

11-5-11

Media Release from Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group (KCCG)

Kingaroy “Locks the Gate”



At a meeting in Kingaroy tonight, rural landholders have resolved “lock the gate” on Queensland Bauxite (QBL), which is proposing to develop a bauxite industry on the fertile red soils of the South Burnett.

The company was recently granted an Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) by the Queensland Government, and has been contacting local landholders seeking access to begin drilling.

Consent to begin exploration has come at a bad moment for many people, who had been pinning their hopes on the newly released Strategic Cropping Land (SCL) criteria as a means of protection against mining interest. However, the draft criteria exclude the gently sloping volcanic soil farms in the South Burnett as they maximum stated inclination is set at 5%.

A well attended meeting in Kingaroy tonight (Wednesday 11th May, 2011) heard information from the Queensland Farmers Federation, Queensland Bauxite Ltd, environmental campaigner Drew Hutton, and also from Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group (KCCG) members who are researching the proposal and supporting affected locals.

As a result of the meeting, local residents have resolved to “lock the gate” and not to cooperate with QBL requests for access to discuss exploration or begin drilling until two fundamental issues are resolved with the State Government.

KCCG believes that DERM needs to respond to the letters already submitted by KCCG requesting a meeting to discuss the exclusion of the red soils of Kingaroy. If the criteria

adjustments recommended by KCCG members are adopted by DERM, then the Government needs to articulate the level of protection that SCL will have against mining interest such as QBL.

Brian Tessman representing the Queensland Farmers Federation outlined the shortcomings of the proposed Strategic Cropping Land criteria, and the way in which the volcanic fertile soils of the South Burnett exceed the maximum 5% slope criteria.

“It is ridiculous to exclude these very fertile soils on the basis of slope” Mr Tessman said.

“Most volcanic soils have a gentle slope, and have been sustainably farmed using contours for over 100 years. Does the Government really think that only flat land is fertile?” he added

KCCG members are also waiting on a response from the State Government to develop standards of community engagement that are aligned with community expectations, and which makes full disclosure of information essential to community understanding and decision making.

KCCG secretary John Dalton said that people need an objective source of information about projects like this, and most people do not consider a mining company a fully transparent and objective source. “No one can be expected to make informed decisions without accurate and full information.” he said.

“If the Government of the day considers it a good idea to consider transforming rare fertile farms into a bauxite mine, then they should come up here and explain, because most people at tonight’s meeting believe it unthinkable. The rest of the world is concerned about securing future food sources, and our Government is thinking of trading it in so we can buy cheap mag wheels from China. The compelling reason to mine just doesn’t seem to exist” he said.

Mark Derriman from Queensland Bauxite told the meeting that the concerns of the local landholders have been noted, and that as a result, exploration would only occur where landholders have given consent or on roads and public land.

As a result of this announcement, KCCG member Keith Jessen publicly informed QBL that he is reversing his previous consent for access for exploration to begin, and that QBL was not to begin drilling on his property on Monday as previously planned.

The draft letter below was adopted as the generic response to QBL’s requests for access to begin drilling.

John Dalton 0422 987 290
(Secretary: Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group)

Other Contacts:

Committee Member:	Ross Whiteford	41 636 480
Committee Member:	Damien O’Sullivan	41 625 108
Committee Member:	Brian Tessman	0427 622 537

*Sample letter of response
from Landholder to Queensland Bauxite:*

11-5-11

Dear Mr Bauxite,

Thank you for your phone call concerning access to my land for exploration by Queensland Bauxite.

I would like to advise you that I will not be entering into any negotiation with Queensland Bauxite until the matter of Strategic Cropping Land (SCL) proposed for South Burnett volcanic soils is resolved.

I particular, I am waiting for the State Government to

- consider the submission from Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group about specific SCL criteria elements,
- and also advise me of the level of protection our land will receive should the Government accept the inclusion of our land under the proposed SCL legislation.

Obviously, should our land be protected from mining by the SCL legislation, then exploration for bauxite would be pointless, as the EPM could never advance to MDL status. Therefore, this need for advice is in the best interest of Queensland Bauxite share holders as well as the best interests of sustainable farming in the South Burnett.

Also, I have not been fully informed by the Queensland Government of all aspects of your proposal to explore for bauxite. I believe it is necessary and more objective to receive such information from the Government rather than from the mining company itself.

The information that I require includes:

- A copy of your application to acquire the EPM
- A copy of your EPM and all supporting detail.
- A copy of the undertakings given to government about your operations.
- Copies of maps showing all EPCs and MDLs on and surrounding my property
- Clear and concise advice about the rights and responsibilities of both the company and the landholder.
- An outline of the future operation should it be fully developed to production stage, and the relative merits of such an industry for this region.

The items above are fundamental to informed decision making about your proposal to explore for bauxite on my property.

I will contact you once the matter of Strategic Cropping Land is resolved, and once I have received sufficient information from the State Government on which to consider your request.

Yours faithfully

.....(Landholder)

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