Engaging stakeholders in post mining transitions

Jo-Anne Everingham¹, John Rolfe², Susan Kinnear², Delwar Akbar², & Alex Lechner³

¹SMI, the University of Qld, ²Central Queensland University, ³University of Nottingham, Malaysia
Overview

- Project aim and methodology
- Models of stakeholder panels
- Steps, decisions and variables for workshop-based stakeholder panels
- Findings
  - Agreement on post-mining land use
  - Agreement on engagement processes
Project aim and methodology

Action research modelling a stakeholder process for agreeing post mining land use by graziers

Core was 4 workshops with 39 stakeholders

1. Identify relevant issues – general and regional
2. Undertake individual planning of a hypothetical site
3. Give technical info and group planning for the site
4. (a) Confirm final plan met stakeholder approval and (b) find preferred options for stakeholder input – who, when and how?

Hypothetical site (imagery+ map) for concrete focus
Five Models for mining affected communities to have a say

- Community reference group (e.g. Rolleston CRG)
- Special interest group (e.g. water/void) (e.g. Ensham Residual Void project and Glencore groundwater and environment group)
- Regional consultative committee (e.g. Gladstone Region LNG CCC)
- Expert advisory panel (e.g. FPRH’s Expert Scientific Panel)
- Technical taskforce (e.g. Fitzroy River Water Quality Technical Working Group)
Who? (e.g. civil society, councils, government, ‘experts’, landholders)

Why? (i.e. purpose, scope and focus of a panel’s deliberations)

How? (i.e. resourcing, structuring and operation of panel + IAP2)

When? (i.e. timing of stakeholder involvement)

What? (i.e. What sequence for the panel to follow in working through options

...to engage with mining affected communities.
Key findings

• Shared views with regard to post-mining land uses
  – Grazing the most suitable use in CQ
  – Post-mining land can have a patchwork of ecological, social and economic functions
  – Native vegetation adds value as part of a grazing property

• Shared views with regard to effective engagement processes – start early and adopt...
  – Collaboration and empowerment of cross-section of mainly local stakeholders
  – Use of spatial and visual representations or other authentic focus
  – Deliberative dialogue in group situations for varied perspectives and pooled experiences/ knowledge
Conclusion

There are benefits to engaging stakeholders:

• E.g. including diverse knowledge and values; transparency; flexibility; facilitating mutual understanding, convergence and compromise

There are effective models to engage stakeholders appropriate to:

• The risk or issue characteristics
• The people with a stake (interest, influence, networks, experience)
• The purpose and scope of the panel

Recommended steps and variables


Thank you

Dr Jo-Anne Everingham | Senior Research Fellow
SMI: Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining
j.everingham@uq.edu.au