



Definitions.

Coking coal is turned into coke which in turn is used to make steel from iron ore.

A Mineral Development Licence (MDL) allows a company to drill, undertake seismic surveys, mining feasibility studies, metallurgical testing, marketing, environmental engineering and design studies.

'Bord and Pillar' or 'Room and Pillar' underground mining is a technique usually used for flat lying coal deposits. A network of 'rooms' are cut into the coal seam leaving behind 'pillars' of coal to support the roof of the mine.

History

In October 2019, Fox Resources Ltd, a Perth based coking coal exploration company, submitted MDL 3040 to the Qld Government to develop a mine around Sharon, Welcome Creek, Moore Park Beach, Meadowvale, Moorland and Avondale. (1) In August 2020, Fox extended its area of exploration to include Miara, including Miara Holiday Park to the North, down to Branyan and as far as Goodwood Road in the South.

The proposed coal mine could be as close as 5-12 kms, to the Moore Park Beach coastline. Some MPB properties are already within or next to the mine's eastern boundary exploration area.

Threats to Moore Park Beach residents from the proposed coal mine.

Among them are:

- Ongoing uncertainty
- Wind borne toxic coal dust blowing over the community. (2)
- Large volumes of contaminated water being dumped into the Kolan River.
- Depressed real estate values and stymied local investment.
- Loss of employment in agricultural and tourism industries.
- Degraded and polluted prime agricultural land.

The Bundaberg Mayor has stated his concerns as: "There are significant environmental issues that would arise from coal mining, including impacts on water, flora and fauna that would have long-lasting detriment ... we oppose coal mining in parts of the Bundaberg Region that have high-value agriculture or tourism and environmental sensitivity. (3)

Underground vs Open Cut mine.

Fox Resources claim the mine will be an underground mine using a 'room and pillar' mining process, but this debatable. Rather an open cut mine is more likely. "... the disadvantages of **underground mining** include destruction of land, surface subsidence, abandoned shafts, extensive surface spoil heaps, mine explosions, collapses and flooding, ... the costly price tag that comes with underground mining... (it) requires mechanized operations with sophisticated equipment. Along with vehicles, rail haulage and multiple drill units, copious amounts of precaution are needed to maintain miner safety, including mine ventilation....

The major drawback of **Open Cut or surface mining** is that the method destroys large areas of land, demolishing homes, other buildings, landscape and natural habitat to recover coal.

Source: Mining magazine March 2021 (4)

Transport of the coal

“Subject to studies the coking/metallurgical coal will be exported preferably through the Bundaberg Port, however, if this is not feasible it will be shipped through the Gladstone Port.” (5)

Silt and water pollution

Coal mining requires lots of water and contaminated water that comes out of coal mines contains silt and heavy metals. (6) Where will this water come from and where will the toxic water go?

What Opposition is there to the mine?

In February 2020, the State Labor Government was petitioned by **4091 citizens** opposed to the mine. The petition and the then Minister’s response can be seen here. (8) (9)

Opposition is widespread and growing:

- Bundaberg Regional Council is stridently opposed to the mine. (7)
- Our local MP Stephen Bennett is opposed to the mine.
- The Labor Member for Bundaberg, Tom Smith is opposed.
- Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers are opposed

To the best of our knowledge, the Bundaberg Chamber of Commerce and Bundaberg Tourism **have not** publicly opposed the mine.

Government processes ineffective to protect farmland

No formal objections to the mine are permitted until a Mining Lease is applied for.

Fox Resources have stated that all community concerns to do with the environment, agricultural sector, Kolan River and the Southern Great Barrier Reef, will be addressed once a Mining Lease has been applied for.

With government approval it is possible for Fox Resources to skip the MDL process and go straight to an application for a Mining Lease. (10)

What you can do to oppose this mine:

- Join a local action group_ <https://www.facebook.com/CoalFreeWBB>
- Or email gladconsCouncil@gmail.com
- Contact our local politicians, Stephen Bennett (Burnett) and Tom Smith (Bundaberg). They are here to represent you to government.

However, in the long term, the law that was introduced in 2014 to protect land with high conservation, cultural, tourist or agricultural value from mining needs to be changed.

It is obviously not working as intended.

References

1. <https://www.repowergladstone.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/FactsheetAboutFoxResourcesMDL3040.pdf>
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3. <https://www.bundabergnow.com/2020/04/29/bundaberg-regional-council-opposes-coal-mine/>
4. <https://www.miningglobal.com/digital-mining/underground-vs-surface-coal-mines-deep-drilling-worth-cost>
5. <https://foxresources.com.au/pdf/bundaberg-mining.pdf>
6. <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/coal-and-water-pollution>
7. <https://www.bundabergnow.com/2020/04/29/bundaberg-regional-council-opposes-coal-mine/>
8. <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3255>
9. <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/apps/E-Petitions/Home/DownloadResponse/6df60388-93c1-4cc1-8c86-347b1c9aa5a3>
10. https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/217893/mining-lease-guide.pdf

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