

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Cecily Rosol MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

QUESTION:

My question is on behalf of the Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation about the silica mine proposed for Rushy Lagoon by North Scottsdale Resources. The proposed mine would cover 770 hectares of what is currently coastal sand dunes, making it the largest mining site in Tasmania. It would be 10 metres deep, with a 700- metre wharf also planned. This country has hundreds of important Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, including known Aboriginal burial places. However, due to the inadequacies of the state's Aboriginal heritage legislation, these sites are currently not protected, placing them at significant risk of being destroyed by the mine proposal. MTWAC are deeply concerned about the risks to this significant Aboriginal cultural landscape because of the potential mine, Minister, will you intervene and ask for a pause on the development application process for the silica mine until after the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 is replaced, helping to ensure protections of important cultural places?

ANSWER:

The Government remains committed to delivering new, contemporary legislation to support the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

However, there are existing laws in place to protect Aboriginal Heritage and until these laws change, which will be a decision of both Houses of Parliament and cannot be pre-empted, all developments will need to comply with the current laws.



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Date: 8/9/26