



SD07 A CLIMATE FOR CHANGE
Sustainable Development Conference



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**A Partnership Approach to
Sustainable Community
Development – the RTA Community
Fund Model**

RioTintoAlcan



Partnership Model

- > Improving company reputation
 - > Increasing resources and information
 - > Growing organizational and community capacity
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- > Provides a new opportunity for doing development better, through recognizing each sector's skill and abilities and looking for ways to bring them together (Tennyson 2003)



Overview

- > Rio Tinto overview
- > Community Relations Approach
- > Community Fund – Business and Information Technology Skills Centre case study

Rio Tinto in Gladstone





The Role of Partnership

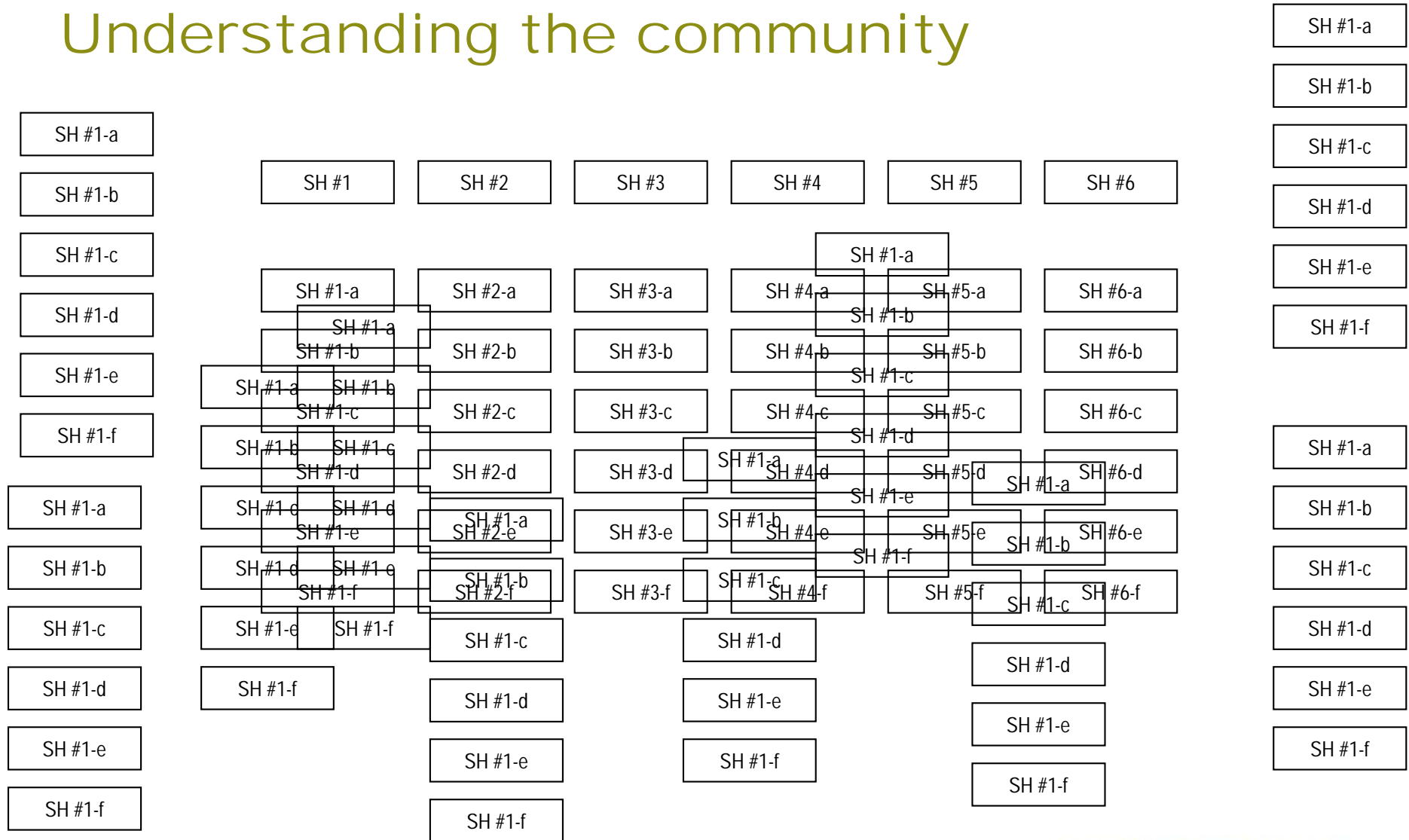
- > Programme emphasises active relationships
- > Choose partnerships that are integral to our business – must fit our business focus
- > Other considerations:
 - Strategic relevance of the potential partnership from the company's point of view;
 - Potential for the partner to benefit from the partnership;
 - Capacity of the partner to make effective and efficient use of the funds and skills provided;
 - Capacity and interest of the partner to contribute to our policy development;
 - Opportunity for direct involvement of our people and operations; and
 - Potential for a long-term relationship.



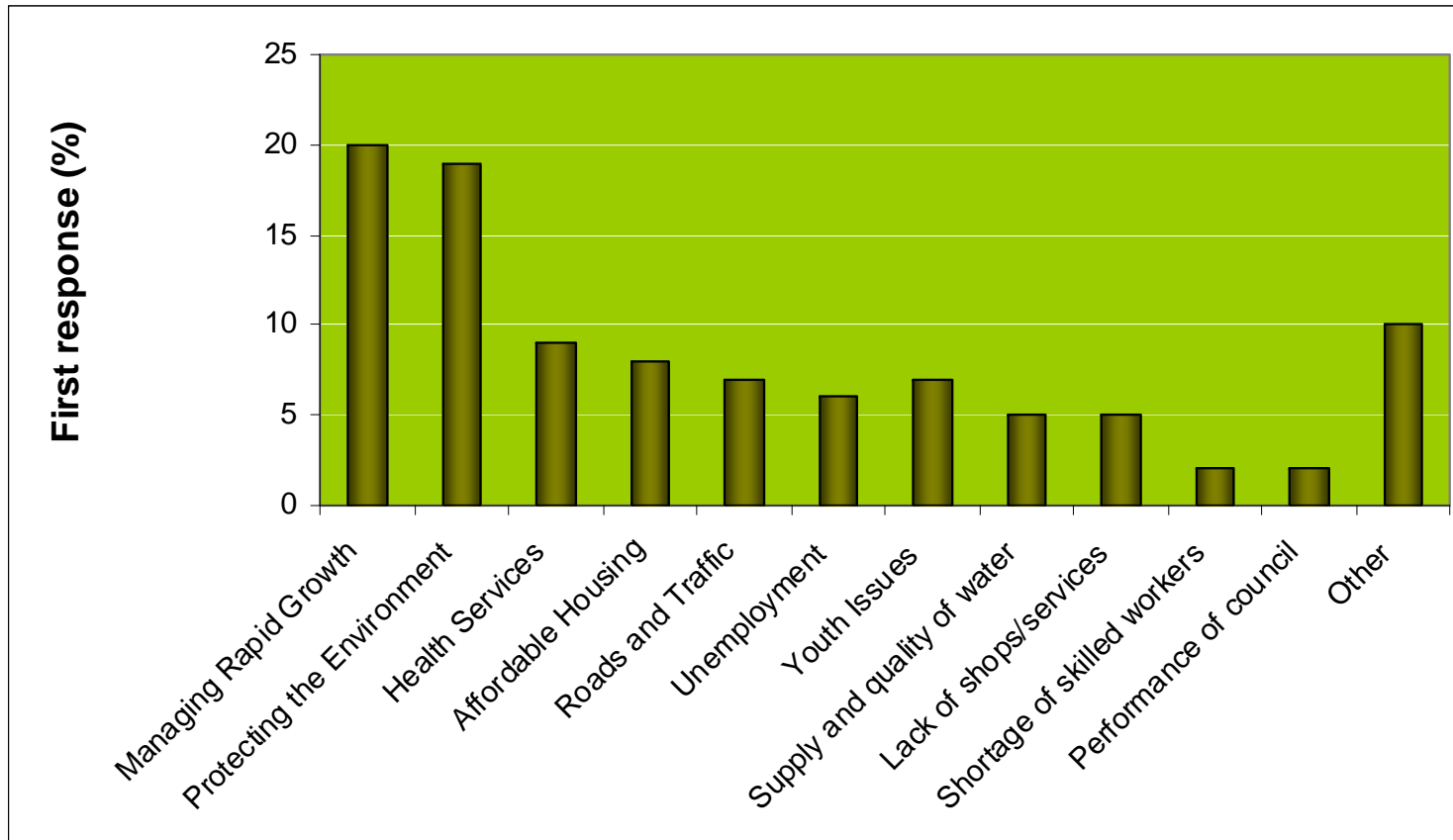
Rio Tinto's Closure Vision

- > Closure strategy required for each operation
- > Strategy must provide for a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary approach
- > Consultation critical – support from both community and government sectors required to ensure success

Understanding the community



Gladstone – Our Mutual Sustainability



> Survey conducted by Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (Brereton 2006)

Partnerships – the RTA Community Fund

- > In 2002, the Community Fund in Gladstone was launched.
- > Local board consisting of three community and three company representatives
- > Established with \$1 million to allocate over a three year period, which was topped up with an additional \$1m in 2004.
- > Three priority areas - education, environment and employment - for partnership development.
- > **To date, the Fund has supported 21 community projects worth more than \$1.8 million dollars. Importantly though it has leveraged a further \$3.5 million for the region.**



Case Study – the Business and Information Technology Skills Centre





Case Study – the Business and Information Technology Skills Centre

> The Program Objective:

- To operate as a functioning business enterprise, providing a learning environment for school students duplicating the expectations, ethics and discipline of the commercial workplace and located at an actual workplace

> Tannum Sands State High Objective:

- To assist youth in transition to careers or further education and/or training in business and/or information technology, providing real work learning opportunities, preparing students for further learning, assisting students to expand career choices and equipping them with well developed employability skills

> Boyne Smelters Ltd Objective:

- To contribute to increasing the employability of school leavers, providing in kind support, mentoring and linkages to real work experience and employment and identifying potential future employees through the Program

> Rio Tinto Alcan Objective:

- To develop lasting mutually beneficial relationships with local high schools and businesses through the Program and to work with them to increase the business and Information Communication Technology capability of the Gladstone Region



Reviewing the results

1. The Fund has been highly successful as a tool for community engagement around issues of critical importance to the community.
2. Stakeholder perceptions of accountability, rigour and transparency of management processes have reinforced credibility and trust in the Fund and
3. The commitment to supporting capacity building of community groups, using a partnership philosophy, has been effective in promoting long term solutions.



Conclusion

- > Successful partnership leads to long term community sustainability
- > Must build capacity – internally and externally for success