

Appendix 18 – KNAC Social Surrounding Recommendations

Recommendation	BHP Response
BHP do not restrict or divert the flow of water of Homestead Creek or Fortescue River and ensure water quality remains high	The Proposal will not restrict or divert the flow of water of Homestead Creek or Fortescue River. The surplus water is from the same aquifer as BHP's Homestead borefield which is used to supply potable water to Newman, the groundwater is fresh and of a similar quality to both waterways. Water quality of Homestead Creek and Fortescue River will remain high.
BHP access the respective project area by using existing tracks wherever possible. It is recommended that track crossings of Homestead Creek and the Fortescue River, creeks and waterways are kept to a minimum	The Proposals Development Envelope has been positioned to utilise existing roads to provide site access. There are existing roads (sealed or unsealed) surrounding the Development Envelope. The Proposal does not include any track crossings over Homestead Creek or Fortescue River
BHP maintain the Mingana crossing of the Fortescue River, removing overhanging branches and so forth to allow for single lane vehicle access across the crossing	The Jigalong Road crossing and all other river crossings south of Jigalong Road are located within Reserve 9698 Fortescue Cue Stock Route. The responsible agency for the Reserve is the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration. The Reserve has been vested with the Shire of East Pilbara and Shire of Meekatharra who are responsible for undertaking maintenance.
It is recommended that BHP discuss with KNAC, KNAC representatives ongoing access to Country on existing tracks, including for, but not limited to, travelling to communities, visiting places of importance, camping, hunting and collecting resources in the vicinity of Homestead Creek and the Fortescue River and BHP's OB32 BWT Creek discharge proposal and surrounds	Access to the Fortescue River will not be restricted or altered in any way as a result of the Proposal. The OB32 BWT Creek Discharge Proposal is on BHP Tenure. BHP can arrange access to country on BHP Tenure when requested.
All ACH places (or potential ACH places) identified in any previous or forthcoming archaeological and ethnographic reports are to be avoided, regardless of status with DPLH. This includes avoiding indirect impacts.	After all Archaeological and Ethnographic surveys are completed, BHP updates the Heritage Information Management System (HIMS) to include all ACH places, regardless of status with DPLH. The Proposal has avoided all known ACH places, not only those registered with DPLH.
BHP update their Aboriginal Cultural Heritage place database to reflect the new boundaries, and other relevant information arising from the August 2024 <i>Report of an Ethnographic Consultation with KNAC representatives over BHP's Iron Ore Ltd's proposed Orebody 32 Below Water Table Project Area</i> (see Stevens and Norris 2024). It is recommended that these new ACH place boundaries and access restrictions should be communicated internally from the BHP heritage team to relevant project and	As above, BHP's HIMS database is updated following each Archaeological and Ethnographic survey. The database (site locations and buffers) is used by all BHP project teams and the GIS team to identify and avoid impacts to ACH places.

Recommendation	BHP Response
<p>social surroundings teams within BHP in relation to BHP's proposals to reduce the risk of breaches in relation to ACH places</p>	
<p>It is recommended that BHP work with KNAC representatives (via KNAC) on appropriate management in relation to the ACH places in the area, including into closure</p>	<p>BHP currently works with KNAC and KNAC representatives in relation to the appropriate management of ACH places in the area, including into closure. There are several routine avenues in which KNAC can raise any concerns including the Heritage and Environment Committee meetings, and Social Surroundings engagements which include a closure component. As required, the BHP Closure and Rehabilitation teams hold workshops with KNAC to discuss BHP closure principles and ongoing closure designs for specific projects. These activities will continue.</p>
<p>During the September 2024 Social Surroundings Consultation, KNAC representatives requested to see Weeli Wolli Creek and also the water release from Ophthalmia Dam, but BHP replied that they were unable to facilitate these fieldtrips during the September 2024 consultation due to logistics, approvals and tenure. KNAC questioned whether a fieldtrip where the water is released from Ophthalmia Dam could be arranged by BHP for KNAC representatives (via KNAC) in future. BHP replied that this could be facilitated in future. It is recommended that future opportunities should be provided by BHP for KNAC representatives (via KNAC) to visit Ophthalmia Dam and see the discharge site</p>	<p>BHP would be pleased to arrange a field trip to Weeli Wolli Creek and Ophthalmia Dam with KNAC and KNAC representatives if the opportunity arose. Each year, BHP is allocated a limited number of time slots with KNAC and KNAC representatives to complete Social Surroundings consultations and Heritage surveys. These consultations are used to facilitate environmental approvals and archaeological or ethnographic surveys for project development.</p>
<p>BHP showed the group a photograph of an example pipeline discharge outlet (see Figure 7). KNAC queried if there was mesh within BHP's proposed pipeline discharge outlet to ensure fauna would not travel into the pipeline. BHP advised that this was not in place, but it was considered unlikely fauna would travel into the pipeline. BHP stated that there are filters in the larger pipeline, but not in the smaller pipes due to a risk of blockage. It is recommended that BHP explore this further, as well as fauna egress within aeration ponds, with BHP to report back to KNAC</p>	<p>The likelihood of fauna entering the surplus water pipeline outlets is low. The aeration basins will be fenced to prevent access from fauna and the public, particularly due to their close proximity to Marble Bar Road and Newman town centre.</p>
<p>It is recommended that BHP is to provide consideration of the impacts that could occur to fauna if there is no water flow through long term. This also applies to the aeration basins. There were mixed options amongst KNAC representatives about whether fencing was a good thing or not in relation to the basins. Ongoing discussions is required via KNAC. EIA will require fauna egress and management of any significant impacts. This is probably more about BHP communicating the management they implement and feedback from monitoring during reporting to the appropriate KNAC</p>	<p>The Proposal is located adjacent to an existing railway line and within the Eastern Ridge mining operations. The Proposal area is fenced and fauna access to the Proposal area is already restricted. A fence will be placed around the aeration ponds to further prevent fauna access. The depth of the basins has been reduced since the Social Surroundings engagement from 5 m to 2 m to increase aeration and loss of carbon dioxide. The risk of fauna entering the aeration basins is low.</p>

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<p>Committee. It is recommended that BHP look for photos of fauna egress to show KNAC representatives (via KNAC)</p>	
<p>KNAC queried how often the maintenance would be done for the pipeline. BHP replied that this would usually be done quarterly, but BHP would need to confirm. BHP noted that the creek discharge is monitored constantly. BHP noted that they would know if there were any issues with the pipeline from this constant monitoring of the creek discharge. It is recommended that BHP clarify the physical infield monitoring proposed for the OB32 BWT pipeline via KNAC</p>	<p>Prior to the creek charge being operational, BHP will be required to amend the Eastern Ridge Part V licence to include the Homestead Creek discharge, and operational controls and monitoring. The surplus water pipeline will be fitted with instrumentation, telemetry and measurement devices to record flow, volumes and detect leaks. With the instrumentation in place BHP is likely to undertake a 6 monthly preventative maintenance inspections and service for the pipeline and valve controls at the creek discharge outlet. BHP responds immediately to any alarms raised by the telemetered instrumentation.</p> <p>The Eastern Ridge Part V licence will require BHP to annually report the monthly flow rate and cumulative volumes of water discharged to Homestead Creek and details any non-compliances.</p>
<p>KNAC queried if modelling had been completed to confirm that water was not travelling beyond the Jigalong Road. BHP confirmed that this modelling had been completed and confirmed this for dry conditions. BHP also noted that in wet conditions the discharge represents less than 1% of regular (1 in 5) rainfall events. BHP stated that they can provide this modelling to KNAC representatives for review if requested. KNAC consultants request this information from BHP via KNAC.</p>	<p>The Creek Discharge Modelling report (Advisian 2023) and a summary wetting front memo (BHP 2025) is provided in Appendix 2. The Homestead Creek Flood Study (Tetra Tech 2014) is provided in Appendix 4. Table 6-4 provides a summary of the Flood Study and flows which are expected to occur during various rainfall events in Homestead Creek. The Study demonstrates that the proposed discharge to Homestead Creek of 60 ML/day is equal to 2.24%, 1.1% and 0.16% of the peak discharge which would flow in Homestead Creek during a 1 in 2 year ARI, 1 in 5 year ARI and 1 in 100 year ARI rainfall event respectively.</p>
<p>KNAC representatives request that BHP consider rainfall events when they release water from Ophthalmia dam or via Homestead Creek</p>	<p>Rainfall and antecedent conditions will be considered when releasing water from Ophthalmia Dam and Homestead Creek. The wetting front threshold (Jigalong Road crossing) applies to releases to Homestead Creek during natural no flow conditions; it does not apply to releases from Ophthalmia Dam</p> <p>The creek discharge may operate for a maximum of 9 months a year, and will cease for 3 consecutive months during the Pilbara dry season (between May to October) to maintain a drying pattern in Homestead Creek and Fortescue River.</p>
<p>BHP to provide a summarised report of the monitoring completed to KNAC (should already be in place) and outline how these influence/change aspects (i.e. Mine Closure outcomes, follow through actions). High level plain English summaries should be provided. This should include things like pests/weeds as well as water monitoring. This</p>	<p>BHP provides information to KNAC as requested. To date, KNAC has not requested summaries of BHP's monitoring. BHP undertakes extensive monitoring, much of which is summarised in BHP's Annual Environmental Review document.</p>

Recommendation	BHP Response
<p>should just represent monitoring and feedback relevant to the discharge being included in existing reporting for the Project to KNAC. Existing reporting to the Nyiyaparli Implementation Committee should also be considered by BHP to prevent duplication</p>	
<p>It was recommended that going forward in social surroundings consultations that BHP produces topographical maps that show labelled features, including rivers, rangers, roads etc.). These landmarks and roads are commonly recognised names that are familiar to KNAC representatives, rather than BHP's mine reference terms, i.e. OB32 etc. This is in order to more clearly distinguish the location of impacts/changes when discussing maps and locations in meetings in towns</p>	<p>BHP will provide maps which label as many features as possible using commonly recognised names that are familiar to KNAC representatives.</p>
<p>It is recommended that BHP's proposed OB32 BWT Creek Discharge should not impact KNAC representatives' access to water and areas of Homestead Creek and Fortescue River for hunting, camping, caring for Country and visiting places of importance</p>	<p>The Proposal will not impact KNAC representatives' access to the Fortescue River. Homestead Creek is located on BHP Tenure and adjacent to the BHP rail and Eastern Ridge mining operations, providing access to Homestead Creek will be in accordance with any future agreements between BHP and KNAC.</p>
<p>BHP noted that they are aiming to make some of these areas (i.e. overburden storage areas (OSAs)) to look like natural hills and environment. BHP stated these 'new hills' will be formed to maximise rehabilitation and to appear more natural. It is recommended that BHP provide KNAC with photographs showing examples of the above rehabilitated landforms/'new hills', as this was requested by KNAC representatives</p>	<p>This Proposal does not include any rehabilitated OSAs. The design and closure of OSAs will be completed in consultation with KNAC and KNAC representatives as part of closure planning.</p>
<p>it was agreed that additional social surroundings fieldtrips were not required for BHP's OB32 BWT Creek Discharge Proposal</p>	<p>No further Social Surroundings will be completed for the Proposal.</p>
<p>It is recommended that BHP continue to consult closely with KNAC in relation to any plans in proximity to Homestead Creek and the Fortescue River and surrounds</p>	<p>BHP values the positive relationship established with KNAC and KNAC representatives and will continue to regularly consult through the Heritage and Environment Committee meetings and future Social Surroundings consultations.</p>
<p>It is recommended that BHP consult with KNAC in relation to any of BHP's existing and proposed water management plans that will impact Homestead Creek and the Fortescue River and its catchment and tributaries</p>	<p>As above, BHP understands the importance of water and water management to traditional owners. BHP will continue to consult with KNAC on existing and proposed water management plans that will impact Homestead Creek, Fortescue River and its catchments and tributaries. The Water and Environmental management Plan for the Proposal is provided in Appendix 10.</p>