

Rushy Lagoon Silica Mine – Aboriginal Cultural Places

Ms ROSOL question to MINISTER for ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

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?