

# SAINT ELMO PROJECT

## Newsletter #6

July 2019

Epic Environmental Pty Ltd (Epic) are working with Multicom Resources Limited (Multicom) on the approvals process for the Saint Elmo Project (the Project), including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



Over recent months, while the EIS is being finalised, Multicom have been working on a number of complementary activities which will enhance the sustainability of the Saint Elmo Project and the Australian battery storage sector.

### PROJECT OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

In July 2019, the Queensland Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy (DNRME) has determined that the Saint Elmo Project is a Project of Regional Significance under the Water Plan (Gulf) 2007.

This is an important milestone for the Project as it allows Multicom to apply for a water entitlement from the unallocated strategic reserve from the Flinders River sub catchment. While it does not guarantee this entitlement will be granted, eligibility to apply is a key cornerstone of the Project's water supply strategy.

To achieve this status, the Project had to demonstrate the benefits it would bring to the region, particularly diversifying the regional economy through direct and indirect employment opportunities. This was successfully demonstrated, not only in the Shire of McKinlay, where the project is located, but across the economic catchment from Mount Isa to Townsville.

Multicom will be seeking to harvest some of this water from the Flinders River, whilst meeting environmental flow and water allocation security objectives. The water is proposed to be stored in a 10 GL dam near the Flinders River and pumped to the mine lease area.

Options to capture and use water onsite are also being considered to supplement this supply.

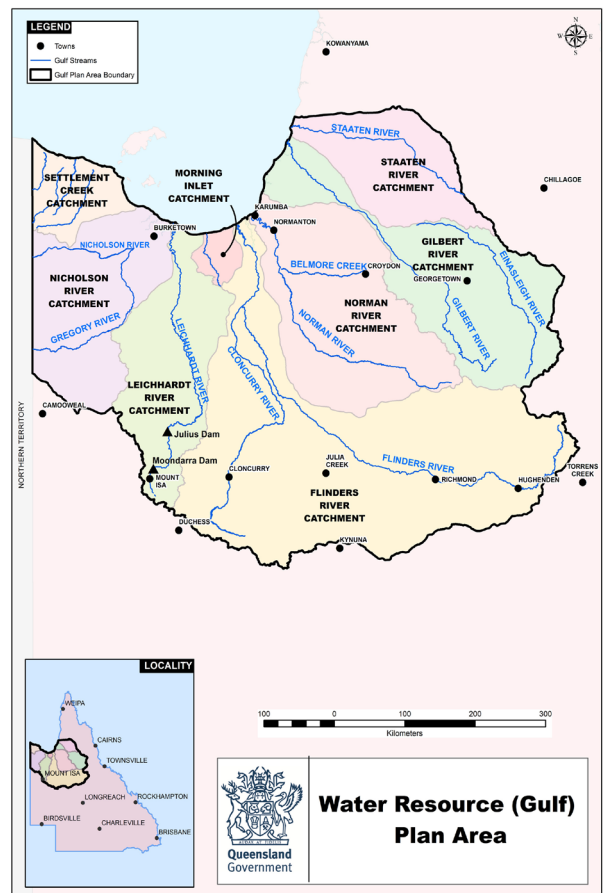


Figure 1: Map of Gulf Water Plan Area

## SOUTHERN GULF NRM- MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Southern Gulf Natural Resource Management (SG NRM) is a community-based not-for-profit organisation tasked with providing sustainable natural resource management services in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria region of Queensland.

Multicom and SG NRM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will see the two organisations collaborate to explore potential opportunities for Julia Creek Dunnart biodiversity offset and conservation outcomes associated with the Saint Elmo Project.

Through this collaboration, Multicom will draw upon the significant experience of SG NRM in the areas of weed and pest management and land management practices, which may contribute to the ongoing benefit of the Project and Julia Creek Dunnart and its habitat.

This collaboration will include:

- Offset strategies for the Julia Creek Dunnart (*Sminthopsis douglasi*) within the Project area and more broadly;
- Review and input into Multicom's Draft Offsets Strategy, consistent with SG NRM strategic outcomes;
- Provide input into potential ecological surveys and/or programs to improve habitat for Julia Creek Dunnart;
- Provide advice regarding threatening processes to Julia Creek Dunnart; and
- Advise on land management practices relevant for Julia Creek Dunnart, such as Prickly Acacia management and control, feral species management and general ongoing liaison and support.



Figure 2: Prickly Acacia near Julia Creek

## FUTURE BATTERIES CRC

With the increased uptake of renewables, battery technology is transforming the way energy is stored and deployed. Australia is well placed to play a leadership role in making the most of these changes. It has all the components necessary for modern battery technology, including lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese, aluminium, vanadium, and rare earth metals and graphite. It has a world class resources sector and research institutions, specialist manufacturing capability, and a highly capable workforce.

The Australian Government has committed \$25 million to support the development of the Future Battery Industries Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program. The CRC is also supported by commitments of \$28 million in cash and \$82 million in kind commitment from industry, government and research partners.

The CRC will generate knowledge that will expand Australia's competitive advantages, support research-based policies and help build the necessary skills for emerging battery industries. It will also support the development of hubs and precincts of globally competitive battery industries. The industry-focused research partnership will involve 58 industry, government and research partners.

Multicom, as a core member, is the FBI CRC Queensland industry representative. Multicom's Nathan Cammerman, said the research centre sends a clear signal to our international partners, and the broader global market, that when it comes to raw material supply, battery technology development and its subsequent manufacture and deployment, Australia is clearly open for business.

### Further information

If you would like further information on the Project, please:

- Email [saintelmo@epicenvironmental.com.au](mailto:saintelmo@epicenvironmental.com.au); or
- Freecall 1800 270 844; or
- Visit <https://www.mcres.com.au/saint-elmo-project>

