

Dean, Julie (DEM)

From: Ruby Johnson <ruby@rubyjohnson.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 6 September 2019 11:39 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Proposed mine Woodside

My name is Ruby Johnson.

I'm a former resident of the Adelaide Hills which I've always associated with rolling hills, all kinds of agricultural produce, especially vineyards.

I feel there is a great need for caution when considering a mine in an agricultural setting and tourism area. What I really don't understand is that Bird in Hand winery has plans for a multi-million dollar art gallery which will boost tourism in the area significantly. What will happen to these plans if the mine goes ahead? What business in their right economic minds would go ahead with this kind of development when the chances are that it won't pay off financially because of the proposed mine?

Mines inevitably represent a short term gain but at what expense? Will this government be accused of once again being short-sighted and sacrifice the economic future of this tourist area (which has been built up over a significant period of time), for the short-term gain of a few jobs?

It seems to me that for an extra 40 jobs at the mine there is the potential of a loss of 150 jobs in the local community because it will affect so many businesses, including tourism, in the area.

Just as importantly, if not more so, it will affect the quality of produce as well as being noisy and intrusive for nearby enterprises such as the Bird In Hand and Petaluma Wineries.

Given that the aquifers in the region will be compromised, we know that any kind of mining will also affect the health of all those living in this area because they depend on this water for their crops and in most cases for their drinking water.

Haven't we learned our lesson yet regarding putting greed before need?

Will this government be brave enough to put **need** before greed? Or will it play safe behind the rhetoric of having to be seen to be supportive of the mining industry, while fully aware of the negative economic and environmental impact in this fragile eco system of the Adelaide Hills?

Some key issues that I see as a concerned citizen, are:

Mining is a short term proposition, especially when compared to agriculture

Mining leaves ugly scars on the landscape that take a long time to heal and thereby affects tourism

Mining disrupts local businesses, particularly the wineries which surround the proposed site of the mine

Mining affects the aquifers negatively - that's not rocket science

Mining is noisy

Mining is dusty

Mining is invasive - I am particularly concerned about the twice daily blasting needed to create kilometres of underground tunnels which will not just be noisy but will also affect the drinking water used by so many of the local residents as their water supply. This apparently will occur twice daily, including public holidays.

This mine will inflict lasting damage on Woodside and the surrounding areas' reputation as a tourist destination... I personally would no longer feel comfortable recommending this area to my friends as a place to visit.

I think that tourism in the area will be negatively affected and on which this area relies... and when the mine is gone? Then what? How long does it take to recover from 5 years of invasive intrusion of this pristine area in the Adelaide Hills? How long does it take for local businesses to recover their current economic status?

We know the 60% of Adelaide's drinking water is supplied from the protected Mount Lofty Ranges watershed zone and the mine site is squarely in that region viz. the Inverbrackie Creek catchment area.

We also know that underground blasting, tunnelling and drilling can, and usually does, cause irreversible damage to fragile underground aquifers.

My concern is that the proposed reinjecting of groundwater back into the local aquifer will be of an inferior quality with no guarantees of restoring the current quality of water, nor the current landscape.

It is distressing to me to think that we would value a bit of gold over the health and wellbeing of this pristine environment and the people who live there, especially knowing that the local aquifer will drop my 20 metres and thereby impact a bare minimum of 1.2km away.

Just purely from an economic viewpoint, I personally don't see any value in adding so little to the local economy at the expense of the existing long term prosperity for the region. Given some of the proposed capital expenditures of about \$50 million to improve local businesses in the area I would question the wisdom of that, in the light of even a small chance that such a detrimental project will proceed. In my mind, as a business owner, I would be questioning any plans to expand my business were it in this area, especially if it were related to tourism in any way as is the Bird in Hand project previously mentioned.

I have read and reference here a document here that has fuelled my concern [here](#)
Another of my concerns is the effect on the landscape of a gaping hole 1500m long and 500m deep - it defies belief that we could even be considering something like this in such an important area for tourism. This is not even considering the number of trucks involved which would significantly and adversely affect traffic in the area.

I hope that reason prevails and not short term thinking driven by greed and the big pockets of large corporations, not to mention the short-sightedness and weak politicians who appear to be dependent on those corporations for their jobs. I would dearly like to see the little people win at least one of these battles against corporate Goliaths.

In expectation of a sane outcome
Ruby Johnson