

We are opposed to the development of the Hillside Mine at Pine point, by Rex Minerals for the following reasons:

1. Roxby Downs was deliberately built 12 kilometres from the Olympic Mine site to minimise the problems of large scale mining noise, dust pollution, vibration and over pressure along with substantial light spillage and other effects on human and animal life. Even at this distance, Roxby Downs experiences the above from time to time. Bearing in mind this is a predominately underground operation. The proposed Hillside open cut mine will have a far greater impact on the above negatives, being larger in size then the Olympic Mine site and will be completely (at this stage) open. Yorke Peninsula is a pristine farming precinct with its geographic and maritime climates. It consistently yields high quality primary production of grain, legumes and canola which are used locally and also exported to all arts of the world, including the E.U. and with rapidly increasing world population, food security will become extremely important in the coming decades even critical. So Yorke Peninsula must remain a valuable food source for the coming decades.

2. NOISE

As mentioned above, Roxby Downs was built 12 kilometres from Olympic Dam, these are farmers living within 1 kilometre of the proposal and many people in the coastal settlement of Pine Point, Black Point, Rogues Point and James well are within a 2-5 kilometre distance from the site. The noise impact of 70,350 tonne dump trucks, working 24/7 (perhaps 365) days will be massive. If the mine site is 2,400 metres long, 1,000 metres wide and 450 metres deep, approximately one billion cubic metres of rock will be blasted. The industry norm is approximately 700 grams of ammonium nitrate per GM. This amounts to 750,000 tonnes of explosive in the life to the mine. The 1,000 tonnes of explosive per week will contribute significantly to the noise. To break, crush and ball mill the approximately 500,000 tonnes of ore per week will have a very large noise level. The S.G. of the ore body will be approximately 3, this equates to approximately 3 billion tonnes of ore.

3. DUST

It will be impossible to mitigate the fugitive dust from a mine this size. The feasibility study of the Ceres Wind Farm, which practically surrounds the proposed mine site, determined that there is significant and consistent wind flow in the area. This clearly indicates that any dust generated from the mine will be distributed over large areas of agricultural land or in the case of the Westerlies, St Vincent's Gulf. The dust will contain toxic sulphides, heavy metals and uranium and if deposited on crops during the growing and harvesting period this could seriously contaminate the ground and be a health risk to the harvesting operators. In a public forum Mark Parry (CEO/Managing Director for Rex Minerals) indicated that "hot spot" of uranium ore 10,000 PPM were found in a drilling operation. The E.U. is moving to tighter the control of chemical contamination of grain over the next two years and a shipment of grain from Port Giles consolidated with a consignment from Ardrossan could easily be rejected in Rotterdam or some other European ports if it is contaminated with iron, copper and uranium dust.

