CEIP & THE COMMUNITY

EARNING OUR PLACE & BRINGING SHARED BENEFIT

At last count, the population in the Wudinna district had declined by around 40% since the early 1980’s. With waning regional populations comes the risk of a reduction in the services vital to sustaining community facilities such as health care, education and recreation that help towns to thrive.

With land holdings growing to improve farm profitability, combined with an increase in the mechanisation and automation of the agricultural industry that has historically supported the region, this trend is unlikely to change unless new opportunities are explored and developed.

The CEIP has the potential to be the single biggest development in the region in the last century. A project of this scale is not without its challenges. While it presents a welcome opportunity for some communities, Iron Road acknowledges that for a relatively small number of directly impacted families, this is a difficult time.

The CEIP will present significant, long-term opportunities for local communities and the region. Iron Road is committed to working closely with all levels of government, local communities and other key stakeholders to maximise benefits for the region.
FAQ

**FIFO operations get such bad press. How will Iron Road ensure workers are integrated into the community?**

Wudinna District Council (WDC) is taking a lead in the planning and integration of the Iron Road workforce into the community. WDC has engaged planning experts to provide specialist advice and Iron Road's ongoing work with the Council on this matter will be shaped by the recommendations put forward.

Iron Road will collaborate with local and State Government in a strategic process to integrate the long term employee village within the township of Wudinna and plan for the provision of new residential development and the supporting infrastructure necessary to sustain local growth.

Iron Road is committed to developing policies and/or providing incentives for the mine’s operational workforce to reside locally. There is also onus on the existing community to provide a welcoming environment.

**What happens when Iron Road “leaves town”?**

CEIP is a major development with a current mine life of 25 years. There is a possibility that once infrastructure is in place, and other mineral resources in the region are better understood, that the operation, or parts of it, could continue on.

Iron Road is hopeful that ongoing discussions and a signed Memorandum of Understanding with a major grain handler will result in a modern, efficient grain facility being established at Cape Hardy. Along with the associated rail infrastructure, this will provide long-term benefits to Eyre Peninsula producers post-mining.

Unlike some towns in Australia that are almost solely dependent on mining, Iron Road intends to integrate and add value to what is already, despite a declining population a vibrant community.

Iron Road is committed to ensuring its contribution to the community is not just a “cash hand-out” but purposefully planned to assist build a sustainable, positive legacy.

**How can the local community make the most of the employment opportunities CEIP will bring?**

Employment opportunities are one of the key benefits that will come from the CEIP. Iron Road is committed to ensuring the local region is well positioned to benefit.

There are a number of initiatives Iron Road have proposed to assist locals to benefit from CEIP jobs, including the development of collaborative programs to increase labour force participation, facilitate local involvement and upskilling and expanding the local pool of available labour through education and training.

**How can we be sure that business will stay local?**

Local business opportunities are considered a key benefit to the region as a result of the CEIP. Proposed commitments to maximise these opportunities include the recently completed and approved Australian Industry Participation Plan and working with the Industry Capability Network (ICN) and Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) to promote local business participation.

Iron Road will also continue to work with business groups to identify local opportunities and provide information on the project to assist local businesses plan and prepare for the rigour of a tendering and procurement process.

Iron Road also proposes to identify contract packages that could be let locally or regionally and continue to develop and maintain a local business and services register.