

DRAFT COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
PROGRAMME FOR EL 006417
STEADFAST MINING SERVICE
PTY.LTD.

Adapted by Terry Delahunty on 21st January 2017
(from a more detailed internal Steadfast Mining Services Report prepared by Noel Laidlaw
and Associates)

Author: Noel Laidlaw B.A. (Hons), Grad Dip Mining, M Eng Science (Mining)

21 McCallum Street CARISBROOK 3464

M: 0448 568 429

E: laidlaw@dodo.com.au

20th March 2016

Table of Contents

Introduction – p.3
Profile of the Mt. Egerton Community – p.4
Proposed Community Engagement Plan – p.6
Directions to view A Brief Overview of the Proposed Operation – p.5
Potential or Likely Social and Environmental Impacts of the Operations – p.5
Community Groups – p.8
Likely Community Attitudes and Expectations Related to the Proposed Operation – p.8
Environmental Aims – p.8
Engagement of Community Members – p.9
Proposed Information Channels – p.9
Facilities for Providing Feedback – p.9
Acknowledgement of Community Feedback – p.9
Management of Complaints – p.10
Timeline for the Proposed Community Engagement – p.12

Mission Statement

Steadfast Mining Services Pty. Ltd is committed to a policy of Community Engagement with the local Community. It is committed to understand, engage and recognize the various communities of interest that may be impacted by its operations on Retention Licence 2018 and Exploration Licence 006417. All engagement will be based on integrity and respect for the communities and their views. It is committed to building trust between themselves and the community through honest, transparent and meaningful engagement.

Introduction

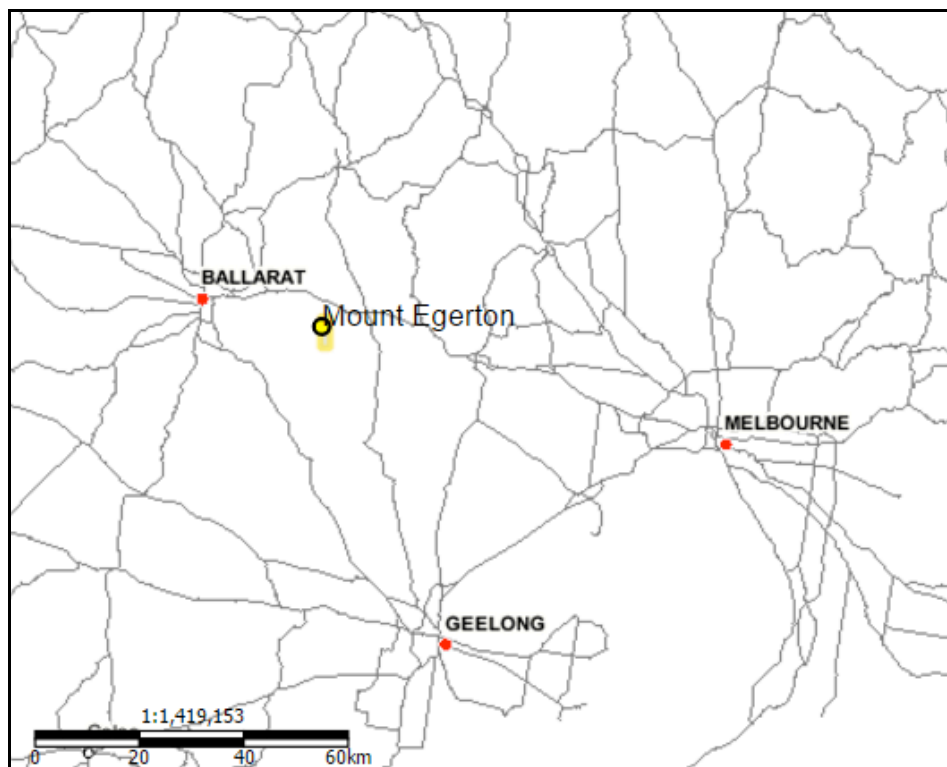
EL006417 surrounds RL2018, situated at Mount Egerton, a small community of approximately 600 residents lying 97 km to the West North-West of Melbourne. The Exploration Licence also incorporates the township of Gordon and farmland further to the north.

The Mt Egerton township has a permanent population of approximately 600 persons.

The Gordon rural township is 25km east of Ballarat and it is sited immediately south of the Western Freeway. It has a population of approximately 1,200 people.

Both townships have several small businesses operating within the township areas, with farming and commuting to primarily Ballarat or Melbourne as the main source of employment. There is a significant population of retirees living in the towns.

Please refer to the maps published on the website for the detailed location of the application area.



General locality (North and south of Mt Egerton)

The Mt Egerton area was originally settled as part of "Egerton's Run" in the 1840's, the township became a prosperous community following the discovery of alluvial gold in 1854 and quartz mining began two years later, on what became known as Learmonth's Claim. This early development became the Black Horse Mine and continued into production for fifty-four years. In addition to the larger Company mines on this goldfield, several smaller operations were also producing gold from the 1850's onwards, so much so that the State government constructed a public stamper battery close to the town. This operated up until 1993.

As a by-product of the mining activity at Mount Egerton, there was a considerable quantity of tailings sand, mainly in and around the Black Horse Mine Site. This sand contained payable residual gold values and much of it was treated and removed from the local watercourse by Mr. Terry Delahunty in the late 1990's and early 2000's in a plant and modern tailings impoundment facility constructed near the Black Horse Minesite.

In the time that the tailings treatment was taking place, there was some community support and some opposition to the operations of Mr. Delahunty.

In 2011, proposals were submitted for a wind farm and telecommunications towers for the Mount Egerton district. There has been some community opposition to both proposals. Western Energy Pty Ltd has proposed a 330 MW 107 turbine wind farm close to the township.

On 2nd June 2014, Mr. Delahunty's company, Steadfast Mining Service Pty. Ltd. applied for Retention Licence over 1174.4 hectares of both Crown and private land within the mineralized corridor containing both the Gordon and the Mount Egerton goldfields. Exploratory work had been conducted by several other companies prior to this under a variety of Exploration Licences.

Profile of the Regional Community

A demographic review of the area indicates several potential communities of interest. First it identifies that there are indigenous owners with a registered interest in the land. It is worth noting that there is at least one site of cultural significance within the boundaries of EL006417.

Secondly there are likely to be sites of European Cultural interest within the area. There are three of these sites within RL2018 around the old State Battery and the Black Horse Mine.

Along the waterways both to the East and West of RL2018, there are areas containing species protected by the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. The whole area is part of the Shire of Moorabool.

There are several mapped areas of Aboriginal Cultural Sensitivity within the locality. The traditional owners are the Wathaurang people.

The licensee is aware of the need to be vigilant for the existence of aboriginal artefacts and other items of cultural significance to the traditional owners and they will ensure that appropriate procedures are in place to guarantee the preservation of any such items should they be found on the site.

A Brief Overview of the Proposed Operation

Please refer to the accompanying document:

**Program of Works
To
Earth Resources Victoria,
Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources**
Author:
Terry Delahunty (MAIG, MAUSIMM), Managing Director / CEO
Exploration Licence Application 006417
Date: November 24th, 2016

Potential or Likely Social and Environmental Impacts of the Operations

Geophysical sampling:

Geophysical sampling would most likely be by air, but if ground based it would likely be conducted from a four-wheel drive, proceeding along the road verges and on crown land. It will not have any social or environmental impact on the local community. Any such work will be done during normal working hours and the usual compliance with road traffic requirements will be maintained.

Drilling:

Any exploratory drilling will be conducted using a small surface-mounted drilling rig. The major social and environmental impact of this may be potentially noise and perhaps additional vehicular movements to and from the site.

Bulk sampling:

1. Currently, there is no bulk sampling planned within the Exploration Licence area. The Community will be consulted immediately if that plan changes.

Proposed Community Engagement Plan

It is with this brief background that a community engagement plan for EL006417 addressing the wants and needs of the whole regional community needs to be focused.

The community engagement plan for EL006417 involves a series of phases, they are:

1. Identify individuals or groups which may be impacted by the operations with the EL006417 area.

This list is likely to contain:

- A list of adjacent landowners, perhaps persons living within 1 kilometer of areas of any planned “noticeable” activities within the licence area.
 - Any community groups which may represent or be concerned with potential impacts of exploration activities on the lifestyle of the residents
 - Local environment groups
 - Government agencies such as the Shire of Moorabool and Crown Land Manager
 - Persons or groups including Heritage Victoria who are interested in the local European Heritage
 - Representatives of the traditional owners, the Wathaurung People
2. It will be necessary to identify the expectations or attitudes of these groups and individuals. Certainly, most of community would wish to see the operations within the tenement impact as little as possible on the local community and the local environment and not interfere with the quiet enjoyment of their local surrounds. That is not to say that some or most of the residents would not have some level of support for the operations on this licence. Employment, economic activity and the continuation of a traditional mining industry all are an important part of the positive offsets arising from enhanced exploration and mining activities.
 3. The licensees will need to assess the impact of their operation on these individuals and groups. This would involve an initial phase of consultation. In addition, following the consultation, the full impact would be assessed in accordance with guidelines provided by the Department.

4. An assessment will be made following the consultation as to what level of community input and involvement can be achieved. There are a significant number of issues which, through proper consultation, may be changed or improved both to the benefit of the licensee and the local community. Issues such as working hours, noise and dust abatement, placement of infrastructure, traffic movements etc. may be matters which the local community could have views which need to be considered by the licensees.
5. The licensee plans to employ a community engagement officer to manage relations with the community and to conduct the community engagement program.
6. There would be on-going information and consultation. The Steadfast Mining Services website will continue to be used as a forum for communicating important and relevant information to the broader community. A community notice board is planned to be erected at a prominent location (subject to council approval), probably within the Mt Egerton township within R2018, to similarly provide information to the public. It will also provide contact details for the licensee with the invitation to contact the licensee to seek additional information or to lodge a complaint about any adverse effects that the company's activities may create.
7. The licensee would organise event updates for the community at appropriate times, (possibly six-monthly), possibly in the form of a public meeting or open day.
8. Any contact or complaint received by the company will be noted in a complaints book and the licensee will promptly make suitable arrangements to contact the complainant. Where possible, the matter would be settled between the two parties but the local Mines Inspector or the Mining Warden may be requested to assist in resolving any issue or mediating in the matter.

The licensees will produce ongoing information for to the community, available on our website, outlining the project. We will be hoping for feedback via email as we will be seeking community views and attitudes to the operation. Ongoing individual meetings will be held with residents and other stakeholders to inform them of progress on the licence and the expected cessation of particular operations.

Such interaction with the community will be used to identify any issues that may be arising from the operations on the licence and will attempt to accommodate the views of the stake holders in dealing with any such issues.

Community Groups

The following is a list of identified community groups operating in the Mount Egerton Township:

- Cemetery Trust
- Community Development Association (CDA)
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- Historical Battery Building Committee
- Mechanics Institute (Hall)
- Primary School
- Recreation Reserve Committee
- Environment Review Committee (ERC)
- Mount Egerton Gold Battery Consultative Committee

Clearly there will be similar groups at Gordon. We will attempt to identify and contact interested groups during the licence application assessment period.

There are likely to be other community groups which may be based elsewhere who may be effected by these operations. These would include field naturalists' clubs, the department of land, water and planning and the Shire of Moorabool. The local CFA is likely to have views in relation to fire management. If the licensee can establish that there are appropriate fire control measures and give assurances as to not working on days of high fire risk, the CFA may not wish to become involved in further community engagement in relation to this project.

Likely Community Attitudes and Expectations Related to the Proposed Operation

There may be specific issues and side effects such as noise and dust which the communities will have views on, and there will also be significant levels of community support for economic input into the area. It is also likely that there will be residents and groups who will in fact have no views at all, or at least not wish to express any views in regards to this operation.

It is reasonable to say that the residents will expect there to be minimal or no impact on the quiet enjoyment of their lifestyles.

The licensee desires to establish his *bona fides* and deal with the potential or real adverse effects of any operations to the best of his endeavors. Issues like noise and dust can be successfully mitigated through good design and appropriate work practices.

Environmental aims: Our aim will be to improve the environment wherever possible and we will comply with or exceed the requirements of all relevant environmental codes of practice relating to exploration activities.

Engagement of Community Members

It is essential that all the community groups and individuals be made aware of the proposed operation, of the plans and timelines associated with this project. The community will be engaged at multiple levels:

- *Interaction* – the licensee must provide appropriate forums of communication with these individuals and groups.
- *Negotiation* – Associated with any project there can be considerable areas of negotiation between the community and the developer. Through appropriate forums it is likely that several the issues identified by the community can be solved or any adverse effects minimized.
- *On-going reporting* – In addition to the information as to the plans for the project, it is important for the community to be kept abreast of the ongoing status of the project and any new areas of concern to the community can be identified and addressed.

Proposed Information Channels

There will be several ways in which the above engagement will occur. These will be:

- Individual discussions with residents or groups
- A regular newsletter (website blog)
- Community information board
- Employment of a community engagement officer
- Website

Facilities for Providing Feedback

Feedback from the community may be in the form of:

- Direct one-on-one contact with the community engagement officer
- Feedback provided at meetings
- Online feedback
- Correspondence
- Telephone feedback

Acknowledgement of Community Feedback

Community feedback will be captured, registered and responded to by the company. The employment of a part-time community engagement officer will provide a direct channel for the capture and management of any community feedback. All feedback will be recorded and acknowledged.

Management of Complaints

All inquiries, complaints or other communications need to be treated within the framework of the Community Engagement procedures. It is very much in the interest of both the operator as well as the community to capture all such inquiries, irrespective of how they are structured as part of this process. Even what may be considered insignificant at the time may indicate a level of unease or concern which, when addressed early may prevent an issue becoming a major problem for both the miner and the community.

Complaints will come in via several different mediums. They may be written or email, telephone or by direct face to face contact.

The Complaint/Inquiry form for maintaining and managing complaints or inquiries would be in the following form:

Steadfast Mining Services Pty Ltd
Retention Licence 2018
Complaint/Inquiry Form

Date _____

Complainant Details

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please outline your inquiry/nature of your complaint

Complaint Received by _____

Method: by form personal contact letter/email telephone

Date Received _____

Manager Sign-off _____

Action Taken

Follow up

Date matter resolved

Sample Inquiry/Complain Form

Timeline for the Proposed Community Engagement

Community engagement would start prior to any potentially disruptive field operations taking place. Additional to information on the website, a pamphlet may be produced if warranted, to describe the proposed activities. This would be distributed by post to the relevant section of the community.

The website is operational and contact details for the community engagement officer are publically available.

All consultations will be based on transparency and respect for the views of the community. They will encompass information being provided, an understanding of the views of the various groups and individuals, and where possible negotiations into operational matters to accommodate the views and concerns that have been expressed.