

CASE STUDY



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINERALS COUNCIL LTD
MININGENUITY™

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Community Engagement – Exploration to Development

Community engagement by explorers and miners is vital to ensuring the mining industry's social licence to operate is protected. Alkane Resources Ltd has gained social acceptance of its operations through engaging, communicating with and supporting local communities.

Background

Alkane Resources Ltd (Alkane) has been actively exploring and mining in the Central West of NSW since the 1980s.

The Peak Hill Gold Mine began as an exploration project in 1993, progressed through development to its eventual closure in 2005. Alkane's strong record and experience of community engagement assisted in the next mine development at Tomingley.

Community Engagement Protocol

Alkane developed a number of specific strategies for community engagement. Clear and honest communication is a foundation for these strategies and has been a priority for the Company, which is integral to its acceptance at the local level.

A community engagement protocol was developed to ensure that the Company was engaging with the appropriate community representatives. This protocol was communicated to all staff, including contractors.

Key stakeholders were identified early. Meetings with these stakeholders were scheduled regularly and Alkane worked with stakeholders to ensure they were able to freely raise their concerns and have confidence that the Company would address them. Stakeholders were provided with regular project updates through direct email communication, ASX announcements and media releases.

As the project moved towards development a group of key community members was identified. Regular, formal consultation was undertaken with this group. The Company has a policy of listening to the community's expectations and being responsive. Careful documentation of all complaints was maintained. Prompt follow-up, including personal meetings and remedial actions where necessary,

ensured that complaints were dealt with early and effectively.

During operations, the community consultation included regular six-monthly public meetings and mine tours. This was an excellent opportunity for the wider community to see first hand and understand the operation. The wider community was also updated through information in local newspapers regarding the operations.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Mining companies have the capacity to generate significant economic activity in the communities in which they operate. Alkane worked closely with the community to build trust and social acceptance, supported by its environmental performance record.

Alkane is a strong advocate for corporate social responsibility. Its corporate social responsibility policies include:

- Employ and purchase locally where possible
- Provide equal opportunity in employment
- Encourage staff and contractors to maintain involvement in community organisations and projects.



Supporting a Red Cross street stall - Alkane personnel were part of the local community while the mine was operating from 1996-2005

Sponsorship of projects that provide immediate and/or long term benefits are an important and practical way for Alkane to demonstrate sound corporate social responsibility.

Alkane supported the local community in an extensive program including:

- Individual sponsorships for local athletes
- Team sport uniforms for school and sporting groups
- Sporting clubs including the junior ruby league team, Peak Hill Harness Racing Club, Tomingley Picnic Races, Peak Hill Golf Club and Tennis Club
- School equipment including computers, shade for playground and school excursions
- Infrastructure improvements (doctor's residence, mining museum and helipad)
- Restoration of community assets (complete refurbishment of hall which was purchased then donated back to the community)
- Events (local shows, sporting events and street carnivals)
- Work experience at the mine for school students.

Through strong community engagement and support, Alkane earned community trust and acceptance for its next mine development at Tomingley.



Alkane was a major sponsor of the 2009 Peak Hill Show



A tourist mine at Peak Hill is a positive legacy left by the mine operator to boost visitor numbers to the town



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