South Australian Multiple Land Use Framework

PEPINNINI MINERALS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE APY LANDS CASE STUDY
**Synopsis**

**What is the issue?** – Ensuring that exploration companies engage well and develop the trust of the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people (Anangu) so that exploration activities do not detrimentally impact on the Anangu’s ability to manage the natural and cultural values of the land.

**What was the resolution?** – The development of strong connections and ongoing partnerships has ensured that the Anangu have benefited socially, economically and environmentally from the exploration activities through local employment, training, support for social events and educational opportunities.

**Multiple uses**

PepinNini Minerals Limited is an Australian ASX listed exploration company based in Adelaide (http://www.pepinnini.com.au/). It has a diverse commodity portfolio with projects in both Australia and Argentina. PepinNini currently has an interest in 11 exploration tenements in South Australia covering approximately 14,393km². Of these tenements, two exploration licences and eight exploration licence applications are located in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

PepinNini has been actively exploring in the APY Lands for nickel, copper and PGE (platinum group elements) as well as lead, zinc and gold for approximately ten years and has developed strong connections and partnerships with the Anangu. PepinNini has its own purpose built field camp from which its drilling crew operates and maintains its own diamond drilling rig and vacuum rig.

The APY Lands are located in the far northwest of South Australia and consist of approximately 103,000 km² of land (or around 10.5% of the State). The land is owned freehold and managed under the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 (https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/ANANGU%20PITJANTJATJARA%20YANKUNYTJATJARA%20LAND%20RIGHTS%20ACT%201981.aspx).

All Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people who are traditional owners of any part of the Lands are members of Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara. The main communities on the Lands include: Indulkana, Mimili, Kaltjiti, Pukatja, Amata and Pipalyatjara. There are several homelands as well, the larger ones being Kalka, Kanpi, Nyapari and Yunyarinyi. The APY administration centre is located at Umuwa. Permits are required by all visitors to the APY Lands, and for employees to remain in residence on the APY Lands (http://www.anangu.com.au/).
APY Land Management

In 1990, APY Land Management was established to assist the Anangu to realise their aspirations to protect the natural and cultural values of their land. Today, APY Land Management undertakes a range of biodiversity conservation and cultural protection projects. The majority of the projects focus on the protection of threatened species, fire management and woodland protection, as well as cultural site management.

APY Land Management has a strong focus on training Anangu, both in western science and through the passing-down of traditional knowledge from senior to younger Anangu, including school students. It works with Traditional Owners, community members, scientists, schools, environment groups as well as State and Federal Governments. APY Land Management receives support from the Australian Government, including funding from the Indigenous Protected Area, Caring for our Country and Working on Country Programs.

PepinNini’s role, vision and aim

PepinNini is a small sized company employing less than 10 people including exploration manager, geologists, field technicians, drillers, office administrator and accounting personnel. For small exploration companies it is a challenge to operate efficiently with the increasing demands for and cost of compliance in corporate matters as well as the environmental, heritage and statutory requirements associated with exploration. To ensure the company operates efficiently and in compliance with corporate and industry standards, all personnel are highly experienced in their specific fields and attend regular training courses and conferences to keep up to date.

The remote location of its exploration activities not only presents obvious logistical problems but also presents the social challenge of gaining the confidence and trust of communities that have had little or no exposure to exploration for minerals. PepinNini aims to establish links with the community for a common purpose of sharing discovery, to discover and develop mineral deposits not only for the benefit of its shareholders but also for the benefit of the local communities in which it operates and on a regional scale for the broader community. PepinNini believes this benefit will be one of both economical and social prosperity and its publicly stated primary business objective to ‘establish equitable and respectful relationships with the traditional owners of tenement areas held by the Company’.
PepinNini’s vision includes gaining the trust and confidence of the local communities by educating, involving, contributing and participating. During the exploration stage, PepinNini aims to foster and maintain enduring and respectful relationships with the local and broader communities by ensuring its activities are open and transparent and by employing local people wherever possible. PepinNini engages regularly with the APY Executive on all aspects of its exploration program, uses the APY Land Management where appropriate for rehabilitation projects and employs local cultural advisors and interpreters. PepinNini also instigates sponsorship of community activities which form an important part of the social fabric of the isolated communities in which it works.

Delivering appropriate and effective social benefit programs in remote, sparsely populated areas such as the APY Lands requires considerable logistical and economic resources. A long-term approach is required not only to gain the confidence of the communities in which the company works but to establish what will benefit those communities most.

PepinNini is committed to engaging with local communities, other stakeholders and the broader community to deliver social benefits. Pastoral leaseholders and other stakeholders are identified and engaged at an early stage. PepinNini’s exploration operations and staff are respectful of the wishes and concerns of the local people and ensure the communities are kept fully informed and are frequently updated with progress of its activities through regular information meetings.

PepinNini targets activities that are considered beneficial to the local communities in which it operates to engender a respectful and trusting relationship. PepinNini staff are actively involved in the planning and implementation of its social inclusion programs. The staff attend community activities that PepinNini sponsors and participate in the activities. This sharing of activities and social occasions promotes mutual respect and understanding. PepinNini promote staff involvement in the realisation of social and training activities within the company; the aim is a sense of community within the company and a desire for improvement of knowledge and skills.

Wherever possible, PepinNini has attempted to employ local services to undertake works such as track and site construction, rehabilitation and logistical supplies. Local applicants have previously been employed and trained as field technicians. Under its exploration deeds with the APY PepinNini commits approximately 10% of its exploration expenditure as compensation to the local communities for allowing it to undertake exploration activities. This amounts to a considerable contribution which is managed by the APY Executive to enhance and improve infrastructure and other benefits for the community.
PEPININI’S COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY also extends to other stakeholders such as pastoralists, employees, contractors and the wider community. PepinNini has demonstrated this through initiatives such as a scholarship (currently in its seventh year of operation) to assist disadvantaged students from remote pastoral leases who wish to undertake a geology degree at the University of Adelaide. The success of this initiative is demonstrated by its first recipient of this scholarship who graduated with an honours degree and the University Medal after four years of study and was employed by PepinNini as a project manager.

PepinNini considers it a very important responsibility to engage local communities and has sponsored many cultural events, sporting carnivals and art shows. The programs PepinNini participate in or instigate are aimed at increasing knowledge specifically of exploration activities but also of the natural environment and to engage the community in some form of enjoyment and cultural activity. In 2006 PepinNini sponsored the Nganampa Manta, a cultural event to celebrate 25 years of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act in the APY lands. Since that time the company has supported and sponsored Inma performances by community groups both within the APY Lands and in Adelaide. Contributions have been made to enable musical festivals to be enjoyed by the communities.

PepinNini actively promotes and assists initiatives from other institutions such as the South Australian Museum who can deliver social benefits to disadvantaged outback Aboriginal communities by road showing selected exhibits and allowing the children and adults of the remote communities to interact with concepts they would not normally come in contact with.

In June, 2010 PepinNini sponsored and was involved with the SA Museum’s Roadshow “Out of the Glass Case” to the APY Lands. This was a weeklong event where the community schools located throughout the APY Lands were brought into Umuwa to view and interact with exhibits from the SA Museum including live snakes, objects from Mawson’s expeditions to the South Pole, archaeological digs for giant bones of extinct animals and lots of things the APY children would not normally come in contact with. PepinNini continues its partnership with the South Australian Museum. Following consultation with APY representatives and stakeholders, PepinNini decided to undertake smaller follow up roadshows to selected community schools during 2011 and 2012. The communities were encouraged to present objects and items of interest specifically relating to their community. The roadshows are enthusiastically anticipated and participation by the communities has been well beyond what was expected. The success of this initiative is evidenced in the continuation of the event for some three years and an ongoing commitment by all parties to the project.
PepinNini also sponsors initiatives to educate the broader community regarding aspects of exploration and mining development such as the cloud chamber at the SA Museum which is designed to increase the understanding of radioactivity amongst the broader community.

PepinNini is a regular sponsor of the Annual Sports Carnival held over three days in one of the APY communities. PepinNini has contributed to the construction of sporting facilities such as cricket pitches and pony clubs in other areas to provide a safe and attractive venue for social events to be held by local communities. PepinNini is also committed to support events that enhance the social fabric of the wider community such as the Adelaide Fringe Festival.

Summary

Exploration and engagement with the community and environment are fundamental to the company. PepinNini believes it is essential to have a good working relationship with communities that may be involved in the future development of its projects.

PepinNini Minerals were jointly awarded winners of the 2013 Premier’s Community Excellence in Mining and Energy Award for Excellence in Supporting Community Participation, and were highly commended in the 2012 Awards for their promotion and support of local cultural events, sporting carnivals and art shows in particular in the APY lands.
How the *South Australian Multiple Land Use Framework’s* guiding principles apply to this case study

- **Accountability** – PepinNini has demonstrated accountability to their shareholders and to the Anangu by developing strong partnerships with communities in the APY Lands and delivering on promises.

- **Best use of assets** – PepinNini has utilised the Anangu’s knowledge of country and the community to maximise the benefits of exploration in the APY Lands while maintaining the APY Land Management’s ability to protect the natural and cultural values of their land.

- **Co-existence** – PepinNini has worked collaboratively with the APY communities over a number of years to gain the trust and confidence of the local communities by educating, involving, contributing and participating in community events and supporting communities through local employment, scholarships and educational and social activities.

- **Efficient processes** – PepinNini are respectful of the wishes and concerns of the local people and ensure the communities are kept fully informed and are frequently updated with progress of its activities through regular information meetings. PepinNini primarily targets activities that are considered beneficial to the local communities in which it operates to engender a respectful and trusting relationship.

- **Environmental sustainability** – PepinNini’s exploration PEPR (available from the company or the Mineral Tenements and Exploration Branch of the Department of State Development on request) outlines the exploration program, the environment and methods to avoid or manage environmental impacts as a result of the exploration activities. PepinNini also works closely with APY Land Management and Executive to maintain the environmental sustainability on its exploration tenements in line with its approved PEPR.

- **Evidence based** – PepinNini utilises the best available science, experts in their field and extensive knowledge of the community to ensure that the impacts of exploration activities are minimised and meet the outcomes in the PEPR.

- **Participation of all stakeholders** – PepinNini Minerals were jointly awarded winners of the 2013 *Premier’s Community Excellence in Mining and Energy Award for Excellence in Supporting Community Participation.*


- **Shared commitment** – PepinNini aims to establish links with the community for a common purpose of sharing discovery, to discover and develop mineral deposits not only for the benefit of its shareholders but also for the benefit of the local communities in which it operates and on a regional scale for the broader community. Wherever possible, PepinNini have attempted to employ local services to undertake work such as track and site construction, rehabilitation and logistical supplies. Local applicants have previously been employed and trained as field technicians. Under its exploration deeds with the APY PepinNini commits approximately 10% of its exploration expenditure as compensation to the local communities for allowing it to undertake exploration activities.
APY Traditional Owners monitoring PepinNini vacuum drilling program, 2015