In this chapter we cover:

- Early exploration engagement
  - Government
- Early community engagement
  - Resource company

Current as of April 2019
Early exploration engagement

A KEY ROLE OF THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT IS TO ENSURE THAT LANDHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY PETROLEUM AND GAS DEVELOPMENT ARE INFORMED AND ENGAGED PRIOR TO EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OCCURRING.

Under the Queensland Exploration Program (QEP), the State Government provides a regular schedule of exploration tenure releases for coal, petroleum and gas via competitive tender.

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) officers conduct engagement activities before the QEP is announced to give landholders information and advance notice of potential resource activity in their area.

Landholders whose properties are within areas to be released are contacted directly (where possible) by DNRME officers when tenders are opened and again when the outcome of the tender process is known (i.e. with the name of the successful bidder).

Targeted information sessions may also be held to provide details to the wider community.

THESE ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS FOCUS ON THE TENDER PROCESS AND LEGAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF BOTH STAKEHOLDERS AND EXPLORERS.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

DNRME Resource Community Infoline
137 107

Email: resources.info@dnrme.qld.gov.au
Early engagement

EARLY ENGAGEMENT BY A RESOURCE COMPANY WITH POTENTIALLY AFFECTED LANDHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES IS FUNDAMENTAL TO BEST PRACTICE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT APPLIES TO AUTHORISED EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION OR PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT.

Early engagement promotes good two-way communication between the resource company and the communities in which it operates.

FOR EXAMPLE:

• Leveraging local knowledge to advise design, planning, timing and location of construction activities and deliver possible alternative solutions
• Developing advocacy pathways to build and maintain awareness of a project over its lifetime
• Building community trust in the company and how it operates by embracing an inclusive rather than imposed process
• Understanding community expectations and aspirations

“At the beginning of the gas boom here when everybody was learning about what might happen, landholders were very stand-offish and gas companies were probably fairly intimidating in the way they came across to landholders. But as time’s gone on they’ve learnt to coexist a lot better and are treating each other with much more respect.”

– Wallumbilla beef producer and business owner.
While exploration activities may occur in a relatively short timeframe, the development and operation of production infrastructure can last for several decades.

Building strong local government, community and landholder relationships is critical to the success of these projects.

HAVING BEEN GRANTED A RESOURCE AUTHORITY BY THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT, A RESOURCE COMPANY IS EXPECTED TO CONNECT WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO SPELL OUT:

A program of community information sessions is often necessary, as initial plans can change as the project evolves based on ground truthing and feedback from key stakeholders. It is easier to change plans early on than later.

LANDHOLDERS SHOULD AIM TO STAY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS EVEN IF THEY DON’T ANTICIPATE BEING INVOLVED DIRECTLY.

Resource company activities could have wider community impacts such as increased demand on community infrastructure and services.

01 WHO THE COMPANY IS and how it does business

02 THE PROJECT their plans and expected impacts on properties, local infrastructure, facilities and services

03 THEIR PRACTICES, PROCEDURES AND PRESENCE (who, what, when, where and why)

04 TECHNICAL ISSUES with experts on hand to answer questions.