

WINGELLINA PROJECT

Community Impacts Assessment Overview

January 2024



Introduction

At NICO RESOURCES, we take account of the impacts of the Wingellina Project that result from our business decisions and our actions.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY compels us to understand, manage and mitigate community and environmental impacts and maximise opportunities arising from the development of the Project.

In 2012, Metals X contracted URS Australia to develop a Social Impact Analysis and Management Plan (SIMP) for the Wingellina Project. Informed by community consultation and research, the SIMP was created in consultation with Ngaanyatjarra (Ng) Council and applies to Western Australia, rather than to South Australia or the Northern Territory.

Nico was formed in 2022 by demerging the nickel portfolio from Metals X. Since inception Nico has consulted with community and government representatives, continuing the dialogue undertaken by Metals X.

This brochure provides insights into the community impacts and consultation process, including past learnings and future plans.

Stakeholders of the Wingellina Project are those individuals, communities, government agencies, non-government organisations and other entities that have an interest in the Project or are influenced by the development of the Project.

Primary stakeholders are more engaged with the Project than secondary stakeholders and include residents of the Wingellina Community, the Ng Council, the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku and Government.

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Social Impact Analysis and Management Plan 2012

Consultations, on country and by phone, were designed to gather views and opinions of stakeholders for the 2012 Social Impact Analysis and Management Plan.

Discussions focussed on the potential social impacts that may result from the development of the Wingellina Project.

Stakeholder groups that were consulted include: Wingellina community members; service providers; community members in Pipalyatjara, Kalka, Blackstone; Ng Council, Ng Services, Ng Health, Ng Agency and Transport Services (NATS); State and Local government and Employment Training Services.

About Nico

Nico Resources is developing the Wingellina Nickel-Cobalt Project. It is part of Nico Resources' Central Musgrave Project which straddles the junction point of the WA, SA and NT borders (Surveyor Generals Corner).

Wingellina, a high-grade mining and processing nickel and cobalt project in WA, is located 300 - 350 kms by road, south-west of Uluru.

The December 2022 Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) confirms Wingellina to be a significant critical mineral asset with a 42-year life of mine with production of approximately 40,000tpa of nickel and 3,000tpa of cobalt. Wingellina is characterised by its long life, low cost and high operating margins.

When operational, at a PFS capital cost of A\$2.9B, Wingellina will produce sustainable nickel and cobalt used for example in the electric vehicle and energy storage industries, contributing to the world's energy transformation.

Stakeholder Sentiment -What did the stakeholders say?

Stakeholders identified opportunities, voiced concerns, and expressed sentiments and opinions about various aspects of the Wingellina Project. However, the most important topics in 2012 were heritage and culture, followed by environment, training and employment, and Aboriginal business development opportunities.

COMMUNITY SENTIMENT 2012 -WINGELLINA PROJECT	
High	Aboriginal heritage and culture are respected, protected and accessible.
	The environment is suitably protected and rehabilitated.
	Training program to get people job ready.
Medium	Aboriginal business development.
	Aboriginal employment.
	Help new businesses become sustainable to support the mine.
Low	New community fits the community’s needs and aspirations.
	Positive interactions between the mine and the community.
	Safety on the roads.
<i>ranked in order of importance</i>	

Community & Mine Interaction

In 2012, there was unrestricted access to the exploration camp, and community members often visited for assistance, work or social reasons. A bigger workforce increases the risk of good relations deteriorating. Therefore, when the Project is developed, interactions would be carefully managed, and workforce strategies would be enacted to direct the behaviour of workers.

Workforce Management Plans are important to define the nature and frequency of contact, as requested by community, and to ensure contact is positive for both parties.

The level of interaction between workers and community must not impact good relations.

Risk management plans address alcohol and drugs, which are illegal in Ng Lands.

Future Prospects

In 2012 the community had a strong affection for Wingellina and satisfaction with their way of life including traditions, hunting and bush tucker. However, they felt that the infrastructure was poorly maintained, incomes were low, and opportunities and service were limited. The Shire of Ng noted the community had been neglected by government.

In 2012, some people seemed to accept the relocation of the community and others expressed ‘sadness’ about leaving their homes, (leaving behind hills and land). Having travelled widely, their expectation was that Wingellina should have amenities and services consistent with its size and location.

There are prospects for the community to reap the benefits of mining. This requires increased capacity of residents to take advantage of opportunities.

Response to the Findings – Social Impact Management Planning

The SIMP sets out actions that will occur to address social impacts, mitigate negative impacts, and enhance opportunities. These will occur at FID (Final Investment Decision), during construction, or during operation of the Project. The list of responses to community sentiment would be discussed with community and stakeholders before a decision is made to proceed with the Wingellina Project. A sample of responses to the community's priority views follows.

1. Develop an Aboriginal Employment Strategy (FID) and prepare (ongoing) and implement an Environmental Management Plan (construction).
2. Provide four traineeships at any one time (FID), employ a minimum of 10 Aboriginal workers at any one time (FID) and employ suitably qualified Ng Lands People (FID).
3. Provide information to Ng Council on potential contracting and business opportunities (FID) and Assist Ng Contracting to identify contracting opportunities (construction).
4. Cultural awareness training conducted by Ng Lands person for employees and for contractors who will be on site an average of 45 days (operations).
5. Endeavour to procure funding from government for training and employment of Ng Lands People (FID); and the mining agreement provides for funds for education and training (FID).
6. Maintain access and protection from disturbance of cemetery and other heritage sites, as per the Aboriginal Heritage Protocol and Cultural Heritage Management Plan (FID).
7. Engage a panel of up to six Aboriginal employees or TOs (male and female) to act as heritage protection monitors during ground disturbing works (FID).
8. Establish a hot line to report concerns or complaints about environmental impacts (construction).
9. Conduct two mine tours / open days each year for local people (operations), and support sports teams, volunteering and local events, as desired by the community (construction).
10. Implement a Workforce Management Plan including behaviour protocols for after hours, travel and driving, community interaction, drug and alcohol testing (construction).
11. Implement a traffic management plan (construction), and traffic awareness training.



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What's Next in the Wingellina Impacts Management Process

Today, some Project stakeholders are different to those consulted in 2012, and it is important that their views are captured and incorporated in a revised SIMP.

Whilst consultation about Nico's activities is ongoing, stakeholders will be consulted specifically to update the SIMP.

The SIMP will be revised and finalised in consultation with the Implementation Committee during the next phase of project development, the Definitive Feasibility Study.

Due to their evolving nature, social impacts and opportunities will be monitored by both Nico and the community over time. When a decision is taken to proceed with the Project, then responses would be developed in detail.

On Country Consultation 2024

Nico continues its developments in the fields of Environment, Social and Governance through initiatives such as Community Implementation Committee meetings, and undertaking cultural heritage, archaeological and flora and fauna surveys.

During 2023, Nico steadily increased its engagement and consultation with government, Traditional Owners, community representatives and community members.

Consultation with the Wingellina community enables Nico and the Community to discuss Project status and the works and surveys planned to be undertaken on-country.

Nico has worked closely with the Ng Council anthropologists to prepare a staged approach to consultation for the proposed development

of the Cobb Embayment borefield and water pipeline, Lewis calcrete quarry and haul road, and the upgrade of the Giles-Mulga Park Road.

The consultation plan is being implemented, on-country with Traditional Owners, in advance of field work, such as passive seismic surveys, water drilling, bore hole development and road upgrades.

During 2024, the focus of consultation will be:

1. Road access to and from Wingellina;
2. Renewable energy infrastructure; and
3. Social surroundings such as visual amenity, noise and air quality over the life of the Project.



Nico has co-ordinated community support including sourcing and delivery of football gear, 30 bikes and women's softball gear.