

**Northern Water Supply Project
Stakeholder Reference Group Meeting
10.00am – 12.30pm Wednesday 6 December 2023
via MS Teams**

Meeting Presentation – Appendix A

Attendees – Appendix B

Appendix A

1. Welcome and introduction

Josephine Telfer welcomed all attendees to the meeting and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

Attendees were asked to provide any conflicts of interest via email. None were raised.

Attendees were asked if there were any objections to the meeting being recorded to provide to absent members. No objections were received.

Updates to agenda

Hazard and Risk Discussion has been removed from the agenda and will be covered in the February meeting.

An email was received from David Noonan regarding the agenda prior to the meeting and these topics will be covered in the existing agenda.

2. Review of meeting notes from previous meeting

The notes from the SRG Meeting held on 5 July 2023 were accepted and are available on the YourSAy page.

3. Review actions from previous meeting

1. *Pipeline overview to be presented at a future SRG meeting.*

This will be covered today in Dan Fords basis for design presentation.

2. *SRG members to advise the project team of any other potential events, activities or community drop-in locations.*

No new events, activities or community drop-in locations advised.

4. Project Update - Mike Morgan

- The project has been considered by Government and is now progressing to the next stages focusing on Cape Hardy as the preferred site to continue studies.
- Progress includes submitting a Development Application with the South Australian government and NW expects a request for Environmental Impact Study inline with Commonwealth *EPBC Act* referral as a result.
- Procurement and Registration of Interest process has begun.

- Further Procurement activities will increase late January and into February based on the current project schedule.
- Conversations continue with landholders between Mullaquana and Cape Hardy.

Questions

- *Is the team aware that Lower Eyre Peninsula Council owns and manages the Port Lincoln Airport? It is critical and pivotal in terms of workforce and what lies ahead, because if we need to negotiate with the airlines to increase flights etc. we need to know beforehand.*

Work has previously been performed on a preliminary workforce profiling. A more details assessment has now been undertaken which will help inform conversations with Councils. There are a couple of other areas that will flow on from this work and more around skills development. We have just recently signed an agreement with the consortium that includes Uni Hub around training.

There is still more work to be done around the logistics for this project and including airports. A copy of the report can be provided.

Discussions have started and will continue with Matt Grant who works for Lower Eyre Peninsula Council.

Comments

Whyalla Council looks after the Whyalla Airport as well.

Whyalla will also be an important hub for the project, particularly from an industrial capability and the main gateway for our logistics and provider of supplies to the north.

5 Alecia Wright – Development Application and EPBC referral

- As Infrastructure SA is a Crown Agency the Development Application will begin as a Crown Development Application
- Due to the significance of the project, we anticipate the Minister will declare the project and Impact Assessed Project (previously called a Major Project). If this occurs the project will be moved from a Crown Development application pathway to an Impact Assessed approval pathway.
- This will require submission of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Hoping this decision will be made before Christmas 2023 on the assessment path.
- Hoping assessment guidelines for EIS if required will be set by March 2024.
- EPBC has been submitted for referral.
- NW has suggested in the referral that further assessment is warranted for three fauna species (Plains Mouse, Mallee fowl and Western Grass wren), and two flora species (Yellow Swainson-Pea and Resin Wattle)

- The mound springs of the GAB are not subject to the referral as the Northern Water project does not impact on them (noting that the EPBC Act is concerned with negative impacts on MNES)
- Once EPBC has been reviewed. The submission will be released for public consultation. We are anticipating around February 2024.
- We will notify via our website when public comment begins as this will only be available for comment.

Nicholas Bull – EPBC Referral

- EPBC has been submitted and is currently going through a validation process – which checks that the document contains all required information.
- Public comment will be available for a period of 10 days. Comment is collected around issues of significant impact on protected matters under the EPBC Act.
- ISA had submitted the referral acknowledging that several species will be impacted by the project or that we don't quite understand the level of impact at this time and therefore further investigation is going to be required. And we are expecting a controlled action outcome. The further assessment would occur through the EIS process.

Questions

Can you confirm that you are referring the Great Artesian Basin and Mound Springs as an endangered ecological community.

- The Great Artesian Basin would not be negatively impacted by the project because the project does not draw on groundwater. Savings on the GAB would be a positive effect. EPBC referral does not cover benefits only assesses impacts.

The EPBC Act will require an EIS and the project will have consequence on the ecology and spiritual values of the GAB and mound springs to a whole range of stakeholders. There is a potential benefit but there is also an impact if the project does not require mining to reduce its existing impacts.

- If there was no reduced draw on the GAB it would be a no change scenario. The EIS will cover the potential benefits of the project now through the EPBC Act.

Is there any update on the savings on the draw from the GAB and River Murray?

- While a key objective of the project is to provide savings on the draw from these sources, there are ongoing discussions with water users to determine their water requirements and how it will be used.

Can the slides from today be sent to participants?

- Slides are always included with the minutes.

6 Stakeholder and Community Engagement Update

Josephine gave an update on recent community engagement activities which included

- “Talking Posts” in the community and attending events to allow community members to ask questions.
- We have been presenting to various interested community groups, Councils and others and are available to attend any events, locations and groups you may think of in the future.
- We have concentrated our activities toward the southern areas but come February we will stretch out along the pipeline.
- We would like to hear of any upcoming events that group members are aware of in their areas so we can consider attending.
- We are available to meet with organisation and interest groups.
- We will have more intensity around the statutory engagement period for the draft EIS.
- We have been providing feedback from the community into the EIS process.

7 Basis for Design presentation and discussion

Basis for design presented by Dan Ford.

Questions:

Andrew Padgett – The map looks like it is bypassing Port Augusta is this correct?

- Water pipe will be in the vicinity of Port Augusta
- If there were any off takers in the area supply may be considered.

David Noonan – What is the volume capacity of storage tanks along the route.

- There is a variety of volumes the largest will be 10 megs.
- There are some 5 and 2 megs.
- Size will be related to requirement of off takers and volume to cover any downtime that may arise.

8 Social Impact Assessment update and discussion

Stephanie Hensgen presented and overview of what a Social Impact Statement is, discussed impacts and perceived impacts uncovered during Community engagement activities and put the question to the SRG, what are some of the impacts, and priorities that would like to be addressed.

- What will be the impact of this project on draw from GAB and Mound Springs which are both significant environmentally, culturally and spiritually to the traditional owners.

- There may be some confusion in the community around understanding the difference between this and the Billy Lights Point project. Around understanding the need for both.
- Traffic management across the district
- Workforce housing
- Hard infrastructure and the enabling infrastructure (social Infrastructure), GP's, allied health, childcare
- What affect will Northern Water have on enabling other major projects
- Social infrastructure such as sporting facilities, foreshore and jetties
- Maximising local spend through contractors and employment, skills development
- Cumulative effect of having 2 desalination plants on the Spencer Gulf

An assessment will be done on the combined impact of a desal plant at Port Lincoln and Cape Hardy as part of the EIS.

9 Other Business

Action occurring since previous meeting was an invitation to tour the Adelaide Desalination Plant, this was well attended by our Stakeholder Group and we thank the group for taking time out of their day to show interest in the project.

Can the Goyder Research Study on the GAB and Mound Spring be made available before the 10-day EPBC Process?

The study is not yet complete but when it is we can make it available.

Meeting Actions

Nil actions

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 7 February 2024 via MS Teams.**

Appendix B**Northern Water Supply Project****SRG Meeting Attendance****6 December 2023****Stakeholders**

Alan Hall	RecFish SA
Andrew Padgett	Regional Development Australia Far North
Michael Cresshull	PIRSA – Fisheries and Aquaculture/Whyalla Business and Tourism
David Noonan	
Delfina Lanzilli	
Dan Ford	
Andrew Freeman	
MelissaHorgan	PIRSA -
Neil	
Matt Nelson	EPA
Nicholas Bull	
Katrina Pobke	
Rebecca Hayes	
Roy Blight	Roxby Council
Ryan Viney	Regional Development Australia
Sean Kelly	Whyalla City Council
Aaron Smith	Landscape SA
Sonja Morrison	
Wendy Campana	Spencer Gulf Cities
Alli Carter	Tactic

Project Team

Lauren Gardner	Infrastructure SA
Stephanie Hensgen	Infrastructure SA
Rebecca Draysey	Infrastructure SA
Alecia Wright	Infrastructure SA
Mike Morgan	Infrastructure SA
Antony Lockyer	Infrastructure SA
Josephine Telfer	Infrastructure SA

6 December 2023

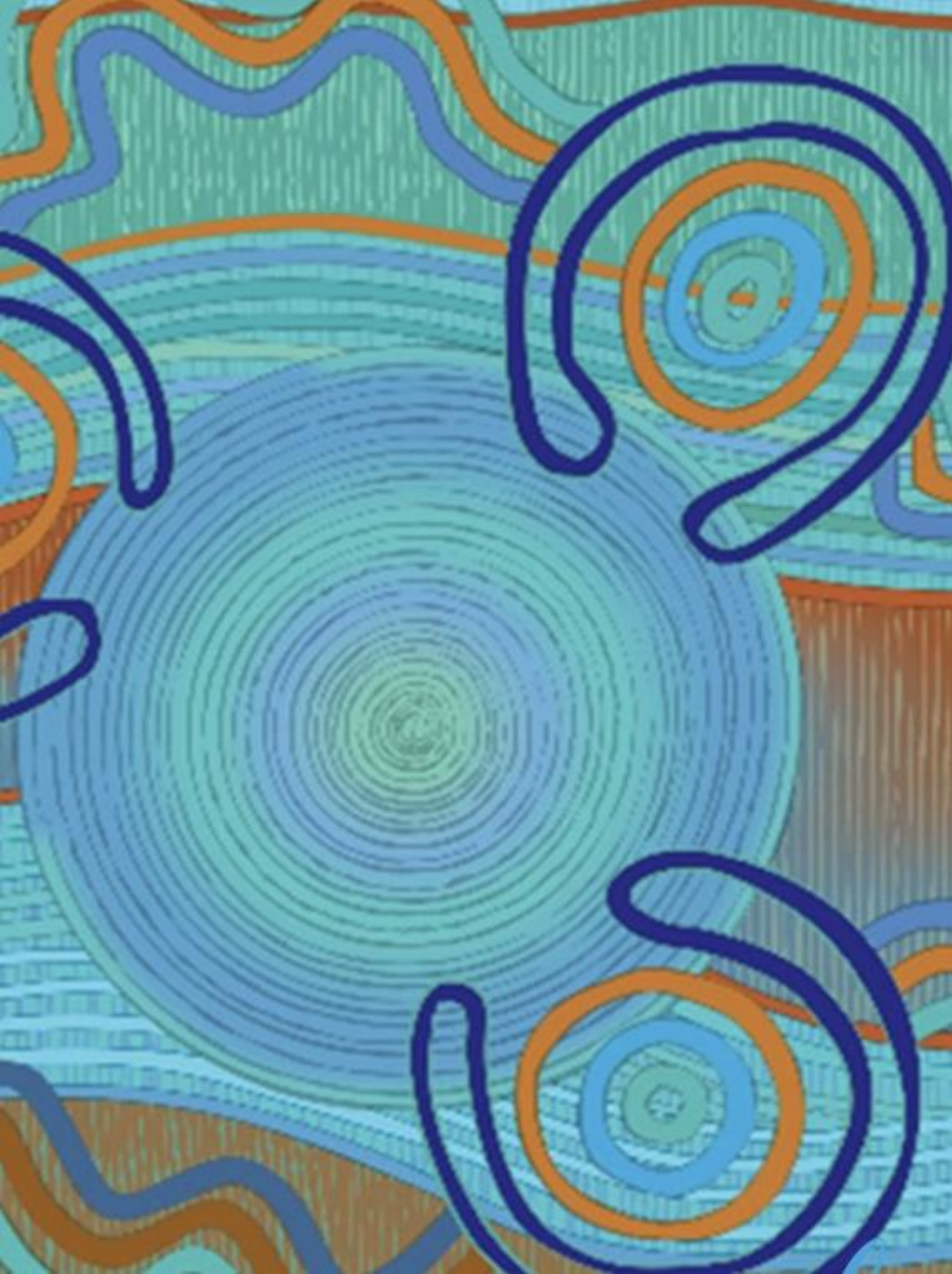
Stakeholder Reference Group



**NORTHERN
WATER**



**Government of
South Australia**



Acknowledgement of Country

We pay our respects to
Community, and to Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise the unique place held
by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
as the original custodians of Australia's
lands and waterways,
with histories of continuous connection
dating back to the beginning of the Dreaming.



Government of
South Australia



Agenda

Topic	Presenter
Welcome and Introductions Conflict of Interest	J Telfer
Review of meeting notes from previous meeting Please review these out of session and advise J Telfer of any changes as soon as possible	J Telfer
Review Actions from last meeting	J Telfer
Project Update	M Morgan / EIA team
Stakeholder and Community Engagement Update	J Telfer
Basis for design presentation and discussion *	D Ford
Social Impact Assessment update and discussion	S Hensgen
Other Business Note questions raise in correspondence received from D Noonan included in project update	All

* Note agenda updated to include Basis for Design discussion and shift Hazzard and Risk to Feb 2024 meeting

Project update

Mike Morgan / Alecia Wright



Environmental Assessment Process

Planning and Assessment Phase

overall project timeframe phases

2022-2023

BUSINESS CASE

2023-2025

PLANNING & ASSESSMENT

2025-2028

DETAILED DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
(subject to approval)

2028 ONWARDS

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE



Northern Water lodges a **Crown Development Application**



The State Planning Commission prepares **Assessment Requirements** specifying the matters that must be addressed by the EIS



Northern Water prepares the **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**



Northern Water reviews **submissions and community feedback** and prepares a Response Document that includes clarifications, amendments to the EIS, and additional investigations if required



The State Planning Commission prepares an **Assessment Report** and makes a recommendation to the Minister for Planning



2023

The Minister for Planning declares the project an **impact assessed development**, triggering the need for an EIS*



Northern Water undertakes **technical research and investigations**, including on-site monitoring, testing, sampling and modelling



MID 2024

Northern Water releases the EIS for **public consultation**



LATE 2024

Northern Water releases the **Response Document**



The Minister for Planning makes a **decision** – to approve, approve with conditions, or refuse the development



LATE 2023

Northern Water undertakes **pre-EIS stakeholder and community engagement** to help inform studies and research



Northern Water **consults the public** on the EIS document with a series of engagement opportunities over 6-8 weeks

*Northern Water is proceeding on the assumption that the project will be declared Impact Assessed. Ultimately the level of assessment is a decision for the Minister of Planning. Northern Water is committed to undertaking an EIS standard of assessment even if this is not formally required by the Minister.





Significant Impact Assessment



Significant Impact Assessment concluded that a small number of species are considered to trigger one or more of the Significant Impact Criteria (DotE 2013).

These species include:

- *Acacia rhetinocarpa* (Neat Wattle, Resin Wattle) - Vulnerable
- *Swainsona pyrophila* (Yellow Swainson-pea) - Vulnerable
- *Pseudomys australis* (Plains Mouse) – Vulnerable
- *Amytornis textilis myall* (Western Grasswren) – Vulnerable
- *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) – Vulnerable



Significant Impact Assessment cont ...



This results in the requirement for the Project to be referred under the EPBC Act.

For a **small number** of these species, there remains some uncertainty around the level of impact expected as a result of the Project:

- the extent of preferred or suitable habitat for the species within the disturbance footprint is currently not understood (e.g. Western Grasswren, Neat Wattle)
- the occurrence of the species within the disturbance footprint has not yet been confirmed (e.g. Plains Mouse, Neat Wattle)
- The degree of impact to the species arising from the project disturbance is not well understood (e.g. Yellow Swainson-pea)

On this basis, ISA intends to accept a Controlled Action position in the referral on that basis that, for a small number of species, further assessment is warranted to better understand the extent of impacts to MNES



EPBC Referral



EPBC Referral and supporting documentation has been submitted.

NWP has acknowledged that a small number of species trigger a **Controlled Action** outcome, in that they warrant further assessment to fully understand the level of impact.

NWP team met with DCCEEW for two pre-referral meetings. DCCEEW is comfortable with NW level of assessment and proposed way forward.

NWP is expecting a Controlled Action decision which will require a 'further assessment' outcome. This can be undertaken as part of the State EIS process.

Timing for next steps:

- Undertake further assessments during EIS process up to Q2 2024
- Final approval decision from Minister approximately Q1 2025.

Stakeholder Engagement Update



Josephine Telfer

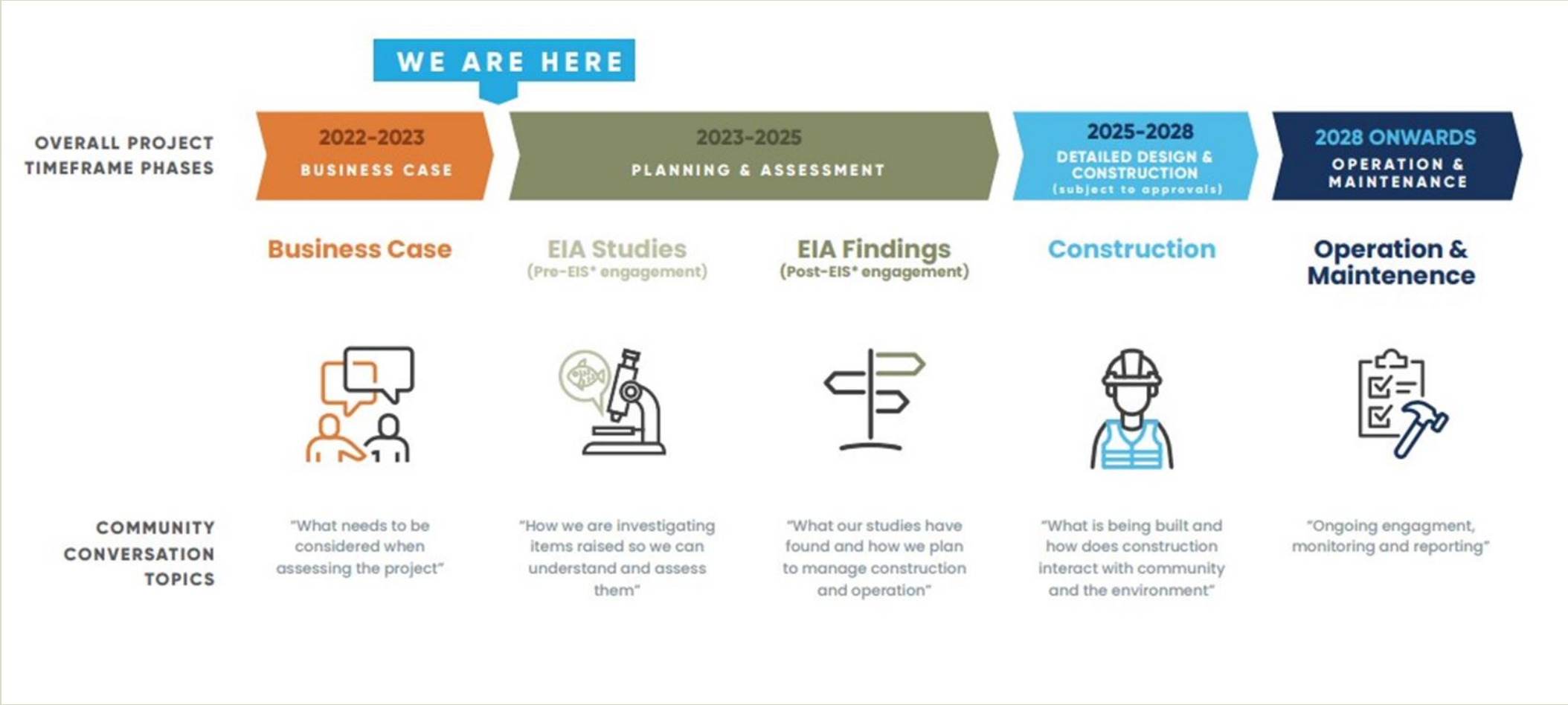


Engagement activities



Project phases

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Engagement activities

From August to December 2023

August 2023

- GMUSG Conference, Port Augusta
- Whyalla Show

September 2023

- Yorke Peninsula Field Days
- Port Pirie Smelters Picnic
- Ungarra community café
- Meetings with organisations, groups, industry groups, clubs and associations

October 2023

- Yalunda Flat Show
- Cummins Show
- Cleve Show
- Meetings with organisations, groups, industry groups, clubs and associations

November & December 2023

- Listening posts at Tumby Bay, Cowell, Port Neill
- Meetings with organisations, groups, industry groups, clubs and associations





Engagement activities

Looking ahead to 2024

January – June 2024

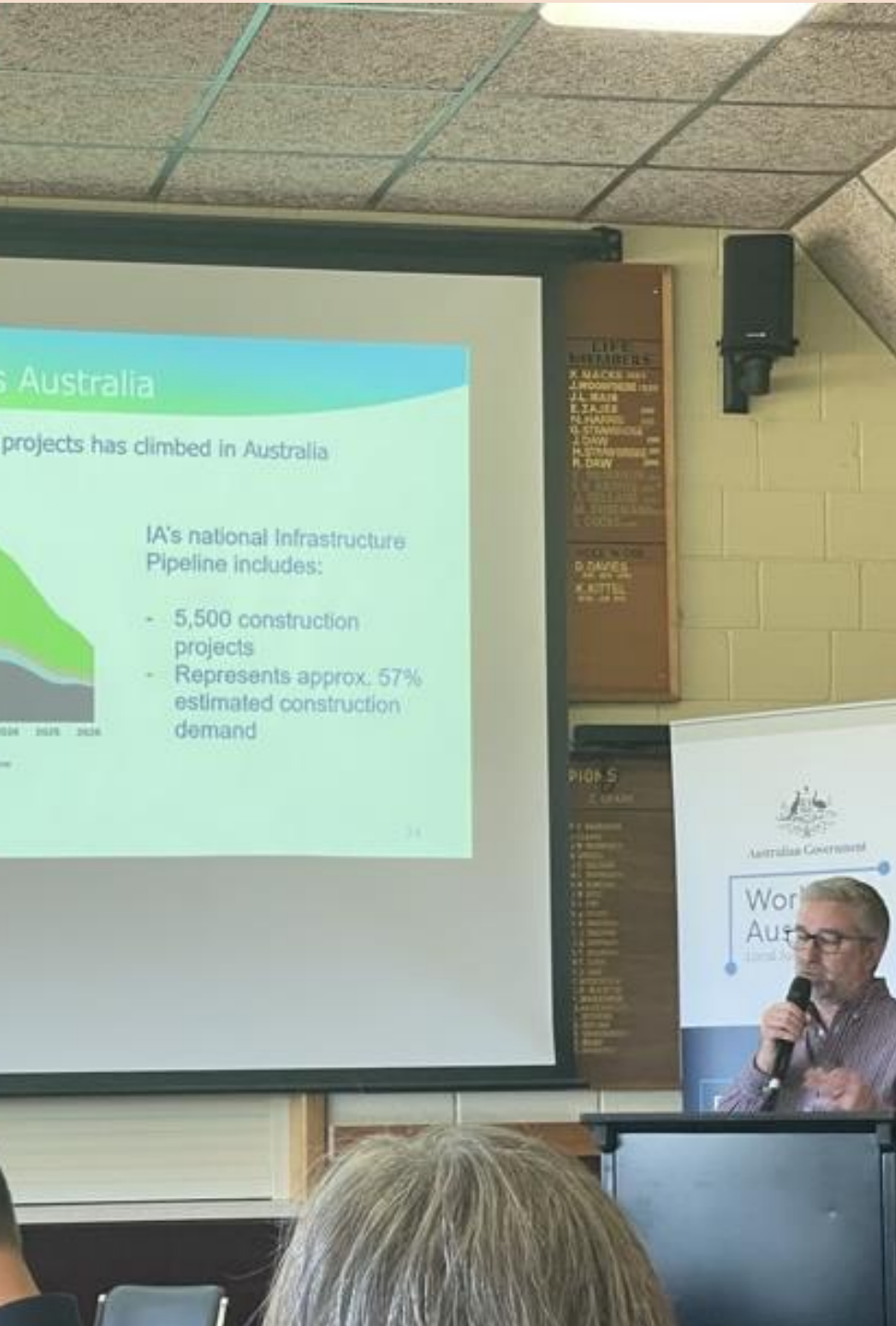
- Under the Pines, Port Neill
- Colour Tumby Unplugged
- Tasting Arno
- Roxby Meet the Buyer
- Salt Festival
- **Pop-ups**
- Meetings with organisations, groups, industry groups, clubs, boards and associations
- Business and Networking Briefings
- Industry engagement and workforce planning and development
- Workshops

Formal engagement process

- Roadshow
- Pop up sessions
- Static displays
- Presentations and briefings

Events

- EP Field Days
- Local shows and community events



What is Social Impact Assessment?

Social Impact Assessment includes the processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, **both positive and negative**, of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions.

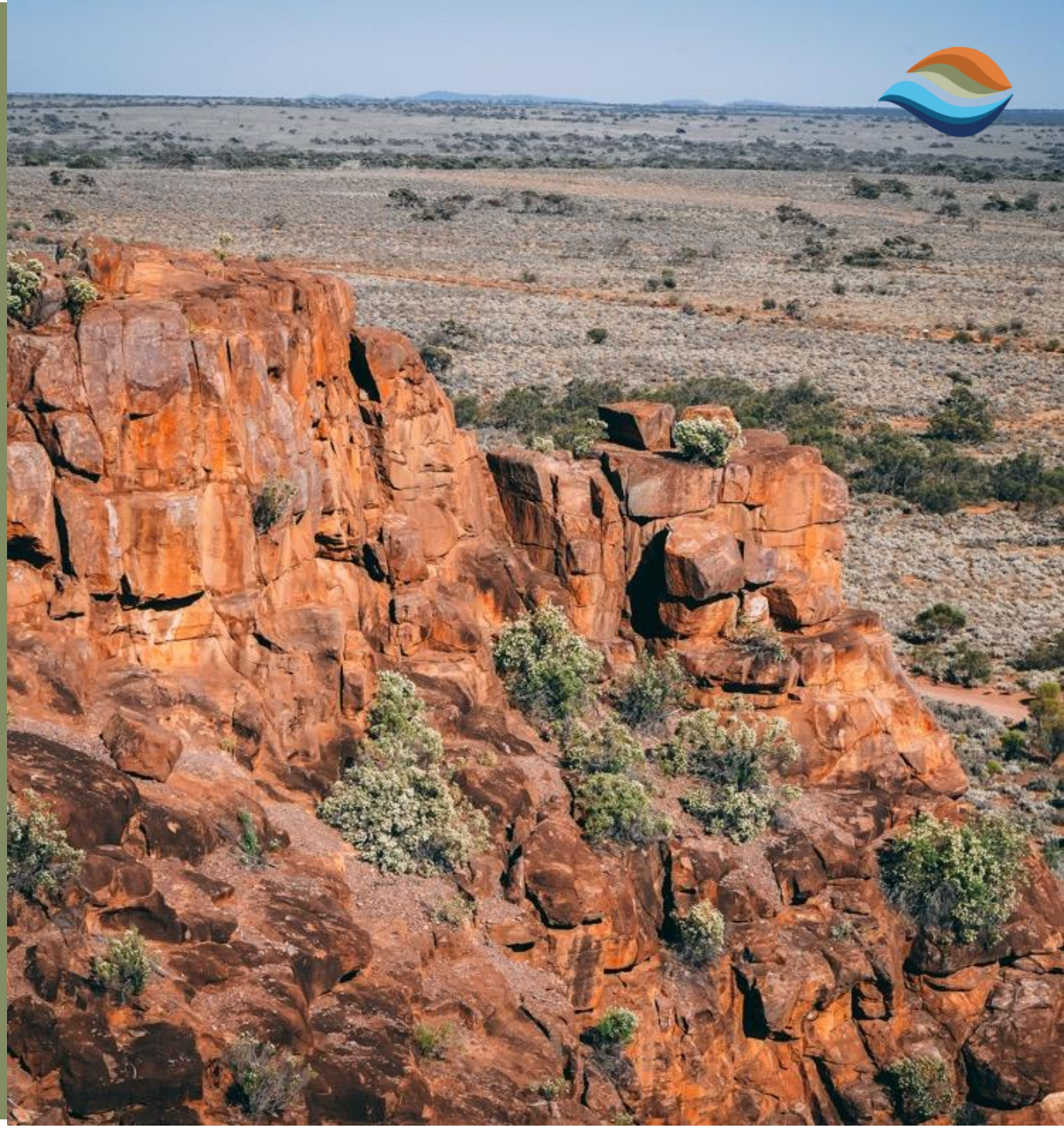
Its primary purpose is to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment.

International Association of Impact Assessment



Why do a Social Impact Assessment?

- ✓ Legislative requirement (EIS)
- ✓ Increased social licence
- ✓ Protects the project
- ✓ Minimises impacts on the community
- ✓ Maximises opportunities for the community
- ✓ Supports the community





What do we mean by social impact?

People – way of life and how people work, play and interact

Culture – shared beliefs, customs, values and language

Community – cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities

Political system – the extent people can participate in decisions

Environment – availability and quality of air, water and food, level of risk, dust, noise, sanitation, physical safety and access to and control over resources

Health and wellbeing – Physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing (not just the absence of disease or infirmity)

Personal and property rights – whether people are economically affected, experience disadvantage or have civil liberties violated

Fears and perceptions – perceptions of safety, fears about the future of their community and aspirations for the future for themselves or their children

International Association of Impact Assessment

Use of land and water

Traffic, transport and access

Water security

Employment, skills and business

Tourism and recreation

Amenity, health and wellbeing

Housing

Community services

Sense of community and place

Cumulative impacts



Establishing a baseline and engaging others

Quantitative baseline – population, demographic characteristics, housing analysis

Qualitative baseline – community and stakeholder engagement

Case study analysis – others' experiences, knowledge of area, understanding of project





Social impacts identified to date





Social impacts identified to date

Use of land and water

Impact on cropping due to pipeline

Exclusion zone for fishers

Increased access to water may drive change to land use

Water security

Use of water for emergency

Improved access to water for remote communities

Equity of water pricing

Equity of access

Traffic, transport and access

Construction traffic – closures, truck movements – whole of SA

Impact on road network assets

Intersection and mid-block capacity and safety

Air services and Pt Lincoln Airport

Employment, skills and business

Jobs for locals

Local business supply to project

Ability to scale up and down

Pastoral expansion opportunities





Social impacts identified to date

Tourism and recreation

- Recreational use of the cove
- Intake and outfall exclusion areas
- Tourist displacement impacts
- Tourist experience – tourist routes

Housing

- Housing availability and cost
- Housing equity and displacement
- Leaving a legacy
- Demountables vs permanent investment
vs adaptable accommodation

Amenity, health and wellbeing

- Views from sensitive locations
- View of pipeline easement
- Noise from construction
- Safety on roads
- Mental health
- Cultural safety

Community services

- Health services including RFDS and local hospitals
- Self-contained vs maximising
existing vs shared
- Childcare



Social impacts identified to date

Sense of community and place

- Loss of connection to 'the cove'
- Impact of a workforce on local townships
- Progress vs sense of place
- Environmental custodianship

Cumulative impacts

- Co-located projects
- Deep sea port



High-priority social impacts

What are your top three social impacts that you are expecting the Social Impact Assessment to address based on:

- *Your area of expertise*
- *Your organisation's strategic priorities*
- *Your own experience of major projects*
- *Your knowledge of the area, regional SA, or similar environments*





Next steps

- Continue
 - research, field surveys and data collection focused on the Cape Hardy site
 - engaging with stakeholders and community, particularly around the Cape Hardy site
- Site selection
- Planning and design
- Procurement
- Environmental Impact Assessment

Thank You



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