



Chewton Bushlands Association Inc
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Chewton Chat
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MEDIA RELEASE

The Chewton Bushlands Association (CBA) recently took up the invitation by Luke Mortimer, Exploration Manager for Kalamazoo Resources (KZR) to meet with him.

On Friday 12 July around 40 residents packed into the Chewton Town Hall for an information session with Luke about Kalamazoo's intended exploration work on their recently approved exploration lease area EL6752 as it affects the Chewton Bushlands community.

The turnout was a good one given that many affected property owners were not aware, at the time the application for an exploration lease was made, of the opportunity to object since there was no notification in the local *Castlemaine Mail*. Bushlanders will be taking up this oversight in a letter to the state Minister for Resources.

The residents made clear, pretty much from the get-go, that there was widespread opposition to any exploration at all in the Bushlands.

Luke reassured the meeting that KZR wanted good relations with the local community; that their priority was exploration of public land as opposed to private land; that that KZR would not pursue entry to private land if the landowner was opposed to this occurring; and that KZR are required to lodge bonds with the Department of Earth Resources to cover land rehabilitation works.

In response to expressed resident opposition to access for exploration Luke undertook to guarantee in writing to not pursue exploration or development on the land of property owners who refuse access to KZR.

Many residents with a strong commitment to protect the environmental assets of the Bushlands, expressed concern for whole-of-Bushlands protection against exploration and development. They proposed that the best way to do that was by a "single parcel" excision from the lease area, explaining that any mining exploration activity resulting from isolated single



Bushlands property “consent to explore”, would threaten the contiguous wildlife corridors and the surrounding ecosystem. Such excisions are enabled by Department of Resources regulations, covering mineral industries. Specifically, exploration lease holders are required to relinquish a quarter of their lease area after two years, but may voluntarily relinquish portions of their lease area at any time.

In response Luke agreed to put to his board the community’s request for the relinquishment of the “Bushlands” parcel of land, and to notify us within two weeks of their response.

Bushlands residents and others can keep track of developments on this issue via the new Chewton Bushlands website at *www.chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au*

As the KZR lease covers 218 square kilometres mainly to the south of the Chewton Bushlands, the CBA encourages other lease area residents to raise any concerns they may have on this issue of exploration and development with any or all of the following: KZR; the state Minister for Resources Jaclyn Symes; the Department of Earth Resources; and the Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Mark Carter
Secretary
Chewton Bushlands Association