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BUNDABERG RRG INAUGURAL MEETING 'CONSTRUCTIVE'

The first meeting of the Bundaberg Regional Reference Group (RRG) held in Bundaberg on March 21 to provide greater community input and feedback on the proposal for an underground steel-making coal mine in the region was “constructive,” according to the RRG participants.

Fox Resources Executive Director Bruce Garlick said while the project was at an exploratory stage and would be subject to a comprehensive environmental assessment process, the company believed it was important to increase community engagement.

“We want to develop a project that Bundaberg benefits from and the people of Bundaberg and the Wide Bay region can be proud of,” Mr Garlick said.

“The RRG input and feedback will be invaluable, particularly in giving us advice on how critical it is for us to protect the agricultural industry, water resources, other sections of the local economy and the environment.”

“In addition, the RRG’s input will help us continue to use local contractors and suppliers.”

He added: *“If the project proceeds, we anticipate 200 additional jobs, 20 new apprentices and an annual spend of \$45 million per year in the local economy, as well as extra coal royalty revenue to the Queensland Government to reinvest in services and infrastructure in the region including a new hospital in Bundaberg.”*

Mr Garlick said Queensland’s Department of Resources stipulated the conditions for any project in Queensland, and Fox Resources had agreed to all the conditions laid out in its MDLA 3040 application.

These included that the mine must be an underground mine, using the bord and pillar mining method so there is no subsidence; there will be no mining under the Avondale township; Fox Resources can only drill five new drill holes; and the company must complete the relevant technical studies. The MDL phase is expected to take approximately two to three years to complete.

Mr Garlick reiterated that the surface area required for a mine site would only be approximately 120 hectares, with no other land required.

Chaired by Mr Garlick, participants at the inaugural RRG meeting included:

- **Allan Dingle**, Chairman, Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee, representing groundwater resource users in the Lower Burnett
- **Mark Pressler**, Chairman, Bundaberg Canegrowers, providing representation for sugarcane growers in the Bundaberg Mill area
- **Zak Menhennett**, Deputy Chair, Bundaberg & District Chamber of Commerce
- **Mitch Hughes**, District President, Mining and Energy Union – Queensland District
- **Debbie Barnham**, Bundaberg businesswoman.

The meeting included a presentation by consulting geologist and hydrogeologist David Dempster on the geology and hydrology of the Bundaberg area, which demonstrated there would be no impact from the company's activities on local aquifers used for drinking and agriculture.

Mr Garlick also welcomed further input from the broader community, including adding further members to the RRG to facilitate greater community engagement.

The RRG provides a structured interaction and communication channel regarding activities related to the project and its broader regional impact. It ensures community feedback is embedded into every step of the project development process, with Fox Resources committed to maintaining an open and consultative approach towards all stakeholders.

The RRG will be convened by the Chair for regular meetings, on a quarterly basis or more frequently as required, with the next meeting anticipated for April or May 2024. For further information regarding the RRG, please refer to Fox Resources' announcement dated 1 December 2023.

About Fox Resources

Fox Resources is an Australian exploration company currently advancing the development of an underground, steel-making coal mine north-west of 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 establishing a Bundaberg Regional Reference Group to foster ongoing community feedback.

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

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