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Facts from Fox

Bundaberg Today, Bundaberg

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LETTERS

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I am writing to the residents of Bundaberg and the Wide Bay Area to clarify the facts in relation to Fox Resources' Mineral Development Licence (MDL) application, MDL 3040 and address some disinformation.

Fox Resources has been exploring for coal in the Bundaberg region for around 10 years, under an Exploration Permit for Coal.

All drilling has been conducted by a local, experienced drilling company, professional geologists, and a local geologist/hydrologist.

All drill holes have been fully rehabilitated as per government regulations.

Fox Resources is now applying for a Mineral Development Licence (MDL 3040).

Should MDL 3040 be approved, Fox Resources can drill five holes and undertake some technical studies.

The holes are about the same diameter as a dinner plate.

Once this is completed, Fox can consider applying for a Mining Lease.

The Mining Lease application process requires detailed studies concerning mine development, environmental impacts including water, infrastructure location and other project matters.

Fox can confirm that if it progresses to mining, it will only use brackish water unfit for human, animal or agricultural purposes; the "bord and pillar" mining method as stipulated by the Department of Resources, ensuring there is no subsidence from the underground operations; and the surface infrastructure will be approximately 120ha, the size of a small cane farm.

Regarding coal dust, current government regulations have strict guidelines on dust emissions, whether during mining or transportation.

Heavy fines are applicable and operations can be suspended should these guidelines not be met.

An independent opinion poll conducted on more than 500 Bundaberg residents found 69

per cent support for a new steel-making coal mine, providing it protects prime agricultural land, as Fox Resources intends.

In recent visits to Bundaberg and in talks with a range of groups I have found broad-ranging support once our plans are properly explained.

Mining and agriculture can co-exist.

Take Mackay as an example, where mining co-exists with agricultural interests including sugar cane farming, providing a diverse and sustainable economic base.

Australia's strict environmental laws ensure that all projects must comply with the high standards that we are used to.

Bundaberg and the Wide Bay Area need new industries to diversify the economy and retain local workers.

Fox Resources' proposed operation would be a drive-in, drive-out mine perfect for local workers, including workers from Hervey Bay.

Projected economic benefits include around 200 new high-paying jobs, 20 apprenticeships and \$45 million in economic benefits for local suppliers, together with royalties capable of funding significant infrastructure for the Bundaberg and Wide Bay region.

The coal we are targeting is "coking" or "metallurgical" coal used in steel manufacturing.

It is not burned for energy.

All Fox asks is to give our project a fair go, be treated the same as any other exploration project, and to keep politics out of the decision-making process.

Fox Resources welcomes community input into our project, as shown by the formation of the Bundaberg Regional Reference Group.

Further information is available via our website, foxresources.com.au and I encourage readers of the Bundaberg Today newspaper to visit our website to get the facts and contact us should you have any further queries.

Bruce Garlick