



## 5 Points for Good Community Engagement

Engaging with local communities is crucial for mining companies to build positive relationships, address concerns, and promote sustainable development. Here are five steps for good community engagement that mining companies can follow:

**1. Early and Transparent Communication:** Establish open lines of communication with the community from the outset. Engage with local stakeholders as early as possible in the planning stages of a mining project. Share information about the project's goals, potential impacts, and benefits. Transparency helps build trust and allows community members to participate meaningfully in the decision-making process.

**2. Meaningful Consultation and Participation:** Actively involve the community in the decision-making process. Seek input from community members, including affected individuals and groups, through public meetings, workshops, or consultations. Encourage participation and consider incorporating their suggestions and concerns into project plans and mitigation strategies.

**3. Social and Environmental Impact Assessments:** Conduct thorough social and environmental impact assessments (SEIAs) to identify potential impacts on local communities and the environment. Assessments should include potential risks to health, livelihoods, cultural heritage, and the overall social fabric. Involve community members in the assessment process to ensure their perspectives are included and develop mitigation measures to minimize negative impacts.

**4. Local Employment and Capacity Building:** Foster local employment and prioritize hiring from the surrounding communities. Provide training and capacity-building opportunities to enhance the skills of residents, creating a sustainable workforce. This approach helps create economic opportunities and contributes to the long-term development of the community.

**5. Community Development and Benefit Sharing:** Develop community development programs to enhance the social and economic well-being of local communities. Collaborate with community members to identify their needs and priorities, and design initiatives that align with their aspirations. This may include investments in education and training, healthcare, infrastructure, or initiatives that support local businesses. Ensure that benefits are shared equitably and that vulnerable or marginalized groups are included in these programs.

It's important to note that these steps should be customized based on the specific context and needs of each community. Mining companies should engage in ongoing dialogue and adapt their strategies to ensure continuous improvement and sustainable community engagement throughout the life cycle of the project. Contact – [greg@edge5.com.au](mailto:greg@edge5.com.au)