
NEWS

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ANGASTON MINE OWNERS PROPOSE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP

Local Barossa Valley organisations and stakeholders are being approached by the owner/operators of Angaston mine – the largest marble and limestone mine in South Australia – to discuss the establishment of a community consultation group (CCG) as part of the proposed expansion of the facility.

Penrice Soda Holdings said today it hoped to be able to present the concept and guidelines of the CCG at the next community meeting, which the Company has organised for Thursday, 28 August.

The Company said it would endeavour to attract a “cross section of the community” to be part of the group, which it anticipated would have about 8-10 members.

“It is essential that we get an opportunity to hear the points of view from the entire community,” Penrice Soda Holdings CEO and Managing Director, Mr Guy Roberts, said today

“Ideally, we want the group to include a wide variety of members from the local community - residents, business owners, local government representatives, and other people,” he said.

“The community consultation group forms a crucial part of our process going forward, whereby the concerns and issues of the community can be aired and discussed in the appropriate way.

“Similar groups operate successfully on other significant infrastructure projects around the State, and we see benefits in establishing one for the Penrice Mine.

“Our Company has been a part of this community for more than half a century, and we have proven over that time our ability to live up to the community’s expectations.

“That will continue throughout this entire consultative process, and into the future, based on our strong belief that the community gives us our licence to operate.”

Penrice recently announced that it had submitted a proposal to the Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) for the use of land to be acquired west of the Angaston mine for the storage of overburden.

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This extra overburden storage area is needed to allow continued access to the high-quality limestone the mine produces for Penrice's Osborne manufacturing plant, the Adelaide Brighton Cement plant at Angaston, and local wine bottle manufacturers, Amcor Glass at Gawler and OI in Adelaide.

Currently, the eastern side of the mine used to store the overburden is nearing full capacity, with rehabilitation now underway to blend it in to the local landscape.

Mr Roberts said there were many benefits of establishing a CCG, including it:

- allows for an exchange of information and advice between Penrice and the community;
- provides a mechanism for gathering and including local input into mine planning, and;
- provides an effective on-going communication and consultation process.

Mr Roberts said the CCG was just one of a range of ways the Company would work with the local community to provide information – as well as invite ideas - in relation to mine planning.

“We are very proud of our commitment and the economic benefits our business provides to the local community,” Mr Roberts said.

“Our mine employs up to 100 people, and is an important contributor to the local economy with a multi-million dollar operational and capital annual commitment, and we supply of our products to local industries and business,” he said.

“The mine operates under a raft of bylaws, guidelines and regulations, including Council bylaws, planning guidelines, PIRSA and EPA rules and regulations – which we closely monitor ourselves and adhere to very strictly.

“The Penrice group has over the past 18 months undertaken a total overhaul of its operations - including operational, safety, the environment, community consultation, etc. Our plans and policies at Angaston are at the forefront to the Penrice culture going forward.

“However, some plans – like our rehabilitation program – are ongoing processes which take time to reach their full potential. The local community has been very patient with us with the program – and we ask that they remain so.”

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