



## **EES Consultation Plan**

Nowa Nowa Iron Project (5 Mile Deposit)

March 2014

Prepared for **Gippsland Iron Pty Ltd**

**Document Control**

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## Executive Summary

This Consultation Plan has been prepared on behalf of Gippsland Iron Pty Ltd ('Gippsland Iron') for the Nowa Nowa Iron Project (5 Mile Deposit) ('the Project'). It outlines the consultation proposed as part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process and responds to the procedures and requirements (item vi) issued by the Minister under section 8B(5) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* ('the EE Act').

The key objectives of the Consultation Plan are to:

- Identify the relevant stakeholders and stakeholder attitudes, expectations and concerns;
- Undertake stakeholder analysis to establish the most appropriate mechanism for consultation with stakeholders as part of the EES process; and
- Provide a framework for stakeholder consultation and engagement throughout the EES process which details:
  - The type of consultation and engagement which will be undertaken at different stages, with different stakeholder groups; and
  - Mechanisms for ensuring inputs from stakeholders are recorded, considered and addressed.

In meeting the above objectives, Gippsland Iron aims to:

- Establish clear lines of communication with the community and other Project stakeholders;
- Provide factual, accurate information about the Project and its likely environmental, social and economic impacts where there is a genuine requirement or request for such information;
- Identify and understand community values, concerns and interests; and
- Ensure that stakeholder feedback is documented, and addressed in the preparation of the EES.

The Consultation Plan identifies relevant stakeholders, summarises engagement to date, and outlines a framework for ongoing stakeholder engagement and consultation as part of the EES process. Whilst the Consultation Plan includes a range of tools for effective stakeholder engagement, Gippsland Iron acknowledges that additional or alternative measures may be required at varying stages of the EES process.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project Overview and Background

Gippsland Iron Pty Ltd ('Gippsland Iron') proposes to develop the Nowa Nowa Iron Project (5 Mile Deposit) approximately 7 km north of the township of Nowa Nowa, which is situated on the Princes Highway between Bairnsdale and Orbost in East Gippsland, Victoria (refer **Figure 1**). The Project is a greenfield development of a high grade magnetite/hematite deposit.

The Project involves an open cut mining operation from a single pit with dry processing at the site to upgrade the material to a saleable product. It is anticipated that the Project will produce up to 1 Mt of ore per annum, over an initial mine life of 8-10 years. The mine will be operated using a mining contractor and local employees (i.e. no onsite accommodation).

It is proposed to transport the processed ore by road to the existing South East Fibre Exports (SEFE) wharf at the Port of Eden in Edrom, NSW ('the Port'). The main transport route between the mine and the Port is via the Princes Highway. The material will be temporarily stockpiled before being loaded onto 50-60,000t vessels and exported to international markets.

No residences or urban centres occur within or directly adjacent to the site. The closest residences identified to the site are isolated farmhouses associated with the small settlement of Wairewa (south-east) and agricultural properties on Bruthen-Buchan Road (west of the site). These residences are located approximately 4 km from the site. The next closest settlement area to the Project is Nowa Nowa which is located approximately 7 km to the south.

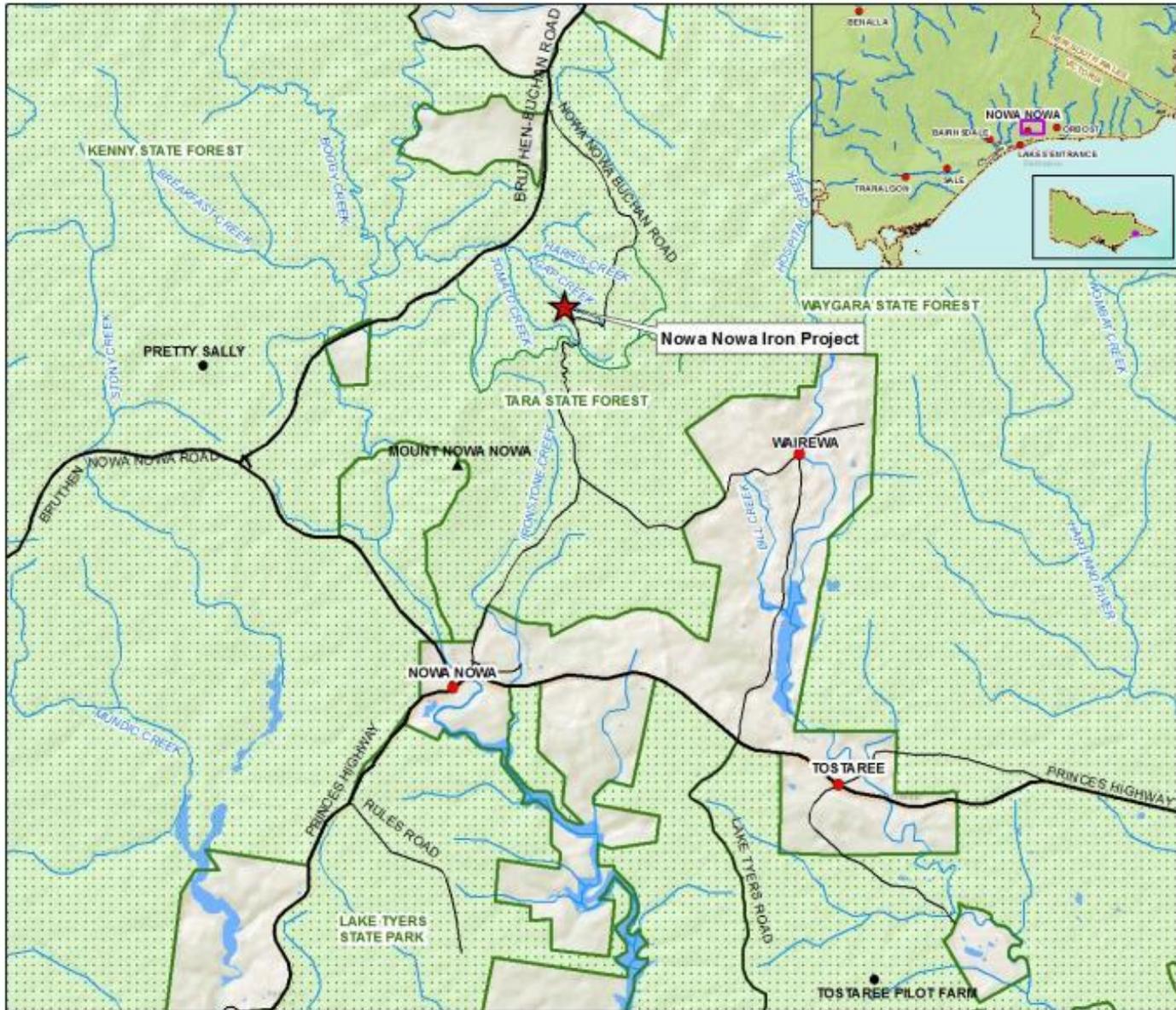
The closest major urban centre is Lakes Entrance which occurs approximately 25 km southwest from the Project. Other Townships in the broader area include Orbost (30 km east) and the smaller township of Buchan (18 km north).

## 1.2 Purpose of this Document

This Consultation Plan has been prepared on behalf of Gippsland Iron Pty Ltd ('Gippsland Iron') for the Nowa Nowa Iron Project (5 Mile Deposit) ('the Project'). It outlines the consultation proposed as part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process and responds to the procedures and requirements (item vi) issued by the Minister under section 8B(5) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* ('the EE Act').

The Consultation Plan identifies relevant stakeholders, summarises engagement to date, and outlines a framework for ongoing stakeholder engagement and consultation as part of the EES process. Whilst the Consultation Plan includes a range of tools for effective stakeholder engagement, Gippsland Iron acknowledges that additional or alternative measures may be required at varying stages of the EES process.

The Consultation Plan will be updated as the Project proceeds in accordance with EES requirements, relevant legislation and guidelines.



Nowa Nowa Iron Project General Location Plan	
<b>Legend</b>	
	Nowa Nowa Iron Project Location
	Townships
	Major/ Secondary Roads
	Major Rivers
	Major Water Bodies
	State Forests
<b>Scale of Map 1: 100,000</b>	
0 1 2 4 Kilometers	
Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55	
Project No : NOWAN1202	
Author : Earth Systems	
Client: Eastern Iron Ltd.	
Revision : Rev1	
Date : October 2013	
 EARTH SYSTEMS Environment   Water   Sustainability	

### 1.3 Consultation Objectives

Community engagement is recognised as an important element in the planning and decision-making process of the Victorian mining industry (DPI, 2008).

The key objectives of this Consultation Plan are to:

- Identify the relevant stakeholders and stakeholder attitudes, expectations and concerns;
- Undertake stakeholder analysis to establish the most appropriate mechanism for consultation with stakeholders as part of the EES process; and
- Provide a framework for stakeholder consultation and engagement throughout the EES process which details:
  - The type of consultation and engagement which will be undertaken at different stages, with different stakeholder groups; and
  - Mechanisms for ensuring inputs from stakeholders are recorded, considered and addressed.

In meeting the above objectives, Gippsland Iron aims to:

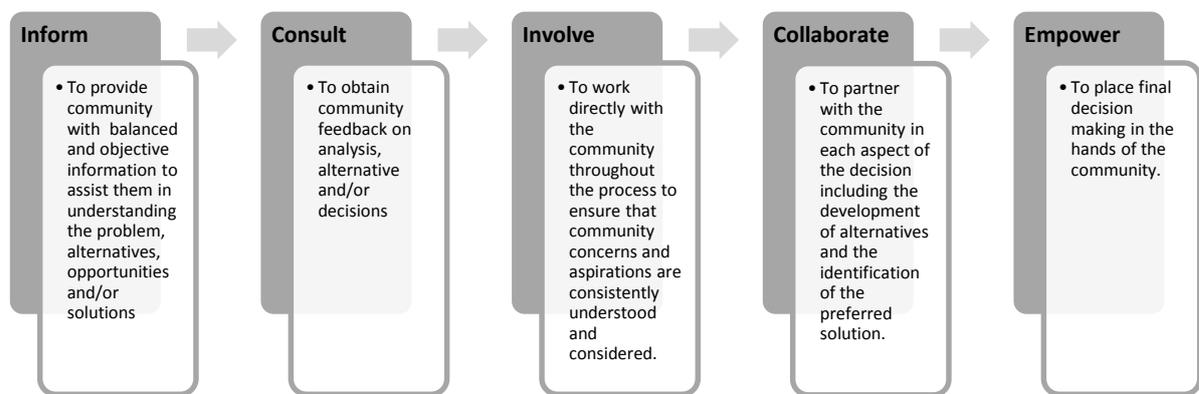
- Establish clear lines of communication with the community and other Project stakeholders;
- Provide factual, accurate information about the Project and its likely environmental, social and economic impacts where there is a genuine requirement or request for such information;
- Identify and understand community values, concerns and interests; and
- Ensure that stakeholder feedback is documented, and addressed in the preparation of the EES.

## 2 Stakeholders

### 2.1 Level of Engagement

The Consultation Plan has been developed in accordance with the Victorian Department of Primary Industries' *Community Engagement Guidelines for Mining and Mineral Exploration in Victoria* (2008), the Public Participation Spectrum developed by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2), and other relevant guidelines and legislation.

The IAP2 guidelines provide a widely used community engagement spectrum as outlined within **Figure 2**. The spectrum is designed to assist with the selection of different levels of community engagement based on the stakeholder's role in the consultation process.



**Figure 2 - Community Engagement Spectrum based on the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum**

This Consultation Plan envisages a combination of consultation techniques, with both formal and informal engagement activities proposed to maximize participation. A comprehensive list of stakeholders for the Project is outlined in Section 2.2. A level of engagement is then proposed for each stakeholder group, based on the IAP2 spectrum.

Engagement with the local community is often at the 'inform' and 'consult' stages, whilst engagement with government, Registered Aboriginal Parties and other authorities is generally within the 'involve' and 'collaborate' stages. It is envisaged that different stakeholder groups could have varying levels of engagement at different stages of the EES process. The various consultation tools and methods proposed within the respective stages are outlined in Sections 3 and 4.

### 2.2 Stakeholder identification

Building rapport with key stakeholders is crucial to the success of the Project, particularly through the EES process. Stakeholder identification and analysis has been undertaken to identify stakeholders with an interest in the Project, including Government authorities, local communities, organisations or interest groups.

An overview of key stakeholders for the Project and the level of engagement proposed for each stakeholder group is shown in **Table 1** below. It is likely that the list of stakeholders will continue to evolve over the life of the Project.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tostaree;</li> <li>• Wombat Creek;</li> <li>• Newmerella;</li> <li>• Orbost;</li> <li>• Cann River; and</li> <li>• Genoa.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Service towns in the vicinity of the Project</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakes Entrance;</li> <li>• Buchan; and</li> <li>• Orbost.</li> </ul>	Inform / Consult
Local business / industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service providers and local businesses; and</li> <li>• Local chambers of commerce.</li> </ul>	Inform / Consult
Local facilities / service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals, schools, education and employment providers;</li> <li>• Volunteer emergency services; and</li> <li>• Tourism bodies</li> </ul>	Inform / Consult
Community and Interest Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downstream residents and recreational users, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nowa Nowa;</li> <li>○ Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust; and</li> <li>○ Lake Tyers Beach.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recreational users of the Tara State Forest; and</li> <li>• Other community and interest groups</li> </ul>	Inform / Consult
Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Fire Authority (CFA);</li> <li>• Local police;</li> <li>• Ambulance; and</li> <li>• Volunteer emergency services.</li> </ul>	Inform / Consult
Local and Regional Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Print and radio media including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Radio East Gippsland;</li> <li>○ Bairnsdale Advertiser;</li> <li>○ Snowy River Mail;</li> <li>○ East Gippsland News; and</li> <li>○ Lakes Post.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Inform

## 2.3 Stakeholder Engagement to Date

Subsequent to the decision to proceed with permitting for the Project in late 2012, Gippsland Iron has actively engaged at all levels of government and the community.

The following sections summarise consultation and engagement already undertaken to date.

### 2.3.1 Government Departments and Agencies

Gippsland Iron and its representatives have consulted with the following government departments and agencies in relation to the design of the Project and regulatory requirements:

- Department of Environment (Cth)
- Department of State Development, Business and Innovation (DSDBI)
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI)
- Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI)
- East Gippsland Shire Council
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- VicRoads
- Southern Rural Water (SRW)
- East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA)

Gippsland Iron has incorporated the advice of the abovementioned agencies into the Project design and is committed to working with government throughout the EES process.

### 2.3.2 Gurnaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)

GLaWAC is the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) for the purposes of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and holds Native Title over much of Gippsland, including the Project area. It is also the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Project area under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic).

Gippsland Iron maintains an existing Native Title Agreement with GLaWAC for its exploration activities under EL4509.

Separately, Gippsland Iron has recently signed a Project Consent Deed with GLaWAC for the development of the Project. The agreement recognizes the cultural and environmental significance of the area for the Gurnaikurnai people, and aims to deliver significant employment, financial and social outcomes through commercial and community development opportunities.

As part of this process, Gippsland Iron and its representatives have engaged in cultural heritage awareness programs with GLaWAC and organized site visits to communicate the proposed Project and welcome any feedback.

Gippsland Iron has also commenced the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) pursuant to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. As part of this process, GLaWAC has been continually consulted and representatives were also in attendance at the field surveys undertaken to date.

### 2.3.3 Other Stakeholder Consultation

Gippsland Iron, and its representatives, has also engaged with the following parties who have a demonstrated interest in the Project:

- Local residents within Nowa Nowa;
- Local businesses within Nowa Nowa, Orbost, Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale;
- Councillors and Members of Parliament;
- Local Interest Groups;
- Service and infrastructure providers; and
- Emergency services.

A number of methods have been used to engage with these stakeholder groups including:

- Fact Sheets;
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs);
- Website;
- Media;
- Briefings;
- Information Centre; and
- Site Tours.

These methods are intended to be continued throughout the EES process and are described in Sections 3 and 4.

## 2.4 Preliminary Stakeholder Issues

A number of stakeholder issues have been identified through the consultation undertaken to date, including:

- Traffic impacts associated with the transport of ore;
- Water use associated with the Project;
- Downstream water quality; and
- Biodiversity values.

Additionally a number of stakeholder groups recognise the strategic importance of the Project to the local and regional economy, including:

- Job opportunities;
- Investment in the region; and
- Diversification from forestry industry.

These matters, and any others raised through the EES process, will be documented as part of the EES.

## 3 Methodology

Gippsland Iron will engage with stakeholders with a variety of consultation and disclosure tools. All stakeholder communication will be kept clear, concise and culturally appropriate. Wherever possible, stakeholder contacts will be combined to minimise the risk of creating consultation fatigue in the community. Community engagement will be as inclusive as possible to ensure relevant issues are identified and that any marginalised groups are also included.

### 3.1 Methods for Informing the Community

Key methods for providing information to the community through the EES process include:

- Fact Sheets, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Project Updates;
- Website;
- Media and Advertising;
- Newsletters and Direct Mail; and
- Annual Reports.

These methods and tools are for providing information and are specifically focused on information dissemination. They are discussed individually within the following sections.

#### 3.1.1 Fact Sheets, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Project Updates

Various written communication materials will be used during the EES consultation program. These include Fact Sheets, 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs) and Project Updates.

The Fact Sheets prepared for the Project will contain information that does not need regular updating such as project description and design features. They will contain photos and diagrams to visually represent Project components.

The FAQs will anticipate questions that are likely to be raised by stakeholders. It will be informed by preliminary stakeholder issues and commonly asked questions from consultations to date, and those undertaken throughout the EES process.

Project Updates will generally contain information about Project and EES milestones and be updated to provide the most recent information.

These communications will be written in clear and plain English and will be appropriate for a non-technical audience. They will be made available where appropriate such as on the website and during information sessions, briefings and other stakeholder consultation meetings.

#### 3.1.2 Website

Websites allow information to be readily available, as well as providing the opportunity for the information to reach a wider audience. A dedicated webpage is available on Eastern Iron's main website ([www.easterniron.com.au](http://www.easterniron.com.au)) to provide information on the Project.

This will include Fact Sheets, FAQs and Project Updates. Advice will also be provided for stakeholders on how to engage as part of the EES process, as well as a feedback form or inquiry service.

### **3.1.3 Media and Advertising**

Local, metropolitan and trade media present important channels for communicating with stakeholders and reaching a wider audience. Media related activities will involve media releases or advertisements on key milestones.

Media may also be used prior to any scheduled information centre to communicate venue and time details, where relevant.

### **3.1.4 Newsletters and Direct Mail**

Newsletters and direct mail are an effective way of informing specific people regarding the proposed Project and will be used throughout the EES consultation process. Regular newsletters will also describe the community activities that Gippsland Iron is involved in, as well as providing information on how Gippsland Iron is responding to community concerns.

Any person with an email address may also subscribe to Eastern Iron's public announcements via the company's website.

### **3.1.5 Annual Reports**

Eastern Iron produces an annual report each year presenting information on the Project's development. This report is made available on the Eastern Iron website and will be distributed to selected stakeholders and relevant regulatory authorities.

### **3.1.6 Public Notice**

As part of the EES statutory exhibition period, both the EES, EES summary document, as well as all technical appendices, will be accessible via Eastern Iron and DTPLI's websites. Hardcopies will also be available for inspection within the region. Public notice of these procedures will be advertised in State and regional newspapers.

## **3.2 Methods for Involving the Community**

Key methods and tools for involving the community and identifying community attitudes and expectations during the EES process include:

- Contact Information;
- Briefings;
- Information Centre;
- Site Tours; and
- Community Reference Group.

The methods and tools encourage two-way communication and require community involvement.

A brief description of these methods and tools are described below.

### **3.2.1 Contact Information**

#### *Email and Postal Addresses*

An email and postal address will be provided on the Project website to encourage feedback and questions from stakeholders and consultation activities. The details will also be included on communication materials provided throughout the EES consultation process.

#### *Telephone Number*

The details of the Gippsland Iron main telephone number will be included on communication materials associated with the Project and provided for the local community and stakeholders. Feedback received through this method will be addressed or passed on to the relevant person.

### **3.2.2 Briefings**

Briefings are a method of providing information on a specific issue to a targeted audience such as industry or government, and are typically followed by detailed discussions, using a question and answer format.

Regular briefings will be undertaken with key stakeholders throughout the EES process as required. Briefings will also be tailored to the information requirements of the relevant stakeholder group.

### **3.2.3 Information Centre**

Gippsland Iron proposes to establish an information centre within the local community at varying times throughout the EES process. The information centre will be manned during business hours by personnel with an understanding of the Project.

This mechanism will provide an informal process for stakeholders to attend and receive one-on-one information on the Project or ask specific questions.

Notice of upcoming information centres will be provided through local and regional media (ie. local newspapers) at least three weeks in advance.

### **3.2.4 Site Tours**

Site tours are a valuable mechanism for providing a deeper understanding of the Project. Site tours will be organised at appropriate times throughout the EES process and include government, Registered Aboriginal Parties or other key stakeholders; however, they will generally not be made available for the broader public.

### **3.2.5 Community Reference Group**

Gippsland Iron proposes to establish a Community Reference Group (CRG) to engage with representatives of the local community to gain a direct understanding of the community's opinions and concerns regarding the Project.

Members of the CRG will be selected in consultation with the Council. It is intended that the selected community members will represent a range of interests including Council, local residents and business owners.

It is anticipated that the CRG will meet regularly throughout the Scoping and Preparation stages of the EES process.

The CRG will provide a mechanism for the community to provide input to the Project, and provide Gippsland Iron with an additional opportunity to distribute information to the community and gauge community sentiment.

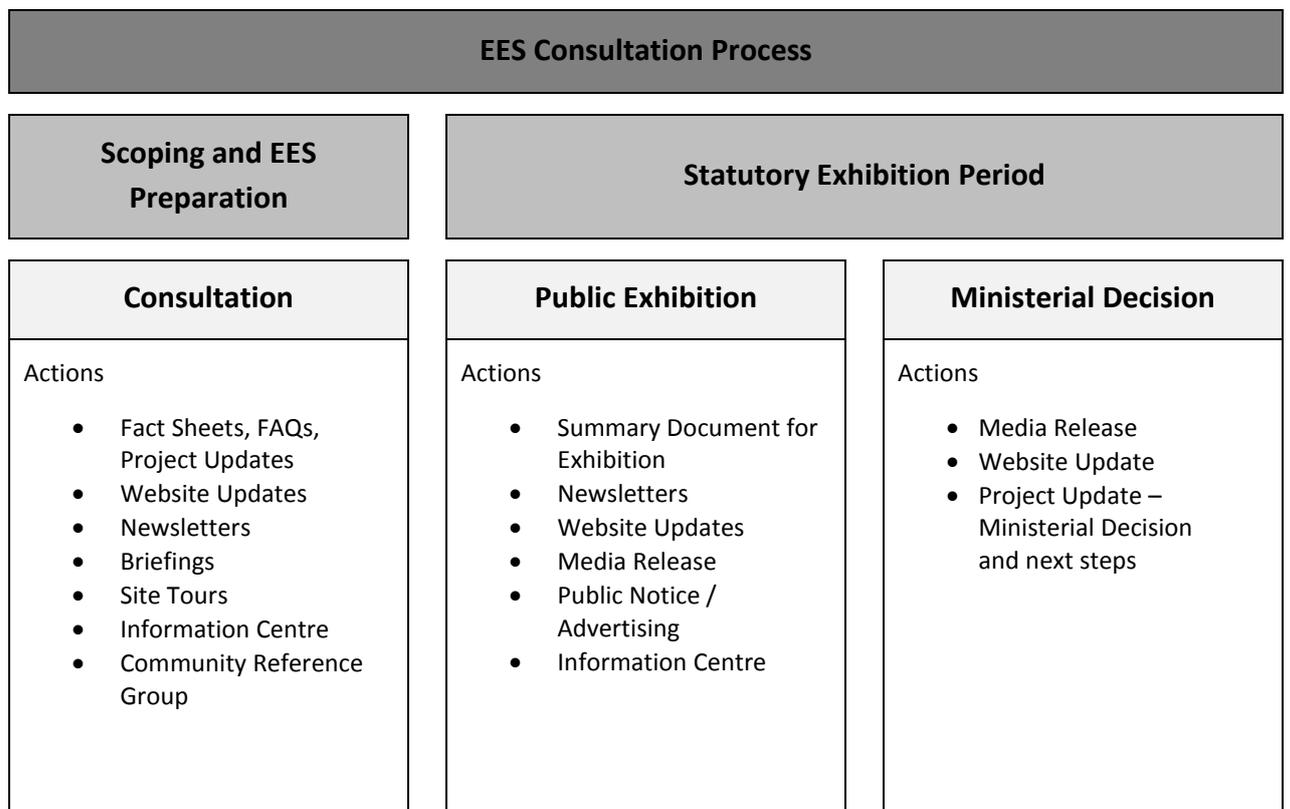
## 4 Consultation Program

This section outlines the program of activities that Gippsland Iron will be undertaking to inform and consult stakeholders as part of the EES process.

The EES consultation process can be separated into two defined stages;

- Scoping and Preparing the EES; and
- EES Statutory Exhibition Period.

**Figure 3** below outlines the actions associated with each stage of the EES consultation. Sections 4.1 and 4.2 outline specific actions for each stakeholder.



**Figure 3 - EES Consultation Approach**

## 4.1 Scoping and Preparing the EES

Gippsland Iron’s proposed consultation program during the scoping and preparation of the EES is outlined at Table 2. Tools and methods for consulting with individual stakeholder groups are also outlined, including indicative timing.

**Table 2 - Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Program - Scoping and Preparing EES**

Stakeholder Group	Engagement Level	Tools/Methods	Timing
Local Members, Government Ministers and Local Councillors	Inform / Consult	Briefings Direct Mail	Ongoing Milestones
Federal Government	Involve / Collaborate	Briefings Direct Mail Site Tours	Ongoing Milestones As required
State Government	Involve / Collaborate	Briefings Direct Mail Site Tours	Ongoing Milestones As required
Local Government	Involve / Collaborate	Briefings Direct Mail Site Tours	Ongoing Milestones As required
Water Managers and Catchment Authorities	Involve / Collaborate	Briefings Direct Mail Site Tours	Ongoing Milestones As required
Registered Aboriginal Parties	Involve	Briefings Site Tours Newsletters and Direct Mail	Milestones As required Ongoing

Local Community	Inform / Consult / Involve	<p>Website</p> <p>Contact Information</p> <p>Fact Sheets, FAQs and Project Updates</p> <p>Community Reference Group</p> <p>Media and Advertising</p> <p>Newsletters and Direct Mail</p> <p>Annual Reports</p> <p>Information Centre</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>Milestones</p> <p>Milestones</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>TBC</p>
Local business / industry	Inform / Consult	<p>Website</p> <p>Contact Information</p> <p>Fact Sheets, FAQs and Project Updates</p> <p>Media and Advertising</p> <p>Annual Report</p> <p>Information Centre</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Milestones</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>TBC</p>
Local facilities / service providers	Inform / Consult	<p>Website</p> <p>Contact Information</p> <p>Fact Sheets, FAQs and Project Updates</p> <p>Media and Advertising</p> <p>Annual Reports</p> <p>Information Centre</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Milestones</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>TBC</p>
Community and Interest Groups	Inform / Consult	<p>Website</p> <p>Contact Information</p> <p>Fact Sheets, FAQs and Project Updates</p> <p>Media and Advertising</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Milestones</p>

		Newsletters and Direct Mail	Ongoing
		Annual Reports	Annually
		Information Centre	TBC
Emergency Services	Inform / Consult	Briefings	Ongoing
		Direct Letters	Milestones
		Site Tours	As required
Local and Regional Media	Inform	Media Releases	Milestones
		Fact Sheets, FAQs and Project Updates	Ongoing
		Briefings	As required

## 4.2 EES Statutory Exhibition Period

During the EES Statutory Exhibition Period, the tools and methods used in this stage are focused on encouraging stakeholder participation in the public exhibition period, including the opportunity to make written submissions.

The proposed measures are outlined at **Table 3** and include actions that are required to meet the statutory obligations outlined within the *Ministerial Guidelines for assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environmental Effects Act 1978*. All measures will be implemented on completion of the draft EES and approval for exhibition, which is targeted for the second half of 2014.

**Table 3 - Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Program - EES Statutory Exhibition Period**

Stakeholder Group	Engagement Level	Tools/Methods
All	Inform / Consult	Public Notice in State and regional newspapers to advise of Statutory Public Exhibition Period and invite public comment.
All	Inform / Consult	Summary Document of EES to be made available on Eastern Iron Website.
All	Inform / Consult	EES Document to be made available on Eastern Iron and DTPLI Website, including advice on how submissions can be made.

Local Community	Inform / Consult / Involve	Information Centre to explain the draft EES document, advise how submissions can be made, and respond to any queries.  Newsletter / Project Updates.
Local business / industry	Inform / Consult / Involve	Information Centre (as above).  Newsletter / Project Updates.
Community and Interest Groups	Inform / Consult / Involve	Information Centre (as above).  Newsletter / Project Updates.

## 5 Reporting

### 5.1 Consultation Records

Information obtained from ongoing consultation activities will be recorded and documented in a stakeholder consultation register. Information will include:

- All materials produced as part of the stakeholder engagement activities;
- Locations, dates and lists of participants at workshops and meetings;
- Summaries of issues and concerns raised; and
- Project responses to issues raised and how community feedback or concerns were addressed and communicated back to stakeholders.

The community and stakeholders will be kept informed regarding the EES process via a number of channels as outlined in Section 3 and Section 4.

### 5.2 Evaluation and Review of the Consultation Plan

This Consultation Plan is a live document and may be subject to change throughout the EES process. Gippsland Iron will continue to evaluate the performance of this Consultation Plan in accordance with the objectives and indicators outlined at Table 4 below.

**Table 4 - Evaluation Criteria**

Objective	Indicator / Target	Outcome
Design and develop the method for stakeholder consultation and community engagement.	Consultation Plan completed and accepted by regulators.	Consultation approach is endorsed.
Identify key community values, attitudes and expectations.	Stakeholder list and initial identification of community values, attitudes and expectations completed and accepted by regulators.	Relationships developed with key stakeholders / community groups.
Implement Consultation Plan and schedule.	Consultation Plan is implemented.	Consultation Plan is implemented. Consultation feedback is incorporated into project design and planning.
Evaluate the Consultation Plan, including effectiveness of consultation methods and stakeholder attitudes towards the Project.	Stakeholder feedback, enquiries and complaints are effectively monitored and reviewed.	Feedback from evaluation is incorporated into the Consultation Plan as required.