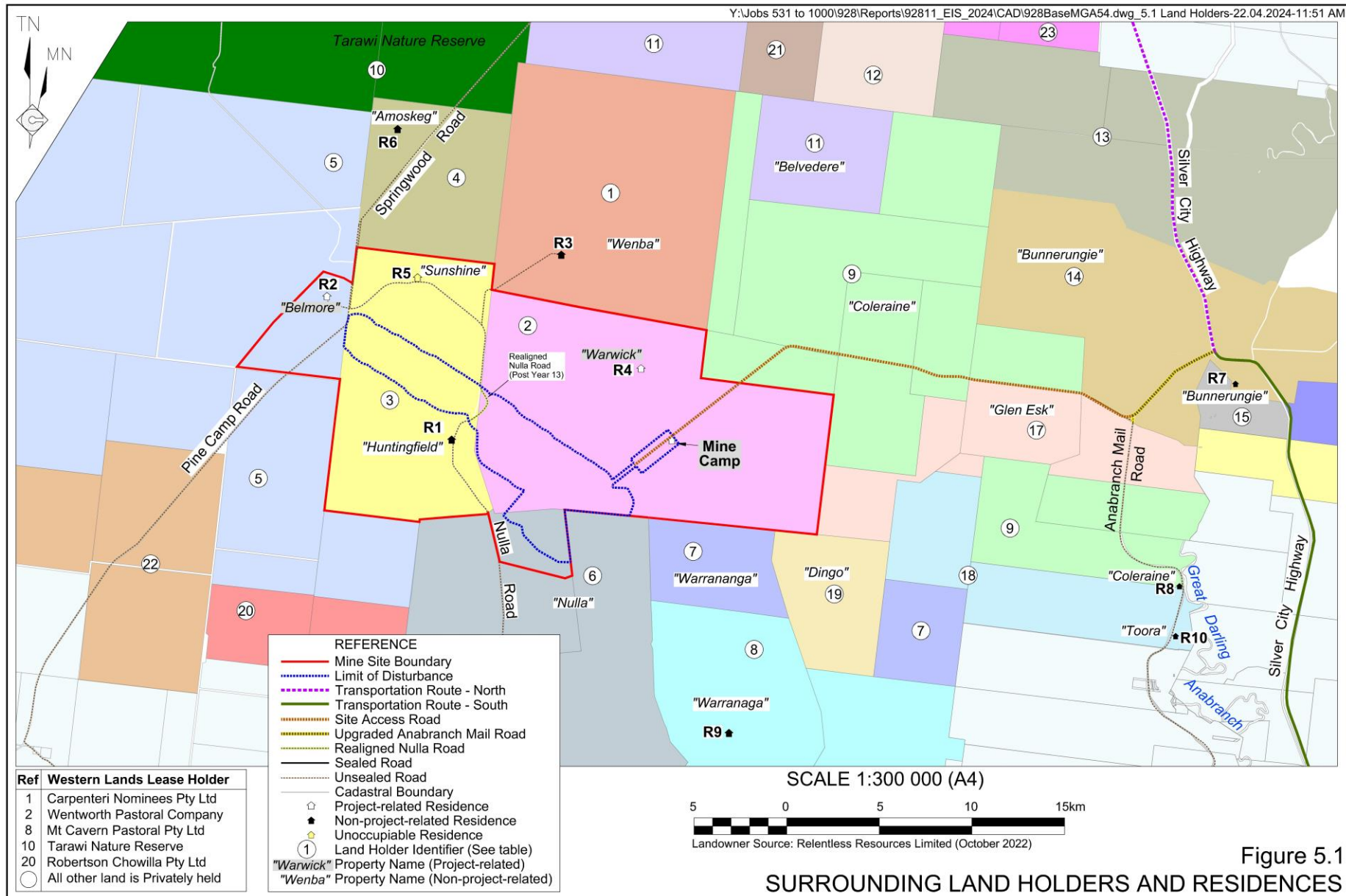
Key Stakeholder	Consultation Methods	Frequency
Local Aboriginal Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal consultation through cultural heritage assessment Site visits/inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per consultation guidelines (<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010</i>) Once Project description available Once preliminary environmental impact assessment results available
Local Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal and informal meetings/teleconferences Negotiations regarding Planning Agreement Telephone/email requests for information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout exploration and Project planning Once preliminary environmental impact assessment results available During exhibition of the EIS
Government and non-government service and infrastructure providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal and informal meetings/teleconferences Email 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once Project description available
Government agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEARs process Formal and informal meetings/teleconferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping and SEARs application phase Throughout EIS preparation Once preliminary impact assessments available
Elected representatives (and advisors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal and informal meetings/teleconferences Site inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once Project description (incl employment and economic contributions) available Individual meetings during exhibition of the EIS

5.1.2 Local Community

5.1.2.1 Landholder Engagement

Figure 5.1 presents a plan showing the location of the relevant land holdings within the Mine Site and in the vicinity of the Site Access Road and realigned Anabranh Mail Road.

As noted previously, opportunities for in-person Landholder engagement were significantly reduced during the period of restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic when communication was largely restricted to email or phone. In addition, considerable time was required to locate those landholders not residing on properties adjacent to the Mine Site.





Face to face discussions with all available neighbouring landholders and other near neighbours have been undertaken since 2017, with the most recent meetings occurring during the fortnight commencing 8 April 2024. The meetings, using maps to demonstrate the location and layout of the Mine Site, have facilitated the sharing of information by both parties, providing opportunities to discuss the status and trajectory of the Project, mutual benefits, potential impacts, and mitigation measures to prevent or reduce those impacts, and associated compensation requirements.

Representatives for the Applicant are now in the process of formalising ‘Good Neighbour Agreements’ with directly impacted Landholders, namely those whose properties are within and adjacent to the Mine Site and those along the Site Access Road and Anabranche Mail Road between the Mine Site and Silver City Highway. These agreements will provide both parties with clearly documented two-way processes for communication and land access, including agreements on fencing, Landholder compensation, and other specific requirements. Relevant information set out in these agreements will be disseminated to employees and contractors to ensure compliance with Landholder requests.

The Applicant, through the Wentworth Pastoral Company, has purchased Warwick station, and is currently negotiating a commercial agreement with the owners of Coleraine, Bunnerungie and Nulla Stations to manage potential impacts and compensate for lost production as a result of the site access road / powerline corridor and Off Path Storage Facility. The Applicant has also offered a commercial arrangement with the owners of Belmore station to manage potential impacts on their residence. The Applicant anticipates that agreements with Coleraine, Bunnerungie, Nulla and Belmore will be successfully concluded in the near term. As a result, each of these properties are considered to be Project-related pending finalisation of the agreements.

The Applicant has made an offer to purchase Huntingfield and Sunshine Stations and this is currently suspended pending the outcome of arbitration over land access and Mining Lease objections. The Applicant has therefore considered the residence at Huntingfield Station (Residence R1) as non-Project related until commercial arrangements can be concluded. The residence at Sunshine Station (Residence R5) is unoccupiable.

The Applicant continues to maintain and encourage regular contact with Landholders. In person meetings and phone calls are made regularly and Community Factsheets are distributed quarterly as the Project progresses to ensure that Landholders remain well informed. A central point of contact, via the General Manager of ESG, has also been established to ensure that any questions or concerns raised are addressed in an appropriate, consistent, and timely manner.

Table 5.2 presents a summary to date of the Applicant’s consultation log detailing consultation with Landholders within and surrounding the Mine Site and Site Access Road. The Consultation Log records over 700 individual contact events for the calendar years 2020 to 2024, with additional contact events prior to that date yet to be incorporated into the log. For privacy reasons, the details of individual consultation events and the matters discussed are not presented.



Table 5.2
Summary of Landholder Engagement

Station Name ¹	Engagement Methodology and Summary of Topics Discussed
Direct Impact Land Holders	
Warwick Station	<p>Landholder communication has been extensive and constant. During exploration and prior to entering a lease-to-buy agreement, the Applicant was in daily contact with the Landholder who resides at Woolcunda Station to the north of the Mine Site. Since conclusion of the purchase agreement and the Landholder removing their stock and equipment from the station, contact has consisted primarily of email with occasional phone calls and in-person meetings.</p>
Huntingfield and Sunshine Stations	<p>Landholder communication has included a combination of regular phone calls, email, and in-person meetings. As with Warwick Station, there has been extensive and regular contact with the Landholder from late 2018, however, at the request of the Landholder, this has been mostly via email since March 2022. The Landholder was engaged by the Applicant to undertake rehabilitation of exploration works on Warwick and Huntingfield Stations up until mid-2022 and members of the Applicant's management team have previously stayed at the Huntingfield homestead as guests of the Landholder.</p> <p>Since mid-2022 relations with the Landholder have primarily related to access for exploration and environmental studies and commercial arrangements re purchase of the property. The parties are currently in dispute and the matter is before arbitration, with a resolution anticipated in the near term.</p> <p>The owners of Huntingfield and Sunshine Station attended the Wentworth Community drop-in session on 11 April 2024 and were provided with an opportunity to be briefed on the Project. That opportunity was not accepted. The Applicant confirmed at that meeting that a written agreement is required to disturb land within the Huntingfield/Sunshine property and that if a written agreement could not be reached, that the Project would be modified to avoid the property, including potentially ceasing operations in Year 11 or in the late 2030's</p>
Belmore Station	<p>Consultation commenced in September 2021. Matters discussed included an overview of the Project as it stood at the time, potential environmental impacts and terms for a commercial agreement between the parties. The Applicant's representatives have maintained regular phone and email contact and continued to meet with the Landholder and family in person to finalise details of the agreement, including agreement that the property will be considered to be a Project-related property. In early 2023, the Applicant provided drafts of the Specialist Consultant reports for Noise, Air Quality, Traffic and Groundwater, as well as the entire project description, as they then stood, to the family representatives and their legal counsel. The Landholder has raised concerns for the surface water dam on the property, noise and traffic impacts on the homestead and potential interactions with groundwater extraction and their surface water dam. The Landholder was also informed of the desire to close the Nulla Road temporarily and indicated this would be an inconvenience, especially with haulage of sheep to market and would potentially add 20 to 40 minutes to the journey. The Landholder indicated the secondary access was along Pine Camp and Renmark Roads needed to be maintained to a suitable standard if the option of Nulla Road was lost. In response, the Applicant has determined to include a contribution to maintenance of Pine Camp and Renmark Roads in the Planning Agreement with Wentworth Shire Council.</p> <p>The Landholder concerns were incorporated into a revision of the proposed mine operation in mid 2023, and as a result the expected potential impacts on Belmore Station have been significantly reduced. Changing the haul road / site access road and moving the mine infrastructure significantly allayed the concerns of the Landholder as did the reduced closure time for Nulla Road.</p> <p>The Applicant anticipates that a commercial arrangement between the parties will be finalised in the near term and will include monitoring commitments for water quality, and air quality, compensation arrangements for changed heavy vehicle access, make good provisions should the homestead be impacted by the mining operations and access protocols for light vehicles during the closure of Nulla Road.</p>



Table 5.2 (Cont'd)
Summary of Landholder Engagement

Station Name ¹	Engagement Methodology and Summary of Topics Discussed
Direct Impact Land Holders (Cont'd)	
Nulla Station	<p>Consultation commenced in June 2022. Discussions have been via phone, email, and in person at the Landholder's station residence and focused initially on the Applicant's current exploration activities. In particular the Landholder was concerned about traffic-related impacts associated with the Applicant's employees and contractors driving past the station residence on Nulla Road. As a result, the Applicant has mandated a reduced speed limit for all of its current and future workforce and contractors using Nulla Road and driving past the residence. This measure has been introduced as a safety measure for a number of young children living at the residence and to reduce traffic dust emissions. The Applicant is also seeking to have the road speed limit formally reduced by Wentworth Shire Council.</p> <p>The Landholder shares a fenceline and access road with the Applicant and maintenance of these will be formalised in a Good Neighbour Agreement. The Applicant has signed commercial access arrangements with the Landholder for access to Warwick station via Nulla Station for exploration, and agreed to upgrade a significant part of the boundary fence at the Applicant's cost.</p> <p>The Landholder was consulted in relation to the closure of Nulla Road within the Mine Site and was supportive with that approach, noting that alternative access was available.</p> <p>The Landholder has entered into a commercial arrangement to purchase or lease that part of Nulla Station within the Mine Site to allow for the construction of the Off Path Storage Facility. As part of these discussions, the Applicant agreed to modify the Project to minimise the impact on Nulla Station and restrict disturbance to one lot only.</p> <p>The Applicant and EIS author met with the Landholder on 12 April 2024 to discuss the Project. Matters discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for the Landholder through Warwick Station to the Site Access Road to facilitate substantially reduced travel time between the Landholder's properties. • Information in relation to "Water Jelly", with the Landholder lending the Applicant a copy of "Wool Away on Nulla Nulla" (see Section 6.5.2.4) <p>No other particular matters requiring addressing in the EIS have been raised during consultation.</p>
Coleraine Station (and operator of Toora Station)	<p>Consultation commenced in January 2020. Discussions primarily focused on the Site Access Road through the property which was initially set aside in early 2022. Following a redesign of the mine path in mid-2023, the originally proposed Site Access Road was re-instated.</p> <p>In-person, email and phone communications resumed in April 2022 after easing of COVID-19 restrictions. A 'Good Neighbour Agreement' was proposed that included contracting opportunities and boundary fencing. This agreement was expanded further to include the proposed Site Access Road and Powerline, with the creation of an easement through Coleraine and Bunnerungie Stations. This agreement is currently in the process of enactment with Crown Land.</p> <p>No particular matters requiring addressing in the EIS have been raised during consultation. The Landholder has expressed a desire to contract to the Applicant and work on a suitable upgrade to the boundary fencing between the two parties' properties. The Landholder will be engaged by the Applicant to assist with their pastoral enterprises through the Wentworth Pastoral Company.</p> <p>The Applicant and EIS author met with the Landholder on 12 April 2024 to discuss the Project. Matters discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts associated with use of the Site Access Road on the Landholder's agricultural operations, including lambing. • Infrastructure that would require preservation/replacement as a result of construction of the Site Access Road such as fencing, gates and water points.



Table 5.2 (Cont'd)
Summary of Landholder Engagement

Station Name ¹	Engagement Methodology and Summary of Topics Discussed
Direct Impact Land Holders (Cont'd)	
Bunnerungie Station	<p>Consultation commenced in October 2019 with monthly telephone calls in relation to the originally proposed Site Access Road, which was initially set aside in early 2022. The proposed Site Access Road and powerline were re-introduced to the Project in late 2023 and discussions re-commenced with the Landholder around access and compensation,</p> <p>A commercial agreement has been negotiated to access the Landholder's property for the Site Access Road and Powerline, with the creation of an easement. This agreement is currently in the process of enactment with Crown Land.</p> <p>The Applicant and EIS author met with the Landholder on 12 April 2024 to discuss the Project. Matters discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General terms for the Good Neighbour Agreement, including a commitment to upgrade the homestead access off the Silver City Highway. • What a substation would entail and what power infrastructure was anticipated. • Fencing of the access road, provision of alternative water points and access for pastoral operations • General information in relation to "Water Jelly" (see Section 6.5.2.4). <p>No particular matters requiring addressing in the EIS have been raised during consultation.</p>
Near Neighbour Landholders	
Amoskeg Station	<p>Consultation commenced in April 2022. The Landholder does not reside on the property. Discussions have primarily focused on the proposed activities. Subsequent project updates have been provided and a Good Neighbour Agreement will also be established to address access, fencing and Project-related impacts.</p> <p>Consultation identified matters related to the originally proposed construction and operation of Springwood Road and closure of the Nulla Road. The Landholder understood the need to close Nulla Road and was comfortable that an alternative access existed in Pine Camp / Springwood Road. The Landholder has also been engaged on upgrades to the boundary fencing between his and the Applicant's properties and potential use of his property for offsets should the Project be approved.</p>
Tarawi Nature Reserve	<p>Consultation with Rangers responsible for managing Tarawi Nature Reserve commenced in August 2022. Discussions have primarily focused on the proposed activities, as well as the Applicant's intention to establish one or more stewardship sites and preferred mitigation measures to avoid fauna impacts. National Parkes and Wildlife Service rangers asked about biodiversity impact assessments and were advised that a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report would be prepared and that residual biodiversity impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated would be offset under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>.</p> <p>Consultation also identified the status of the Springwood Road reserve and the permissibility of the then proposed works on that road within the Nature Reserve may be an issue. Following the 2023 revision of the Project, the concerns with the Springwood Road access are no longer relevant to this Project. The Rangers have been notified of the change.</p> <p>The Applicant will continue to engage with Tarawi Nature Reserve personnel to provide project updates.</p>
Belvedere and Cooida Stations	<p>Consultation commenced in August 2022. Discussions focused on providing a detailed overview of the Project with particular regard to the proposed transportation route at the time. The Landholder had requested assistance with re-fencing of affected paddocks and road verges adjacent to Springwood Road. This was agreed to by the Applicant along with proposed sealing of sections of Springwood Road. Initial consultation identified matters related to the construction and operation of Springwood Road and potential impacts on stock.</p> <p>The Landholder has subsequently been advised that the Project will now utilise the Anabranche Mail Road and there are no expected Project-related impacts to their operations. The Landholder expressed a desire to continue to be informed of the Project and were open to the opportunity to take part in any potential biodiversity offsets that may be required by the Project, or as a potential supplier of gravel to any construction activity.</p>



Table 5.2 (Cont'd)
Summary of Landholder Engagement

Station Name ¹	Engagement Methodology and Summary of Topics Discussed
Near Neighbour Landholders (Cont'd)	
Springwood Station	<p>Consultation commenced in November 2021. Discussions focused exploration rehabilitation and a detailed overview of the Project with particular regard to the proposed transportation route at the time. The Landholder had requested assistance with re-fencing of affected paddocks and road verges adjacent to Springwood Road. This was agreed to by the Applicant along with proposed sealing of sections of Springwood Road.</p> <p>Initial consultation identified matters related to the construction and operation of Springwood Road and impacts on the homestead area and stock.</p> <p>The Landholder has subsequently been advised that the Project will now utilise the Anabranche Mail Road and there are no expected Project-related impacts to their operations. The Landholder expressed a desire to continue to be informed of the Project and were open to the opportunity to take part in any potential biodiversity offsets that may be required by the Project, or as a potential supplier of gravel to any construction activity.</p>
Warrananga Station	<p>Consultation commenced in March 2021. Discussions focused on potential exploration on the Landholders property, Project overview and the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss any issues of concern. Discussions have focused on avoiding exploration-related impacts on the property's water supply. Terms of a "Good Neighbour Agreement were discussed regarding land access and protocols, and an agreement is currently being drafted. One of the Landholders is part of the Wentworth Show committee and the Applicant continues to communicate with them via phone and email.</p> <p>Groundwater and surface water impacts are a concern for the Landholder, particularly potential impacts on the Copi Dam (see Figure 6.1.2). The Applicant has already modified their drilling program to accommodate this concern. The applicant discussed the findings of the groundwater assessment presented Section 6.2 of the on this essential water source.</p> <p>The Applicant and EIS author met with the Landholder on 12 April 2024 to discuss the Project. Matters discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General terms for the Good Neighbour Agreement, including support for the Rural Fire Service, emergency response and an RFDS airstrip. • Commitment to monitor water quality within Copi Dam, on the Warrananga property (see Section 6.7.3.3) • Commitment to monitor for groundwater seepage from the Off Path Storage Facility (see Section 6.2.3) • Biodiversity offsets and how they would be managed
Wenba Station	<p>Consultation commenced in September 2022. The Landholder does not reside on the property and had not been seen regularly by neighbours in the area since acquiring the property several years ago. Discussions have focused on introducing the Project and the status of boundary fencing. A Good Neighbour Agreement will be negotiated, including an agreement in relation to maintenance of boundary fences.</p> <p>The Landholder was informed verbally of the intention to temporarily close the Nulla Road and south of the entrance to Wenba Station and was comfortable that alternative access was available via Springwood and Pine Camp Roads, as he travels from Adelaide, via Pine Camp Road in most instances.</p> <p>The Applicant met with the Landholder on site prior to finalisation of the EIS and confirmed that the Landholder's only concerns were continuity of access to the property and fencing, The Applicant has referred the Landholder to the Warwick Pastoral Company to discuss boundary fencing and assured the Landholder that the mining operations will be fenced and no access to Wenba station will occur during operations without a written access agreement. The Applicant briefed the Landholder on the proposed operations and no other particular matters requiring addressing in the EIS have been raised during consultation.</p>



Table 5.2 (Cont'd)
Summary of Landholder Engagement

Station Name ¹	Engagement Methodology and Summary of Topics Discussed
Near Neighbour Landholders (Cont'd)	
Glen Esk Station	<p>Consultation commenced in October 2019 primarily in relation to the previously proposed Site Access Road. The Applicant has advised the Landholder of the requirement to utilise this access for the Project and apart from ensuring fencing was in good shape, the Landholder has advised of no particular issue with this proposal. The Landholder has raised some concern for the safe use of the Anabranch Mail Road which has been incorporated into the road design. No other matters requiring addressing in the EIS have been raised during consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant and EIS author met with the Landholder on 12 April 2024 to discuss the Project. Matters discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of dust emissions from transport on the Site Access Road, with the Applicant committing to managing dust without using high salinity water. • Communication networks, with the Applicant committing to facilitate improved public UHF and mobile telephone signals. • Emergency management, including improved communication networks, access to the Projects emergency management personnel and equipment and an upgraded RFDS airstrip. • Strict control on which areas personnel are permitted to access. • Sponsorship of the Wentworth Show. • Contributions to local health services.
Dingo Station	<p>The Applicant has engaged the Landholder's son originally for farm work on land managed by the Applicant and the Landholder was informed about Project in early 2023. The Applicant has made numerous attempts to engage with the Landholder during the remainder of 2023 and 2024, but the Landholder has not returned phone calls. The Applicant will continue to make attempts to include the Landholder in project updates and would negotiate a Good Neighbour Agreement if required.</p>
Nanya Station	<p>The Applicant has engaged with representatives from Federation University who operate the station as a nature refuge and teaching area. The Applicant is in the process of developing a MOU with Federation University that will include research into <i>A. nullanulla</i>, work on rehabilitation techniques and potential offsets.</p>
Note 1: Property locations – see Figure 5.1	
Source: RZ Resources Limited	

5.1.2.2 Wider Community Engagement – Wentworth and Surrounds

The Applicant has undertaken extensive engagement with the wider community in the Wentworth LGA throughout the exploration and planning phases of the Project. In particular, consultation with the wider community has focused on the Wentworth Show.

The Wentworth Show, an annual event that attracts up to 10,000 attendees per year, has provided a significant opportunity for the Applicant to present the Project to show patrons as the Project has evolved and changed to address Landholder and environmental concerns. Invariably, the Show is the single largest event held in the Wentworth LGA and brings together individuals and communities that are normally widely dispersed. As a result, the Show provides the best opportunity for the Applicant to engage with a wide variety of potential stakeholders in an environment that allows the community to engage, or not engage, with the Project as individuals see fit.



RZ Resources Limited
Copi Mineral Sands Project

The Applicant hosted stands at the Wentworth Show on the following dates (**Plates 5.1 and 5.2**).

- 25 and 26 August 2018
- 24 and 25 August 2019
- 27 and 28 August 2022
- 26 and 27 August 2023



Plate 5.1 The Applicant's Stand at the 2018 Wentworth Show



Plate 5.2 The Applicant's Stand at the 2022 Wentworth Show

The Applicant was to host a stand at the 2020 and 2021 shows; however, these events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Wentworth Show Committee comprises of a number of landholders and near-neighbours and provided valuable assistance in designing the engagement strategy during the Show. In addition, committee representatives frequented the stand on each occasion, which provided further opportunities for sharing of information, as well as introductions to individuals with interest in the Project.

During each of these events, senior representatives of the Applicant were available to introduce and explain the status of the Project, the products to be mined and their end uses, current and future social, employment and economic opportunities, as well as potential environmental impacts.

During the 2018 Show the Applicant was approached by a selection of landholders and as numerous other show patrons.

During the 2019 and 2022 Shows, the Applicant was again approached by landholders and numerous show patrons. The Applicant also participated in a children's "treasure hunt" where young attendees were encouraged to visit multiple stalls to redeem a token to receive a prize. This allowed the Applicant to engage directly with the children's parents and to provide an educational opportunity for the children. At the 2022 show, the Applicant also provided information updates for patrons in the form of factsheets, a media wall and display banners, a periodic table highlighting the critical mineral and rare earths elements that the Project would produce, and a large display of examples of some end use products. Sample bags were also made available. Each sample bag included a QR code providing a link to the Applicant's website for further information about the Project and to enable community members to register their interest in employment opportunities.



The Applicant held a community drop-in session in Wentworth on 11 April 2024. Flyers advertising the event were to be inserted into all mailboxes and post boxes in Wentworth, as well as the local council offices, and visitor information centre by a third party. Unfortunately, the flyers were not circulated and only three community members attended the session, the owners of the Huntingfield/Sunshine station and a Councillor with Wentworth Shire Council. The drop-in session was rescheduled for 30 April 2024 and readvertised as above. Ten community members attended the session, including business owners and young first nations people. All attendees were interested in employment, training, or business opportunities. No issues or concerns were raised, with the common query related to when the Project will commence.

5.1.2.3 Wider Community Engagement – Broken Hill

The Applicant has continued to engage with Broken Hill City Council during development of the Project and preparation of the Traffic assessment. Businesses along the haul route have also been engaged for comment. In discussions with Council, the Applicant was requested to undertake joint consultation with the community with Council, particularly in relation to the proposed intersection upgrades at Patton and Comstock and Comstock and Eyre Streets. Council indicated that this was due to the limited expected impact on the Broken Hill community, and the limited number of haulage movements expected on the already gazetted heavy vehicle route. The Applicant undertook this consultation in June 2023. Consultation was targeted at all properties along the transport route. A letterbox drop, in person meetings and phone calls to the local daycare centre, nursing home and businesses was all undertaken in the months prior to a drop-in centre established in Broken Hill. The centre was clearly marked with banners on the outside of the building and manned by the General Manager, Environment, Sustainability and Governance and the Safety, Health Community and Environment Advisor. In the four hours the centre operated, one person, a local contractor seeking work, attended.

A second drop-in session was held on 13 April 2024, with notices hand delivered to all residences along the transportation route within Broken Hill. In the four hours the centre operated no community members attended.

5.1.2.4 Aboriginal Community Engagement

Section 6.5.3.3 presents the consultation undertaken with the Aboriginal community in accordance with the document *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010b). As part of that process seven Registered Aboriginal Parties were identified as follows.

- Dareton LALC
- Barkindji-Maraura Elders Council
- Barkandji #8 Native Title Determinants
- Maraura / Thangkaali (Pooncarie) First Nations Owners Association
- Arthur Kirby
- Clair Bates
- Amanda Whitton



Each were consulted in relation to the heritage assessment and the following requests were made following the completion of the field work. The Applicant has agreed to these requests.

- Hearths proposed to be impacted by the Project should be subject to radiocarbon dating to further inform understandings of the history of Aboriginal occupation in the area.
- An area within the Mine Site be set aside as a reburial location for Aboriginal objects salvaged from areas of proposed disturbance.

In addition, in March 2023, the Applicant engaged with the Barkindji-Maraura Elders Council regarding preparation of a Cultural Heritage Plan for the management of the cultural heritage items within the Mine Site. Additionally, the Applicant discussed contracting of Indigenous-owned businesses and employment of Indigenous persons by the Project. The Applicant committed to the principle of maximising potential Project-related benefits for the community and agreed to continue discussions with the Elders Council and the wider Aboriginal community throughout the assessment of the application and the detailed planning and implementation of the Project.

In early 2024, The Applicant engaged with members of Dareton LALC and Barkandji #8 Native Title Determinants whilst they were undertaking Cultural Heritage assessment of the Project. A commitment was made to engage with both the Elders Council and the Native Title holders and a meeting was held with representatives of Dareton LALC prior to the lodgement of the EIS. The meeting was very positive, and included a descendant of the Mitchell family (see Section 6.5.2.4). The Applicant has given a commitment to working with all indigenous parties recognised for the area on employment and educational pathways.

5.1.2.5 Business Community Engagement

The Applicant has been present and actively engaged in the economy of the Wentworth LGA since 2017. Extensive consultation with the local business community has occurred both formally through Project update meetings and informally through employees and management team sourcing local products and services.

The Applicant is now well known in the area and is purchasing local provisions, hiring equipment, staying in local motels and guesthouses and contributing to local events such as the Wentworth Show, raffles at local hotels and local horse race events.

Table 5.3 presents a summary of the engagement methods and topics of discussion that representatives of the Applicant have had with members of the local business community. The Applicant continues to undertake ad-hoc consultation with businesses in Wentworth and surrounding areas, with all interactions documented on its Landowner, Community and Stakeholder Register.



**Table 5.3
Business Community Engagement**

Business	Engagement Methodology	Matters Discussed
Bendigo Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings and telephone conversations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bendigo Bank has a community sponsorship committee and supports the local community through grants and sponsorships. The discussions included how the Applicant and Bendigo Bank can coordinate and participate with community sponsorship and projects. The Applicant also requested Bendigo Bank to nominate a person to be part of the Project's Community Consultative Committee to co-ordinate sponsorship / project contribution requests and to provide input into the business community and their concerns/feedback on the Project, once operational.
Crown Hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone discussion as part of social impact assessment interview process. The Applicant's staff, consultants and contractors regularly frequent and stay at the Hotel with the resulting ad hoc conversations about the Project status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing of commencement of the Project and accommodation options. Numerous informal, ad-hoc discussions with members of the local community.
Wentworth Grande Resort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone discussion as part of social impact assessment interview process. The Applicant's staff, consultants and contractors regularly frequent and stay at the Hotel with the resulting ad hoc conversations about the Project status. The Resort regularly provides catering services to the Applicant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing of commencement of the Project and accommodation options. Numerous informal, ad-hoc discussions with members of the local community.
Wentworth Club Motel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone discussion as part of social impact assessment interview process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether the Project would have a residential or drive-in / drive-out workforce and transportation for workers to/from the Mine Site.
Nifty Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone discussion as part of social impact assessment interview process. Nifty Engineering also provides contracting services to the Applicant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing of commencement of the Project. Commercial opportunities re the supply of engineering services.
Wentworth Post Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Post Office is regularly frequented by the Applicant's staff, with the resulting ad hoc conversations with Post Office staff and customers about the Project status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Project status. Timing of commencement of the Project.
Caltex Garage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Garage is regularly frequented by the Applicant's staff and contractors with the resulting ad hoc conversations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing of commencement of the Project. Commercial opportunities re the supply of fuel.
Wentworth Bakery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bakery is regularly frequented by the Applicant's staff and contractors with the resulting ad hoc conversations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing of commencement of the Project. Commercial opportunities re the supply of catering services.



5.1.3 Government Agency Engagement

5.1.3.1 Planning Focus Meeting and Application for SEARs

A Planning Focus Meeting (PFM) and site inspection was held in Wentworth and at the Mine Site on 23 August 2018. The following government agencies were provided with the document entitled Briefing Paper for the Copi Mineral Sands Project and invited to attend the PFM, with an asterisk (*) indicating those government agencies who attended the PFM.

- Department of Industry (DoI)*
- Department of Industry: Lands and Water
- Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
- Department of Primary Industries
- Division of Resources and Geoscience (attended site separately on 1 August 2018)
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA)*
- NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPC)*
- NSW Health - Far West Public Health Unit (NSW Health)*
- Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)*
- Roads and Maritime Service (RMS)*
- Wentworth Shire Council (WSC)*
- Mildura Regional City Council (MRCC)

During the meeting, an overview of the Project, as it was then understood, was presented to all attendees from the various government agencies. During the PFM and following the site inspection, the various government agencies verbally outlined their respective matters that the EIS should address.

Table 5.4 presents a summary of the environmental issues identified by the representatives of the government agencies who attended the PFM and site inspection.

Table 5.4
Government Agency Issue Identification at the Planning Focus Meeting

Government Agency	Identified Issue	Section in EIS
EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues that should be addressed in the EIS include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – groundwater: 6.2 – air quality: 6.9 – noise: and 6.8 – surface water. 6.7 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In particular, the EIS should address the potential change in chemical composition or quality of extracted groundwater before it is reinjected. While the groundwater in the area is highly saline, the project cannot pollute the aquifers in which water is reinjected or worsen groundwater quality. 	6.2

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Table 5.4 (Cont'd)
Government Agency Issue Identification at the Planning Focus Meeting

Government Agency	Identified Issue	Section in EIS
RMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EIS should include or address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> heavy vehicle haulage. 3.6.2 number of light vehicles travelling to and from Wentworth and travel route. 3.6.2.7 that a Fatigue Management Plan will be finalised prior to commencement of works and provide indicative mitigation and management measures. 3.11.1, 6.6 that a Drivers Code of Conduct will be implemented including a commitment to stay on the defined travel route. 6.6.5 the issue of speeding on the Silver City Highway. 6.6.5 a site establishment haulage plan with traffic movements during construction phase. 3.6.2 maintenance of the haulage route, including a scheduled maintenance program; and 3.6.2 proposed treatment of the intersection of Anabranth Mail Road (Anabranth Mail Road) and Silver City Highway: 3.6.2, 6.6 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photos or video should be taken at the intersection of Anabranth Mail Road and Silver City Highway with vehicles on the Highway to demonstrate sight distances. The intersection will require a left-out acceleration lane, and a right turning lane or Basic Auxiliary Right. Appendix 9 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anabranth Mail Road may need to be sealed for some distance to prevent tracking or blowing of dust onto the Silver City Highway. 3.6.2 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The intersection of the Site Access Road and Anabranth Mail Road may need to be modified to adequately accommodate swept paths for intended vehicle configurations. 3.6.2 	
WSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Voluntary Planning Agreement must include a road maintenance agreement for Anabranth Mail Road. 3.6.2.4 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant will need to negotiate long-term land access agreements with landholders. 5 	
OEH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entire area of disturbance should be assessed and included in the EIS. 6 generally 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity should be assessed using the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology, and a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) should be submitted. The BDAR should follow the "Avoid>Minimise>Offset" hierarchy and include everything related to the Project including the Site Access Road. The BDAR will determine the offset credits generated, with the Applicant to determine how they will be retired. 6.3 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SEARs will specify particular species that should be included in the biodiversity assessment. Noted 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EIS will be referred to the biodiversity and threatened species section of the OEH western division for comment. Noted 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant should ensure that there is some flexibility in Site Access Road route so that areas of higher biodiversity value (such as woody vegetation) identified by the biodiversity assessment can be avoided if possible. If certain such areas cannot be avoided, an explanation for this should be included in the EIS. 6 	
NSW Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A water supply quality assurance plan must be submitted to and approved by the Public Health Unit, to cover water used for the mine camp and ablutions facilities. A reference should be included in the EIS that such a plan will be submitted and implemented. 3.3.3.1 	



The majority of these matters were then included in the formal correspondence between the government agencies to the then DPIE to assist in formulating the first SEARs for the Project issued on 27 September 2018.

The Project was placed into hiatus in late 2020 following the identification of additional mineral resource to allow a revision of the Project design.

A *Scoping Report* dated 20 April 2022 (RWC, 2022) describing the revised Project as it was then understood, together with a request for new SEARs was provided to the Department of Planning and Environment. Revised SEARs were issued on 19 May 2022.

The Department of Planning and Environment's visited the Mine Site and met with the Applicant and selected landholders on 26 July 2023. Following that site visit, a further revised *Scoping Report* dated November 2023 (RZ, 2023) outlining further changes to the Project was provided to the Department on 15 December 2023. Revised SEARs were issued 18 December 2023.

A tabulated summary of the SEARs and where each relevant requirement is addressed within the EIS is included as **Appendix 1**.

During the preparation of the EIS, the Applicant and/or its representative(s) consulted with a number of government agencies. A summary of the consultation is provided in the following subsections. Given the period of time over which the consultation has occurred, a number of agencies have changed names or responsibilities. The names of the relevant agencies at the time of consultation are used below.

5.1.3.2 Department of Planning and Environment

The Applicant originally met with the then Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) via videoconference on 17 September 2020. During that meeting, the Applicant provided the Department with an update on the Project, including the proposed activities, consultation completed and anticipated environmental impacts.

Subsequently, the Applicant has met with the now Department of Planning and Environment on multiple occasions throughout the project, including a site inspection 26 July 2023.

Key matters requiring resolution in the EIS and during the assessment phase of the Project were identified as follows.

- Licencing for groundwater to be extracted from the Loxton-Parilla Sands groundwater system, with both the Applicant and DPIE to consult with Natural Resources Access Regulator and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment-Water. Ongoing discussions around appropriate licencing for water use
- Agreement with both Councils in relation to terms of a Planning Agreement.
- Identification of appropriate biodiversity offset mechanisms, including payment into the biodiversity offset fund and / or establishment of a Stewardship Site.
- Discussion and agreement on an appropriate Capital Investment Value (CIV) for the Project.



- Landholder approvals and concerns, especially appropriate consultation and information provision.
- Discussions regarding confirming tenure of the Springwood Road through Tarawi Nature Reserve
- Proposed community engagement processes and timing for EIS exhibition.
- Access issues and general logistical challenges during EIS preparation.

5.1.3.3 Wentworth Shire Council

The Applicant and its advisors have regularly consulted with officers of Wentworth Shire Council on multiple occasions from November 2018, including with the Mayor, General Manager, Director of Roads and Engineering and Manager Works. Matters addressed during this consultation included the following.

- General project updates.
- Establishment of a future Community Consultative Committee including suitable Council representatives.
- Negotiation of a suitable Planning Agreement. Negotiations were ongoing at the time of finalisation of this document and the Applicant anticipates that a “terms sheet’ will be available for inclusion within the Submissions Report. The Applicant has discussed with Council funding opportunities for additional maintenance of the local road network to assist neighbours and near neighbours, as well as working collaboratively on a project to secure gravel supplies for road maintenance and building within the region.
- Design. upgrade and maintenance of Anabranche Mail Road, including the intersection of the Site Access Road and Silver City Highway. Council has indicated general satisfaction with the proposed upgrade works and the Applicant has committed to maintaining that section of the Road from the Site Access Road to the Silver City Highway at its own expense.
- Temporary closure of Nulla Road between the entrance to the Huntingfield homestead to the southern entrance to Wenba. This is to allow continuity of access to both Huntingfield and Wenba Stations. The Applicant has agreed to install warning signs and a suitable turn around area on Nulla Road for vehicles approaching from either direction.
- Source and quality of road construction materials, including a joint approach to sourcing and managing gravel supplies.
- Potential support for land development and use of council buildings.
- Contributions to local projects (e.g. the annual Wentworth Show, Wentworth Airport, the PS Ruby Paddle Steamer, and the upgrade of the Junction Island walking track). These matters are likely to be included in any Planning Agreement for the Project.



A meeting was held with Council staff on 11 April 2024 and with elected Councillors on 18 April 2024. Matters addressed during this consultation included the following.

- An overview of the updated project and specialist assessments.
- Discussions in relation to the realignment and works associated with Anabranch Mail Road and the closure and realignment of Nulla Road.
- Potential sources of gravel for the proposed road works.
- Maximising potential Project-related benefits for the Wentworth community while ensuring that the Project did not overwhelm local services or adversely impact existing businesses' ability to engage staff of obtain services.

The meeting between the owners of Huntingfield/Sunshine Station and the Applicant during the community drop in session on 11 April in the presence of one of the elected Councillors was also discussed.

5.1.3.4 Broken Hill Shire Council

The Applicant and its advisors have met with members of the Broken Hill City Council executive and operations management team on six separate occasions to discuss the proposed revised haul route and upgrades to the existing rail siding to permit rail transport of mineral from Broken Hill to its Mineral Separation Plant in Pinkenba, Queensland.

A meeting was held with elected Councillors on 12 April 2024. Matters addressed during this consultation included the following.

- An overview of the updated project and specialist assessments.
- Road upgrades, including the Councillors preference that the bike path along Eyre Street and Holten Drive be reconstructed as an off road bike path.

The Applicant and Broken Hill City Council will include any road upgrades and modifications in a Planning Agreement.

5.1.3.5 Mildura Rural City Council

The Applicant met with Mildura Rural City Council (Mildura Council) in 2020 and again in 2023 to provide an overview of the Project and discuss regional employment and services. The Applicant noted that as the Project was in NSW, its primary focus was on engaging with Wentworth Shire Council. However, it was acknowledged that employees and businesses resident within the Mildura Regional LGA area would likely service and support the Project. The Applicant committed to continue to consult with the Mildura Council throughout the Project assessment and construction phases.

5.1.3.6 Biodiversity and Conservation Division

The Applicant and EnviroKey consulted with the Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD) in relation to the cost of biodiversity credits and the BDAR prepared for the Project. In summary, BCD, at the Applicant's request, updated the Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator to



include a price for species credits for *Austrostipa nullanulla* and clarified the approach for assessment of the Painted Burrowing Frog given that suitable conditions for observation (substantial rainfall) did not occur during the assessment period. The Applicant also discussed land management issues under a Stewardship Agreement, including fencing and management of weeds, pests, and watering points.

5.1.3.7 NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

The Applicant has attended the Lower Darling district office of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service responsible for the Tarawi Nature Reserve on multiple occasions. Meeting outcomes centred around mitigation of any potential road impacts from the originally proposed use of Springwood Road on the values of the park and concerns over the tenure of the road. The Applicant has discontinued this option and advised those responsible for the park that the project does no longer have potential for impact on the reserve.

5.1.3.8 Natural Resources Access Regulator and DPE Water

The Applicant has engaged extensively with the Natural Resources Access Regulator and DPE Water in relation to water licencing for the Project. In particular, the Applicant has been advised that the *Water Management Act 2000* does not make allowance in the water allocation scheme for the use of poor-quality water at a reduced fee. The water to be used for the Project is hypersaline, namely water that is twice as salty as seawater.

The Applicant has sought a Special Purpose Allocation Licence to utilise the saline water at a reduced fee but this was denied under the existing scheme rules. The Department noted there were other parties in a similar situation and that a policy position was yet to be formulated for the use of the more saline aquifers.

The Applicant will therefore apply for an allocation under the existing scheme and seek for a special purpose allocation licence once the regulations are amended.

5.1.3.9 Transport for NSW

Tonkin Consulting Pty Ltd consulted Transport for NSW during the initial stages of the traffic and transportation assessment and again following completion of the design presented in Section 3.6. Transport for NSW declined to provide feedback on the initial intersection design, noting that the design will be assessed when the EIS is formally received during the exhibition stage.

5.1.3.10 Resources Regulator

A site inspection was held with six officers of the now Resources Regulator on 1 August 2018 during which the status of resource definition drilling was discussed and approval for the completion of the Conceptual Project Development Project was provided. A subsequent site inspection with a Mines Inspector from the Regulator was undertaken on 19 December 2019 and a subsequent follow-up meeting on 8 January 2020.



A further onsite inspection with the Resources Regulator occurred on 17 and 18 May 2022 and again in January 2023. Outstanding rehabilitation of drill holes was discussed, and the Resources Regulator has expressed a desire to complete all outstanding rehabilitation on Huntingfield Station.

The Applicant engaged extensively with the Resources Regulator during the remainder of 2023 and into early 2024 to resolve the concerns the Regulator has had with rehabilitation after drilling activities. It is expected that this matter will be resolved once access is reinstated to Huntingfield.

5.1.3.11 Mining, Exploration and Geoscience

The Applicant has met with representatives from the Mining Exploration and Geosciences (MEG) on several occasions as part of preparatory meetings and project discussion prior to MEG convening the Mining Development Panel (MDP) assessment team. The MDP is made up of senior technical officers from within MEG's business units that are involved in mine development assessment and included representatives from:

- Industry Advisory and Mining Concierge – Industry Development (Panel Chair);
- Resource Economics;
- Resource Assessment – Geological Survey of NSW; and
- Mining & Exploration Assessment – Geological Survey of NSW.

The Resources Regulator were also engaged as part of the MDP.

The original MDP meeting took place on 8 November 2022, and subsequent meetings have occurred on 22 February 2023, 26 June 2023, and 15 November 2023. No matters additional to in the SEARs were identified as requiring addressing in the EIS. Matters discussed were around tenure and resource estimates, as well as project timings.

5.1.3.12 NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

The Applicant, prior to COVID-19 travel restrictions, met with representatives of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) on five occasions in 2018 and six occasions in 2019, with a planned site meeting for March 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. That consultation has primarily revolved around providing updates to DPC on the status of the Project and relevant challenges that the Applicant and Project have faced through the exploration and planning phases of the Project.

Since 2020, the Applicant has provided ongoing updates to the DPC on a regular basis as the EIS has progressed.



5.2 Community Views

5.2.1 Introduction

Section 6.14.3 presents an overview of the community surrounding the Mine Site. In summary, however, the Mine Site is located in a very sparsely populated area of NSW. Surrounding land holdings are large and a substantial proportion are not permanently occupied. Land use surrounding the Mine Site is dominated by low intensity to very low intensity grazing.

The key residential and commercial centre in the vicinity of the Mine Site is Wentworth and associated settlements of Dareton, Burronga and Gol Gol, with the largest town and principal economic centre being Mildura in Victoria (see **Figure 1.1**).

The Rail Facility is located in Broken Hill, approximately 220km by road from the Mine Site. Section 6.14.3 presents an overview of the community surrounding the Rail Facility. In summary, Broken Hill is the principal residential and commercial centre in western NSW. The City has a long history and association with mining, commencing in 1883 with the discovery of the Line of Lode. The City was built around the mining operations, with three mines currently operating within the Broken Hill urban area. The community of Broken Hill is a tight knit community that relies heavily on and is intimately familiar with mining operations.

Section 5.1 presents an overview of the engagement undertaken with each of the above communities. The following subsections present a brief overview of the views of each of those communities.

5.2.2 Surrounding Landholders

Table 5.5 presents an overview of the principal matters raised by surrounding landholders and where each has been addressed in this document.



Table 5.5
Matters Raised during Engagement – Landholders

Matters Raised	Section in EIS
Strategic Context	
No matters raised, however, see transportation and water below	
Design of the Project	
No matters raised	
Statutory Issues	
No matters raised	
Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts	
Transportation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation routes 	3.6.2.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades and maintenance of Anabranh Mail Road, Temporary closure of Nulla road 	3.6.2.4
Water	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to groundwater (within the middle and lower aquifers) 	6.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water impacts associated with seepage from the Off Path Storage Facility. 	6.7
Agriculture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on agricultural operations associated with upgrades to and increased traffic movements along Anabranh Mail Road and the Site Access Road 	3.6 and 6.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to water lines from the Great Darling Anabranh and farm infrastructure 	3.8
Communication and Emergency Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential improvements to communication networks, emergency management and response and an RFDS airstrip. 	6.11.6
Justification and Evaluation of the Project	
No matters raised	
Issues that are beyond the scope of this assessment or not relevant to Project	
Site access (primarily for exploration operations)	-
Status of rehabilitation of exploration operations	-
Future (post-Project) mining operations, including potential expansion of the proposed dredge mining / other nearby exploration tenements	-
Source: RZ Resources Limited	

5.2.3 Wider Community – Wentworth and Surrounds

Table 5.6 presents an overview of the principal matters raised by surrounding landholders and where each has been addressed in this document.



Table 5.6
Matters Raised during Engagement – Wentworth and Surrounds

Matters Raised	Section in EIS	
Strategic Context		
No matters raised	-	
Design of the Project		
Project description generally	Figure 1.1	
• Location of the Mine Site		3.4
• Proposed class of mining operations (open cut/underground, style of mineralisation)		1.5.3
• Products to be produced and potential end uses.		1.5.3
• Potential end users	1.5.3	
Statutory Issues		
No matters raised	-	
Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts		
Economic		
• Number of positions available and how to apply	3.11.1	
• Opportunities to supply goods and services to the Project	3.11.2	
• Employment and business opportunities for First Nations people	3.11, 5.1.2.4	
Water		
• Impacts to groundwater (generally)	6.2	
• Water balance and water supply	3.8.4	
Transportation		
• Onsite transportation operation and location of the Site Access Road	3.6.1	
• Transportation routes and offsite transportation operations	3.6	
Rehabilitation		
• Rehabilitation of land within the Mine Site	3.12	
Justification and Evaluation of the Project		
No matters raised	-	
Issues that are beyond the scope of this assessment or not relevant to Project		
Status of rehabilitation of exploration operations	-	
Future (post-Project) mining operations, including potential expansion of the proposed dredge mining / other nearby exploration tenements	-	
Source: RZ Resources Pty Limited		

5.2.4 Wider Community – Broken Hill

Section 5.1.2.3 described consultation undertaken in Broken Hill. In summary, a drop-in session in June 2023 was advertised by letterbox drop to all Broken Hill residents along the Transportation Route. During the 4 hour session, no local residents attended. Notwithstanding this, Council has provided feedback in relation to likely matters of interest to residents of Broken Hill. In addition, the author of this EIS, Mr Mitchell Bland, has over 30 years' experience working and living in Broken Hill. **Table 5.7** presents an overview of the anticipated principal matters likely to be of concern to surrounding landholders and where each has been addressed in this document.



Table 5.7
Matters Raised during Engagement – Broken Hill

Matters Raised	Section in EIS
Strategic Context	
No matters raised	-
Design of the Project	
Transportation	
• Intersection upgrades and construction operations	3.6 and 6.6
• Ongoing transportation operations in Broken Hill, including vehicles to be used	3.6 and 6.6
• Location of the reconstructed bike path along Eyre Street and Holten Drive	3.6 and 6.6
Statutory Issues	
Nil	-
Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts	
Noise	
• Road traffic noise along the transportation route	6.8
Justification and Evaluation of the Project	
Nil	-
Issues that are beyond the scope of this assessment or not relevant to Project	
Nil	-

5.3 Engagement to be Carried Out

5.3.1 Future Government Engagement

The Applicant would continue to liaise closely with relevant government agencies during assessment of the application for and following receipt of development consent. Consultation would likely be focused on the following matters.

- Negotiation of Planning Agreements with Wentworth Shire and Broken Hill City Councils.
- Resolution of queries or uncertainties in relation to the information required to determine the application for development consent.
- Licencing and obtaining approvals other than the development consent.
- Establishment of one or more Biodiversity Stewardship Sites.

Following receipt of development consent, government agency consultation would likely be focused on the following matters.

- Preparation of Management Plans.
- Obtaining all required approvals and licences to commence operations.
- Ongoing environmental management of the Project.

In addition, the Applicant would continue to liaise with elected representatives at Commonwealth, State and Local government levels.



5.3.2 Future Community Engagement

The Applicant proposes to maintain a proactive approach to ongoing community engagement through the implementation of the following prior to and following determination of the application for development consent.

- Direct contact with its surrounding neighbours at a frequency agreed upon with each neighbour, including an invitation for periodic site visits to view the existing operations and Project Site. Good Neighbour Agreements will be finalised with fence line and other neighbours prior to granting of the Mining Lease. The Applicant has committed to providing a full copy of the EIS to all affected landholders and neighbours.
- The Applicant is establishing a shop front within the main business centre of Wentworth during the exhibition and assessment phase of the Project. This will be manned by the Applicant and will serve as a source of information and a place for meetings. Should the Project be approved, a more substantial presence in Wentworth will be established.
- Establishment of and participation in the Community Consultative Committee should the Project be approved.
- Development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in consultation with the RAPs to manage current and future items of cultural heritage, as well as community engagement and enhancement.
- Regular community meetings in Wentworth.
- Consultation in conjunction with Broken Hill City Council during exhibition of the EIS, prior to commencement of road works and subsequently as required.
- Posting of relevant documents on the Applicant's website.

The engagement measures outlined above would be incorporated into a *Community Engagement Plan* for the Project.