



Tuesday 5th November 2013

Mining Regulation and Rehabilitation Branch
Minerals Resources Division
Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy (DMITRE)
GPO Box 1264
Adelaide
South Australia 5001

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the "Hillside Copper Mine Mining Lease Proposal & Management Plan" we wish to make the following comments:

As 4th generation famers at Sandilands on the Yorke Peninsula, living and farming in close proximity of the proposed mine, we oppose the Hillside Copper Mine following grounds:

3.3.4 Improved Infrastructure and Resources (from Hillside Copper Mining Lease Proposal and Management Plan)

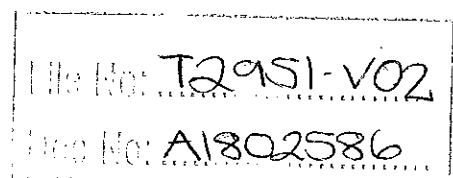
3.3.4.1 Water Supply

Water supply in Yorke Peninsula is predominantly sourced from two resources: the River Murray and the Para Wurlie groundwater basin. The SA Water Long Term Plan for Yorke Peninsula 2010 shows that water supply in the Upper Paskeville system is currently under stress, particularly during summer.

REX is proposing to use approx.1.7 million litres per day of Murray water for the life of the mine. The total amount of water used at their plant will be over 17 million litres per day, most of which will be removed from the groundwater. Our water supply both from the Murray River and groundwater cannot cope with the excessive use from the Hillside Mine.

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Via Ardrossan SA 5571
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ABN 21 367 684 910



3.2.4 Northern and Yorke Regional NRM Plan (from Hillside Copper Mining Lease Proposal and Management Plan)

The Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board made a significant contribution to the State Plan by identifying local natural resources management goals:

- **healthy soils**
- **viable water resources**
- **healthy coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems**
- **healthy terrestrial ecosystems**
- **minimal pest impact**
- **community driven NRM.**

The Hillside Project will be implemented so as to respect, preserve and where possible, enhance the specific features and values of ecosystems in the area.

How will the Hillside Project respect, preserve and enhance the specific features and values of ecosystems in the area? Mining does NOT fit into the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Plan. Mining does not maintain healthy soils, it jeopardises our viable water resources and healthy coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems.

5.2.3 Potential/Conceptual Final Land Use (from Hillside Copper Mining Lease Proposal and Management Plan)

Rex intends to implement a closure plan that not only complies with legal obligations, but also reflects community expectations and delivers a sustainable outcome for the Hillside Project site. The site will be progressively rehabilitated (where practicable) to a safe and stable condition with a post-mining land use as agreed with stakeholders.

Once land has been opened to mining there is no way it can be rejuvenated to it's previous form, the soil profile has been destroyed and land that was once capable of growing some of the highest yielding crops in the state will never be able to grow a crop again.

Farming land on the Yorke Peninsula is some of the most sort after farming land in Australia. We cannot believe that the state government would willingly jeopardise this precious asset of our state by opening it up to mining. We are very blessed to be able to farm this land and produce very productive and profitable crops. The land is fertile and receives very reliable rainfall. South Australia is not abundant in agricultural land; we farm in the driest state in the direst continent. This land must be respected and protected from mining.

The Yorke Peninsula harvested 1,226,170 tonnes of cereals, legumes and hay in 2012; the total harvest across the state in 2012 was 4,845,660 tonnes. Therefore the Yorke Peninsula produced 25% of the states cereals, legumes and hay in 2012. (source: PIRSA, Crop and Pasture Report South Australia, Harvest January 2013). How can the South Australian Government put at risk one quarter of the grain crop of South Australia for a copper mine that will have a life span of 15 years at the most? This prime farming land will continue to produce grain to feed our state for hundreds of years to come. With an ever growing population isn't food security high on the government's agenda? Who in

their right mind would knowingly wipe out 25% of the state's grain harvest? We can't eat copper.

This proposed mine is going to have a very detrimental effect to this area. We understand that if Hillside goes ahead, there are 50 other potential sites to mine on the Yorke Peninsula, spreading to South Kilkerran, Port Victoria, north of Maitland nearly as far as Kadina and as far south between Minlaton and Yorketown. All these planned mines will have "haul roads" (large heavy roads to accommodate the 200t trucks) to transport everything back to the processing plant at Hillside. From research of the local YP Landholders group it seems these haul roads will spider out across the peninsula and the peninsula will be decimated.

Table 5.8-1: Summary of average Uranium concentrations from Hillside zones

Zone or product Uranium concentration (from Hillside Copper Mining Lease Proposal and Management Plan)

Whilst the Hillside deposit has low overall average concentrations of uranium mineralisation, there are discrete zones of elevated uranium concentration.

How as a community can we be assured that these toxic substances will not affect us?

Tourism

- The Yorke Peninsula is a very popular holiday destination for many people, Black Point and surrounding beaches are beautiful pristine areas for swimming, water sports and fishing. This holiday destination has the potential to be destroyed by contamination from the nearby mine.

Water Quality

- Mining operations have the potential to risk our water quality with the possibility of sulphuric acid forming and seeping into the ground water and then eventually into the sea. Also many homes in the area use rain water for drinking and household use, this water will be contaminated by the dust from the mine and will no longer be safe to use in our homes.

Marine Life

- Potential contamination from the mine seeping into the ground water and then out to sea will effect marine life.




Loading onto ships on the Ardrossan Jetty

- The Ardrossan Jetty is in a marine park, if there is a spill of a toxic substance into the sea while loading a ship, the safety of the marine life in the marine park is jeopardised.
- The Ardrossan jetty is situated in the town; toxic dust while loading ships will be a constant threat to residents wellbeing.

We are not against mining, BUT we are against mining on prime agricultural land. Only 6% of South Australia is capable of growing crops to feed our state. Mines should be placed on land where crops cannot be grown. We believe prime farming land should be protected from mining.

Yours Sincerely

Stephen and Nicole Mattschoss


Via Ardrossan SA 5571



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