

Mr Mark Howe

Mining, Regulation and Rehabilitation Branch,

Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy,

GPO Box 1264, Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Mr Howe,

**RE: REX MINERALS MINING LEASE PROPOSAL FOR THE HILLSIDE COPPER, GOLD AND IRON ORE MINE, YORKE PENINSULA**

I Elizabeth Sandford am aware of Rex Minerals mining lease proposal to establish an open pit copper, gold and iron ore mine at Hillside on Yorke Peninsula near Pine Point. I understand that the proposed mine will cover an area of approximately 3,000 hectares and will comprise: an open pit 2.4 kms long by 1.2 kms wide and 450 metres deep: three waste rock piles, the highest reaching 113 metres: a large crushing, grinding facility: a flotation and magnetic separation processing plant: a large tailings dam to hold processing by products: two 12 km long pipelines to carry the ore concentrate to Ardrossan and return seawater to the mine site, a filtration plant, storage sheds, water storage ponds and a seawater intake system at the port of Ardrossan: major road realignments of the Yorke Highway and Minlaton turnoff: significant bore holes for disposal of surplus processing water into the aquifer.

I wish to lodge my objection to this mine development proposal because of the following:

- o Loss of prime agricultural land ( arguably the best Barley growing land in the world)
- o Detrimental impact on tourism and associated loss of tourist dollars ( who would want to holiday near a large industrial mine)
- o In appropriateness of locating a mine of this size in a populated rural area, within very close proximity to townships and holiday locations.
- o Detrimental effect on people, crops and stock from exposure to hazardous dust ( the Pine Point community has already experienced this as a result of a bushfire just west of the town, when following the fire under a strong south westerly wind, visibility was severely reduced by dust for the following 4 days. The Police were contacted at the time to manage road traffic as a result of the dust, which was clearly visible from Ardrossan looking south. *It should also be noted that Rex's own submission indicates that there is no planned dust management protocols for the rock piles.*)
- o Groundwater contamination and lowering of the water table ( *Rex's submission states that they will use seawater for a range of activities, but there is no calculation of how many tonnes of salt that will be deposited on the land surface or pumped into the aquifer* ) .
- o Contamination of Gulf St Vincent and its marine life.
- o Health impacts associated with exposure to contaminated dust, constant noise, contaminated rainwater tanks and sleep deprivation.(some residences are solely dependent on rainwater with no SA Water mains available,(*Rex's own submission*

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*indicates that further work is required to establish the quantum of contaminates unearthed as the mine is developed, so we don't know what we don't know.)*

- o Noise pollution
  - o Visual pollution
  - o Vibrations from blasting every two days.
  - o Inadequate provision for rehabilitation of the mine, particularly during operation, resulting in long term irreversible damage to the environment.
  - o Risk that the local community will be left with a huge cleanup bill / actions if the mine closes prematurely or is put on hold indefinitely after some years of operation, (*again Rex's submission is very light on final rehabilitation works and funding for same*)
  - o Devaluation of surrounding properties including agricultural. land and coastal residences.
  - o Creation of hazardous road junction at proposed Minlaton diversion at Pine Point and mine / Sandilands turnoff
  - o Increased heavy vehicle traffic and road damage for the life of the mine. . (*Rex's submission on road traffic does not seem to reflect entirely the activities of the mine and their impact on the road network, as a mine of this size will require that the fuel deliveries alone will peak at 9 trips per day on average from Adelaide to the mine site, apart from other heavy loads of excavators etc*)
  - o Lack of effective community consultation and transparency of process, as we have had only a very short time to now consider all of Rex's submissions and make comment on same.
  - o Damage to social infrastructure and loss of community amenity as we know it now, as many standards that Rex may comply with are above what we now enjoy in our community.
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- o Detrimental effect on flora and fauna.

Given that I have holidayed at Black Point since 1957 and purchased a holiday house at Pine Point some 16 years ago and now spend a significant amount of time at Pine Point, it is obvious that I have chosen to enjoy the amenity afforded as it currently stands.


My original expectation of the Rex mine was a small gold mine around an area that had previously been dug out many years ago.

To now find that we are faced with one of the largest if not the largest open pit mine in the State, is astounding to say the least and I will seek compensation for any losses that I consider are due to the mine activities if it proceeds, including any loss of value to my property or damage to same.

I therefore petition DMITRE to disallow this proposal and I look forward to a favourable consideration of this submission.

Yours faithfully,

  
EJ Sandford

  
St Agnes SA 5097