



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Industry
Minister for Energy and Resources

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Mr Mik Aidt
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Dear Mr Aidt

COAL EXPLORATION LICENCES

Thank you for your email of 22 June 2015 to me and the Hon Daniel Andrews MP, Premier of Victoria, regarding coal exploration licences. Your letter has been referred to me for my consideration and response as the matters you raise fall within my portfolio of responsibilities.

I understand the community concerns around such activities but can assure you that exploration activities are subject to stringent conditions, and regulatory oversight and Victorian legislation explicitly prohibit mining activities on an exploration licence. My department considers licence applications on the basis of the level of impact the activities allowed by these licences may have; the activities permitted by an exploration licence are deemed to be low impact and therefore unlikely to have any environmental impact.

The decision to grant an exploration licence does not imply an intention to permit mining, but in the event of a mining licence being applied for, careful consideration is given to a range of criteria including the level of community impact and includes an open process for objection. An exploration licence holder seeking to access private land must obtain written consent from the landholder or make a compensation agreement between the licensee and the landholder before any work is undertaken. In the case of low impact exploration, written or verbal consent is required from the landholder.

The definition of low impact exploration is set out in the *Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration* which I have enclosed for your information. This document also contains other information that may be of interest to you, including the wide range of environmental protections provided by Victorian legislation.

I trust this information has assisted in answering your concerns, but if you require further information, please contact David Boothroyd, Manager, Earth Resources Tenements on telephone 9092 1971.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lily D'Ambrosio', with a stylized, cursive script.

Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy and Resources

Date: ~~28~~ 8/2015

Enc: *Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration*