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Rosebery mine victims to fight for answers

Twenty eight residents who claim to have contracted heavy metal poisoning plan to sue the operators of the Rosebery zinc, lead and copper mine in north-west Tasmania.

Mr Peter Long, Practice Group Leader with Slater & Gordon has been instructed to act for the residents. He said he expected to file proceedings on behalf of the residents within the next four months in the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

Mr Long said he and his team at Slater & Gordon had undertaken an enormous amount of research and examined many medical and scientific reports and in his view the residents of Rosebery have a strong case.

“Since late last year, we have been asking the mine’s operator MMG Australia, to let Slater & Gordon participate in the heavy metals assessment program being conducted by the mine.

“Just over a week ago, this request was rejected. The residents need answers and it seems legal action is the only way they will get them,” Mr Long said.

Mr Leigh Harper, Practice Group Leader of Slater & Gordon’s Hobart office, said previous testing programs conducted by or on behalf of the mine operator in 2007 and 2008 had not been made public.

“A similar request by Slater & Gordon for MMG Australia to participate in a community wide health assessment to be conducted by Occupational Physician, Dr Andreas Ernst, was also rejected.

“We are disappointed that a consensus approach to working through the issues had not been achieved,” Mr Harper said.

The Rosebery mine produces ore, which is processed into concentrates containing zinc, lead and copper. Silver and gold are also extracted from the ore.

Media inquiries

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