

Mandalong Community Association Inc

Incorporation No: Y2392125

Marton Marosszeky
President
Mandalong Community Association
120 Tobins Road
Mandalong 2264

Mandalong Southern Extension (Mod 10) - Additional longwall
SSD-5144-Mod-10
Director – Resource Assessments, Planning and Assessment,
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,
Locked Bag 5022 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

1 November 2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

Objection to Proposal to permit Centennial Mandalong conduct exploration drilling on TOBAN days

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mandalong Community Association (MCA) in response to the invitation to comment on Centennial Mandalong Southern Extension Project – Modification 10. Application No. SSD-5144-Mod-10. Specifically, I am writing regarding the proposal to permit Centennial Mandalong conduct exploration drilling on TOBAN days.

The Mandalong Valley is on the edge of the Watagan State Forest, this forest is joined to state and national forests for many kilometres to the west and as such the valley is exposed to serious bushfire danger.

Over many years, members of the Mandalong community have served in the Rural Bushfire Brigade and have often been called on to assist in fighting fires in the general area surrounding Mandalong. Hence our community is experienced both in dealing with bushfires and we are aware of the danger that they pose to life and property.

We understand from the Rural Fire Brigade Website that activities which may be undertaken on TOBAN days include infrastructure construction and mining. However, it is our view that exploration work, while it is associated with mining work, is not critical to the actual task of mining, in the sense it does not delay the operation of mining.

Exploration drilling is conducted from above ground, often in bushland or on private farming property, it involves drilling to explore the conditions underground in advance of the mining operation. It involves the use of heat generating machinery and hence this activity poses a fire risk. If exploration work is planned well in advance, mining can proceed underground on TOBAN days while exploration should be able to be delayed for one or two days under extreme fire conditions. It is our opinion that good planning on behalf of the miner would allow it to halt exploration drilling on a TOBAN day.

If you were to permit exploration drilling on a TOBAN day, we would ask that you specify that the Rural Fire Service or a fire tanker should be standing by the drill site as a safety precaution. We would also request that it be made a condition of consent that Centennial Mandalong is responsible for any damage to either private property, public property or the environment should it cause a fire as a result of carrying out exploratory drilling on a TOBAN day.

The MCA requests that Centennial Mandalong's application to conduct exploratory drilling on TOBAN days be rejected on the basis that this does not interfere with mining, that good advance planning should easily permit a stop to exploratory drilling, as TOBAN days occur rarely and should not delay the mining operation itself.

The risk of a fire initiating on a TOBAN day is significant, we believe that because of the risk to private property, state forests, livestock and to the lives of the people living in Mandalong, this aspect of the application should be rejected.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marton Marosszeky". The script is cursive and elegant, with a large, stylized 'M' at the beginning.

Marton Marosszeky
President