

# LEADING PRACTICE (LEAP) MINING ACTS REVIEW

Submission to the Leading Practice Mining Acts Review

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The South East of SA is one of the few places in the world where large spectacular sinkholes are formed as our shale limestone is quite young in geological terms. Drilling, extra weight of cement/heavy machinery, flooding and concentrated runoff, helps with such formation. Tailings Dams and evaporative ponds from gas drilling containing contaminants in the wastewater would be problematic. According to The Australian Research Institute, over 60,000 mine sites in Australia are poorly rehabilitated or not rehabilitated, and the toxins leaching into our scarce water supplies will present a huge cleanup bill for taxpayers in the future. Companies should no longer be able to declare themselves bankrupt to escape these financial obligations. State Governments should secure rehabilitation costs, such as they would be in the future, before granting production licenses.

Aquifers in the SE and Victoria do not stay within title holder boundaries and flow across the border. Reflective seismicity does not show smaller faults and interconnecting pathways. The SE region has experienced 20 earthquakes in the 8 months prior to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016. Unpredictable events through earthquakes, flooding rains, and leaching sulphides (likely, due to pyrite presence), would be quite likely to happen 20 years later. Light, noise, and dust would adversely affect the health and wellbeing of people, flora, fauna crops and horticultural produce. I stand with the farmers and landowners across the State for the removal of part 9AA of the Mining Act. The 4.6% of agricultural and cropping land in SA should be exempt from any mining and petrochemical works. Quarries and roadbuilding and building materials should be permitted where no damage would be done to water supplies or people's health. Parks, sanctuaries, conservation areas, forests, coastal areas, rivers, dams, springs and urban areas should all be exempt.

Given the above concerns I do not believe it should be the privilege of the individual title holders of the day to receive 'compensation' in such sensitive and strategic food bowls, particularly as those title holders could well be foreign companies or people who have no vested interest in the prosperity of these communities.

*Heather Heggie* *AH*



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