

Yorke Peninsula is a jewel in SA's crown...one that makes SA GREAT!

'Agriculturally Rich and Naturally Beautiful'...says it all so perfectly.

To our South Australian Government,

Mining has its place – but in its place...not on our beautiful Yorke Peninsula.

My name is Stephen Ring, my wife and I own a holiday home in James Well. We purchased the home 7 years ago after years of traveling to Yorke Peninsula for weekend breaks away from hard work and city life. We fell in love with the James Well/Rogues Point settlements and cherished the idea of living the country life. We have dreams of possibly retiring to our holiday home and have been considering the possibility of even owning our own farm, we love living by the sea and side by side with the rural community. James Well has become our home away from home, we are there every second week.

The prospect of large scale mining 4000m from our home is frightening.

Whilst there are many negative reasons against large scale mining; **the main issues are the environment and gulf waters, air-contamination, the visual, social and demographic impact, the value of our investment in property and lifestyle will be diminished. The future seems so uncertain.**

Moreover, the decisions seem to only revolve around economics, **what about the human issues?**

Mining on Yorke Peninsula is principally unconscionable and morally reprehensible.

Do we really care about the people large scale mining will affect directly and indirectly – all South Australians? It is so concerning that such massive decisions are made with the emphasis being royalties and chasing the \$\$ - this state needs the cash but at what expense? The opportunity cost will be huge. The people I meet in business and socially are no way in tune with the prospect of large scale mining...they have little or no idea and are mortified at the thought. **With such everlasting issues this state must be properly consulted!**

Isn't it possible and reasonable to think that the people of SA would prefer to continue farming for generations versus a 12-15 year mine – **could the people of SA prefer Yorkes to be left alone so we can all enjoy its wealth – is this best for SA?** Tourism, holidays, lifestyle - it is so accessible for short holidays for the people of SA and it is affordable. We don't want to holiday next to a massive mine!! Where do we go? **Consider the people who risk their lifestyle investments and property assets being devalued?** The people of SA deserve a better argument than just economics \$\$.

The existing Burra mine was to be re-opened but stopped by Tom Koutsantonis back in 2011? Because it was considered a heritage site, buildings could get damaged and possible water contamination was an issue. The moral and human issues seem to be considered...simply, it was just wrong to mine here again.

I find it concerning that the Government has the attitude that "we produce enough food to feed 60 million people" and therefore any "food-bowl argument" is "hysterical and laughable!" In a world with 7 billion people and world food shortages becoming a great global issue, **how fortunate and proud we can be to have the rich fertile lands of Yorke Peninsula – our back yard, reaping food for the world. Imagine our peninsula in other parts of the world...our land is gold!**

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Gosh...near **Port Augusta** in remote, barren country a team of very smart people have created a self-sustaining, food producing environment. A prototype project they hope to show the world that we can live sustainably in remote or arid parts of the world. Absurdly, down the road a few hours we have a rich and prospering Yorke Peninsula and we want to carve it up and dig a huge hole for money...it is insane!

Would we consider a mine of this magnitude in the Clare Valley, the Barossa, the Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island – can you imagine the protest, **we tend to forget our Yorke Peninsula**. Rex Minerals is an exploration company from Ballarat Victoria, **can you imagine if a similar full scale mining operation opened for business in the Dalesford Region near Ballarat, or how about the Mornington Peninsula?** I wouldn't think a chance!

It is **too easy and too convenient**, companies furthering their charter and careers, being allowed to buy farmers off their land – destroy lands that have taken generations to nurture, package their findings and sell it off to the highest bidder...what a shame. Sure, a few jobs will be created and some dollars will be generated – but at what expense? The opportunity cost is devastating and everlasting. There will be no going back.

Agriculture earns more for our country than mining and the future world needs it. We can't eat gold or copper and uranium can kill us.

Our alluvial soils are the envy of the world, our visitors from overseas are in awe that we have a place like Yorkes on our doorstep – the space, the lifestyle, the scenery, the communities, the history, the agriculture. It is unique and special. Mention the prospect of opening up mines and they gasp...'oh what a shame, who would allow this?'

Mining has its place in Australia, but it must be in its place. It is a big country, explore and create mining communities in regions where there is minimal impact...where mining would be welcomed as opposed to encroaching on communities and lands that are so important in the heart of all South Australians.

Tens of thousands of people head to Yorkes for a weekender, long weekends, Easter and Christmas. Thousands of people visit places like Tiddy Widdy Beach, Ardrossan, James Well, Rogues Point, Pine Point and Black Point...**they don't go to see a mine. We go to be a part of the agricultural region, for the lifestyle...for a moment of peace and quiet...a break from city life.**

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The thought of large scale mining the size of Olympic Dam is depressing...

Our concerns in summary;

- **The environment** – gulf contamination risk, it is more often very windy – dust and contaminants, chemical processing on site – our rainwater, the waste fill will be 70 - 100m high around the perimeter, noise from blasting, what will happen with the giant hole in the ground? Already with the small dolomite mine in Ardrossan we can hear occasional blasting and the dust can linger for a day or two.
- **Infrastructure – impact on the region** – it is huge! It will never be the same – it will become a city of trucks and movement 24/7 operation with lights through the night – become an industrial city!
- **Water** - 17,000,000 million litres of water will be used every day! Pumped from the Murray River. What if we find ourselves in drought again...with them stop watering their backyard?
- **Social and demographic impact** – The reasons why people choose to settle there permanently, retire and holiday will be lost – I already know several retirees contemplating the prospect of moving...what a shame. In many cases, their humble homes are all they have.
- **Agriculture** – a success story for SA for generations – the world is talking about future food shortages, how fortunate we are to have land that produces. **Land is gold!**
- **Land and property values** – will decrease. We have made great sacrifice to buy our holiday and future home – a lifestyle investment. Who wants to holiday or live near a mine!
- **Tourism** – YP is one of SA's jewels – a periodic holiday destination for tens of 1000's.
- **Historical significance** – all over Yorkes there are stories to tell – like the 'stump jump' plough.
- **Too close** – to our gulf waters, existing communities and rich farmland.
- **Precedent** – this will be just the start – Rex are now saying they want a mining lease from Moonta to Yorketown!! At least the entire Ardrossan District!
- **Government focus – Economics!** It is unconscionable to think that City infrastructure projects be paid for at the expense of our great Peninsula.

Our Government on behalf of the people of SA has a huge responsibility to make the right decision. There are many people who feel they are insignificant and don't have a voice.

The people who care feel there is so much more we don't know...there needs to be a counter argument and more public awareness – it has been much too quiet. The occasional article creating a positive spin is not good enough. Our Government must be more accountable, open and transparent on such issues that will change a way of life forever for all of SA.

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Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to voice our serious concerns.