

FACTSHEET Newsletter #2

Saint Elmo Project
November 2018

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

PROJECT UPDATE

Multicom acknowledges that the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) is a valuable regional asset. Following feedback gathered during community consultation in September 2018, Multicom will not be relying on the GAB alone to supply water for the project and have initiated further water related studies to ensure that water requirements for the Saint Elmo Project are sourced in a sustainable and integrated manner.

Because of this, the following approach is being undertaken:

- Epic Environmental is currently undertaking a water supply strategy to understand alternate sources of water including current or proposed water sources in the region;
- The water strategy will also consider options which may have broader potential benefits to Julia Creek and surrounding communities; and
- Multicom's engineering team is assessing the processing options to improve the efficiencies of water use where possible.

These further studies have caused a slight delay on the project. While this delay is only a few weeks, it does impact on the community consultation events planned for late November 2018.

Given upcoming school and Christmas holidays, when we know many of you will be enjoying a much-needed break, our next round of planned community consultation events will occur in early 2019.

During this time, we will continue to send out updates as well as being available to answer any questions by phone or email.



OCTOBER BASELINE MONITORING

Baseline monitoring was carried out in late October and early November. This completed the planned baseline monitoring for 2018 for dust and water.



Figure 1. Dust Monitoring, October 2018



Figure 2. Water Monitoring, Flinders River Picnic Area, October 2018

Ecology surveys were also carried out to see if any additional species could be identified on site, at a different time of year. One air quality logger is still in place and will remain for a further 6 months.

Additional studies will be undertaken in 2019, to continue to build the baseline profile for the Project area. For further background information on baseline monitoring see the "Factsheet - Baseline Studies" (<https://www.m cres.com.au/latest-news>).

WHAT IS THE GABORA PLAN AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE SAINT ELMO PROJECT?

Use of water from the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) is governed by the Queensland Water Act (2000). Under this Act there is a specific plan – the Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017 also known as the GABORA Plan which covers much of Queensland (Figure 3).

All landholders must apply for a licence or permit to take water from the Queensland Great Artesian Basin (GAB), unless the water is for one of a limited number of activities not requiring authorisation. There are different licences for stock and domestic use, irrigation and other uses, with special provisions applying to the mining and resources industry.

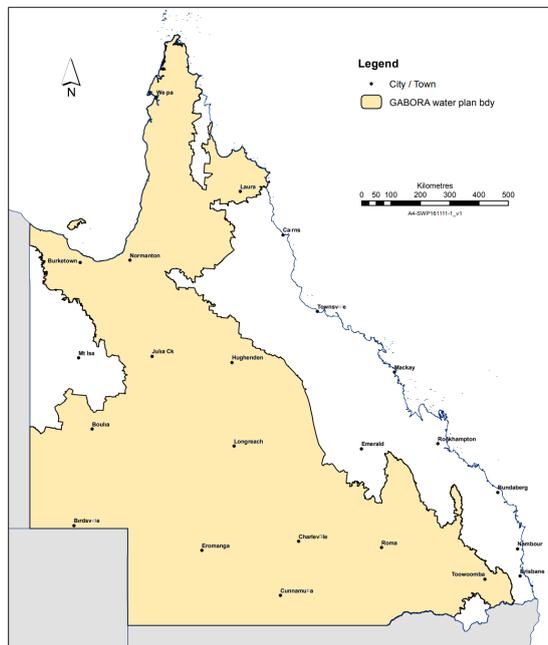


Figure 3. Great Artesian Basin and other regional aquifers water area map

Before allowing a resource or mining operation to start in the Great Artesian Basin (GAB), the Queensland Government conducts an in-depth assessment of its potential impact on water users and the environment.

Resource operators are then required by law to monitor bores near their operations and 'make good' any negative impact on them. They must also report on their water use, predicted and measured impacts, and 'make good' measures.

To apply for water from the unallocated water reserve under the GABORA Plan, the Saint Elmo Project would need to demonstrate that it was a project of regional significance, as defined under the Plan and contribute to the funding of capping and piping works.

EIS PROGRESS

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is nearing finalisation, pending the outcomes of the updated water and engineering studies. Draft reports from our technical experts have been received and reviewed. These range from air quality to economic impact, to traffic management and climate.

Each of these technical reports has been summarised into a chapter, which shows the potential impacts of the project and how these have been mitigated. This is matched against the Terms of Reference for the project, as provided by the Government (<https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/management/impact-assessment/eis-processes/documents/saint-elmo-final-tor.pdf>).

The final EIS will include:

- An executive summary;
- Summary chapters plus associated technical reports and appendices.

Once complete, this will be submitted to the Government who will assess it against the Terms of Reference, before it is publicly released.

When it is publicly released we will also be releasing a number of summary documents and factsheets, which will summarise the key issues. Both Epic and Multicom will also be available as part of planned engagement in the community and with all our stakeholders to answer any questions you may have.

Further information

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

- Email saintelmo@epicenvironmental.com.au ; or
- Freecall 1800 270 844; or
- Visit <https://www.m cres.com.au/saint-elmo-project>

