



Sonia Finucane

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Sonia Finucane has 40 years of experience across a wide range of proposed and existing projects in more than a dozen countries. Her expertise includes environmental and social impact assessment, closure planning, stakeholder engagement, environmental auditing and environmental management systems.

Within the mining industry, Sonia has worked on iron ore, gold, lithium, nickel, manganese, copper, zinc, diamond, mineral sands, rare earths, vanadium, uranium, potash, chromite, fluorspar and coal projects. She also has sound experience in infrastructure projects including power projects, gas and water pipelines, roads and other developments.

Sonia works at the interface between the environment and community under often complex regulatory frameworks and operating environments. She has a strong record of delivering pragmatic solutions for our clients' environmental and social challenges and consistently seeks to maximise project and business opportunities.

Education, Qualifications and Memberships

- B. Science Biology – Murdoch University (1989)
- Post-graduate Certificate in Environmental Impact Assessment – Murdoch University (1994)
- Closure Planning Practitioners Association
- Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand

Achievements and Highlights

Impact Assessment, Approvals and Permitting

- Successful direction and delivery of environmental and social impact assessments for mines in numerous commodities
- Successful leadership of multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams to procure environmental approvals for greenfields mining projects and mine expansions in Australia, Indonesia, Philippines, Eritrea, Botswana, Tanzania, Solomon Islands and Fiji
- Social impact and opportunity assessment for a WA bauxite mining and processing operation
- Regulatory, community and other stakeholder engagement for mining and infrastructure projects in Australia, Asia and Africa

Mine Closure Planning

- Mine closure plan preparation and updates to meet regulatory and company requirements for mines in Australia, Indonesia, China and Botswana
- Closure planning for integrated rail networks, renewable energy projects, ports, gas pipelines and roads
- Preparation of an executable mine closure plan for an iron ore mine in the Mid West region of WA
- Closure readiness assessment under ICMM guidelines for 17 iron ore and other mines in WA

Environmental Management Systems and Auditing

- Environmental and Social Management System gap analysis and development for projects in Australia, Botswana and Indonesia
- Due diligence audits for gold, iron ore, coal and bauxite/alumina projects in Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia
- Compliance auditing for mining and infrastructure projects in Australia, Botswana and Indonesia
- Preparation of a Social, Environmental, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (SEGESI) Toolkit for an Indonesia road improvement and maintenance project

Feasibility Studies and Operational Readiness

- Development of biodiversity, water, heritage and approvals content for an ore body readiness framework for iron ore projects in WA
- Preparation, editing and/or review of scoping study and feasibility study reports in Australia, Indonesia, Mongolia and Fiji

Conference Presentations and Publications

- Author of more than 30 papers presented and/or published over the past three decades on impact and risk assessment, mine closure, stakeholder engagement, and related topics. These papers have been delivered in Australia, Sweden, Portugal, Germany, South Africa, Canada and the United States, and are available on request.