Learnings on Regulatory Transparency for the South Australian Mining Sector

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Learnings on Regulatory Transparency

• Transparency – even for Government is about building and establishing relationships and trust with people.
South Australia
OZ Minerals Carrapateena Copper Mine
160km North of Port Augusta
Semi arid rangelands
Yorke Peninsula
Broadacre cropping
Grain and sheep
Tourism
South Australia’s Regulatory Tool for mining

SA Mining Act 1971

Mining Regulations 2011

• Development Approvals
• Environmental Protection
• Access to land
• Royalties
Moving towards Transparency

Publication via internet

- Processes and Policies
- Guidelines
- Application decisions
- Approval Conditions
- Assessment Reports
- Operational Approval Documents
- Compliance Reports

www.energymining.sa.gov.au
Case studies
Our recent journeys

Hillside Copper Mine
Yorke Peninsula

- Prime cropping and grazing land
- High level of public engagement
  - Close to local towns
  - Close to SA's capital city
  - Popular holiday destination
Hillside Copper mine

Mining proposal put out to the public for comment
200+ public submissions received
  • Decision for transparency
  • Public submissions published on Dept. website
  • Public meetings
  • Public Assessment Report
  • Publication of tenement conditions
  • Long intense, resource heavy process

Significant learnings
Central Eyre Iron Project
Broadacre cropping
6hrs drive north and west of Adelaide, SA

Putting learnings into action

• Community engagement plan
• Visited local community - workshops
• Government website – single point of truth
  • Application status information
  • Supporting Information
• Published
  • Submissions, responses
  • Decision
  • Conditions
• Spoke with affected landowners at decision
• Followed up with community

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Freedom of Information Request

Both case study applications - no challenges to decisions received

Freedom of Information Request
Request for information from a member of the public – not all information available to public

Freedom of Information Act 1991
“Promotes openness and accountability of government agencies and thereby enhance respect for the law and further good government”

Ombudsman’s findings on the FOI challenge:
“Noted a significant amount of information pertaining to the project had been published electronically”
“Considered the objects of the FOI Act have largely been achieved by the agency publishing a large amount of material relating to the project”
The Future

Continuous review of our processes within the *Mining Act 1971*

- Leading practice ESIA
- Early engagement with stakeholders
- Publish more information

Challenges

- Keeping up with community expectations
- Resourcing
- Accessibility – access to internet

Solutions

- Keep legislation and processes up to date
- Systems focus – gain efficiency via web portals and automation to support processes
- Establish, build and maintain relationships with people
Contacts

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