

Tom & Elizabeth Saint & Family

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30 October, 2013

**SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE REX MINERALS
HILLSIDE MINING LEASE PROPOSAL**

My family and I are writing in response to the Mining Lease Proposal submitted by Rex Minerals on the proposed Hillside Mine at Pine Point on the Yorke Peninsula.

Farming is the core of our family's income and has been our way of life for five generations in the Central Yorke Peninsula region. We currently own and operate a 3,000 hectare farm in Sandilands, which is adjacent to the proposed mining area. Three of our larger paddocks, comprising approximately 380 hectares, also fall within the mine footprint area proposed by Rex Minerals at Hillside (Hundred of Muloowurtie - Allotment 170 and Section 73).

It appears to us that the long history of agricultural prosperity of the Yorke Peninsula, (which currently contributes over \$400 million to the state's economy) and the reputation of the region as the "barley capital of the world" is being cast aside by the state government at the expense of securing votes at the next election. It could be argued that the mine at Hillside is being used by the government to show its renewed commitment to mining after the unpopular decision to halt the Olympic Dam Expansion.

The prosperity of mining above agriculture is a misplaced notion – the Australian Liberal Party SA's website quotes mineral exports in the year to March 2012 as being \$4 billion, whereas the South Australian food and wine industry is worth over \$14 billion.

We believe the proposed mine at Hillside will have a negative long-term social, economic and environmental impact on the immediate local area, as well as the Yorke Peninsula region as a whole.

In this submission we will focus specifically on how the proposed mining operations at Hillside will affect our family more directly:

- **Dust from the daily mining operations and waste heaps, which may also contain asbestos fibres and radioactive particles**
 - The toxic dust generated by the mine will affect the quality of our crops. If the crops are rejected at market, we will not fulfil our grain contracts, our income will be compromised and we will not be able to meet our mortgage repayments.
 - Toxic dust could potentially enter into our rainwater tank at the property and cause the water to be unsafe to use, as water from this rainwater tank is the

sole source of drinking water on the property.

- The potential for respiratory diseases such as Asthma, and other health issues caused by dust and toxic substances.

- **Damage caused by Explosions to our house at 146 Matthews Rd, Sandilands**

- Explosions undertaken as part of the mineral extraction process will cause noise, vibrations and general disruption, resulting in a reduction in the quality of life of anybody living at the house.
- The explosions will also cause cracks in the walls of the house and outbuildings located on the farm. The impact of this will be:
 1. Cost of time and money in undertaking ongoing repairs
 2. Decrease in the property value of the house
 3. Harder for us to find tenants and reduction in rental income

- **Proposed Rezoning**

- Rex Minerals has proposed to rezone land that falls within the mining footprint from the current zoning of Primary Production to Mineral Extraction zone. Three large paddocks of our farming enterprise fall within the area covered by the proposed rezoning in the Hundred of Muloowurtie. These are Allotment 170 and Section 73, which together comprise approximately 380 hectares.
- The dust and noise levels permitted in a Mineral Extraction Zone are much higher than is permitted in a Primary Production or Residential Zone.
- If the proposed rezoning is successful, we need independent legal assurance and guarantees from local government undertaking the rezoning, that we will still be able to continue to crop these allotments to earn an income to pay our mortgage repayments and support our family.

- **Recreation**

- The coastal area of Black Point, James Well and Ardrossan is used by our family for recreation. We enjoy going to the beach, swimming in the sea and going fishing. We are extremely concerned about the risk of toxicity from the mine causing pollution to the beaches and the waters of the Gulf, as well as the ruin of the attractive coastline and rural environment by the open cut mine and its huge overburden mountain.

- **Local Businesses and Services**

- We rely on the local agricultural support businesses in the region to maintain our farming machinery and provide other goods and services for the day to day operations of our farm business. If agriculture activity is decreased as mining is developed, these businesses will disappear and we will not be able to run our farms as effectively.
- As well as agriculture, the Pine Point area relies on tourism to provide a considerable component of the local income every year and the survival of businesses providing general goods and services. Tourist visitors will not

want to come to this part of the Yorke Peninsula if they cannot go fishing and enjoy the pristine beaches and rural landscapes after the mine is developed. When the income derived from tourist visitors goes down, these businesses will move away. How far will my family then have to travel to go to a bakery, buy home wares or even get a haircut for example?

- **Pressure on health and emergency services**

- Temporary workers "shipped" in from Adelaide to work at the mine are not classed as permanent residents and will therefore not enable qualification for the government to provide additional health services in the area. This will create more pressure on our existing health services as the temporary workers will also have a need to use our health services at times.

- **Compromise to our family's future in the region**

- Rex Minerals are proposing that they will be active at Hillside for less than fifteen years. When mining operations have finished we will be left with a wasteland. The area will be too toxic to farm as well as being too visually unattractive to be utilized to generate tourism income. Environmental, social and economic inertia will prevail. What job opportunities will there be for our children? There will be nothing to encourage our children to remain in the area when they finish their education, and like others, they will relocate to areas with better job and lifestyle opportunities.

In summary, we are 100% against the presence of the proposed mine at Hillside. The mine will have no positive outcomes for our family. We believe that the long term future of the region is being sacrificed for short term gain.

We would also like to express our disappointment at Rex Minerals for releasing their Mining Lease Proposal for Hillside just before harvest time, when in a predominantly agricultural areas the detailed perusal of the complete 800 page document is near-impossible, let alone having time to get professional advice to disseminate some of the more technical details and put a comprehensive submission together.

Rex has been active in this region for the past four years and would have been fully aware of the impact of the timing of the release of the document and its conflict with harvest time. This shortfall in business ethics does not bode well for the local community's trust in Rex Minerals' Mining Lease Proposal and their commitment to their responsibilities in light of mining best practice and post-operation rehabilitation.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area of the letter.

Tom, Elizabeth & Amelia Saint