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BUNDABERG POLL FINDS STRONG SUPPORT FOR STEEL-MAKING COAL MINE

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BUNDABERG, November 13, 2023: Two-thirds of Bundaberg residents support a new steel-making coal mine, with strong backing for a resources development that protects prime agricultural land and puts priority on local workers and businesses, a new poll has found.

The November 6-8 survey of more than 500 residents in the Bundaberg electorate found 69 per cent agreed that new coal mines should be approved if the coal is used to manufacture steel, with 13.6 per cent neutral and around 12 per cent opposed.

Significantly ahead of upcoming elections, 59 per cent would be more likely to support a political candidate that backed Fox Resources' planned steel-making coal mine in the Bundaberg region if it protected prime agricultural land. Nineteen per cent said it would not have an impact on their decision, while 11 per cent were less likely to support such a candidate.

The poll also found strong support for a political candidate that works to ensure the proposed steel-making coal mine puts priority on employing local workers and supporting local businesses. Fifty-eight per cent of those surveyed said they would be more likely to back such a candidate, with 19 per cent saying it would not affect their vote and 12.5 per cent rating it less likely.

Nearly half of those polled (49.5 per cent) said they would be more likely to support a political candidate that promised any proposal for a steel-making coal mine by Fox Resources in the Bundaberg region would be independently assessed and free of political interference. A quarter (24.7 per cent) said there would be no change to their vote, while 11.8 per cent said they would be less likely to support such a candidate.

More than half of those polled (52.6 per cent) said they were aware of Fox Resources' application for a mining development licence in the Bundaberg region.

Fox Resources is currently advancing a proposed resources development in north-west Bundaberg, with the company committing to maintaining an open and consultative approach towards all stakeholders. The project is currently at an exploration stage, with Fox Resources committed to pursuing a project that puts priority on local employment and businesses while sustainably co-existing with agriculture, other land uses and the environment.

Commenting on the results, Fox Resources' Executive Director, Bruce Garlick said: *"These survey findings show the Bundaberg community is prepared to support us and political candidates that work to deliver a new underground steel-making coal mine, providing it protects prime agricultural land and puts priority on local workers and businesses. These are commitments that Fox is proud to make.*

"Fox is keenly aware of the importance of protecting the Bundaberg region's key agricultural and other industries, hence our focus on ensuring there are no impacts from our activities on the aquifer used for local water consumption and agricultural use.

"Benefits of the proposed mining development include providing royalties for the Queensland Government to help fund a new hospital for Bundaberg; approximately 200 local jobs, with priority on local employment; around 20 new apprenticeships for local workers; and an estimated \$45 million per year in economic benefits for local suppliers of services and materials, together with the potential for low-cost power."

The independent survey was conducted by polling company DemosAU.

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About Fox Resources

Fox Resources is an Australian exploration company currently advancing the development of an underground, steel-making coal mine in north-west Bundaberg, Queensland.

The company has a strong focus on engaging with the local community, minimising any environmental impacts and maximising local economic benefits, including around 200 valuable new

jobs, 20 new apprenticeships and an estimated \$45 million per year in economic benefits for local suppliers of services and materials.

The proposed mine is currently at the exploration stage, with Fox conducting all activities in accordance with Queensland Government regulations.

Fox recognises the importance of protecting the region's key agricultural and other industries, with no impact on the aquifer used for local water consumption and agricultural use.

Fox welcomes feedback from the local community in ensuring the best possible outcomes from the proposed resources development, with the company announcing the formation of a Regional Reference Group to foster ongoing community feedback.

For more information, please visit <https://www.foxresources.com.au/>

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