



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Your ref A527591
Our refs MO/20/6831, CTS 01012/20

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 2020, concerning e-petition 3255-19 and paper petition 3276-20 received by the House on 4 February 2020, regarding Mineral Development Licence (MDL) 3040.

In response to the petitions, the following information and clarification about the rights of MDL holders in Queensland is appropriate.

An MDL 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: explorative drilling, seismic surveys, mining feasibility studies, metallurgical testing, marketing, and environmental, engineering and design studies.

In order to be granted, applicants must demonstrate that the area is appropriately mineralised and could potentially sustain an economic mining operation in the future. This means that exploration activities will already have taken place in the area to determine that a resource exists to an appropriate level of confidence. The granting of an MDL allows for continuation of those activities and does not provide additional rights once approved. While an MDL indicates that a potential economic resource may exist in the area of the permit, historically less than 5% of all MDLs progress to a Mining Lease (ML). Due to an MDL being for exploration activities only, there is no legislative public notification or objection process.

Fox Resources' MDL 3040 is located 10 kilometres to the north-west of Bundaberg. The MDL is an application and is still under assessment by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. MDL 3040 will be assessed to ensure it meets environmental and Native Title requirements, and if granted – in accordance with the Land Access Code – any exploration activities must be negotiated and agreed to via a conduct and compensation agreement through direct engagement with the relevant landholders.

If Fox Resources wishes to develop MDL 3040 into a mine, they will be required to apply for an ML. Queensland has some of the most transparent and rigorous assessment processes for mining projects in the world. This includes a public notice and objection period for the ML and Environmental Authority. Public objection rights were reinstated by the Palaszczuk government in 2016. As well as the independent Land Court, which provides an impartial recommendation

when objections are raised. The extensive assessment process determines whether mining projects meet strict environmental, public interest, appropriate land use, compensation, native title and technical requirements.

I provide you with this response for tabling in accordance with Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Simon Zanatta, Chief of Staff, on telephone 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely



Dr Anthony Lynham MP
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