Module 8: Mining relationships with Aboriginal communities

## Working with communities

Refer to the following documents to answer the questions below:

* [Working with Indigenous Communities](https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-04/lpsdp-working-with-indigenous-communities-handbook-english.pdf)
* [Engage Early](http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/3201a986-88e8-40f3-8c15-6e659ed04006/files/engage-early-indigenous-engagement-guidelines.pdf)
* [Glencore: Working with Australian Indigenous communities](https://www.glencore.com.au/en/dam/jcr%3Aeac15127-ee93-4c50-91d4-88d666e34cf6/glencore-australia-working-with-australian-indigenous-communities-2016.pdf)

**Questions**

1. Outline the importance of Aboriginal cultural sites to local communities and the impact mining operations can have on these sites.
2. Outline the importance of ongoing communication and negations between mining companies and Indigenous groups at all stages of mining operations.
3. Describe how mining operations can have positive outcomes for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## Gumatj Corporation

Watch [Traditional owners and mining: Djawa and Linda](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmmT_P-VrK4) (duration 0:59)

**Questions**

Use the source and other research to answer the following questions:

1. Outline the Gumatj Corporation and Gulkula Mine project.
2. Explain how the Gumatj Corporation and Gulkula Mine project seek to establish positive relationships between large mining corporation and Aboriginal communities.
3. Assess the effectiveness of this project.

## Case study: Gulf Communities Agreement at the Century Mine, Queensland

Watch the clip on Century Mining operations, [New Century Zinc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNYkXfUXVDU) (duration 8:21).

Use the resources provided as well as any further research to answer the questions.

**Questions:**

1. Identify the key aspects of the Gulf Communities Agreement.
2. Outline how increasing local Aboriginal employment helps improve relationships between the community and the mining company.
3. Assess the extent to which traditional owners were involved in the planning procedures and mining practices of Century Mine.
4. Analyse how positive relations with the traditional owners can improve environmental and cultural site restoration of damaged land after mining operations cease.

Reference all sources used in your responses.

**Resources**

* Barker, E. (2017) [Landmark native title agreement to stay as world's largest open-cut zinc mine looks to reopen](https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2017-12-07/landmark-native-title-agreement-stays-at-new-century-mine/9233022). ABC Rural; NSW.
* Brereton, D., Everingham, J. (2016) [Making and Implementing Agreements with Indigenous Communities: A Case Study of the Gulf Communities Agreement](https://www.csrm.uq.edu.au/media/docs/1424/lessons-of-the-gca-v12-finalsep16.pdf). Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining; University of Queensland.
* Evans, S. (2019) [Indigenous employment in Australian mining: what more needs to be done?](https://www.mining-technology.com/features/indigenous-employment-in-australian-mining-what-more-needs-to-be-done/) Verdict Media Limited; UK.
* Everingham, J., Barnes, R., Brereton, D. (2013). [Gulf Communities Agreement 2008-2013 15 Year Review](https://www.csrm.uq.edu.au/media/docs/536/MMG%20Century%2015%20year%20GCA%20Review%20FINAL.pdf). Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining; University of Queensland.
* Heffernan, D., Mahon, R. (2019) Spotlight: NSW Earth and Environmental Science Modules 5 to 8. Science Press; Marrickville. (p. 235-236)
* Maguire, K. (2019) [New Century Resources signs deal to be mining industry leader for Indigenous employment](https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-07-10/half-indigenous-employment-for-new-gulf-of-carpentaria-mine/11290912). ABC Rural; NSW.
* Martin, D. (1998) [Deal of the Century? a Case Study from the Pasminco Century Project](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/IndigLawB/1998/34.html). Indigenous Law Bulletin; NSW.
* Mining Australia (2008). [Gulf Communities agree on board](https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/gulf-communities-agree-on-board/). Prime Creative Media; South Melbourne.
* Scambary, B. (2013) [My Country, Mine Country; Indigenous people, mining and development contestation in remote Australia](https://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/p223641/pdf/book.pdf). Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research; Australian National University. (p. 187-230)

## Poorer Relationships

The approval process from traditional owners for the Adani Carmichael mine in Queensland and the destruction of the Juukan Gorge cave by the Rio Tinto mining company are two examples of less positive relations between mining companies and traditional owners in recent affairs.

Watch the following clips:

* [An inside look at how Adani dealt with Traditional Owners](https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2019/05/16/inside-look-how-adani-dealt-traditional-owners) (duration 10:36)
* [Rio Tinto says sorry for blasting 46,000-year-old Aboriginal site](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A25FHaWrUkA) (duration 6:39)

Suggest and justify steps that could be taken to improve the relationship between traditional owners and mining companies for **one** of the examples above.

**Further resources**

Adani

* Carey, M. (2019) [An inside look at how Adani dealt with Traditional Owners](https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2019/05/16/inside-look-how-adani-dealt-traditional-owners). National Indigenous Television; NSW.
* Lyons, K., Brigg, M. (2019) [Traditional owners still stand in Adani’s way](https://theconversation.com/traditional-owners-still-stand-in-adanis-way-115454). The Conversation; NSW.
* O’Sullivan, D (2019) [Indigenous people no longer have the legal right to say no to the Adani mine – here’s what it means for equality](https://theconversation.com/indigenous-people-no-longer-have-the-legal-right-to-say-no-to-the-adani-mine-heres-what-it-means-for-equality-122788). The Conversation; VIC.
* NITV Staff Writer (2019) [Adani obtains court order to prevent Traditional Owners entering mine site](https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2019/10/23/adani-obtains-court-order-prevent-traditional-owners-entering-mine-site). National Indigenous Television; NSW.
* Robertson, J. (2019) [Adani coal mine should be suspended, UN says, until all traditional owners support the project](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-25/adani-mine-should-be-suspended-un-traditional-owners/10686132). ABC News; NSW.

Rio Tinto

* Jenkins, K. (2020) [Rio Tinto tells Senate inquiry it could have avoided Juukan Gorge destruction](https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2020/08/05/rio-tinto-tells-senate-inquiry-it-could-have-avoided-juukan-gorge-destruction). National Indigenous Television; NSW.
* Rio Tinto (2020) [Statement on Juukan Gorge](https://www.riotinto.com/en/news/releases/2020/Statement-on-Juukan-Gorge-?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI5-jNypWS6wIVUiUrCh2xKgE9EAAYASAAEgKv3PD_BwE). Rio Tinto; WA.
* Stayner, T. (2020) [Rio Tinto did not tell traditional owners alternatives to blowing up sacred Juukan Gorge](https://www.sbs.com.au/news/rio-tinto-did-not-tell-traditional-owners-alternatives-to-blowing-up-sacred-juukan-gorge). SBS News; NSW.
* Toscano, N., Hastie, H. (2020) [Indigenous leaders, investors urge BHP to halt works at sacred sites](https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/indigenous-leaders-investors-urge-bhp-to-halt-works-at-sacred-sites-20200813-p55lds.html?utm_medium=Social). The Sydney Morning Herald; NSW.
* Turner, R. (2020) [Juukan Gorge won't be the last priceless record of human history to be legally destroyed by mining](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-11/juukan-gorge-aboriginal-heritage-site-just-one-of-many-destroyed/12337562). ABC News; NSW.
* Wallace, S. (2020) [Rio Tinto can start to redeem cave blast by keeping relics safe](https://www.afr.com/policy/economy/a-keeping-place-would-preserve-what-s-left-after-rio-tinto-cave-blast-20200806-p55j0i). The Australian Financial Review; NSW.