

HELP TO STOP A COAL MINE NEAR MOORE PARK BEACH

VS 1 – 26 Jan 2021

A coalmine near Moore Park Beach

Fox Resources Ltd, a small exploration company, has applied for a Mining Development Lease (MDL 3040) to develop a coal mine. For details see Factsheet: 'About Fox Resources' MDL 3040'.¹

In August 2020 Fox Resources extended their area of interest. It now covers an area that includes **Miara** including Miara Holiday Park in the North, down to **Branyan** as far as Goodwood Road in the South.²

Its shareholders include large overseas mining companies with a lot of money and power. Fox appears very confident about being granted the lease.³

An exploration lease is for five years with a possible five years extension. It allows companies to carry out 'advance activities' such as: *digging trenches, bulk sampling of coal, clearing land, using explosives for seismic surveys* and many more. The company does **NOT** have to notify neighbours or MPB residents of any activities.

Should the results be promising, the company can apply for a Mining Lease. An Act was introduced in 2014 to protect high value and residential areas from such mining. But it has failed, as 43 out of 43 Mining Lease applications have been granted.⁴ It needs changing and we seek your help.

Threats to Moore Park Beach residents

These include toxic coal dust being blown by prevailing winds and large volumes of contaminated drainage water being dumped into the Kolan river.

If granted, the very existence of MDL 3040 will depress Real Estate values and stymie investments.

Effects of this proposed open cut coal mine

The coal is relatively close to the surface in layers near and below the Kolan River that leak water. This water would need to be constantly pumped out to stop flooding the mine. This makes underground mining uneconomical.

A modern open-cut coal mine:

- follows the coal seam where ever it goes, destroying everything in its path;
- creates mountains of spill from which dust spreads far and wide before settling;
- the coal seams are 40 meter or more below surface level and the pit will cut through aquifers;
- water from those soaks into the pit and has to be pumped out constantly to prevent flooding;
- this contaminated water will be dumped into the Kolan river;



Road sign on Rosedale Road



A forced sale



Open cut coal mine

¹ <https://www.repowergladstone.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/FactsheetAboutFoxResourcesMDL3040.pdf>

² <https://foxresources.com.au/pdf/doc00970620200803130205.pdf>

³ <https://www.repowergladstone.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/FactsheetAboutFoxResourcesMDL3040.pdf>

⁴ The Regional Planning Interest Act 2014 - <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2014-011>
Plan to Grow – A path to prosperity for Regional Queensland - www.plantogrow.org.au

- the draining of the aquifers will greatly increase the risk of saltwater coming in from the sea to replace the fresh water that currently provides irrigation and domestic water, see Factsheets '*Stop a coalmine next to Bundy*'⁵ and '*Sea Water Intrusion*';
- a highly mechanised coal mine uses minimal labour,
- a mine in this highly labour-intensive horticultural area will destroy far more jobs than it will create,
- light pollution during night shifts can affect areas for up to 18 km,^{6-p31}, potentially affecting turtle-hatchling;
- coal mines create dangerous dust.⁷



Greenback turtle - Moore Park Beach

Coal dust and health

Moore Park Beach is from **5 to 12 Km** as the crow flies from a possible mine to the West. Coal is scooped up by front-end loaders, dumped into open trucks, stored onto stock-piles, loaded into trucks or rail wagons and transported, all creating dust. Coal dust's PM10 particles can travel up to **30 km**. The more dangerous PM2.5 particles travel much further. According to the World Health Organisation, there is NO safe level of these particles.

James Cook University recently published a 10-year study of the effect of coal dust on communities nearby, using data from the Australia National Pollutant Inventory (NPI).⁷ It concluded that *"miners' exposure to dangerous coal has been underestimated **as the communities they live in are polluted too**"*. That pollution is worse than that in cities:

Participant Dr Gunther Paul from JCU said that *"Emissions of all studied pollutants from postcodes that hosted coal mining sites were significantly higher than those from other ... sites, including large cities". ... Surface mining in particular contributes to local air pollution ... Vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, elderly people, ... may be at most risk from mining related pollutants.*



State Primary School - Moore Park Beach

Silt and water pollution from coal mining

Water that comes of a coal mine contains silt which is likely to silt up the Kolan river. It is known as '*acid mine drainage*' due to its extreme acidity. This can change the pH of river water to the same level as vinegar. It also contains heavy metals like arsenic, copper, lead and others.⁸ The prevalent sea currents at the mouth will spread this contaminated water Southwards along Moore Park Beach and further past Mon Repos Turtle Centre and Bargara. Bundaberg Council has already formally opposed MDL3040 but we need more.⁹

What you can do to help stop MDL 3040 from being granted

The act that allows this must be changed. We need a balance between mining and areas of high agricultural, tourist, cultural and conservation values. And of course, we need to protect established residential areas such as Moore Park Beach. We need a planned and balanced approach to develop Regional Queensland, with mutual respect for all interests. You can help to protect our regions by:

- Signing up at <https://www.plantogrow.org.au/charter>.
- Staying informed about this issue and, if at all possible, becoming involved.
- Talking to politicians and asking friends and neighbours to sign the petition.

⁵ <https://www.repowergladstone.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Factsheet-Stop-a-coal-mine-next-to-Bundy.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/projects/2019/01/boggabri-coal-mine-mod-7/redacted-comments/31.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.jcu.edu.au/news/releases/2020/march/coal-danger-underestimated>

⁸ <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/coal-and-water-pollution>

⁹ <https://www.bundabergnow.com/2020/04/29/bundaberg-regional-council-opposes-coal-mine/>