



# Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project

Social Impact Assessment



# Overview

- Method
- Baseline factors
- Key questions
- Engagement Program



# Social Impact Assessment – Method

## 1. Baseline

- Settlement pattern
- Community values
- Population characteristics
- Business and employment
- Housing
- Social infrastructure
- Cumulative context

## Monitoring Framework

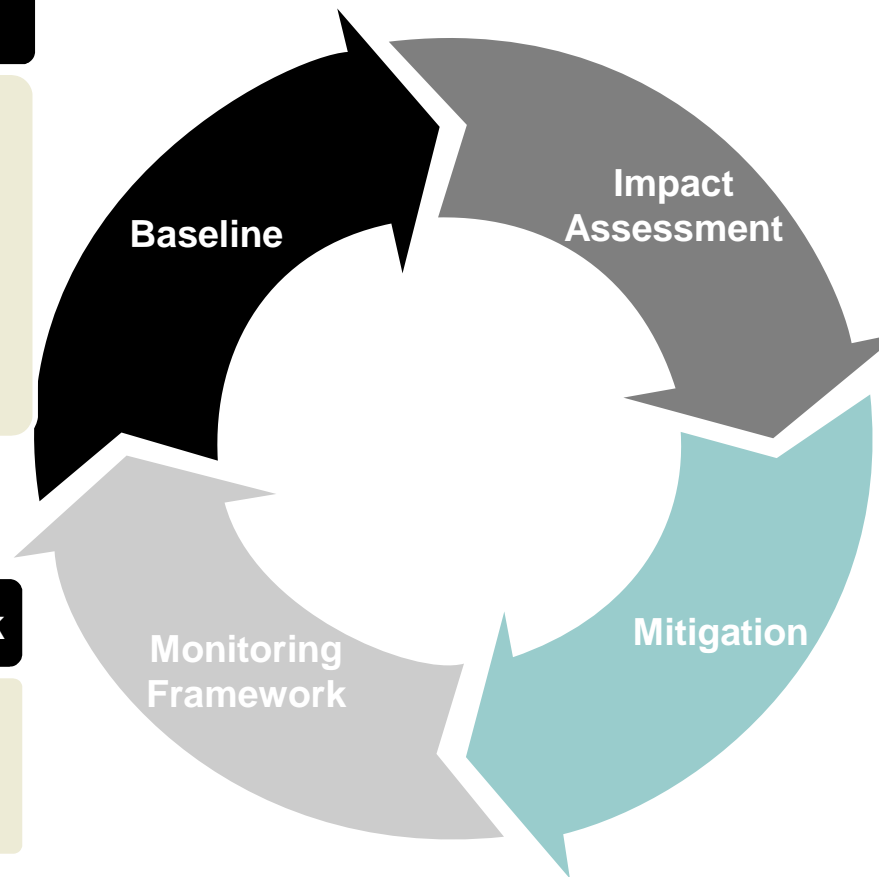
- Performance criteria
- Monitoring and reporting process

## 2. Impact Assessment

- Scope issues and impacts
- Stakeholder engagement
- Identify and assess potential impacts and benefits
- Evaluate significance of impacts and benefits

## Mitigation and Enhancement Strategies

- Action plans to avoid or minimise social impacts
- Strategies to maximise project benefits





# SIA – Baseline

## Study Area and Stakeholders

- Land owners in and near the Project area
- Denman community
- Communities within Muswellbrook LGA, and potentially adjacent regions
- Agencies and organisations that plan and service the region

## Factors studied

- Population and social characteristics
- Community values, character and lifestyle
- Settlement patterns and land use
- Employment and business
- Housing supply and demand
- Social infrastructure and services
- Context for cumulative impacts



The Understandascope (c) Michael Leunig 2010



# Social Baseline – Early Findings

- Rural community values, character and lifestyle
- Social indicators
- Industry diversity: agriculture, equine enterprise, viticulture, tourism, resource extraction
- Extensive mining to the north and east (mostly open cut)
- Housing availability



# Questions for assessment

## **Socio-economic impacts**

- Would the project change population trends or characteristics?
- Would it change social indicators, e.g. educational attainment, housing access?

## **Community character, values and amenity**

- Why do people choose to come here, and why do they choose to stay?
- What things support community vitality and cohesion in this area?
- Would the project affect community character or amenity?

## **Social infrastructure facilities and services**

- Are the region's facilities and services adequate to current and future demand?
- How might the project work with social infrastructure providers?



# Questions for assessment

## Labour, industry and economy

- Current local workforce characteristics and labour availability
- How might the project affect local employment and business?
- How might the project support local training and employment options?
- Are there concerns or opportunities relating to the co-existence of industries?

## Housing

- Is it adequate for current community needs?
- Does housing stock need to increase or change to address growth?
- Would the project change access to or affordability of housing?



# Questions for assessment

## **Cumulative social impacts**

- In the cumulative project context, how might the Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal project affect:
  - Population
  - Social infrastructure
  - Housing
  - Local road network

## **Your experience**

- What are key focus areas relating to cumulative impacts?
- What has worked well in management of cumulative impacts in this region?
- Other potential opportunities or concerns?