

# Media Release: Mine Meeting with Minister.

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19 March 2016

## **From: Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group**

Kingaroy landholders have met with Mines Minister Dr Anthony Lynham and Queensland's Co-ordinator General Barry Broe, to ensure that the State Government is aware of concerns associated with a proposal for an open cut coal mine on the outskirts of Kingaroy.

The local community was represented by Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group who arranged the meeting. 936 people voted at a recent forum in Kingaroy to oppose the mine. The local Member Deb Frecklington and sitting Mayor Wayne Kratzmann joined the residents in voting no for the mine proposal.

The Minister, Co-ordinator General, and a Senior Policy Adviser heard the issues of most concern. They were presented with a 22 page document with statements of concern that were submitted to KCCG by Kingaroy residents. This document formed the focus of discussion.

The Government representatives acknowledged that the proposed mine is extraordinarily close to the town of Kingaroy, and would have significant dust impact on residential areas. They assured the group that a rigorous approval process and the terms of reference for an Environmental Impact Study will need to account for these locally sensitive matters.

Local farmers John Larsen and Keith Jessen were on hand to describe how productive the land proposed for the mine is, which is planned to be located just kilometres from Kingaroy and on Strategic Cropping Land.

Although environmental issues were of main concern, commercial matters such as no current market for the coal and the prospect of the project being a State Development or Co-ordinated Project were also discussed.

KCCG spokesperson John Dalton, who was one of those attending the meeting, said that the Kingaroy community should be heartened by the Governments response and the agreement to meet with the local group.

"The Minister acknowledged the views expressed by the community at the forum, and agreed to provide support in the form of assistance in generating community understanding of the approval process. They also agreed to allow KCCG access to personnel from the Department of Environment to meet in Kingaroy and prepare the group for understanding and responding to the approval and EIS process should this proposal ever reach that stage" he said.

"Although many local people do not believe that the mine will ever get approval due to its poor commercial and environmental prospects, we are determined to make sure that the Government knows the local context of the proposal and makes decisions which reflect both local and State priorities".

"If the mine ever moves to the approval process, we are hopeful that the Government will remember that this mine has aspects that will require special attention. And the government may also remember the photo on the cover of document with 936 people voting against the mine in the Kingaroy Town Hall" Mr Dalton said.

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