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EXPANDED BUNDABERG RRG MEETING EXAMINES COMMUNITY ISSUES

The expanded Bundaberg Regional Reference Group (RRG) has examined community issues relevant to Fox Resources' proposed underground steel-making coal mine north-west of Bundaberg, in the second RRG meeting held on May 22 in Bundaberg.

In another meeting described by participants as "constructive," the Bundaberg RRG welcomed new members, **Darren Large**, General Manager Burnett & Lower Mary, Sunwater (owner and operator of bulk water and distribution infrastructure in regional Queensland) and **Shayne Blackman**, Director, Port Curtis Coral Coast (PCCC) Trust, representing the region's Traditional Owners.

Chaired by Fox Resources' Executive Director, **Bruce Garlick**, meeting participants also 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**, Committee Member, Bundaberg & District Chamber of Commerce, representing Bundaberg business owners; **Mitch Hughes**, District President, Mining and Energy Union (MEU) – Queensland District, representing workers' interests; and Bundaberg businesswoman **Debbie Barnham**.

The meeting also welcomed various interested guests from the Bundaberg community, together with an expert consulting geologist and hydrogeologist who provided a presentation showing Fox Resources' proposed project would have no impact on the aquifer used for local water consumption and agriculture.

Fox Resources' Mr 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 across a range of stakeholders.

"Fox Resources thanks participants from the Bundaberg RRG for providing invaluable feedback on the project and related community issues at our latest meeting in Bundaberg.

"Far from being a rubber stamp, the RRG has a genuine mix of representatives with different viewpoints from across a range of sectors, including agriculture, labour, small business, Traditional Owners and water. We have invited other Bundaberg organisations to also join the group as we welcome as much local engagement as possible," Mr Garlick said.

“Fox Resources is asking for a fair go for our project - to be treated the same as any other exploration company. We are adhering to the government process and expect to be regulated the same way as any other mineral exploration company.

“We are also determined to ensure that any future coal royalties from our project are directed to the Bundaberg region – it’s Bundaberg coal and any royalties should be for Bundaberg, to help fund important infrastructure such as the Paradise Dam redevelopment.”

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.

Following its inaugural meeting on March 21, the RRG’s second meeting was held on May 22 with further meetings anticipated on a quarterly basis or more frequently as required. For further information regarding the RRG, refer to Fox Resources’ announcement dated 1 December 2023.

Fox Resources also met with a number of other Bundaberg organisations following the RRG meeting and will continue to seek engagement with a range of local entities.

“Disappointingly, the Bundaberg Regional Council declined our invitation to provide a presentation by our consulting geologist and hydrogeologist – a long-term Bundaberg resident who is an expert on the area’s aquifers. We will continue seeking to provide information to anyone interested in obtaining the facts, instead of the misinformation that is being spread,” Mr Garlick said.

Under Fox Resources’ Mineral Development Licence (MDL) 3040 application, the company is seeking to drill five bore holes for exploration purposes, with all drilling to be conducted in accordance with government regulations concerning health and safety and environmental management.

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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