



The Hon Scott Stewart MP
Minister for Resources

Your ref A699370
Our ref CTS 13215/21

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15 July 2021

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 17 June 2021, concerning petition No. 3518-21 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 15 June 2021, regarding the renewal of Mining Lease (ML) 1156 at Rochedale.

In response to the petition, I can inform the petitioners that there are stringent criteria under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (MRA)—including public interest—against which mines are considered for renewal.

I considered these criteria and the concerns raised at length before deciding to grant the renewal for ML 1156 for a term of 25 years, with conditions.

As part of the renewal process, officers from the Department of Resources worked with the ML holder to achieve an approximate 17 per cent reduction in the ML footprint, including the removal of areas impacting the M1 Motorway, all areas to the east of the M1 and other land held by the Brisbane City Council.

Austral Bricks Co Pty Ltd has also agreed to lodge a surrender application for additional land owned by the Brisbane City Council after three years, ensuring rehabilitation is undertaken before the land is handed back to the owner. Conditions to this effect have been applied to ML 1156.

The reduction of area and conditions has been applied to balance the concerns raised and ensure the mining operations continue to be an appropriate land use, conform to sound land use management and that the public interest will not be adversely affected.

Austral Bricks is understood to be one of only two remaining brick operations in the region and the company recently invested approximately \$70 million in upgrading its plant and equipment. The renewal of these mining operations secures 120 full-time jobs within the factory, sales, associated support staff and contractors.

Premature closure of this plant would have also significantly impacted the construction industry, with potential flow-on effects to housing affordability in Queensland and northern New South Wales.

I would also take this opportunity to clarify for petitioners why this mine is not identified as a key resource area (KRA). Under the State Planning Policy (SPP), the purpose of identifying KRAs is to protect important extractive resources from incompatible land uses.

KRAs are locations of state or regional significance across Queensland that have been identified as containing extractive resources, such as sand, rock or gravel (quarry materials), that are protected from development.

ML 1156 relates to minerals and associated mining purposes under the MRA—not quarry material. As such, ML 1156 is not identified as a KRA. It is important to note that mining of mineral resources is not regulated under the planning scheme and, accordingly, is not assessed against the SPP or local government planning schemes.

Under the SPP, the state interest—mining and extractive resources—seeks to support local governments to ensure planning schemes give due consideration to the presence and potential impacts of mining and resource development in their areas.

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 Brett Murphy, Chief of Staff, on telephone 3008 3500.

Yours sincerely



Scott Stewart MP
Minister for Resources