

YANGIBANA RARE EARTHS PROJECT

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

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REVISION HISTORY

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1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) was commissioned by Hastings to undertake a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the Project. This document summarises the findings from the SIA (ERM 2019) noting that most of the text has been directly quoted from the SIA report (ERM 2019). The SIA identified a range of potential positive and negative impacts that may arise during construction, operation and closure of the Project.

The assessment focused on impacts likely to be experienced by sensitive receptors. Receptors were identified using a range of indicators, including proximity to the Project site, proximity to transport routes, location of socio-cultural sensitivities, and land uses around the Project. This included:

- Pastoral lease holders, including Wanna and Edmund Stations, and nearby homesteads;
- Traditional owners (TOs), the Thin-Mah Warianga, Tharrikari and Jiwarli people (the TMWTJ People), who have a connection to the land and several cultural heritage sites located on and surrounding the Project site;
- Regional businesses, such as those located in Gascoyne Junction and Carnarvon, that may service the project;
- Local government authorities – i.e. the Shire of Upper Gascoyne, the Shire of Carnarvon and the Shire of Meekatharra - as they are responsible for maintaining local infrastructure including roads; and
- Regional residents, visitors, and tourists, particularly those that use the transport routes that will be utilised by the Project.

The assessment was guided by International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards (PS), in order to meet the requirements of international investors.

2. METHODOLOGY

An SIA involves “analysing, monitoring and managing the social consequences of development” (IAIA 2003), including both positive and negative impacts. This is achieved through a systematic evaluation of potential impacts, and identification of management measures. In the end, “... *its primary purpose is to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment*” (IAIA 2003).

This SIA was completed in five phases (Figure).

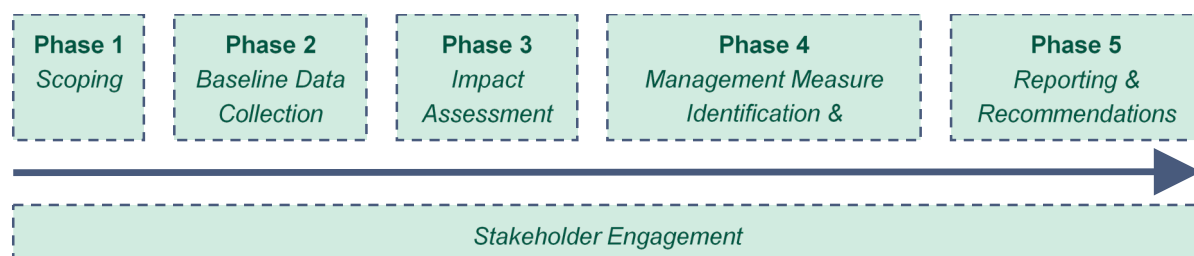


Figure 1 SIA Process

3. OUTCOMES

After implementing the SIA process, a number of positive and negative impacts were identified.

In terms of positive impacts, the Project will generate employment and business development opportunities. However, as the Project will likely have 100% FIFO workforce opportunities for regional residents, with the exception of Carnarvon, to benefit will be limited. Regional residents will also benefit from indirect employment opportunities from local and regional businesses providing goods and services to the Project. Indigenous people living in the region may have extended opportunities including possible DIDO from Burringurrah Aboriginal Community.

In terms of negative impacts, the majority of social impacts assessed were determined to be negligible due to the remote location of the Project, as the Project is located some distance from the nearest resident or community.

The remaining impacts, relating to economic impacts, community and workforce health, water / groundwater use, ecosystem services, transport infrastructure, and unplanned events and emergencies, were assessed as having a minor to moderate impact. Therefore, management systems are required to implement active management and/or monitoring programs.

In order to manage these impacts, a range of management measures have been established, many of which are captured in management plans prepared by Hastings.

Notably, there are no mining operations in the surrounding area, with the closest mine (salt and gypsum) being more than 100km away. As such, there are unlikely to be significant cumulative impacts.

4. REFERENCES

ERM (2019). *Yangibana Rare Earths Project Social Impact Assessment*. Unpublished report prepared for Hastings Technology Metals Limited, May 2019.