

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY



ABN 54 118 912 495

There is a legal requirement, S. 39A of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 for a licensee to consult with the community. The provision reads:

*A licensee has a duty to consult with the community throughout the period of the licence by:*

- (a) sharing with the community information about any activities authorised by the licence that may affect the community; and*
- (b) giving members of the community a reasonable opportunity to express their views about those activities.*

In addition, there is a strong moral and ethical case for licensees informing their local communities as to their plans in these communities and for licensees to listen to the views of the local communities.

In simple terms, the licensee must establish the extent of the local community, work out an effective manner in which to communicate with the various members of the community, actually engage in an on-going communications strategy and effectively deal with the information that it was able to discover.

More specifically, the plan has been broadly based on the following:

- 1. Identification of Communities** Catalyst will identify all members of the Community who are likely to be impacted by the exploration activities of the proposed project. The activities proposed would have the most significant impact on the landowners upon whose land we propose to explore as well as neighbouring landowners. Because some exploration is required on road verges, communication with the broader community will also be important. The Company will compile a list of adjacent landowners, persons living within perhaps 1 kilometer of the licence and other community groups which may be impacted by the operations. Groups such as the Victorian Farmers Federation or the local Field Naturalists Club. Government Departments, Federal, State or local, and other government bodies such as CMA's who have a particular interest in the land on which the licence is situated should also form part of the consultation group.
- 2. Consultation with Affected Communities** The Catalyst approach will be face-to-face meetings with the affected landowners to ensure that we understand their areas of concern with respect to the impact of our programmes on their cropping schedules and their livestock and structural installations. The Company will need to clearly explain the nature and timing of our proposed programme and allow sufficient time for them to provide feedback well before the commencement of the programme. It will be necessary to identify the expectations or attitudes of these groups and individuals.

3. **Informing the Affected Communities** Catalyst will ensure that all relevant community stakeholders are informed of the Company's activities in a clear coherent manner. This information will be provided in many ways depending on the level of knowledge required by affected stakeholders. This can be achieved in many ways:
  - Personal contact by door knocking, face-to-face meetings, telephone contact followed up by written communication by letter or email outlining the nature of the programme.
  - Notification to affected relevant Shire Council, Telstra or Water Supply, or other authorities that may be affected by the activities.
  - Media Coverage in local press to inform members of the community who may not be directly affected but who should be aware of the broad programmes in the District.
  - Community Meetings of residents, traders and other business and special interest groups to provide information on the company activities.
4. **Impact Assessment of Programme** Catalyst will need to assess the impact of their operation on these individuals and groups. Because the operation is mostly restricted to the private land, and considering the remoteness of the operation and its overall size, it is expected that the impact would be considered as low. However, following the consultation, the full impact would be assessed by guidelines provided by the Department.
5. **Assessment of Community Feedback** Catalyst will encourage feedback from all sections of the local community by having an available contact person who can discuss their concerns. This would tend to be the local Project Manager Paul Quigley who will be available by telephone or email. An assessment will be made following the consultation as to what level of community input and involvement can be achieved. There are likely to be a whole range of matters which will need to be considered. Ideally many of the ideas and suggestions will be mutually beneficial to both the licensee and the local community. Matters such as working hours or attitudes to working on days of high fire danger or working on hot and windy days may be matters which the local community could have views which need to be considered by the licensees.
6. **Operational Issues** Catalyst will produce an information sheet to be distributed to the community outlining the project and seeking community views and attitudes to the operation. A sign would be placed on the licence. It would provide contact details for the licensee with the invitation to contact the licensee to seek additional information or to complain about any adverse effects that the mining operation may create. Any contact or complaint will be noted in a complaints book, and the licensee will promptly make suitable arrangements to contact the complainant. Where possible, the matter would be settled between the two parties, but the local Mines Inspector or the Mining Warden may be requested to assist in resolving any issue or mediating in the matter.
7. **Ongoing Communication** Ongoing individual meetings may be held with residents and other stakeholders to inform them of progress on the licence and the expected cessation of operations. A digital presence can be of great assistance to communications between a licensee with a website being provided providing up to day information on the project and a blog or other forum to allow residents to communicate with the licensee as well as other community members.

At the conclusion of the programme, further discussion will be carried out with affected landowners to ensure that all rehabilitation has been carried out to their satisfaction and that all necessary compensation has been paid. Any additional information gained from the programme should also be discussed with the landowner.

In practice, the interest and input from the community is welcome to ensure that there is a minimum of adverse effects to the amenity of the area or the impact on the expectation of the community for the peaceful enjoyment of their local environment.

The licensee should be mindful of the need to maintain these exceptionally good community relations and to ensure that the channels of communication between the licence holder and the community in which it operates are kept open. All discussion with the community is based on mutual trust and respect.