

SOCIAL

The Smelter and Refinery Expansion (SRE) Project is a proposed expansion of Olympic Dam's existing smelter and refinery facilities. If approved, the project would increase copper production capacity and support Copper SA's ambition to grow South Australia into a globally significant mine-to-metal copper province.

The Social Impact Assessment examined how the project may influence nearby communities, services, infrastructure and the region. The assessment considered both the potential challenges and opportunities that may arise during construction and operations.

The SRE Project is expected to create employment opportunities, support local businesses and contribute to economic activity across the region and South Australia more broadly. Increased demand for goods, services and supply chain opportunities is expected to deliver economic benefits to regional communities.

The Social Impact Assessment identified that a larger construction and operations workforce could increase demand for healthcare, emergency response and other essential community services. To help manage these potential impacts, BHP will maintain on-site first aid and paramedic services, work closely with local emergency service providers on emergency response planning, and provide mechanisms for community members to raise concerns and provide feedback throughout the life of the project. These measures are intended to help monitor any emerging issues and support the continued delivery of essential services to local communities

Traffic was another key area of assessment. The SRE Project will increase the movement of workers, equipment, freight and project-related materials. A detailed traffic impact assessment assessed road capacity, intersection performance, rail crossings and road safety outcomes. The assessment indicates the existing regional road network can accommodate forecasted project traffic.

Traffic management measures, transport planning, monitoring and separate regulatory approvals for heavy and oversized loads will be used to help maintain road safety and minimise impacts on local communities and other road users

Ongoing community consultation is a key component of the SRE Project. Community information sessions, stakeholder engagement activities, project communications and formal opportunities to provide feedback are intended to ensure local voices continue to inform project development and decision-making.