

SAINT ELMO PROJECT FACTSHEET Newsletter #4

March 2019

Epic Environmental Pty Ltd (Epic) are working with Multicom Resources Limited (Multicom) on the approvals process for the Saint Elmo Project (the Project), including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



NORTH WEST FLOODS

The flooding in the North West region in February 2019 has been truly devastating. Impacted communities and particularly graziers have been in the thoughts of all those involved in the Saint Elmo Project.

Multicom has been in contact with landholders and the McKinlay Shire Council offering any assistance with the significant task that lies ahead.

While our short-term plans for February obviously changed, consideration was given to whether further trips should be postponed. Through our continued engagement, we have determined that the best contribution we can make to the affected communities at this time is to continue to complete our field works and consultation over the coming months. During these trips we will be sourcing as many goods and services locally as possible, spending money in the local community and continuing on the pathway for regional economic diversification.

Upcoming trips include:

- March – Fieldworks;
- March / April – Landholder and Council Meetings;
- April / May – Community Consultation; and
- May / June – Government Site Visit.

We will continue to seek to identify ways in which we can support the communities of the North West at this time.

EIS PROGRESS

On 15 February 2019, Epic submitted the draft EIS including the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to the Government who will assess it against the Terms of Reference and ultimately, approve its release to the public. Based on this submission date, it is expected that the EIS will be released for a 6-week public consultation period from mid to late April 2019.



Figure 1: EIS Submitted February 2019

If there are any particular issues you would like Epic and Multicom to focus on during this consultation period, please contact us by phone (Freecall 1800 270 844) or email (saintelmo@epicenvironmental.com.au), so we can ensure we include answers to your questions in the consultation materials.

WATER UPDATE

Flooding

While the Mitchell Grass Downs are relatively flat, the Project is located on and named after the Saint Elmo Anticline. While it only has gentle slopes, this Anticline is the highest point in the local landscape. This geology has created the resource for the Saint Elmo Project and provides the site with some protection against floods which occur in the region.

In the flooding event of February 2019, while over 500 mm of rain occurred, the peak *three-day total* at Julia Creek Airport was 350 mm. The probability of this amount of rain occurring within 72 hours is classed as a 1 in 200 year event.

As the Project area is in an area known to be affected by major floods, the water management infrastructure for the Project has been planned accordingly. While operations would have shut down for a short period, the main water management structures would be designed to withstand the recent events.

Water Management

The water management infrastructure at the Project is separated into three categories:

- Clean Water: surface water diverted around or through the Project without mixing with dirty or mine water (e.g. runoff from rehabilitated areas and raw water supply).
- Dirty Water: water generated from runoff of disturbed areas such as, waste rock dumps, hardstand, roads and new rehabilitation. Dirty water is mostly contaminated by sediment.
- Mine/Process Water: this includes water used or affected by mining activities, such as; pit water, processing water, and any surface water in contact with these waters.

Clean Water

To divert clean water around the site, a Levee will be constructed on Horse Creek. This Levee will be designed for a 1 in 1,000 year event.

Under existing conditions, the baseline flood assessment indicated for Flinders Highway at the Horse Creek crossing, the flood depths for the 1 in 10 year and

1 in 100 year events are up to 1 m and 2 m, respectively. Without the Project, the Flinders Highway is already not trafficable during existing floods. While construction of the Levee will change the flooding behaviour immediately south of the Project and upstream along Horse Creek, the increase to flood levels due to the Levee will not cause further impacts on the use of Flinders Highway. A qualitative assessment of the February 2019 rainfall event confirmed this.

Dirty Water

Sediment dams, designed to contain dirty water, would have overflowed during recent events, as they are typically designed to do, based on only releasing sediment and no other contaminants.

Mine/Process Water

One of the Mine/Process Water structures which holds contaminated water is designed for a 1 in 100 year wet season of up to 800 mm. Based on the completion of standard management practices, this Waste Storage facility would have been empty prior to the commencement of the wet season, as required to prevent overflow in an event such as that in February 2019.

The other significant dams have been designed to safely withstand a 1 in 1,000-year event and therefore would not have failed during the recorded event.

Further information

If you would like further information on the Project, please:

- Email saintelmo@epicenvironmental.com.au; or
- Freecall 1800 270 844; or
- Visit <https://www.mces.com.au/saint-elmo-project>

