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14 November 2023

BUNDABERG REGIONAL REFERENCE GROUP TO ADVISE ON STEEL-MAKING COAL MINE

Fox Resources is establishing a Regional Reference Group (RRG) to advise on the development and independent assessment processes for its proposed steel-making coal mine in north-west Bundaberg.

The move will embed community feedback in every step of the project development process, with Fox Resources committed 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.

The establishment of a RRG follows a recent survey of the Bundaberg electorate that showed strong community support for a resources development that protects prime agricultural land and puts priority on local workers and businesses (refer announcement dated 13 November 2023, "Bundaberg poll finds strong support for steel-making coal mine").

Fox Resources' Executive Director, Bruce Garlick said the company was committed to working closely with the local community to ensure its plans maximised local economic benefits, including local employment and business opportunities, while protecting prime agricultural land and the environment.

"Fox Resources is delighted to announce the formation of a RRG to ensure we fully engage with the local community, minimise environmental impacts and maximise opportunities for the region," Mr Garlick said.

"We are proposing to model the RRG on that implemented for the successful CopperString high-voltage electricity transmission line project in North Queensland, which the Queensland Government has adopted.

"Terms of reference for the RRG are expected to be drafted before year-end, with the appointment of members anticipated early in the New Year.

"We welcome community membership of the RRG and continued input into our planned resources development, for the benefit of all local stakeholders."

Fox Resources has continued to engage with key stakeholders, recently writing to Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg; Mr Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett; and Bundaberg Mayor, Cr Jack Dempsey concerning Fox Resources' project and the planned formation of a RRG.

Fox Resources is continuing to advance its project, based on the following principles:

- Fox Resources is **committed to protecting prime agricultural land**. The proposed operation will be located in non-arable land, unsuitable for agriculture.
- Fox Resources is **committed to protecting the local water supply**. Subject to approval, any water obtained for the project will be from an aquifer that contains brackish water, unsuitable for drinking or agricultural uses. There will be no impact from the company's activities on the aquifer used for local water consumption and agricultural land.
- Fox Resources is **committed to sustainable development**, putting priority on local workers and businesses, minimising the company's environmental impact while maximising economic benefits for the local community. The company is focused on developing an operation that reflects community input and expectations.

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.

Fox Resources would also like to note the comments previously made by the Hon, Dr Anthony Lynham MP, former Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, also a qualified mining engineer, who commented on a previous petition submitted to Parliament on 4 February 2020 by Mr Bennett MP.

The comments included the following:

"An MDL (Mineral Development Licence Application) is not a mine and does not provide any rights to mine. What an MDL does is allow activities relating to mineral exploration and development such as drilling, seismic surveys, mining feasibility studies, metallurgical testing, and environmental engineering and design studies."

Dr Lynham added: "The granting of an MDL allows for the continuation of those activities and does not provide additional rights once approved."

In addition, the Queensland Department of Resources designs and approves the exploration program that an exploration company such as Fox can undertake.

Mr Garlick added: "Dr Lynham's response speaks for itself – the MDL does not provide any mining rights but allows for exploration activities, which Fox Resources has undertaken over the past decade without incident, employing local workers to the fullest extent possible."

"Fox Resources welcomes further engagement with the local community, including First Nations and all other stakeholders, as we advance a project capable of meeting community expectations, protecting the environment while ensuring maximum economic benefits for the Bundaberg region."

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/default.html>

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