

Rex Minerals Hillside mine proposal



Dear Whom it may concern

I am a local resident of the Central Yorke Peninsula and I along with a great number of people have many concerns and questions about the proposed mining application that has been submitted by Rex Minerals for the mining of copper, gold and iron ore at hillside north of the town of Pine Point. It is my belief that this proposed mine should not go ahead in such a highly populated country area. A community that has been built off of farming and fishing should not be affected by a short term mine. An area of great natural beauty that attracts a huge amount of tourism each and every year which brings a great economical boost to the local communities and should not be affected by a short term mine. Peoples health should not be affected by a short term mine. Here are my concerns and questions, I hope that they can be answered before this mine goes ahead. I also hope to see you or a representative at the local meetings that are being held as it is a great disappointment to all involved that the concerns and questions of the local communities go unanswered.

Concerns and Questions

Dust Contamination and Noise Pollution

- How far will dust travel from the 6km by 1km open pit?
- Copper is a toxic substance. Copper particles will be included in the dust.
- What will happen when copper particles land on roofs and sheds and end up in rain water tanks for drinking? Will people's health be at risk?
- What will happen when copper dust lands in the ocean that is located around 1km to the east? Will marine life be a risk?
- If copper dust settles on developing/ripe grain before harvesting will the grain become unviable? Will farmers be able to deliver that grain if it is deemed unfit for consumption?
- If grain is unviable who will bear the cost? Will farmers be out of pocket or will Rex Minerals compensate?
- It is my understanding that this mine will be operating 24/7 how loud will the machinery and the blasting be?
- Will it affect the occupants of towns and farm houses nearby?
- If these people's houses and land drop in value will there be compensation by Rex Minerals?
- If effected people decide to move away from the mine and their houses and land are unsellable will these once good family houses become unloved ruins and more importantly if people can't sell how will they move. Will Rex Minerals compensate?

15: 8951-VOZ
15: A179967S

Water Contamination and run off

- How will Rex Minerals keep the water out of the mine? Safety of workers needs to be considered.
- Where will this water go?
- The water will be contaminated. What filtration methods will be used on the water to get it to a standard where it is not harmful to the surrounding fauna and flora?
- Will the water be pumped out to the sea? What will the impact on marine life? Copper is toxic to marine life.
- The products will be placed in a water slurry and piped to the port of Ardrossan 12kms away. This pipeline will be buried. What will happen if this pipe leaks?
- If the pipe leaks it will go unnoticed for a long time and the very toxic substance will be leaking into the soil and will ultimately end up in ground water and the ocean.
- If ground water is contaminated that is depended upon to water stock and animals die or fall ill who will be held accountable? Will Rex Minerals compensate for loss of income.
- It has been said that the water which fills the mine will be pumped back into the water table. Is this water contaminated? Will it be cleaned? How and where will it be cleaned? What effect will pumping water into the underground aquifers have?
- Rex Minerals will be drilling through two water tables. It seems to be very likely that ground water will be affected in some way.
- If farmers can't use or access the ground water they have been using for lifetimes will Rex Minerals pay for their properties to be connected to mains or will the tax payer foot the bill or the farmer himself.
- What will happen to the water that is in the slurry pipe line when it gets to the port of Ardrossan?
- This water will be highly toxic. How will it be cleaned?
- Where will this cleaning take place? What methods will be used? What standard does it have to be before it can be released into the environment?
- Being so very close to the ocean (100m) it seems very important that this water be perfect before it leaves Rex Minerals facilities as it will eventually end up in the ocean. What is best practice? Is it good enough?

Future plans and Rezoning

- The application to rezone the surrounding land from agriculture to mining is unnecessary. How will this affect land owners?
- Why would Rex Minerals want to rezone land they are not planning to use?
- The only reasonable explanations would be that.
 1. Rex Minerals is already planning to expand the mine, if this is so why haven't they said anything about expansion. What they say to the local community is already different to what they have released on the ASX to encourage investment. What do we believe?

2. Rex Minerals are not confident in their own environmental impact studies and control methods. If this is the case then more investigation needs to be done.

- How can Rex Minerals be able to rezone land that they do not own? Do the land owners get a say?
- What are Rex Minerals future plans?
- In a press release to the ASX it is stated that once the hillside mine and processing plants are built there will be over 50 mine sites that they will aggressively investigate for future development. These mines will be connected to hillside by haul roads on which 220T trucks will be driving 24/7 to take the raw minerals to hillside processing plant.
- These over 50 mines will each create the same problems as are listed here and no doubt a list of new problems that will be different at each and every mine site.
- How will this land be acquired? Will land owners be able to negotiate terms or will Rex Minerals be able to acquire land at what they think it is worth?
- If a large portion of a farmer's land is taken for mining and their business becomes too small and unmanageable will that farmer be compensated and be paid out to relocate their business.
- The haul roads will be closed to the public and be different from normal roads, who will maintain the haul roads?
- Will Rex Minerals have to acquire this land, will it follow the existing roads or will it cut from point A to point B.
- How close can these roads come to houses?
- How wide are the haul roads, do they have to be level as the loaded dump trucks will struggle to climb much of a hill at a speed that is productive and time efficient. Will this mean raised roads through valleys and tunnels or dug out roads through hills?
- What impact will this have on the environment?
- Where will these mines be located? Will land owners have any notice before Rex Minerals want to acquire their property?
- What will happen to these roads after all the minerals are mined out?
- How long will these 50 extra mines prolong the lifespan of hillside?
- Do not rezone land before the mining application is approved.

Conservation

- The port of Ardrossan is located inside a marine park.
- There will be dust off of the port as the loading of ships happens. This dust will land in the ocean. How will this effect marine life?
- What will happen when the loading belt breaks and a large amount of raw minerals, which copper is very toxic to marine life, lands in the water?
- How will the extra ships effect marine life?
- Considerations on shipping are.
 1. Port not deep enough or wide enough. Will it need to be deepened and widened?

2. How will it be deepened and widened? Dredging? Will this be a once off or will the channel need to be dredged continuously? What effect will this dredging have on marine life and will it occur in the marine park which has highly protected sanctuary zones in it?
 3. How will Australian regulations be enforced on ships coming from other countries?
 4. Is there a chance that bilge/ballast water will be released from ships into the ocean?
 5. Bilge/ballast water can contain many things that can be detrimental to local marine life.
 6. Shipping accidents and spillage.
- The protected spider club orchids are located 30m away from a dump heap of the hillside mine. These are flowering for the first time in six years. What effect will the mine have on them?
 - How will the hundreds of acres of native scrub surrounding the mine be affected?
 - Let alone the native scrub that will have to be cleared for the actual mining.

Port facilities

- Have Rex Minerals negotiated the use of the port which they do not own?
- Who will pay for the maintenance of the port?
- The silo system of Ardrossan can hold 448000 tonnes of grain. If this grain is contaminated what will happen?
- What will happen to the contaminated grain? Will everyone in the grain industry be compensated for loss of income?
- Will the silos end up closed for grain handling? Who will pay to take the grain to the next closest silo or storage system year after year? And the expense of setting up the storage to replace the storage lost of Ardrossan?
- Will this mine affect the running of the already established non toxic practices of dolerite and salt production?

Community consultation

- Consultation with locals has been poor.
- Not enough time for us to raise concerns.
- An extension until the 1 of March 2014 needs to be in place so that locals can raise concerns and get questions answered. Tourists that come over for summer need to be notified, these tourists are important to the local economy.
- Cannot rely on Rex Minerals modellings and reports, independent impact reports need to be done.
- Things need to be done in an order so there aren't any oversights, not rushed before the next election.
- How can the councils long term plan be to be accommodating to mining when the lifespan of this mine is 15 years.
- Rex Minerals needs to answer questions from the community at the public meetings.
- DIMTRE need to be present at the local meetings.

- Minister for mining needs to be at local meetings.

Economical

- How will this proposed mine affect the local economy?
- How will it affect tourism?
- How will local business compete with wages that wage earners can get at the mine.
- Will the cost of goods and services rise?
- How can business stay healthy if overheads are raised, employees are short and income decreases?
- Will Rex Minerals compensate or will there be government bail outs so the tax payers will pay?
- There has been talk of ferrying people over from Adelaide to work in the mine how will this help the local economy? Or the local communities?
- There is already talk of sourcing food for workers from Gawler how will this help local business and the community?

Social

- If mine workers are not permanent then they do not count towards social services funding.
- Will we see our local hospitals, police and doctors spread thin with the extra people.
- Will we see an increase in crime?
- An increase in waiting times to see a doctor?
- An increase in hospital waiting times and a decrease in care?

Uranium and Asbestos

- In the proposed hillside mine there will be pockets of highly concentrated uranium.
- Uranium in these pockets are at 10000 parts per million. This is high enough to mine if the ore body was bigger.
- Rex Minerals plan to get this high concentration of uranium and spread it out on the waste rock piles to dilute it to 280ppm, the old best practice was 200ppm and there is talk that it should be 80ppm. 280ppm is nowhere near 80ppm.
- How can it be best practice to spread out uranium on waste rock piles? Will there be dust from this?
- Asbestos is also found in the ore body. These asbestos fibres are buried and untouched are harmless. Once dug up they can travel in dust for many kilometres and can be detrimental to health. Will we see cases or asbestoses years after the mine has stopped production? Who will be held accountable?

Rehabilitation

- The waste rock piles are 115m tall, the pit 400m deep by 600m by 1000m.
- Rex Minerals needs to place a big enough deposit to be able to totally rehabilitate the site to original state.
- Total rehabilitation is near impossible.
- If topsoil is stacked underneath other soil and rocks then it will lose its viability and then become unfertile.
- The water left in pits will be toxic.
- What is the rehabilitation been estimated at costing?
- If Rex Minerals do not have the money to rehabilitate should they be able to start mining?
- If Rex Minerals go bankrupt who then will pay for the clean up? Tax payers?

In conclusion the proposed mine by Rex Minerals needs to be thought about long and hard from every angle listed here, how it will negatively and positively change the local community and environment that will benefit little from it. There needs to be an extension in the proposal time frame to properly consider all the facts and get independent studies. If this mine goes ahead then it needs to be with the strictest regulations to do as little damage as possible. We need to remember that the industry of agriculture makes more money for this state than mining and will continue to do so long after the 15 years of mining is up. When agriculture and tourism are paired as they are in this case they outstrip mining by far. Also that there is a great difference in setting up a mine and people settling around it for work then a mine being set up in an already highly populated country area. The local councils motto for the Yorke Peninsula is, Agriculturally Rich Naturally Beautiful, let's keep it that way.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Peter Klopp.

Peter Klopp