

# Community Perception Survey and Stakeholder Interviews

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resourcing the future

- Late last year we commissioned a survey to understand the extent of community concerns relating to the Caroon Coal Project.
- We followed this with more detailed stakeholder interviews conducted by Futureye to get a deeper understanding of the issues.
- Today we would like to discuss:
  - UMR Perception Survey
  - Summary of stakeholder interviews
  - Our learnings and a proposed path forward

- Through the interviews, the community made it clear that they want us to listen and respect their concerns.
- Some indicated they are willing to work with us to develop mutually agreeable solutions.
- Stakeholders want us to demonstrate a commitment to addressing potential impacts on water and protecting key agricultural land.
- If the project is to proceed, members of the community want it to be part of a well planned region, where mining and agriculture can coexist.
- Our approach to communication and engagement with the local community has been too technical and we need to be more inclusive.
- The planning process is not well understood and the CCC's role is not clear to everyone in the community.

- The feedback indicated that there is core support for the Carooona Coal Project in the community from stakeholders interested in job creation, opportunities for young people and a diversified revenue base.
  
- The feedback indicated to us that the majority would support a mine if:
  - We could address potential impacts on water resources;
  - We protect key agricultural land; and
  - There was a shared vision and plan for the region where mining and agriculture can coexist.

To achieve this support:

- We'd need to ensure an inclusive community engagement process as part of the exploration and planning for the Project.
- Demonstrate we are able to balance the benefits of mining with the management of community concerns.
- We'd need to prove that we are committed to understanding the impacts of mining in this region and develop ways to ensure that we would reduce risks.
- Work with the agriculture industry to ensure mining and agriculture can coexist.
- We'd need to engage in regional planning and the development of a vision that would unify this community.

We have identified a number of first steps to undertake. These include:

- Working with the Caroon Coal Action Group (CCAG) in a drilling forum to work through their issues regarding exploration drilling practices;
- Committing to an independent third party review of our water monitoring programme so the community can be assured the BHPB water study builds a robust model of the groundwater systems;
- Engaging the community in a series of workshops about prioritising the issues of concerns and validating a path forward to seek resolution to these issues; and
- Continuing to advocate for the Namoi Catchment Water Study and support its timely commencement. BHP Billiton has previously committed to wait until the Namoi Catchment Water Study is complete before finalising a mine development proposal.

- We are committed to making the Carooona Coal Project successful.
- We firmly believe that mining and agriculture can co-exist.
- We will actively work with the community to:
  - Address concerns and build support for the project;
  - Assist the community to build a diversified, well-planned region.