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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project at start of DFS</th>
<th>Project submitted for approval</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Truck and shovel operation</td>
<td>In-pit crushing and conveying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste rock dumps</td>
<td>Integrated waste landform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailings discharged as slurry to paddock</td>
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<tr>
<td>tailings dams</td>
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</tbody>
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[Combined Waste Rock & Tailings]
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 CO₂ 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

Current stakeholder view of relative importance

Where the emphasis should be
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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