



AUSTRALIAN
ZIRCONIA LTD

(A wholly owned subsidiary of Alkane Resources Ltd)

MULTI-COMMODITY MINER EXPLORER
www.alkane.com.au

Dubbo Zirconia Project (DZP) Community Newsletter

ISSUE 008 / JULY 2013

EIS submitted

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Dubbo Zirconia Project (DZP) was submitted to the NSW Government on Friday 28 June 2013.

The EIS, which has been in development since the year 2000, addresses a range of biophysical, social and economic issues that are critical to environmental management, maintenance and community wellbeing in the Dubbo and Toongi areas.

These include:

- Noise and vibration
- Air quality
- Radiation
- Surface water
- Groundwater
- Terrestrial ecology
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage
- Visual amenity
- Aquatic ecology
- Traffic
- Soil and land capability
- Hazards
- Socio-economic climate
- Agricultural impact

The statement submission is a major step in the life cycle of the DZP, which is poised to enter construction in mid-2014 and to commence production in 2016.

So what happens next?

The table on the following page charts the next steps towards formal approval of the EIS, which will allow Alkane to finalise the project approvals process, the projects financing program and initiation of detailed engineering design.

What does this mean for you?

As a resident of the Dubbo/Toongi area, you may experience some impact from the launch of the DZP. The EIS is an opportunity to understand the project's expected environmental impacts, and Alkane's plans for mitigating those impacts and continuing to preserve the local environment.

Have your say

A public consultation period has been tentatively scheduled for October 2013, when the EIS will be on display for a period of 4 to 6 weeks. Community members who are interested in providing feedback, or who are likely to be impacted by one or more elements of the EIS, are encouraged to read the relevant sections of the document when it is made available to the public and make a formal written submission about any issues of concern. Alkane can then make amendments to the document as required. The final version of the EIS is expected to be assessed and processed by the NSW Government by March 2014.

Dubbo Office: Level 2, 21 Church Street, Dubbo NSW 2830

Registered Address: 65 Burswood Road, Burswood WA 6100

Telephone: +61 8 9227 5677 Facsimile: +61 8 9227 8178 mail@alkane.com.au www.alkane.com.au



**AUSTRALIAN
ZIRCONIA LTD**

(A wholly owned subsidiary of Alkane Resources Ltd)

MULTI-COMMODITY MINER EXPLORER
www.alkane.com.au

ISSUE 008 / JULY 2013

Indicative Approval Timeline	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Review of EIS for Adequacy	█								
Response to Adequacy submissions		█	█						
Public Exhibition				█					
Prepare response to submissions					█				
Prepare assessment report						█	█	█	
Determination									█

Anticipated approval timeline for the Dubbo Zirconia Project EIS

An interview with Mike Sutherland

Mike Sutherland, the General Manager, NSW for Alkane Resources, talks us through what to expect of the EIS, what it means for the Dubbo Zirconia Project, and how you can have your say.



Mike Sutherland, General Manager NSW

So what's the EIS all about?

Basically, it's a document that describes the project and the existing environment on and around the proposed DZP site. The EIS outlines the impacts of the DZP on that existing environment and how Alkane is planning to mitigate them.

The EIS was submitted to the NSW Government on 28 June. What's the significance of this?

Essentially it means is that the project is now formally listed in the NSW Government's planning system. There are a lot of time controls on the process of getting a project of this size off the ground, and so that the fact that we're actually now in the planning process means that project is truly starting to move forward.

What does this mean in terms of project timelines?

If everything goes to plan in terms of the EIS being accepted by the NSW Government, we'll still be on track for construction to commence in 2014, and production at the mine site to commence in 2016. We're really keen to keep things moving – it's been a long process up to this point!

What can community members expect to see in the EIS?

The EIS itself is in five volumes and weighs seven kilos – it's a pretty formidable document! The first volume is the EIS itself, and that comes with a 25 page executive summary covering the key points. The second document is the appendices, which includes things like development consent

Dubbo Office: Level 2, 21 Church Street, Dubbo NSW 2830

Registered Address: 65 Burswood Road, Burswood WA 6100

Telephone: +61 8 9227 5677 Facsimile: +61 8 9227 8178 mail@alkane.com.au www.alkane.com.au



AUSTRALIAN
ZIRCONIA LTD

(A wholly owned subsidiary of Alkane Resources Ltd)

MULTI-COMMODITY MINER EXPLORER
www.alkane.com.au

ISSUE 008 / JULY 2013

applications, hazard analyses, and a variety of assessment reports that underpin the EIS and related consultant reports.

The final three volumes make up what's called the specialist consultant compendium. It's a collation of the 12 reports delivered by our specialist environmental consultants, and contains information that has been being gathered since the year 2000.

The EIS – five volumes, seven kilos, “Not a light read”.



What I'd say is that if you're interested in providing feedback on the EIS, you need to start by locating the content that's relevant to you. So if you have particular concerns about socio-economic impacts, you need to go and read the summary in the EIS and then go and look at the specialist consultant report on the same topic.

Speaking of providing feedback, when will the public be able to access the EIS?

The EIS is scheduled to be made available to the public in October this year – that's the tentative date for public exhibition, although we will confirm this on our website and in subsequent newsletters as we get closer to that time.

Can locals provide feedback on the document?

Absolutely. The EIS will be on public exhibition for a period of 4 to 6 weeks, and it will be available at the Dubbo City Council, on the Alkane website and on the Department of Planning's website. Everyone is invited to provide formal feedback on issues they feel strongly about, issues they think have been overlooked, or issues that they think require more work.

What sort of feedback are you expecting?

We really believe that we've left no stone unturned in the EIS. Alkane has been listening to the community for the last 13 years, and a lot of those community ideas have already been incorporated into the document. We really believe that most people will be satisfied with what they find in there.

One of the burning questions we're expecting is about what Alkane is planning to do with the Dubbo-Toongi railway line. This is a complex issue and we have given three alternatives in the EIS and will try to provide a long term viable option that meets the operational, financial and community objectives

What should people do between now and the public consultation period?

Just keep an eye on the Alkane website – we'll keep it updated with new information as it's made available.

Contact Us

You can find out more information about Alkane Resources and the Dubbo Zirconia Project on our website:

www.alkane.com.au

Or you can email us at:

mail@alkane.com.au

Dubbo Office: Level 2, 21 Church Street, Dubbo NSW 2830

Registered Address: 65 Burswood Road, Burswood WA 6100

Telephone: +61 8 9227 5677 Facsimile: +61 8 9227 8178 mail@alkane.com.au www.alkane.com.au