

Resources for social impact assessment practitioners

Good social impact assessments (these SIAs are accessible on regulatory websites)

Project	Year	State	Type of project	Why it might be useful
Blacktip (Woodside)	2004	NT	Offshore gas and pipeline, Wadeye	Comprehensive ethnographic study by anthropologists. Consultation facilitated by Northern Land Council. Covers the perceptions and concerns of affected Aboriginal people. See also ImpaxSIA's report for the TransTerritory Pipeline in the same year. Both incorporate extensive fieldwork by the consultants. Access the document >
Notional Seaway Project for Coordinator General	2006	Qld	Proposed Gold Coast development	Comprehensive, good methodology, includes use of values analysis and observational survey, good combination of quantitative and qualitative data. Access the document > Access the Consultation Report > Access the Social Impact Assessment >
Santos GLNG Gas Field Development Project	2014	Qld	CSG extraction	SIA for the second stage of the project, building on lessons learned from the initial stage, and providing a good focus on community values, vulnerability to change, and cumulative social impacts. Access the document >

Avenira's Wonarah	2010	NT	Proposed phosphate mine in Central Australia	<p>A good study done for an EIS that was commended by the NTEPA. Incorporates quotes from consultation with affected Aboriginal people, survey, analytical, considers positive and negative impacts. Good scoping of issues, which are charted, community profile, baseline, management and mitigation measures. Covers connections to hunting.</p> <p>Access the document ></p>
Kimberley Strategic Aboriginal SIA	2010	WA	Proposed LNG precinct at James Price Point	<p>Commissioned by Kimberley Land Council (KLC) with government funding to provide input to Australian and WA Governments' strategic assessment. Aboriginal organisations had strong input to scoping. Ensured people had access to objective information. Used culturally appropriate methodology. Report reflects sophisticated methodology, Indigenous-led research, considers impacts and benefits from the perspective of Aboriginal people. Comprehensive consultation, with two rounds of consultation and more than 100 meetings. The voices of people are strongly reflected in quotes to support analysis. Points to inadequacies in mainstream data and commissions additional research where aggregated ABS data didn't convey the story. Sophisticated, qualitative approach that provide insights into relevant social context and the complex ways in which projects can impact on communities.</p> <p>Access the document ></p>
Wheatstone (Chevron)	2011	WA	Proposed LNG plant off Pilbara coast	<p>Comprehensive, innovative approaches to engagement and SIA studies. Multidisciplinary, one of the earlier studies to follow IAIA's 2003 Principles. A range of supplementary studies. Analyses risks and opportunities, capitals, community issues and values mapping, matrix plotting technical risk ratings against stakeholder concern ratings.</p>

BHP's Olympic Dam	2011	SA	Expansion of gold copper uranium mine in Northern SA	<p>Extremely comprehensive SIA with supplementary studies. The main focus is on social planning issues for Roxby Downs. However, doesn't cover consultation with Aboriginal people or cultural impacts. Includes a good literature review of other projects and useful list of indicators.</p> <p>Read the SIA > Read supplementary studies > Several social appendices, including a list of social indicators ></p>
Vista's Mt Todd	2013	NT	Gold mine on site of previously worked mine near Katherine	<p>Comprehensive SIA report, outlines social change processes, covers cultural issues, good consultation methodology and feedback. Extensive separate engagement approach by the company for what began as a controversial project.</p> <p>Read the Public Consultation > Read the Social Impact Assessment ></p>
Xstrata (Glencore) McArthur River Mine	2012	NT	Silver-lead-zinc mine near Borroloola.	<p>Generally good SIA for a project that has been controversial. SIA based on Minerals Council of Australia SEBIA methodology. Includes human rights, places of cultural value, need to look after Barramundi Dreaming.</p> <p>Consultation Report > SIA Technical Report Part A > SIA Technical Report Part B ></p>
Glencore's Bulga Optimisation	2013	NSW	Coal mine expansion, Hunter Valley	<p>Social impact and opportunities study. Community engagement was described as a key component of the study, particularly in scoping of impacts and development of strategies. Methodologies include a community capitals analysis, town cluster analysis, assessment of regional and cumulative issues, social impact plot and social risk rankings. Coakes was engaged to developing a visioning project for Bulga. Good supporting information. Consultation reached out to</p>



				Aboriginal stakeholders. Report reflects good community relations approach by client. Access the document >
Newmont Waihi Gold Correnso Underground Mine	2014	NZ	Underground gold mine, NZ	Balanced and impartial approach, supported by a sound, accessible report structure and writing style. Good use of relevant quotes to illustrate impacts. Access the document >
ERA Ranger 3 Deeps	2014	NT	Expansion of uranium mine near Kakadu	Excellent SIA and SIMP by independent consultants who specialise in human rights and sustainability. Follows Vanclay's 2003 dimensions. Multi-disciplinary. Solid methodology. Refers to the cumulative impacts of past mining. Literature review incorporates findings of previous reports. Notes consultation fatigue of Aboriginal people. Access the document >
Glendell Continued Operations Project	2019	NSW	Coal Mine expansion, Hunter Valley	Methodological approaches (e.g. sustainable livelihoods) and data collection methods to inform the social baseline well explained. Good use of 'community capitals' to inform baseline. The research process for identifying impacts is well described, and appears to involve an appropriate level of community and stakeholder engagement to inform the SIA. Includes a useful illustration of how multiple categories can be relevant for individual social impacts. The analysis of potential impacts on a valued feature (Ravensworth Homestead) is very comprehensive; by discussing competing views on potential options, it is a good example of practising the SIA principles of impartiality, transparency, and rigour. The method for assessing risk/importance appropriately integrates technical and perception-based dimensions. Access the document >

Gemco Eastern Leases	2015	NT	Expansion of manganese mining on Groote Eylandt	<p>A culturally sensitive consultation report and SIA, with engagement facilitated by the Anindilyakwa Land Council. Comprehensive qualitative report.</p> <p>Read the SIA > Read the Consultation Report ></p>
Iron Road Central Eyre Iron Project	2015	SA	Proposed mine and processing facility	<p>Good example of using multiple methods to examine a large range of impacts, both direct and indirect, and at different geographical scales, with a focus on reducing risk.</p> <p>Access the document ></p>
Bylong Preliminary SIMP	2018	NSW	Proposed Bylong Coal Mine	<p>Reasonable methodology for identifying impacts, based on 2017 NSW guideline. Good mix of quant and qual methods. Engagement objectives, methods, and activities and clearly mapped out. The structure of the monitoring framework is sound.</p> <p>Read the Workforce Accommodation Study > Read the Preliminary Social Impact Management Plan ></p>
Mangoola Coal Continued Operations	2019	NSW	Coal mine expansion, Hunter Valley	<p>Comprehensive application of the 2017 NSW Guideline, and clearly laid out. Adopts the internationally-agreed definition of social impacts and SIA concepts and principles, acknowledges that impacts may be experienced unevenly. Social Profile (S.5) is particularly thorough, with a strong focus on vulnerable people and groups. Good application of the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach and the five 'capitals'. Extensive use of direct quotes to support assessment. Clear conceptualisation of how to assess impact significance.</p>



Mount Pleasant Optimisation – SIA Scoping Report	2019	NSW	Coal mine expansion, Hunter Valley	<p>Good example of doing SIA early as part of scoping. Clearly follows and applies the 2017 NSW SIA guideline, tailored to the project's social context. It is written in plain language and is relatively easy to read and understand. It provides good use of direct quotes from potentially affected people and stakeholders, helping to bring it to life and illustrate people's experiences and views vividly. Appropriate mix of primary and secondary research.</p> <p>Identifies vulnerable social groups and their connections to socially significant features. The summary of likely social impacts is very comprehensive and incorporates concepts often overlooked in less diligent SIA work, such as homeliness, connections to place, psycho-social impacts, and powerlessness. Demonstrates an advanced understanding of cumulative social impacts. Assesses the 'no project' scenario and demonstrates a good level of impartiality.</p> <p>Access the document ></p>
Rocky Hill Judgement, NSW Land and Environment Court	2019	NSW	New coal mine	<p>While this is a court judgement rather than a conventional SIA, it provides a useful and very methodical example of how to interpret the nine categories of social impacts in the 2017 NSW guideline, and how to assess social risk and significance. In addition, there is specific consideration of distributive equity as a distinct social impact.</p> <p>Access the document ></p>