

Media Release: Kingaroy says 'No mine!'

9 February 2016

From: Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group

A meeting tonight has given voice to community opposition to a proposed coal mine close to Kingaroy.

About 930 people attended the meeting to hear about the proposal by Moreton Resources (formerly Cougar Energy), which proposes to develop an open cut coal mine just kilometres from the edge of Kingaroy's urban area.

The community believes that Moreton Resources' proposed mine would essentially replace the existing Meandu mine next to Stanwell's Tarong power station. The new proposed mine would be just a few kilometres from the urban area of Kingaroy.

Moreton Resources claim that coal from the new mine would be cheaper and would reduce electricity prices.

But local residents have identified many compelling reasons why the proposed mine should not proceed to the next stage of development. Being so close to Kingaroy town, issues of dust, noise, land resumptions, blasting and land devaluation were high on the list of issues raised.

The event was organised by the Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group. Spokesperson John Dalton described the proposal for a new mine as having no obvious benefits and many serious and insurmountable problems.

"The message from the meeting about this proposed mine couldn't be clearer," Mr Dalton said. "The state doesn't need Moreton's coal and Kingaroy doesn't want its mine. The community doesn't want to see a profitable coal mine doing minimum harm at Meandu be replaced by a new, unnecessary and highly disruptive mine right near the edge of our town"

Also identified as an economic liability was the potential loss of royalties to the Queensland Government.

The local group noted that due to different land deeds and titles under the farms proposed for the Moreton mine, a large proportion of the coal royalties would be directed to the landholders instead of the Queensland Government. Mr Dalton said that assuming a loss of \$7.5 million per year in coal royalties, this was equivalent to the funds needed to build a new Kingaroy Hospital every 10 years.

The meeting also called into question Moreton Resources' claim of significant benefits in the form of cheaper electricity. Figures produced at the meeting suggested that the potential benefit to the electricity consumer could be as low as \$1.66 per quarter or just 13 cents per week.

"We believe that this proposal has none of the usual benefits one would normally associate with a new coal mine. And the community believes that many of its environmental and social problems would be impossible to solve, even with smoothly worded promises in a future Environmental Impact Statement." Mr Dalton said. "Stanwell has said clearly that they simply don't need Moreton's coal. We just hope that the Queensland Government shares our view and dismisses the proposal."

The organisers of the meeting have undertaken to collate the concerns raised and present them to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines at a meeting to be arranged.

Summary of consensus views arising from the meeting:

1. The State doesn't need or want Moreton's coal.
2. Kingaroy residents don't need or want Moreton's proposed mine to be built on the edge of their town.
3. Residents believe that there are likely to be significant economic, environmental and social problems if it proceeds.
4. If the Government doesn't put an end to this proposal during the approval process, it will be opposed locally.
5. The existing mine supplying Tarong Power Station is profitable and doing minimum harm to few people where is currently is
6. while a new mine on the edge of Kingaroy would do significant harm to many.
7. Any benefits of the mine proposal are not apparent.
8. The potential problems are many, serious, obvious, and impossible to solve with smoothly worded promises in a future EIS.
9. We don't want to see this proposal proceed.

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