

Exploration Licence – Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The South Australian government is committed to supporting the exploration and mining sector. It is essential that the sector always works respectfully and appropriately with stakeholders including landowners and communities where resource projects are occurring. Relevant community members and other industry sectors must be engaged respectfully and openly so that the diverse land users and sectors such as agriculture and renewable energy and mining can successfully coexist together.

Genuine, timely engagement by explorers with relevant stakeholders, particularly landowners, is key to achieving this. The updated Mining Act and Regulations set out requirements for engagement at various stages of the exploration and mining lifecycles.

Considering the importance of engagement from the earliest stages of exploration, it is essential to develop and then undertake an engagement plan. This includes planning the intent of the engagement, keeping records of meetings and consultation, and demonstrating efforts taken to ensure effective stakeholder engagement. The plan must identify key individuals and groups in the community and outline how, when, why and what engagement should occur during specific stages of exploration projects. This will always be specific to the type of exploration program and the stakeholders impacted by the project.

There is no one size fits all.

[Minerals Regulatory Guideline MG31 Engagement, negotiating and agreement-making](#) is useful for explorers to better understand the importance of good engagement and how to properly plan for it. Planning for this means less chance of misunderstandings with the stakeholders, less potential for project delays, and less interaction with the regulator on stakeholder related matters. The guideline includes outlining the elements of a simple engagement plan which typically include:

- background and purpose
- regulatory framework and company policy
- past engagement activities
- stakeholders
- communication protocols
- engagement techniques
- engagement program and schedule
- resources and responsibilities
- a simple grievance mechanism so there is a process to address matters, and
- monitoring and reporting – record keeping, disclosure