



# **Greg Piper MP**

## **Member for Lake Macquarie**



### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **GREG PIPER WANTS OPEN CUT BAN MADE CLEARER**

In the wake of the dumped Olstan auger mining proposal Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, has asked for strengthening of the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) that prohibits open cut mining in Lake Macquarie.

In a letter to the Minister for Planning, Mr Piper has asked for the SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 to be modified so that proposals for unusual mining projects such as Olstan will not rely on legal and technical arguments to determine their permissibility.

According to Mr Piper, a clearer distinction must be drawn between surface and underground mining methods so that there can be no doubt about what can be included in any new proposals.

“I have no doubt that the implicit intention of the SEPP was to exclude high impact surface mining techniques within the city,” said Mr Piper. “With the Olstan proposal now withdrawn I believe it is timely and imperative to support the spirit of the SEPP by further clarification.”

“The Olstan proposal generated a lot of concern in the community,” Mr Piper added. “If there is a clear indication that communities will be protected from the impacts of surface mining this need not happen again.”

“I believe that the community generally accepts underground mining, but sees proposals such as Olstan inappropriate in a populated and developing area.”

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