

# Lobby group: Mid-Western Region could be 'steamrolled' by mining industry

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The proposed expansion of the mining industry in the Mid-Western Region will be scrutinised by a new lobby group, amid concerns the district will be overrun by new developments.

Organisers of a public meeting in Mudgee last night say around 120 people turned out to voice their concerns about the impact on water supplies, roads and air quality if the region's existing mines continue to extend their operations.

Work to determine the impact of new exploration projects and mine expansions will now be carried out by the Mid-Western Region Coal Action Group, which was established at the forum.

The spokesman, Greg Dollin, says it is important everyone in the community is aware of what the future holds.

"We have to look at the impacts on the communities, what the communities are expecting to receive in relation to support for infrastructure upgrades and really start getting some accountability," he said.

"If we don't stand up and do something we are being steamrolled."

The Coal Action Group is also calling for a moratorium on all new developments and exploration projects.

Mr Dollin says residents in Gulgong, Kandos, Mudgee, Rylstone and Lithgow must be kept informed.

"We have to slow down the processes.

"I think that we are really starting to say we need to be calling for a moratorium and we need to be enforcing that and saying we need to move more slowly and we need to get the baseline data in relation to water, air, noise. What is existing now and what are the impacts going to be?"