Graphinex – Esmeralda Graphite Project Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix C – Public Consultation Report

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Appendix C
Public Consultation Report

ESMERALDA GRAPHITE PROJECT

aarc ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS
APEM Group

GRAPHINEX

Table of Contents

1 Public Consultation Report 1

1.1 Introduction 1

1.1.1 Purpose 1

1.2 Stakeholder Identification 1

1.3 Consultation 5

1.4 Potential impacts 6

1.5 Mitigation measures 10

1.5.1 Ongoing Consultation 10

1.5.2 Community and stakeholder engagement plan 10

1.5.3 Community health and wellbeing plan (CHWP) 14

1.5.4 Housing and Accommodation plan 17

1.5.5 Workforce management plan 19

1.5.6 Local business and industry procurement plan (LBIPP) 22

1.6 Graphinex Engagement Register 24

List of Figures

Figure 1: Project study areas 4
Figure 2: presentation material on the Project 6
Figure 3: Graphinex facilities open day 6

List of Tables

Table 1: Project study areas 2
Table 2: Project SIA consultation summary 5
Table 3: Consultation feedback 7
Table 4: Workforce management impacts 8
Table 5: Housing and accommodation impacts 8
Table 6: Health and community wellbeing impacts 9
Table 7: Summary of community stakeholder engagement plan 11
Table 8: Summary of Community Health and Wellbeing plan 15
Table 9: Summary of housing and accommodation plan 18
Table 10: Summary of workforce management plan 20
Table 11: Summary of local business and industry procurement plan 23
Table 12: Engagement Register EIS Categories 26

1 Public Consultation Report

1.1 Introduction

The Esmeralda Graphite Project, proposed by Qld Aus Graphite Pty Ltd, is located approximately 70 km south of Croydon in northwest Qld. The Project involves developing an open-cut mine to extract graphite-ore from the Esmeralda Granite Unit and processing it on-site to produce high grade graphite concentrate. Over its operational life the Project is expected to extract around 170 million tonnes of ore, with up to 3.5 Mt of ROM material processed each year.

To support mining and processing activities, the Project includes construction and operation of an open-cut pit, a processing plant, and a private haul road linking the site to Esmeralda Prospect Road. Graphite concentrate would then be transported by road train along the public road network for export. The impacts, both positive and negative, of key Project elements have been assessed through environmental and social studies and discussed with stakeholders during consultation for the Project.

The Project has been designed to contribute to Qld's regional development and Australia's growing critical minerals sector. The Project's objectives include producing high-quality graphite, supporting local employment and procurement opportunities while enabling renewable energy transition by supplying a key battery mineral. The Proponent is committed to designing, constructing, and operating the Project in a way that minimises environmental and social harm while meeting all statutory obligations and continually improving environmental and social practices.

1.1.1 Purpose

Public consultation serves two key purposes. First, it ensures that anyone who may be affected by, or have an interest in, the Project has the opportunity to understand what is proposed and how it may impact them (both positively and negatively). Second, it provides a meaningful avenue for stakeholders to express concerns, share local knowledge and contribute to decisions that may affect their community or region.

Consultation is fundamentally an exchange of information between community members, technical specialists, Project personnel and other interested parties. Through this process, the Project can be planned and operated in a way that maximises local benefits while avoiding or minimising negative environmental or social impacts.

Engagement with stakeholders is a formal requirement of the EIS process and would continue throughout all phases of the Project, from planning and approval through to construction, operations and eventual decommissioning and closure.

1.2 Stakeholder Identification

A social impact assessment (SIA) was conducted for the Project that identified three study areas (Appendix O). The SIA study area is identified based on the geographic areas and communities likely to experience changes to social conditions from the Project. Matters that have been considered in determining the SIA study area include:

- the nature and scale of the project, including associated infrastructure;
- the scope of potential social impacts throughout the project lifecycle;
- the location and characteristics of potentially impacted communities, including existing population centres as well as labour and service centres; and
- local and regional transport and connectivity networks, including workforce fatigue management requirements.

The Project study areas are described in Table 1 and depicted in Figure 1.

Table 1: Project study areas

Study area	Location description	Relevance to the Project
Local	Croydon LGA	The local study area encompasses the entirety of the Project site, Esmeralda Station, and Croydon township which are all located within the Croydon LGA. The outback town of Croydon is the closest community to the Project and the main population and administrative centre in Croydon LGA. Croydon LGA is most likely to experience any direct impacts and benefits from the Project.
Regional service centres	Normanton UCL Richmond UCL Townsville UCL Cairns UCL	The four communities are considered regional service centres for the Project and Croydon residents. Normanton and Richmond are the nearest regional service centres. • Normanton is a larger centre than Croydon, a key centre for the gulf region, and a potential source of workers and services for the Project. • Richmond is a key centre along the Project transport route from Townsville. Richmond Woolgar Road is a key connector route between Richmond and Croydon. Townsville and Cairns are large population and service centres for the North and Far North Queensland regions. • Townsville provides port access and is anticipated to host additional supporting infrastructure for the Project. • Cairns is an established service centre for the Croydon community where residents access good and services including healthcare. The regional service centres are potential sources for labour, goods and services for the Project.
Regional	LGAs of Croydon, Richmond, Carpentaria	The regional study area includes the host LGA as well as the adjacent LGAs encompassing the nearest regional service centres of Normanton and Richmond.

Using these study areas, and previous engagement communities, Graphinex developed a list of Project stakeholders. The stakeholder list will be further developed and maintained throughout the Project life cycle. Identification of stakeholders has been conducted in accordance with sections 38, 39 and 41(3)(b) of the *Environmental Protection Act*, 1994 (EP Act), as well as the EIS process under the State *Development and Public Works Organisation Act* 1971 (SDPWO Act). It is also required for development prescribed in the *Planning Act* 2016 (Planning Act).

Examples of 'affected persons' include local landholders with tenure under or adjacent to the Project, including Shire Councils and native title holders. Examples of 'interested persons' include other landholders or groups with potential interest in the Project and may include local service providers, businesses or government departments.

Targeted SIA engagement was undertaken between late March and early April 2026. A total of 22 stakeholders were engaged across 13 individual and group meetings conducted in-person and online via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of this engagement was to understand community perceptions of the Project, including potential social impacts and benefits, and community benefit sharing opportunities.

Stakeholders engaged during this period included:

- Croydon Shire Council;
- Croydon Rural Fire Brigade;

- Croydon Gulf Gate BP Roadhouse;
- Croydon Men's Shed;
- Croydon Club Hotel;
- Croydon State School;
- Croydon Primary Health Centre;
- State Emergency Service;
- Normanton Airport Accommodation & Vehicle Hire;
- Gulf Regional Services;
- Rural Flying Doctor Service;
- Bynoe Community Advisory Advancement Cooperative Society; and
- Gulf Regional Services.

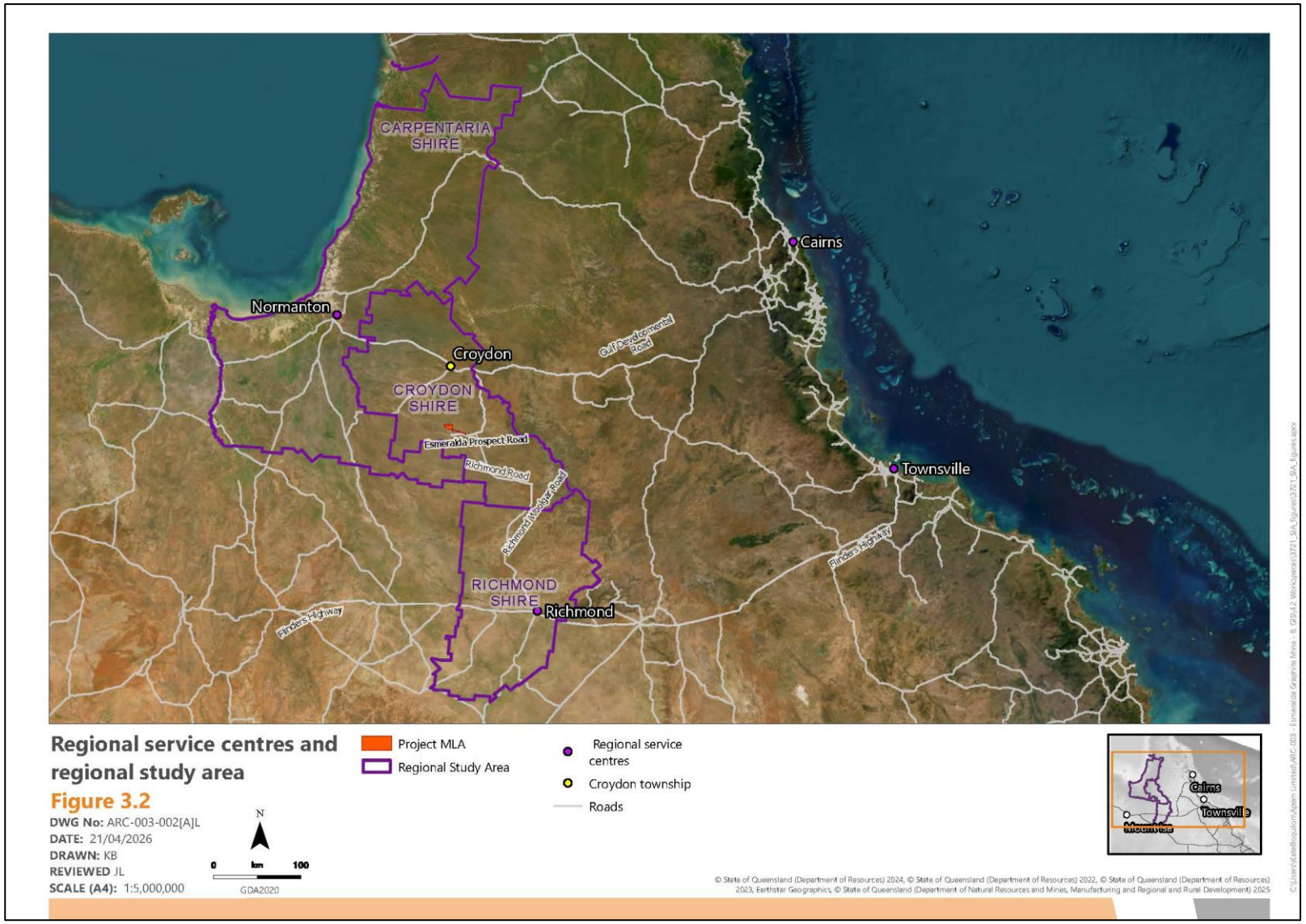


Figure 1: Project study areas

1.3 Consultation

Engagement with stakeholders for the Project has occurred through multiple channels, including discussions by phone, email, online meetings, letters, SMS messages, LinkedIn, workshops, community information sessions and focus group sessions. Engagement has been supported by updates on the Graphinex website and various targeted presentations about the Project, as planning has progressed.

The SIA consultation activities are summarised in Table 2. Broader consultation has been ongoing for the Project including open days, media releases and targeted presentations. Examples are provided as Figure 2 and Figure 3.

Table 2: Project SIA consultation summary

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Contacted for SIA participation	Participated in SIA engagement	Number of engagements	Number of participants
Local government	Croydon Shire Council	Yes	Yes	1	6
Health and emergency services	Croydon Primary Health Centre	Yes	Yes	1	1
	Croydon Rural Fire Brigade	Yes	Yes	1	2
	SES Far North Region	Yes	Yes	1	2
	Royal Flying Doctors Service	Yes	Yes	1	1
	Queensland Health Cairns and Hinterland HHS - Cairns office	Yes	No	-	-
	Gidgee Healing – Normanton	Yes	No	-	-
Social services and community groups Education and training providers	Croydon Men's Shed	Yes	Yes	1	1
	Croydon State School	Yes	Yes	1	1
	Bynoe Community Advancement Cooperative Society (CACS)	Yes	Yes	1	1
	QCWA Croydon and Georgetown	Yes	No	-	-
Accommodation providers Local business and industry	Croydon Club Hotel	Yes	Yes	1	1
	Croydon Gulf Gate BP Roadhouse	Yes	Yes	1	2
Local business and industry	Gulf Savannah Development Inc	Yes	Yes	1	1
	Normanton Vehicle Hire	Yes	Yes	1	1
Local business and industry Traditional Owners	Gulf Regional Services	Yes	Yes	1	2

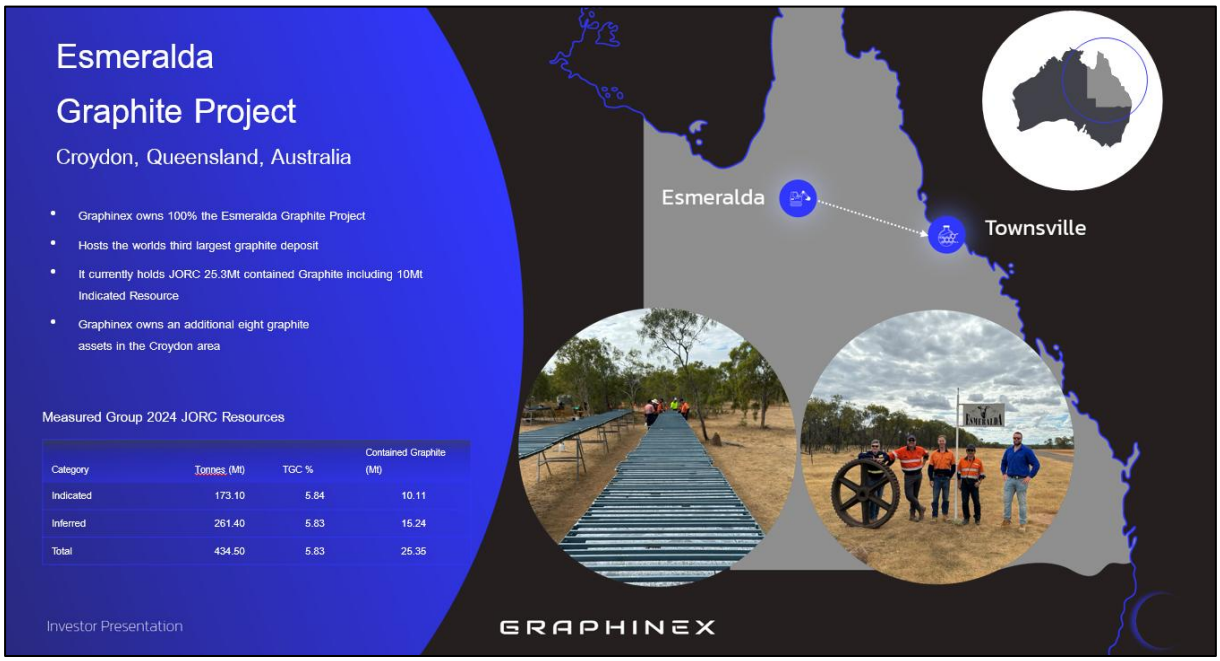


Figure 2: Presentation material on the Project



Figure 3: Graphinex facilities open day (Townsville)

1.4 Potential impacts

Feedback received during the consultation process has been used to inform decisions and influence Project planning. Consideration of community concerns is important to identify impacts and maximise opportunities for positive outcomes for stakeholders and the Project.

This feedback also informs the development of social impact management plans (SIMPs) for the Project to manage risks and address concerns. Key areas of relevance to communities that were identified during the consultation process are identified in Table 3.

Table 3: Consultation feedback

Stakeholder group	General area of interest
Native Title holders	General Project updates Various agreements underway Employment opportunities
Landholders	Access to properties Exploration activities and ground water bores Environmental monitoring
Government (Federal)	General Project updates Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under EPBC Act
Government (Qld)	General Project updates EIS progression Hospital and ambulance coverage
Government (local) Croydon Shire Council	General Project updates
Allied Health Services	Impact on Allied Health services Opportunities for collaborative support to communities
Emergency Services	Impact on Emergency services Opportunities for joint emergency response
Local businesses	General Project Updates Opportunities for local employment and business
Others	Traditional owner business opportunities

Impacts identified through the public consultation and SIA process relate to workforce management, housing and accommodation, local business and industry procurement, health and community wellbeing. These impacts are described in Table 4 to Table 6.

The significance of each identified risk was considered without additional risk management measures (pre-managed) and with additional management measures (post managed). Project phases are denoted as:

- 'SE' for site establishment / pre-construction activities;
- 'C' for construction;
- 'O' for operations; and
- 'D' for decommissioning and rehabilitation.

Negative impacts are denoted with (-) and positive impacts (benefits and opportunities) are denoted with (+).

A summary of impacts is identified in the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix J).

Table 4: Workforce management impacts

Project phase/s	Social impact	Stakeholders	Impact significance	
			Pre-managed	**Post-managed**
C	Increase in employment opportunities	Croydon, Normanton and Richmond community Regional service centres – Cairns and Townsville communities Croydon and Richmond Shire Councils	Low (+)	Medium (+)
O			Medium (+)	Medium (+)
O	Increase in training and skills development opportunities	Croydon community (including First Nations residents) Training and education providers (regional service centres)	Low (+)	Medium (+)
C O	Increase in workforce health, safety and well-being risk factors	Project workforce Health and emergency service providers – Croydon and regional service centres	High (-)	Medium (-)
D	Impact on workforce wellbeing from redundancies due to closure / cessation of operations	Project workforce Local government State government agencies	High (-)	Medium (-)

Table 5: Housing and accommodation impacts

Project phase/s	Social impact	Stakeholders	Impact significance	
			Pre-managed	**Post-managed**
SE	Increase in demand on local short-term accommodation affecting accessibility by other users	Accommodation providers in Croydon Tourists Visiting contractors	Low (-)	Negligible (-)
SE	Additional economic opportunities for short-term accommodation providers	Accommodation providers in Croydon	Low (+)	Low (-)
O	Decrease in local housing availability and affordability due relocating Project workforce demand	Croydon community Croydon Shire Council	Medium (-)	Low (-)
C	Increase in supply and procurement opportunities	Croydon businesses and industry Croydon Shire Council Businesses and industry groups – regional service centres	Low (+)	Medium (+)
O			Medium (+)	Medium (+)

Project phase/s	Social impact	Stakeholders	Impact significance	
			Pre-managed	Post-managed
O	Increase in industry diversification	Croydon Shire Council Croydon community State government	Medium (+)	Medium (+)
C O	Increase in labour draw and competition for other businesses	Croydon businesses and service providers Croydon Shire Council Businesses and industry – regional service centres	Medium (-)	Low (-)
C O	Increase in economic activity for businesses	Croydon businesses Richmond and Normanton businesses	Low (+)	Low (+)

Table 6: Health and community wellbeing impacts

Project phase/s	Social impact	Stakeholders	Impact significance	
			Pre-managed	Post-managed
C O	Increase in demand for health and emergency services contributing to service provision disruptions to for existing residents	Health and emergency services in Croydon and regional service centres Croydon community	Medium (-)	Low (-)
C O	Increase in road safety risks (e.g., accidents, road condition deterioration, etc)	Residents along transport route – Croydon and Richmond LGA Health and emergency service providers Croydon Shire Council Richmond Shire Council	High (-)	Medium (-)
C O	Improved access and connectivity	Croydon and Richmond community Croydon Shire Council Richmond Shire Council	Low (+)	Medium (+)
C O	Changes to cultural heritage value	Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation	Medium (-)	Low (-)
C O	Changes to ecological / environmental values	Croydon community Croydon Shire Council State government agencies Traditional Owners	Medium (-)	Low (-)
O	Disruptions to surrounding amenity	Landholders – Esmeralda station and neighbours	Low (-)	Low (-)

Project phase/s	Social impact	Stakeholders	Impact significance	
			Pre-managed	Post-managed
C O	Support overall socio-economic wellbeing of Croydon	Croydon community Croydon Shire Council	Low (+)	High (+)
O	Support increase in resident population	Croydon community Croydon Shire Council	Low (+)	Low (+)
SE	Community scepticism and apathy towards project	Croydon community	Medium (-)	Low (-)

1.5 Mitigation measures

Matters raised during consultation are managed through SIMPs. SIMPs are developed for key social impact areas and include:

- Community stakeholder engagement plan (CSEP);
- Community health and wellbeing plan (CHWP);
- Housing and accommodation plan (HAP);
- Workforce management plan (WMP); and
- Local business and industry procurement plan (LBIPP).

The plans are developed as part of the SIA and are live documents that would be reviewed as the Project progresses. Each plan is described in the following sections. The CSEP provides for ongoing consultation and its implementation is a key process for community engagement outcomes for the Project.

1.5.1 Ongoing consultation

Ongoing consultation would be conducted through all phases of the Project. Initial consultation and engagement has informed the development of mitigation measures articulated through a series of management plans described in the following sections. These plans will be reviewed over the life of the Project and informed by ongoing consultation.

1.5.2 Community and stakeholder engagement plan

The CSEP describes the mechanisms and frequency for which the Project would seek and receive input from stakeholders. A CSEP was developed for the initial SIA and would be reviewed and updated to form the basis of ongoing engagement for the Project. The CSEP is provided as Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of community and stakeholder engagement plan

Engagement action	Responsibility	Targeted stakeholders	Timing[1]	Monitoring			
				Performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility	Frequency
Establish and maintain Project website, contact details, and complaints and grievance procedure	Graphinex	All	PC, C, O, and D	Website content regularly maintained	Project website	Graphinex	Annually
Maintain constructive relationships with Traditional Owners	Graphinex	Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation	PC, C, O, and D	Ongoing, open communication	Engagement register	Graphinex	Annually
Build and maintain positive relationships with local governments	Graphinex	Croydon Shire Council Normanton Shire Council Richmond Shire Council	PC, C, O, and D	Ongoing, open communication	Engagement register	Graphinex	Quarterly during pre-construction and construction, annually during operation and rehabilitation
Hold community information sessions	Graphinex	Croydon community Normanton community Richmond community	PC	Level of Project awareness in communities	Stakeholder feedback Website interactions	Graphinex	Half yearly during pre-construction
Seek inputs to develop emergency and disaster response plans	Graphinex	Health and emergency services	PC	Inputs received from all health and emergency service providers involved	Engagement register	Graphinex	Once during pre-construction
Communicate Project schedule and needs including skilled and unskilled workers, services and supplies	Graphinex	Local businesses Employment and training services	PC and C	Level of Project awareness amongst targeted stakeholders	Stakeholder feedback Website interactions	Graphinex	Half yearly during pre-construction and construction

[1] Project phases are denoted through 'PC' for pre-construction activities; 'C' for construction 'O' for operations; and 'D' for decommissioning and rehabilitation

Engagement action	Responsibility	Targeted stakeholders	Timing[1]	Monitoring			
				Performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility	Frequency
Promote local employment and local content opportunities and tender requirements	Graphinex	Local jobseekers Local businesses	PC and C	Number of applicants and tenders received from local communities	HR records Tender records Engagement register	Graphinex	Half yearly during pre-construction and construction
Seek community inputs on community support program and initiatives	Graphinex	All	PC and C	Community feedback received	Engagement register	Graphinex	Annually during pre-construction and construction
Provide ongoing updates about Project activities including increased traffic volumes, etc	Graphinex	All	PC, C, O, and D	No complaints received regarding lack of awareness	Complaints register	Graphinex	Annually during pre-construction, construction, operation and rehabilitation
Participate in and support community events and initiatives	Graphinex	Croydon community Normanton community Richmond community	PC, C, O, and D	Graphinex employees participate in and/or support events and initiatives	Engagement register Community support program reporting	Graphinex	Annually during pre-construction, construction, operation and rehabilitation
Acknowledge and resolve any complaints and grievances	Graphinex	All	PC, C, O, and D	All complaints and grievances resolved within a timely manner	Complaints register	Graphinex	Annually during pre-construction, construction, operation and rehabilitation
Seek inputs from interested stakeholders on rehabilitation and closure, if amendments to the PRCP are required	Graphinex	Interested stakeholders	PC, C, and O	Feedback received from interested stakeholders	Engagement register	Graphinex	Annually during pre-construction, construction, operation, and rehabilitation

Engagement action	Responsibility	Targeted stakeholders	Timing[1]	Monitoring			
				Performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility	Frequency
Notify the community about and promote the community support program	Graphinex	All	O	Community involved with community support program	Engagement register Community Support Program reporting	Graphinex	Annually during operation

1.5.3 Community health and wellbeing plan

The CHWP includes management controls for key impacts and is included in Appendix O. Key matters and controls are summarised in Table 8.

Table 8: Summary of Community Health and Wellbeing plan

Impact	Management measure	Targeted stakeholder/s	Implementation			Monitoring				
			Timing	Responsibility	Partners	Desired outcome	Performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility	Frequency
Increase in demand for health and emergency services	Health and Safety Management System	Health and emergency services – Croydon and regional service centres Croydon community	PC, C and O	Graphinex Construction contractor	-	Minimise demand on health and emergency services	Number of health and safety incidents involving local health and emergency services	Workplace health and safety records	Graphinex Construction contractor	Six monthly during construction and operation
Increase in road safety risks Improved access and connectivity	Traffic Management Plan and Road Use Management Plan	Health and emergency services Croydon Shire Council Richmond Shire Council	C and O	Graphinex Construction contractor	-	Minimise road safety risks	Compliance with Traffic Management Plan and Road Use Management Plan	Workplace health and safety records Complaints register	Graphinex Construction contractor	Six monthly during construction and operation
Changes to cultural heritage value	Cultural Heritage Management Plan	Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation	C and O	Graphinex Construction contractor	Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation	Minimise Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts	Compliance with cultural heritage management protocols	Cultural heritage records	Graphinex	As and when required

Impact	Management measure	Targeted stakeholder/s	Implementation			Monitoring				
			Timing	Responsibility	Partners	Desired outcome	Performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility	Frequency
Changes to ecological / environmental values	Environmental management plans	Croydon community Croydon Shire Council State government agencies Traditional Owners	C, O and D	Graphinex Construction contractor	-	Minimise environmental impacts	Compliance with environmental management plans	Environmental management system	Graphinex Construction contractor	Six monthly during construction, operation, and decommissioning/rehabilitation
Disruptions to surrounding amenity		Landholders – Esmeralda station and neighbours Residents along transport route – Croydon and Richmond LGA	C, O and D	Graphinex Construction contractor	-					
Support overall socio-economic wellbeing of Croydon	Community Support Program	Croydon community Croydon Shire Council	O	Graphinex	-	Project supports community aspirations	Number and total value of sponsorships and in-kind support provided	Community investment records	Graphinex	Annually during operation and decommissioning/rehabilitation
Community scepticism and apathy towards project			PC							
Support increase in resident population	Live local policy implemented	Croydon community Croydon Shire Council	O	Graphinex	-	Increase in Croydon population	Number of workers who relocate to Croydon LGA	HR records	Graphinex	Annually during operation

1.5.4 Housing and Accommodation plan

The HAP applies to physical and psychosocial risks potentially associated with the Project and is included in Appendix O. A summary of the HAP is provided in Table 9.

The key objectives of the HAP are to:

- minimise adverse impacts on the level of service provision of existing services, facilities and infrastructure to residents of Croydon and the broader region;
- mitigate potential health and wellbeing impacts on local communities; and
- contribute towards positive community wellbeing outcomes in Croydon through investment and support of community events, groups and initiatives.

Table 9: Summary of housing and accommodation plan

Impact	Management measure	Targeted stakeholder/s	Implementation			Monitoring				
			Timing	**Responsibility**	**Partner(s)**	**Desired outcome**	**Performance indicators**	**Data source**	**Responsibility**	**Frequency**
Increase in demand on local short-term accommodation affecting accessibility by other users	Onsite accommodation village	Accommodation providers in Croydon Tourists/visitors	C and O	Graphinex Construction contractor	-	Minimise workforce demand on local short-term accommodation	Workforce accommodated in the on-site camp	HR records	Graphinex Construction contractor	Six monthly during construction and operation
Decrease in local housing availability and affordability due relocating Project workforce demand	Housing demand monitoring to identify peak workforce demand and change scheduled activities where required	Croydon community Croydon Shire Council	O	Graphinex	Croydon Shire Council	Avoid workforce impacts on local housing	Number of Project-related emerging housing issues addressed with Croydon Shire Council	Stakeholder engagement records	Graphinex	Six monthly during construction and operation
Additional economic opportunities for short-term accommodation providers	Notification of Project accommodation requirements	Short-term accommodation providers in Croydon	PC	Graphinex Construction contractor	-	Short-term accommodation providers benefit from Project demand	Number of workers staying at short-term accommodation	Local supplier records	Graphinex	Six monthly during construction and operation

1.5.5 Workforce management plan

The WMP has been developed to provide both the Project workforce and those interacting with the workforce an agreed set of standards of behaviour for the Project. The key objectives of the Workforce Management Plan are to:

- maximise employment opportunities and recruitment of residents from Croydon and the broader region where practicable.
- maximise training and skills development opportunities for residents in Croydon and the broader region.
- support the health, safety and wellbeing of the Project workforce.

The workforce management plan is provided as Table 10.

Table 10: Summary of workforce management plan

Impact	Management measure	Targeted stakeholder/s	Implementation			Monitoring				
			Timing	Responsibility	Partners	Desired outcome	Performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility	Frequency
Increase in employment opportunities	Recruitment hierarchy	Croydon LGA residents Carpentaria and Richmond LGA residents	PC, C and O	Graphinex Construction contractor	-	Project employs residents from Croydon, Carpentaria, and Richmond LGAs	10% of construction workforce comprising residents of Croydon and Normanton. 10% of peak operations workforce comprising residents of Croydon, Carpentaria, and Richmond LGAs.	HR records	Graphinex	Annually during construction and operation
Increase in training and skills development opportunities	Apprenticeships and/or traineeships	Job seekers and high school leavers	C and O	Graphinex Construction contractor	Bynoe CACS Limited Gulf Regional Services Local and regional high schools	Project provides opportunities to apprentices and trainees	1-2 apprentices and trainees engaged annually	HR records	Graphinex	Annually during construction and operation
Increase in workforce health, safety and well-being risk factors	Project Health and Safety Management System	Employees	PC, C and O	Graphinex Construction contractor	-	Worker health and safety supported and maintained	Number of reported health and safety incidents	Workplace health and safety records	Graphinex	Quarterly during construction and operation
	Detailed emergency	Employees	PC	Graphinex	Local and regional health		Emergency response plan	Environmental	Graphinex	Once, 3 months prior

Impact	Management measure	Targeted stakeholder/s	Implementation			Monitoring				
			Timing	Responsibility	Partners	Desired outcome	Performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility	Frequency
	response plan for the Project			Construction contractor	and emergency service providers		developed in consultation with health and emergency services	management system Stakeholder engagement records		to construction
	Self-sufficient and well-equipped onsite accommodation village	Employees	C and O	Graphinex	-		Accommodation village meets or exceeds workplace health and safety standards	Environmental management system	Graphinex	Six monthly during construction and operation
Impact on workforce wellbeing from redundancies	Mine closure planning	Employees	O	Graphinex	State and local governments		Workers are satisfied with mine closure planning process	Workforce survey	Graphinex	Six monthly from Year 48 of operation

1.5.6 Local business and industry procurement plan (LBIPP)

The key objectives of the LBIPP are to:

- maximise opportunities for competitive and capable local businesses to provide goods and services to the Project;
- build relationships with local businesses to maximise local awareness of supply opportunities; and
- manage any inadvertent labour competition impacts on local businesses.

A summary of the LBIPP is provided as Table 11.

Table 11: Summary of local business and industry procurement plan

Impact	Management measure	Targeted stakeholder/s	Implementation			Monitoring				
			Timing	Responsibility	Partners	Desired outcome	Performance indicator/s	Data source	Responsibility	Frequency
Increase in supply and procurement opportunities	Local and regional content strategy and capacity building	Local and regional businesses First Nations-owned businesses	PC, C and O	Graphinex Construction contractor	-	Maximise benefits for local and regional businesses	Proportion and value of contracts awarded to businesses based in Croydon LGA, Carpentaria LGA and Richmond LGA	Procurement records Supplier register	Graphinex Construction contractor	Six monthly during construction and operation
Increase in industry diversification							Number of local businesses participating in proponent delivered/involved capacity building programs/sessions	Stakeholder engagement records	Graphinex	Annually during pre-construction and construction
Increase in economic activity for businesses	Workforce interaction with Croydon community	Croydon businesses	C and O	Graphinex Construction contractor	-		Number of coordinated visits to Croydon town	Workplace health and safety records	Graphinex	Six monthly during construction and operation
Increase in labour draw and competition for other businesses	Labour market monitoring	Local governments Local and regional businesses Essential service providers	C and O	Graphinex	Local governments Local and regional businesses Essential service providers	Minimise labour draw and competition	Number of engagements with local governments, local and regional businesses and essential service providers	Stakeholder engagement register	Graphinex	Six monthly during construction and operation

1.6 Graphinex Engagement Register

The Graphinex Engagement Register provides an ongoing record of key engagement on the Project. The Register is reproduced as Table 12 with some information redacted for privacy. The Engagement included discussion and information exchange in the following areas:

- Air quality
- Noise and vibration
- Soil and landform stability
- Water quality (surface water and controlled release water)
- Ground water
- Hydrology and water resources (allocations)
- Climate and greenhouse gas management
- Flora and fauna, Ecology (aquatic and terrestrial
- Biosecurity and access to properties
- Land use and planning
- Visual amenity and landscapes
- Traffic and transport
- Social and economic impacts
- Decommissioning, rehabilitation, closure and post mine land uses.

The Register covers engagement from September 2023 to September 2026 and has been compiled from Graphinex correspondence and calendar records, with entries relating to the right to negotiate process recorded at a summary level only.

Stakeholders described in the Engagement register include:

- Host landholders and neighbours
- Local, State (Qld) and Federal (Commonwealth) governments
- Local businesses and organisations
- Community members and groups
- State government (Qld)
- Federal Government (Commonwealth)
- Traditional owners (Tagalaka people and representatives)
- Environmental groups

Engagement methods described in the Engagement Register include:

- Direct phone, email, SMS or text
- Online meeting
- In-person meetings / on country
- Letter
- Social media including LinkedIn

- Community information session
- Focus group meetings and workshop.

Table 12: Engagement Register EIS Categories

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
Queensland Government Agencies			
6/06/2024	Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Queensland), Queensland Government senior officials	In-person meeting	Project briefing
6/06/2024	Office of the Coordinator-General (**OCG**)	In-person meeting	Project briefing
11/07/2024	Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (**DNRMMRRD**)	In-person meeting	Project briefing
19/08/2024	Department of Premier and Cabinet, Treasury, OCG, DNRMMRRD, QIC, Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ)	In-person meeting	Tour of Townsville Demonstration Facility
25/09/2024	OCG	In-person meeting	Project overview and approvals pathway
21/10/2024	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	Email	Request for engagement on water supply and unallocated water
28/11/2024	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	Online meeting	Project water supply requirements, scoping of availability of unallocated water under the Gulf Water Plan
19/12/2024	OCG	Email	Approvals pathway (mining lease application, EPBC referral), review of path forward including floodplain considerations
16/01/2025	OCG, Critical Minerals Queensland	In-person meeting	Project update, approvals pathway, State support

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
22/01/2025	OCG	Email	Project update, approvals pathway
27/01/2025	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	Email	Expression of interest for unallocated water submitted, to be considered in the Gulf Water Plan review
2/04/2025	OCG	In-person meeting	Pre-lodgement discussion, application for coordinated project declaration
4/04/2025	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	In-person (Cairns) and online meeting	Project water requirements, groundwater supply and unallocated water options
10/04/2025	Queensland Government and Commonwealth representatives	In-person meeting	Tour of Townsville Demonstration Facility
17/05/2025	OCG	In-person meeting	General EIS and Project update
20/05/2025	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	Email	Unallocated water provisions and Great Artesian Basin water plan drawdown calculations provided to support water supply assessment
27/05/2025	OCG	Email	Feedback on preliminary draft Initial Advice Statement, additional information requested on Project scope, potential impacts and management
3/06/2025	OCG	In-person meeting	Project update and approvals pathway
12/06/2025	OCG	In-person meeting	General update
17/06/2025	OCG	Email	Final void and floodplain considerations, streamlined EIS review
28/07/2025	OCG	Email	Introduction to OCG contact for EIS social matters
9/09/2025	OCG	Online meeting	General EIS and Project update, discussion of draft Terms of Reference
15/09/2025	OCG	Email	Terms of Reference signed off for publication, project timeframes
18/09/2025	DNRMMRRD (Minister Dale Last)	In-person event	Industry engagement event for manufacturing and government support
18/09/2025	OCG	Email	Terms of Reference released

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
22/10/2025	Queensland Government	In-person event	Joint meetings alongside the Queensland Government delegation regarding the Project and State support at the International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC)
27/10/2025	OCG	Letter	Application for prescribed project declaration submitted
6/11/2025	OCG	Online meeting	General EIS and Project update
13/11/2025	Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning	Letter	Project declared a prescribed project
19/11/2025	OCG	Letter	EIS assessment methodologies
24/11/2025	OCG	Online meeting	EIS progress meeting
30/11/2025	OCG	Email	Approvals pathway
15/12/2025	OCG	Online meeting	EIS progress meeting
4/02/2026	OCG	Online meeting	EIS progress meeting
5/02/2026	OCG	In-person meeting	EIS progress meeting
12/02/2026	OCG	Email	Approvals status
12/02/2026	Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (**DETSI**)	Email	Application for pre-lodgement services lodged for the rehabilitation and closure plan and environmental authority
18/02/2026	OCG	Online meeting	EIS progress meeting
25/02/2026	OCG, DETSI	Online meeting	Pre-lodgement meeting
3/03/2026	OCG	Letter	EIS process
4/03/2026	OCG, Cross-Agency Assessment Team (**CAAT**)	In-person meeting	EIS assessment team meeting
25/03/2026	OCG, DETSI, CAAT	Meeting	EIS progress update, social impact assessment approach, study area and scoping
15/04/2026	OCG	Online meeting	EIS progress meeting
21/04/2026	OCG	Email	Subdivision for land acquisition

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
30/04/2026	OCG	Email	EIS economics chapter
1/05/2026	DNRMMRRD	Email	Subdivision for land acquisition
8/05/2026	DNRMMRRD	Online meeting	Draft cultural heritage management plan and ancillary agreement for mining lease applications, native title agreement
28/05/2026	OCG	Email	Preliminary draft EIS lodged
26/06/2026	Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism (**DWATSIPM**)	Email	Notice of intention to develop a cultural heritage management plan for the Project
17/07/2026	OCG	Email	Preliminary draft EIS feedback
3/08/2026	OCG, DETSI, CAAT	Online meeting	Preliminary draft EIS feedback
11/08/2026	DWATSIPM	Email	Executed cultural heritage management plan and plan area submitted, consultation records and endorsement provided
17/08/2026	OCG	Email	Proposed environmental authority conditions identified for discussion
19/08/2026	OCG	In-person meeting	Preliminary draft EIS feedback
21/08/2026	OCG	Email	Preliminary draft EIS feedback
24/08/2026	DNRMMRRD	Email	Subdivision survey plan registered, subdivided leases progressing to Ministerial approval
24/08/2026	DNRMMRRD	Email	Technical assessment on mining lease applications
25/08/2026	OCG, DETSI	Online meeting	EIS groundwater requirements and groundwater model
9/09/2026	OCG	Email	EIS surface water and flooding approach, including data, sampling locations and monitoring frequency
15/09/2026	OCG, DETSI	Online meeting	Update to surface water, flooding and groundwater model
22/09/2026	OCG	Email	Surface water and flooding information requirements to support the draft EIS progressing to public notification

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
Federal Government Agencies			
5/03/2025	DCCEEW	Online meeting	EPBC referral process, information requirements and timing
14/04/2025	DCCEEW	Online meeting	Public submission received on the referral, referral information and process
28/05/2025	DCCEEW	Email	Formal request for information, additional ecological survey methods and results provided, referral decision timeframe suspended by agreement
Local Government Agencies			
3/07/2025	Croydon Shire Council	Email	Project introduction and arrangement of a meeting with Council
15/07/2025	Croydon Shire Council	In-person meeting	Project introduction and update covering company background, approvals status, environmental surveys, site operations, employment opportunities, development timeline, transport and road matters, and opportunities for local procurement and collaboration
11/08/2025	Croydon Shire Council	Email	Mining lease applications lodged, agreement to purchase underlying land and proposed subdivision of State lease, request for Council letter of support
15/08/2025	Croydon Shire Council	Phone call	Council letter of support for the subdivision provided, general Project update and timing discussed
28/10/2025	Richmond Shire Council	Email	Council offer to assist, road network and local government services, meeting arranged to discuss options
31/10/2025	Richmond Shire Council	Online meeting	Introductory meeting and Project update, covering approvals status, environmental surveys, development timeline, local government services, road network, accommodation, employment opportunities and collaboration on road funding advocacy
18/11/2025	Croydon Shire Council	Email	Arranging site visit and Project briefing to Councillors
9/12/2025	Croydon Shire Council	In-person meeting	Project update covering approvals status, environmental surveys, site operations, employment opportunities, development timeline, community/roads/services matters, and opportunities for collaboration including joint approach to road funding and SIA/EIS consultation
4/03/2026	Croydon Shire Council	Email	Proposed meeting to discuss the social impact assessment and road use following completion of transport study

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
2/04/2026	Croydon Shire Council	Email and phone call	Social impact assessment consultation with Councillors requested to occur at a Council meeting
16/04/2026	Croydon Shire Council	Meeting	Social impact assessment consultation with Councillors
21/07/2026	Croydon Shire Council	In-person meeting	Project update covering EIS lodgement and OCG feedback, social impact assessment completion, native title agreements executed, subdivision progress, development timeline, road matters and opportunities for collaboration
24/09/2026	Croydon Shire Council	Email	Project point of contact update, road condition report and road upgrade plan with State funding, road use agreement to be progressed, EIS expected for public comment
Landowner			
12/09/2023	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	In-person meeting	Introductory meeting, exploration access and discussion of the Project
10/01/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Notice of intention and land access arrangements, agreement executed
17/04/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Approval of drilling logistics
23/04/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Notice of entry issued
23/05/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Re-issued certificates
31/05/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	In-person meeting	Project update and discussion of long-term land access and acquisition of the Project area
18/06/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Site induction issues resolved
24/06/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Landholder complaint remedied and outcomes addressed
14/07/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Option agreement over part of Esmeralda Station, landholder consultation on terms and details

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
7/09/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Land acquisition proposal for the Project area provided
23/09/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Online meeting	Land acquisition discussion
10/10/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Land acquisition discussion
14/10/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Operations update
22/10/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	General Project discussion
23/10/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Project update, access discussions, land specific discussions, weather, and land acquisition negotiations
23/10/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Project update, access discussions, land specific discussions, weather, and land acquisition negotiations
11/11/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Project update, access discussions, land specific discussions, weather, and land acquisition negotiations
11/11/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Project update, access discussions, land specific discussions, weather, and land acquisition negotiations
12/11/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Land acquisition documents provided for landholder review
20/11/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Project update, access discussions, land specific discussions, weather, and land acquisition negotiations
20/11/2024	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Project update, access discussions, land specific discussions, weather, and land acquisition negotiations
14/01/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Project update, access discussions, land specific discussions, weather, and land acquisition negotiations
28/02/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Cattle access wording for the land acquisition agreement agreed by landholder

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
19/03/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Execution of land acquisition agreement
17/04/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Landholder supported proposed field program
28/04/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	SMS	Operations update
2/05/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Landholder directed to correct contact personnel
5/05/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Site access provided
10/05/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Landholder investor consultation questions on the land agreement addressed
17/05/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	SMS	Operations update
30/05/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	SMS	General EIS and Project update
9/06/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	General EIS and Project update
12/06/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Site induction
17/06/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	General EIS and Project update
15/07/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	SMS	General EIS and Project update
4/08/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Subdivision consent letters executed by landholder parties
22/08/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Land parcel sale and subdivision documents executed

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
10/10/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Approved access
11/10/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	General EIS and Project update
11/11/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	Installation approved
13/11/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	In-person meeting	Installation approved, general project and operations update, project impacts discussed
20/11/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Subdivision of lease consent documents executed
4/12/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	SMS	General Project update
9/12/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	General Project update
13/12/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	General EIS and Project update
13/12/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	SMS	General EIS and Project update
13/12/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	General EIS and Project update
15/12/2025	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Phone call	General EIS and Project update
7/01/2026	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	SMS	Landholder advised of rainfall and access status
19/01/2026	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	SMS	Landholder advised of access status, assistance provided with a property survey
2/02/2026	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Safety matter

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
20/02/2026	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Subdivision consents progressing
2/04/2026	Private landowner (Esmeralda Station)	Email	Subdivision consents obtained and executed
Traditional Owners			
1/05/2024	Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation (**TAC**)	Email	Organisation of pre-clearing assessments
17/10/2024	North Queensland Land Council (**NQLC**)	In-person meeting	Introductory meeting on native title engagement with the Tagalaka People; progress discussions, project update and development plan and timing
17/10/2024	Tagalaka Waangu rugby league team	In-person meeting	Team sponsorship, footballs/drink bottles provided, general discussion
18/10/2024	Tagalaka Waangu rugby league team	In-person meeting	Community sponsorship support
19/10/2024	Tagalaka Waangu rugby league team	In-person meeting	Community sponsorship support
20/10/2024	Tagalaka Waangu rugby league team	In-person meeting	Community sponsorship support
23/10/2024	TAC	Phone call	Project update
31/10/2024	TAC	Phone call	Project update
6/11/2024	TAC	Email	Project introduction material shared with all TAC Directors covering development plans, site operations and collaboration concepts
13/01/2025	TAC	Phone call	Exploration cultural heritage survey planning
14/01/2025	NQLC, Tagalaka Waangu rugby league team	In-person meeting	Project update
15/01/2025	NQLC, Tagalaka Waangu rugby league team	In-person meeting	Project update

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
31/03/2025	TAC	Email	Cultural heritage survey timing confirmed, monitoring team organisation, sponsorship request received
1/04/2025	TAC	Email	Scope, duration and quote for cultural monitoring of the 2025 field program
15/05/2025	TAC	In-person meeting (Croydon)	Project update and general discussions
16/05/2025	TAC	In-person meeting	Cultural monitoring of the 2025 field survey went smoothly
22/05/2025	NQLC	Email	MLA submission confirmation and MLA numbers provided, on-country meeting proposed
26/05/2025	NQLC, TAC	Email	On-country site visit and meeting dates confirmed
4/06/2025	NQLC	Email	On-country meeting budget approved, preferred site date confirmed
11/06/2025	NQLC	Email	Progression of native title negotiations discussed at a high level
17/06/2025	NQLC	Email	TAC agreed to meet in Croydon following the site visit
19/06/2025	NQLC	Email	Benefits proposal provided, introduction of economic advisor
23/06/2025	NQLC	Online meeting	Project information provided for the economic advisor's assessment of the benefits of the proposal, contact details exchanged
24/06/2025	NQLC	Email	EPBC referral decision notice shared
9/07/2025	NQLC	Email	Agenda for Board meeting settled based on instructions
15/07/2025	NQLC	In-person meeting / on country	Site visit, discussion of project areas, cultural heritage and environmental values
16/07/2025	NQLC	In-person meeting	Project presentation to the Board, native title agreement terms discussed
29/07/2025	NQLC	Email	Draft cultural heritage management plan provided, comments returned and acknowledged
14/08/2025	TAC	Email	Community contact list and best practice engagement, communication protocol for community updates
17/09/2025	NQLC	Email	Draft cultural heritage management plan follow-up
22/09/2025	NQLC	Email	Response to benefits proposal, draft cultural heritage management plan and terms sheet received

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
2/10/2025	NQLC	Email	Revised terms sheet, cultural heritage management plan and benefits table provided
14/10/2025	TAC	Email	Member contact information and privacy considerations for community engagement
17/11/2025	NQLC	Email	Agenda and documents for negotiation meeting provided
25/11/2025	NQLC	Email	Board requested a negotiation meeting
28/11/2025	NQLC	Online meeting	Negotiation meeting
5/12/2025	NQLC	Email	Budgets and logistics for negotiation meeting, updated presentation provided
14/01/2026	TAC, NQLC	In-person meeting (Cairns) and online	Board meeting including project presentation
15/01/2026	NQLC	In-person (Cairns) and online meeting	Negotiation meeting
19/01/2026	TAC, NQLC	Online meeting	General EIS and Project update
29/01/2026	NQLC	Email	Proposed amendments to native title agreement provided
3/02/2026	NQLC	Email	Revised benefits proposal, budgets for negotiation and community meeting approved
13/02/2026	NQLC	Email	Updated draft cultural heritage management plan provided
16/02/2026	TAC	In-person meeting	General EIS and Project update
20/02/2026	NQLC; DNRMMRRD	Email	Further negotiation meeting scheduled
23/02/2026	NQLC	Email	Revised financial proposal acknowledged
5/03/2026	NQLC	Email	Feedback on native title agreement
8/03/2026	NQLC	Email	agenda and revised budgets provided
13/03/2026	NQLC	Online meeting (changed to online for safety due to weather and flooding)	Negotiation meeting

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
27/03/2026	NQLC	Email	Negotiation meeting
30/03/2026	NQLC	In-person meeting	Negotiation meeting
16/04/2026	NQLC	Email	Native title agreement draft letter forwarded to the State
9/05/2026	NQLC	Email	Updated ancillary agreement and cultural heritage management plan provided
14/05/2026	NQLC	Email	Comments on proposed benefits and land management matters
25/05/2026	NQLC	Email	Draft agreements exchanged ahead of upcoming meetings
28/05/2026	NQLC, community members	In-person meeting (Normanton)	Negotiation meeting and community consultation meeting, detailed project update provided including development plans and EIS matters
31/05/2026	TAC	Email	Funding support for a community cultural event confirmed
3/06/2026	NQLC	Email	Further drafts of ancillary agreement and cultural heritage management plan, native title agreement amendments agreed for forwarding to the State, meeting budgets discussed
16/06/2026	NQLC	Email	Native title agreement final amendments coordinated with the State, further community meeting arranged
26/06/2026	NQLC, TAC, landowner, occupier	Letter	Written notice of proposed cultural heritage management plan issued
29/06/2026	NQLC	Online meeting	Final review of native title related documents
3/07/2026	TAC	In-person meeting (Croydon)	Consultation and consent meeting, native title holders received a detailed project update and consented to entering the cultural heritage management plan and related agreements
7/07/2026	NQLC, TAC	Letter	Response to written notice confirming endorsement as the Aboriginal party for the cultural heritage management plan
10/07/2026	NQLC	Email	Final execution copies of native title related documents following consent meeting
20/07/2026	TAC, NQLC	Email	Native title related agreements executed, documents forwarded to the State and acknowledged
30/07/2026	TAC	Letter	Endorsement as the Aboriginal party for the cultural heritage management plan confirmed

Date	Stakeholder	Engagement method	Summary of engagement
25/08/2026	TAC	Email	Access to draft EIS and rehabilitation plan files and project environmental and cultural heritage information provided for review
Local and Regional Organisations/Groups			
21/06/2024	Club Croydon	In-person meeting	Accommodation arrangements in Croydon for Project field personnel
21/07/2025	Port of Townsville Limited	Email	Introduction, confirmation of available capacity
11/08/2025	Port of Townsville Limited	In-person meeting	Introduction meeting on concentrate export through the port, follow-up visit offered and accepted
18/09/2025	Townsville Port Authority	Online meeting	Project brief and transport requirements
31/10/2025	Local community group representative	In-person meeting	Discussion with a traditional owner business group from Far North Queensland with Tagalaka people involvement
9/12/2025	Rural Fire Service	In-person meeting	General Project update and operations and impacts update
9/12/2025	Croydon Hospital Services	In-person meeting	Briefing on hospital and ambulance coverage in the region; project and potential impacts to community and hospital discussed
27/03/2026	• Local businesses; • Croydon State School; • Croydon Primary Health Centre; • Rural Fire Brigade; and • Men's Shed.	Email and phone	Social impact assessment interviews arranged with Croydon stakeholders; participant information approved for issue
31/03/2026	• Local businesses; • Croydon State School; • Croydon Primary Health Centre; • Emergency services; and • Community groups.	Interviews (online)	Social impact assessment stakeholder interviews commenced: local employment and business opportunities, housing and accommodation, health and emergency services capacity, road use and community values
23/04/2026	Royal Flying Doctor Service	Phone	Aeromedical response capability at the mine site discussed, including site medical facilities, workforce numbers and airstrip specifications