## Early planning and stakeholder engagement - Time for a revolution!

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### **Central Eyre Iron Project**

- Open cut iron ore mine
- Onsite processing to produce 21.5 Mtpa of magnetite concentrate
- Export via 145 km new rail line and port
- 25 year life







### Location





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### Desired community/stakeholder outcomes

- Minimise loss of cropping land (i.e. minimise project footprint)
- No impacts from mine generated dust on adjoining grain crops or the community (public health and nuisance)
- No adverse effects on crops from tailings seepage into shallow groundwater
- Maximise opportunities to return land to agriculture post mine closure
- Maximise economic and employment benefits for community

#### Original project design could not achieve these outcomes!



### Project redesign

Project at start of DFS	Project submitted for approval
Truck and shovel operation	In-pit crushing and conveying
Waste rock dumps	Integrated waste landform
Tailings discharged as slurry to paddock tailings dams	





# Environmental, social and economic benefits

- 70% reduction in water use
- Elimination of wet tailings as a seepage risk to groundwater
- 50% reduction in tailings/waste rock footprint
- 90% reduction in truck fleet (replaced by covered conveyors)
- No waste rock dumping, reducing dust and noise sources
- 80% reduction in diesel use
- 60% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Improved capacity for progressive rehabilitation
- Potential to return most of integrated landform to agricultural production



# A win for the community and the environment, but ...

- Project changes occurred prior to commencement of formal IA process
- Public consultation process during formal IA process resulted in minimal project change
- Formal IA process can often be about defending decisions already made
- Based on Iron Road's view of what outcomes community was seeking
- Not all proponents will have good understanding of stakeholder concerns
- No government decision on whether outcomes were acceptable until final approval decision



### A better way – emphasise upfront engagement





### The way forward

- Requirement for upfront engagement with community and other stakeholders to develop agreed outcomes for project
- Outcomes should be informed by regional SEA
- Endorsement of proposed outcomes by regulator
- Purpose of IA process is to determine whether the project can meet the agreed outcomes
- Outcomes may be reviewed if there are changes in project scope or significant new information
- Agreement with stakeholders on how proponent will demonstrate outcomes are being achieved



### Benefits

- More meaningful stakeholder engagement in project design
- Changes the conversation from focus on impacts
- Greater certainty for proponent
- More targeted impact assessments (and reduced costs)
- Potentially, lower likelihood of legal challenges
- Greater confidence that the project is implemented in a way that meets community acceptance



### Contact

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