

Your statement supports several key changes to the mining objection and approval process, emphasizing the need for transparency, public participation, and clarity in decision-making procedures. Here's a summary of your key points:

1. **Judicial Review After Government Decision:** You support the mining objection hearing occurring after the government's decision, allowing the Court to provide a final determinative ruling, enhancing the judicial oversight of the decision-making process.
2. **Automatic Stay During Appeals:** You advocate for an automatic stay of the environmental authority or mining lease during any appeal process to avoid unnecessary legal arguments over whether a stay should be enacted, thus preventing actions on the project while appeals are underway.
3. **Increased Public Participation:** You call for broader public involvement, particularly through open meetings or information sessions, which would enhance community input early in the application process. However, you express concern that community reference groups could lead to political entrenchment and exclusion of certain voices.
4. **Expert and First Nations Advisory Bodies:** You support the inclusion of expert and First Nations advisory bodies to improve decision-making. You emphasize that First Nations' participation should not be limited to those who hold Native Title but should be open to all impacted groups.
5. **Opposition to Tailored Participation Options:** You argue against varying participation requirements for different applications, advocating for consistency in the process to ensure clarity for all stakeholders.
6. **Support for Information Portal:** You support a centralized information portal where all relevant information can be easily accessed by the public and decision-makers, enhancing transparency.
7. **Combined Review Process:** You favor the combined review process for merits appeal and judicial review but encourage clarity in the language to ensure it's recognized as an appeal and provides certainty for further appeal options.
8. **Improved Public Notification:** You recommend that submissions during environmental authority (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes automatically grant standing to appeal in court, and that the notification of mining leases and EA be synchronized. You also suggest an email subscription service for mining notifications and encourage local newspaper and Koori Mail notices to reach less technologically literate community members.
9. **Cost Rules:** You support the current rule where each party pays their own costs and suggest adding a "public interest" criterion to cost considerations in court cases.

- 10. Coordinator-General's Conditions:** You call for certainty that the Coordinator-General's conditions should not bind the Court or other decision-makers, especially when more current information is available on appeal.

This thorough approach aims to ensure fairness, transparency, and public involvement in the mining approval and appeal processes.