

HAMMOND ELECTORATE, MINING PROJECTS August 30 2006

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond): I wish to speak on the two mines that have just been given the green light in my electorate in the last couple of weeks. Each of the mines will create, both directly and indirectly, 100 jobs, which I applaud. The two companies involved are Terramin, at the Strathalbyn lead mine, and Australian Zircon, at the Mindarie mineral sands mine. Both mines have been preparing for years to form up the viability of the projects. In accordance with the Strathalbyn mining project, the Strathalbyn Consultative Committee was formed, a committee having also been formed in connection with the Mindarie mine.

As part of the Strathalbyn consultative committee, 83 protocols have been put in place because of the close proximity of the mine to the town. Some of these include: protocols with traffic, whereby all extra heavy vehicle traffic, including trucks carting ore, will proceed down Callington Road, keeping out of Strathalbyn; new run-offs created so as not to affect normal traffic flow outside the mine; and an 80 km/h speed limit past the mine site. There are also implications with noise protocols that the mining company must undertake. There are day and night limits and different decibel limits. There will be monitoring of noise and there are non-compliance penalties if the company does not comply with these protocols. The tailings dam will be a major part of the mine as it will take up to 60 per cent of the waste with at least 40 per cent going back down the mine.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: Yes, Dean Brown has done a magnificent job chairing the Strathalbyn consultative committee. The tailings dam, 15 hectares in area, is a sizeable dam, and those concerned with the mine, through the consultative committee, have had to bring in protocols of double-lining the dam which will cost Terramin Australia and extra \$5 million in mining at Strathalbyn.

Other important things that need to be monitored in the process are the surface and groundwater impacts. The 100-year flood level has been taken into account and groundwater impacts will be monitored by test bores. The visual impact of above-ground works is helped by high bunding walls located in the area. Revegetation is a major issue that will take place as time goes by, and there is a major program of revegetation as the mining progresses.

Regarding health issues in relation to the Strathalbyn mine, there will be monitoring of background lead levels, dust and odours and, for the mine workers, on-site washing and showering protocols so that miners do not go home with clothing covered with lead dust which can be dangerous to young children. Obviously, blasting protocols will also be in place, and rehabilitation will be a major part of the program.

I congratulate the other mine in my electorate, Australian Zircon. They turned the sod initially before the election but a week and a half ago the major works started up there with the first earthworks, which I saw for myself on Sunday. The processing plant at Mindarie is going in fairly shortly and the initial contractors have already provided employment for four locals. They will use a slurry system in the mining process and there will be a spur rail line to connect to the existing rail line to freight the sand. It will be a mobile mining operation as Australian Zircon mine different tracts of land, but one thing I will be keeping an eye on is the rehabilitation of the fragile mallee soils and also groundwater use in the time the mine is operating. There will be ongoing consultation with both community consultative committees and, as a member of both committees, I will be doing my best to see that the very best outcomes are achieved—not just economically but also environmentally and socially—for both mines in my electorate.