South Australian Multiple Land Use Framework

KANMANTOO COPPER MINE CASE STUDY

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**Synopsis**

**What is the issue?** – There are a number of social operating challenges for the Kanmantoo Copper Mine in relation to dust, noise, vibration, amenity and light spill.

**What is the conflict?** – In 2012 there was a noted deterioration in the effectiveness of consultation with the community on these matters.

**What was the resolution?** – Hillgrove Resources with the valuable assistance of the Kanmantoo Callington Community Consultative Committee focussed on improving the effectiveness of the Committee and today it is operating effectively with a new composition, chairman and implementation working parties to better manage community concerns.

The Kanmantoo Copper Mine is located 55 kilometres east of Adelaide between the Kanmantoo and Callington townships, both of which are in a five kilometre radius of the mine. The Kanmantoo Copper Mine was previously mined between 1846 and 1874 and again during the first half of the 1970s. Today, Hillgrove Resources Pty Ltd operates the mine and conducts open pit mining and produces copper concentrate which is shipped overseas. Hillgrove employs 192 staff directly, and 68 contractors. The life of the mine currently extends until 2019 and Hillgrove is focussed on its mine closure and rehabilitation requirements to ensure sequential land use of the site can be achieved.

**Business vision**

Hillgrove Resources’ Business Vision with respect to the local communities is ‘to operate in an environmentally safe and sustainable manner with minimal impact to the community’ and the organisation is committed to effectively minimising the environmental and community impacts of its activities to provide a sustainable environmental future for communities surrounding (its) sites, even after operations cease.’ The intent of the vision is to leave a positive legacy for the surrounding communities by constructing to closure and post closure through effective environmental rehabilitation (see mine closure and rehabilitation section of this case study) and consultation throughout the project.

**Consultation program**

The primary goals of Hillgrove’s consultation program is to:

- Ensure effective communication and exchange of information between Hillgrove and its stakeholders.
- Ensure the smooth and efficient development, operation and closure of the project.

The specific best practice objectives that will allow these goals to be met are to ensure that:

- The local and regional community is kept fully informed about each stage of the mine’s development through the provision of clear, accurate and unbiased information in appropriate formats and delivered through a variety of ways to suit the community.
• Stakeholder and community awareness is built to provide an understanding of, and support for, the company and the Kanmantoo Copper Mine.
• The company understands its stakeholders and the wider community with a focus on identifying and addressing priority issues of concern in a timely manner.
• Opportunities for the company to participate are identified and realised, as a member of the community and deliver real and measurable benefits to the community.
• Community input into topics and issues that help to inform and improve the company’s decision making are encouraged.
• The relevant regulatory requirements related to community engagement are met.

To meet these objectives Hillgrove has established a consultation framework, program and stakeholder and community engagement plan that is supported by relevant technical investigations. Further information on stakeholder engagement activities and outcomes is outlined in section 6 of Hillgrove’s Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation Life of Mine (http://minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mining/mines_and_quarries/kanmantoo)

Hillgrove Resources has a local employment policy and actively seeks staff from the immediate Kanmantoo Callington area (within a 5km radius of the mine) and the local Adelaide Hills communities. As of December 2016, 80% of the employees live in local or semi-local areas. This policy is detailed in the approved Program for Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR) (http://minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mining/mines_and_quarries/kanmantoo). The mine actively sources and engages local suppliers where practicable, has hosted local supplier forums and supports local sporting clubs and community events.

The proximity of the mine to the local community provides significant social operating challenges in relation to dust, noise, vibration, amenity and light spill. Hillgrove works extensively with the surrounding communities and stakeholders through the Kanmantoo Callington Community Consultative Committee (KCCCC), established in 2007, to address these issues and concerns.

Committee Members are appointed for two-year terms according to a process described in the KCCCC Terms of Reference (http://kccchillgroveresources.com.au/terms-reference) that includes an open call for nominations. There is no limit to the number of community representatives on the Committee. The Committee tries to make sure that its membership effectively covers the various stakeholder groups and their topics of interest. The current membership of the Committee includes a landowner directly affected on an adjoining property, a local resident, community members, a representative of the Callington Primary School, a Councillor from the District Council of Mount Barker, the Principal Mining Regulator from the Department of State Development and the Managing Director and CEO of Hillgrove Resources.
The KCCCC (http://kcccc.hillgroveresources.com.au/) provides a mechanism for active consultation and participation with the local community in relation to the mine’s operational activities and closure rehabilitation planning. The KCCCC holds quarterly meetings with Hillgrove and key stakeholders of the mine’s operations. A key to the effectiveness of this community engagement is growing an understanding and acceptance of the diversity of opinion within any community and listening to and respecting the various ideas, comments, suggestions and other input provided by each of these individuals and groups. The KCCCC Action List can be viewed here: http://kcccc.hillgroveresources.com.au/sites/default/files/17_kcccc_community_action_list_april_2015_doc_17.pdf.

The KCLG (http://sacommunity.org/org/204375-Kanmantoo-Callington_Landcare_Group) has been instrumental in reflecting the community requirements into the mine’s PEPR. The KCLG’s input ensured that all rehabilitation and SEB (Significant Environmental Benefit) vegetation offsets occur either within or immediately adjacent to the mining lease. The KCLG sought to ensure that rehabilitation was delivered to the best available standard to achieve offsets which mirrored some of the region’s remnant vegetation communities, thereby retaining the biodiversity of the region.

The rehabilitation plan for the mine is driven by these ethics. The KCLG is actively involved in site rehabilitation activities and initiatives including the direct involvement of local Landcare volunteers in plant rescue programs which has resulted in the recovery of many plant species from areas earmarked for disturbance. The KCLG has been actively involved in providing input and assistance to the mine’s Seed Production Area through plant rescue days and provide a framework for community outcomes required from continuous rehabilitation strategies.

To ensure successful mine rehabilitation, a Seed Production Area has been established on site. The Seed Production Area provides a program of seed collection and seed propagation at Kanmantoo to achieve the SEB target and ensures that the company has sufficient, locally-sourced seed to supply nursery tube stock propagation and feed large-scale direct seeding programs on cropping land and rehabilitated mine landforms.

Hillgrove works closely with the KCLG on community projects which have included providing tubestock for the butterfly garden at the local school and bike tracks. Hillgrove also works closely in a partnership with the Botanic Gardens seed conservation centre. Hillgrove has funded research to solve seed generation problems of difficult to propagate local species and test seed viability. This research is a publicly available resources for Landcare groups and is available on the Hillgrove Resources website http://www.hillgroveresources.com.au/article/Community/Mine_Life_Extension.
KANMANTOO COPPER MINE – Case Study 3

Hillgrove has actively worked with the District Council of Mount Barker and has installed a water pipeline that provides treated effluent water for the processing of copper concentrate and extends past the mine to Callington where it irrigates the Callington Oval. This water is a shared resource with local irrigators. To minimise the impact of the site’s water usage during peak periods, and provide effective dust minimisation on the site, the organisation worked with the SA Government and SA Water to establish an additional offtake pipeline from the Murray River. This involved extensive consultation with landowners and the community.

The pipeline has now been commissioned and provides more water availability for the site for dust minimisation, has enabled an additional water source for the impacted landowners at no cost, and more availability of water for local irrigators during peak requirements by removing load from the District Council of Mount Barker water source. The Murray pipeline will ultimately become a source of irrigation water for the Kanmantoo-Callington area, providing opportunities for farms to diversify and develop new irrigated cropping enterprises.

Hillgrove has also established working parties with local residents, landowners and company representatives. A wider range of stakeholders including the District Council of Mount Barker, SA Mining History Group and the Department of State Development are involved in working party activities. The working parties are currently involved in the development of a Dust Plan and a Master Plan. The Dust working party provides community input into dust minimisation strategies and promotes awareness and understanding of dust from health and lifestyle aspects.

The Master Plan working party provides the community with input in relation to mine closure planning activities that will ensure that the Kanmantoo Callington area will receive education and socio-economic benefits from the mine in relation to art, amenity, history and tourism. The SA Mining History Association is also consulted to ensure the mining history of the Kanmantoo Callington area is preserved.

Water projects

Working parties

Seed Production Area

Rehabilitation on site
South Australian Multiple Land Use Framework


Mine closure and rehabilitation

Mine closure plans are progressively refined and adapted throughout the life of the mine in light of project experience, further site information that becomes available during construction and operations, and changes in regulations, stakeholder expectations, technology, knowledge and mine planning. A key aspect to mine closure is the progressive rehabilitation of the site during operations, where this enables rehabilitation techniques to be trialled and refined prior to closure. The proposed land use for the site ranges from no change (e.g. main pit and old tailings dam) to modified land form of native vegetation with native habitat function (e.g. backfilled pit areas) to native grassland, native woodland or native vegetation with native habitat function. Further information on mine closure and rehabilitation is outlined in section 8 of Hillgrove’s Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation Life of Mine (http://minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mining/mines_and_quarries/kanmantoo)

Supporting South Australian communities

The key benefits of supporting communities has resulted in honest feedback, both good and bad, and effective engagement and involvement in the management of impacts (i.e. fugitive dust) and mine rehabilitation and closure planning for the communities' future. Engagement has provided a good relationship with most community members, and Hillgrove has been able to utilise their expertise in its operations.

Hillgrove has been very active in community engagement and involvement to facilitate open and transparent exchanges in relation to the mine's operations and activities, particularly where these directly interface with the local community. These strategies are designed to make Hillgrove ‘the best neighbour (it) can be’ and meet its organisational vision. As such, Hillgrove is mindful that mining is a transient industry and continually strives to ensure that its post mining legacies meet the requirements and vision of the surrounding community.

How the South Australian Multiple Land Use Framework’s guiding principles apply to this case study

- **Accountability** – Hillgrove has demonstrated its accountability to the community through the revamping of the KCCCC for better community outcomes and its support of the KCLG. The KCCCC is considered one of South Australia’s leading practice examples of effective and meaningful engagement within the resources industry.

- **Best use of assets** – The mining of copper resources, subsequent compensation to affected landowners and the rehabilitation of the land for sequential purposes (environmental and preservation of mining heritage) demonstrates the best use of assets for the site.
• **Co-existence** – Hillgrove rebuilt relationships with landowners and the community through the revamping of the KCCCC, good engagement, delivering on promises and creating a dialogue based on trust, honesty and respect. The focus on the provision of local and semi-local employment and developing projects that assist the local community (e.g. development of water pipeline, community participation and sponsorship) has further demonstrated that the mine and the community can co-exist and benefit from each other.

• **Efficient processes** – Hillgrove’s ongoing consultation program (based on the good practice principles for effective community engagement outlined in the State Government’s *Better Together: principles of engagement*) allows stakeholders to communicate concerns relating to the project and for processes to be reconsidered and amended where appropriate. Further, apart from improved stakeholder relationships, Hillgrove has significantly driven down its operating cost, with the goal to be a low cost producer from mine to port, with the drive to achieve the cost of 20 cents for what other operators do for one dollar.

• **Environmental sustainability** – Hillgrove has worked collaboratively with the community, KCCC and the KCLG to achieve better sustainability outcomes for the site and the wider community by conducting plant rescue programs from areas earmarked for disturbance, operating the seed production area and direct seeding within or immediately adjacent to the mining lease to mirror some of the region’s remnant vegetation communities. As of December 2016, Hillgrove has direct seeded over 31 hectares of high quality native vegetation as part of its SEB requirement (a further 194 hectares of high quality native vegetation rehabilitation is planned over the next five years). Refer to Hillgrove’s PEPR ([http://minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mining/mines_and_quarries/kanmantoo](http://minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mining/mines_and_quarries/kanmantoo)) for further information.

• **Evidence based** – Hillgrove utilises the best available science, experts in their field and knowledge of the community to develop the project and to ensure the rehabilitation and closure of the site will achieve the approved environmental outcomes in the PEPR.

• **Participation of all stakeholders and shared commitment** – Hillgrove is committed to supporting and continued involvement in the KCCCC, which is made of a range of community members. Hillgrove also encourages participation and interaction with the community and through its ‘outreach program’, sponsors community events and activities like sporting and education groups and events like local shows and field days to assist in community development, raise awareness of the mine as a community member and to increase participation in particular community engagement events related to the mine’s development. Hillgrove’s local employment policy has resulted in 80% of employees being hired from local or semi-local areas (as of December 2016).

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