

Gavin Pearce fires up over MMG's Rosebery Mine tailings delays

The federal government does not seem to understand the gravity of the Rosebery Mine's situation, Braddon Liberal MHR Gavin Pearce says.

The mine and its 530 jobs need a tailings storage solution if the West Coast operation is to last beyond 2025, according to owner MMG Limited.

An extended wait for federal environmental approval of preparatory works at its preferred tailings storage facility development site at South Marionoak is ongoing.

Those works would allow MMG to decide whether the site was suitable.

The storage itself would need separate approval, and MMG is looking at alternative and short-term solutions as time ticks away.

Mr Pearce said 550 families and the West Coast's polymetallic mining industry depended on the project going ahead.

"I've sent numerous correspondence to the Minister for the Environment (Tanya Plibersek) and all I seem to get back are departmental lines along the lines of 'this a live application' and very little comment," he said.

"That's not cutting it.

"I don't think they understand the gravity of this thing.

"If they (MMG) pull out, we're in strife as a state."

Tasmanian Labor Senator Anne Urquhart said she was keen to see the matter resolved as soon as possible.

"The resources sector is vitally important to the Tasmanian economy and jobs," Senator Urquhart said.

"When the Tasmanian EPA has provided its final report, the Australian government will make its own independent decision on whether this project should be approved or not.

"Following an invitation from me, Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek visited the area and met with a range of stakeholders in late 2022.

"On this issue, and all other issues affecting the North-West, West Coast and King Island, I stay in close contact with federal ministers to make sure the interests of our communities are strongly represented."

The South Marionoak project is opposed by environmentalists, led by the Bob Brown Foundation.

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Article by Sean Ford