DECEMBER 2015 SHEET No.3

## **Ridgelands Exploration Project**

This Community Information Sheet provides an update on the Ridgelands Exploration Project.

#### **Exploration Drilling**

Exploration drilling across the licence is now scheduled to start in 2016. Once the timing of exploration activities scheduled for 2016 is finalised, all landholders will be notified. It is envisaged upon finalisation of the field programme, a local drilling company would be mobilised and various drilling sites prepared on properties with access agreements in place. Individual landholders will be kept fully informed by SRK and its representatives regarding the schedule as drilling progresses.

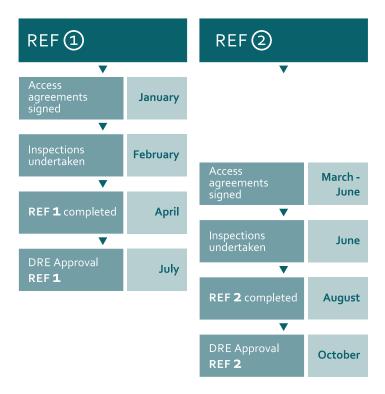
#### **Inspections**

Since the last newsletter, two separate Review of Environmental Factors (REF) submissions have been approved by the NSW Department of Trade and Investment - Division of Resources and Energy (DRE). This is a requirement prior to any drilling commencing on the licence. As part of the REF, flora and fauna and archaeological inspections were carried out on those properties with access agreements in place.

# Review of Environmental Factors (REF)

- Firstly, the REF documents potential impacts from exploration activities to threatened flora and fauna species and cultural heritage identified during the surveys;
- Secondly, the REF outlines various mitigation and control measures Ridgelands are required to put in place to minimise impacts to any threatened flora and fauna species and cultural heritage; and
- Thirdly, the REF outlines environmental controls required to manage operational issues including noise control and monitoring requirements, traffic management, dust management, handling and storage of drilling supplies, access and security of drill sites.

#### **REF Approvals**







### **Engagement with Landholders**

To date Ridgelands has contacted most landholders across EL 8064 since engagement with landholders commenced in October 2014. In total we've made contact with 59 landholders within the licence, out of a total of 66, and personally met with those who accepted our invitation to discuss more about the project first hand

Ridgelands has also progressed the signing of land access agreements with many landholders with some negotiations set to continue into 2016.

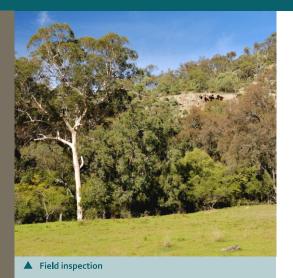
As raised in the previous Community Information Sheet (CIS), landholders have been encouraged to utilise the Annexure C (Farm Protocols) and Annexure D (Special Conditions) to ensure their interests and specific circumstances were taken into account while exploration is in progress.

Based on feedback from landholders these various conditions have been included in all agreements for all landholders and include:

- ① The drill site will be fenced at all times ensuring the work area is secure from the intrusion of stock and wildlife.
- ② SRK will keep a log of all personnel who access the property including dates and times. This will be made available upon request.
- ③ A register of all chemicals used during exploration activities will be maintained by SRK or its contractors.
- Copies of all Material Safety Data Sheets for chemicals used will be available onsite at all times and will be made available upon request.

- A copy of the project Environmental Management Plan will be made available to all landholders upon request. This will document best practise procedures and mitigation measures and controls; which have been adopted for all exploration activities.
- (a) Access for any site activity will be confirmed with the landholder 2 weeks prior.
- All access other than drilling will commence, and end, with a courtesy call to landholder/tenant.
- Rehabilitation of drill sites will be completed within one (1) month of completion of drilling.
- Compensation will be reimbursed within one

   (1) month of completion of compensable activity.
- (1) Wet weather' will be defined as whichever occurs first:
  - A) when the rig is placed on standby at the direction of the drilling company / or SRK;
  - B) In the event Muswellbrook experiences rainfall of more than 25mm within a period of 10 days of such rainfall.
- Hours of operation have been limited to 7am to dusk weekdays. There is no plan to work on weekends or Public Holidays unless, by chance, drilling equipment needs to retrieved due to difficult ground conditions. In this case the extended work period would need to discussed and agreed upon with the landholder.



### **Further Information**

Ridgelands welcomes your feedback about the exploration program especially as it moves into the drilling phase and has established a number of ways for you to contact us. Please feel free to get in touch to highlight any concerns, receive further information or ask questions of the project team.

#### Community contact details:

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