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## Gate two query process

<b>Strategic solution(s)</b>	Thames to Affinity Transfer
<b>Query number</b>	TAT006
<b>Date sent to company</b>	15/12/2022
<b>Response due by</b>	19/12/2022

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### Query

There is inconsistency included in future plans on engagement. Section 5.3 of Supporting Technical Document D: Customer and Stakeholder Engagement states: 'There is no foreseen need for any specific customer research / insight to inform Gate 3 plans the focus will be more consultation through the planning process'. This sentence suggests that there will be no customer engagement ahead of gate 3, indicating that engagement will be through the planning process only. Please can you confirm engagement with local customers and stakeholders to date and future plans for engagement to gate three.

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### Solution owner response

The engagement that has been done with local customers and stakeholders to date is reported in Section 9.1 and 9.2 of the main Gate 2 report, with further details provided in Supporting Technical Document D: Customer and Stakeholder Engagement. This includes both technical engagement on the T2AT scheme, at an appropriate scale for the level of scheme development at Gate 2, and also customer engagement and research on key issues informing Gate 2 and the draft WRMP.

An outline of our proposals for engagement between Gate 2 and Gate 3 Checkpoint 1 is noted in Section 9.1.2 of the Gate 2 submission:

*It is proposed, that in addition to the proposed consultation associated with the Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP24) in late 2022, a number of further opportunities to enable technical and public stakeholders to engage in discussion on specific issues associated with T2AT could be undertaken for 2023 onwards. The timing of future engagement may be adjusted as the scheme promotion develops, depending on the outcome of the option studies and the deferrals planned for these SROs, and as a result of the consultation and engagement undertaken on WRMP24. However, for T2AT, in light of the proposed future programme, with Gate 3 deferred until 2029, we would propose to undertake initial engagement only ahead of Gate 3 Checkpoint 1 (June 2024). We plan to defer the remaining engagement and statutory consultation on the scheme, which would be required as part of the future DCO submission, until the scheme is re-started after 2028<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, our proposals for the next stage of the project will be limited to engagement with key landowners and presentation of options associated with the preliminary design ideas for the scheme including aspects such as pipeline routes and construction approaches, sites for the WTW and pumping stations, construction access and construction phase details.*

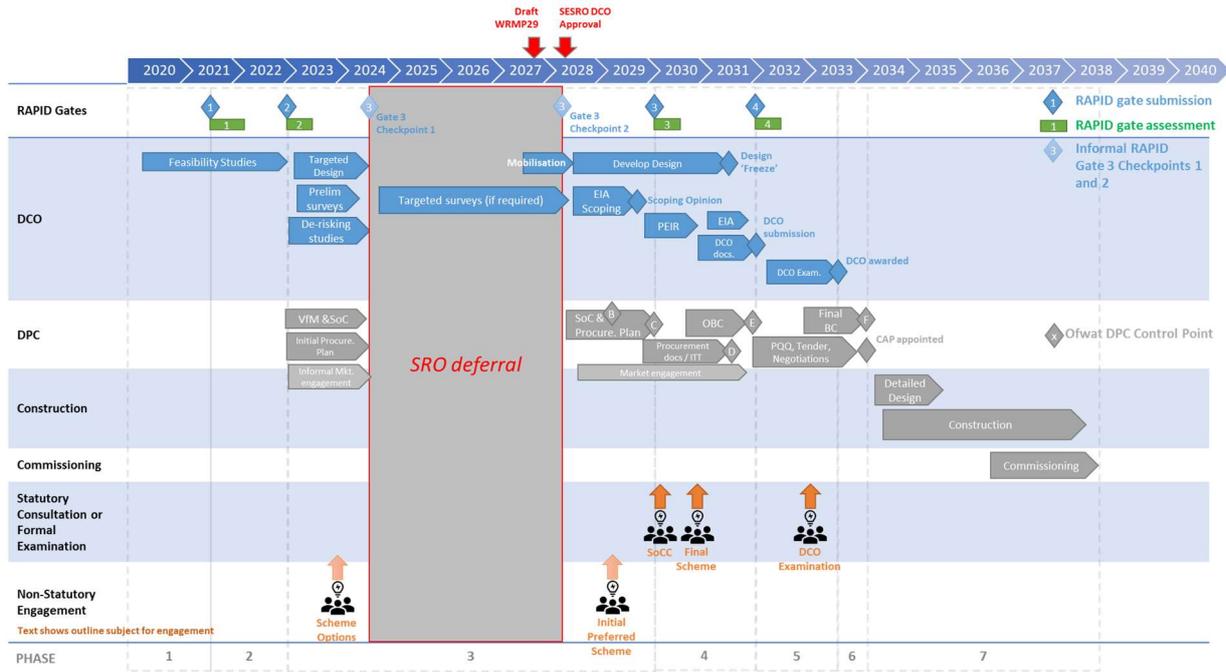
*Engagement by the project team with technical stakeholders and regulators will continue on a regular basis throughout this process, via the Technical Liaison Groups, as it has through Phases 1 and 2. This will help to ensure alignment of technical experts on elements like data collection and assessment methodologies.*

We have also represented this on the outline programme in Figure 7.1 (re-produced below), where we show our proposed informal engagement on scheme options ahead of Gate 3 Checkpoint 1 and our plans to re-consult on the initial preferred scheme ahead of Gate 3 after the project has fully re-mobilised after 2028. This will then lead into the production of the more formal Statement of Community Consultation and Statutory Consultation on the DCO between Gates 3 and 4.

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<sup>1</sup> Engagement that would be undertaken subsequent to scheme deferral and remobilisation would be planned at a later date depending on the timing and issues still to resolve.

Re-production of Gate 2 submission, Figure 7.1, for information



Therefore, the statement that your query refers to is, in no way intended to suggest that we will undertake no customer engagement ahead of Gate 3, but rather to highlight that we believe engagement will shift from the more customer research focused activity we have undertaken to Gate 2 and towards engagement more focused on the development of the scheme, as it progresses through the future DCO.

The text and programme included in our Gate 2 submission shows that we plan to undertake further customer and stakeholder engagement ahead of Gate 3 Checkpoint 1, assuming that the WRMP consultation process enables that to happen effectively, but that the details of future engagement are yet to be defined. This is largely due to the proposed deferral from 2024 to 2028. We will plan future engagement, including both stakeholder engagement as part of the DCO consenting process and also any additional customer research that might be required, as part of the post-deferral re-mobilisation. Any future customer research could then be integrated with that to be delivered for WRMP29, as the timing of these activities would be expected to overlap.

<b>Date of response to RAPID</b>	19-12-22
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