

## MINING OR NO MINING FOR Y.P.?

COPY

File No: T2951

Doc No: A1786754

Phil & Tanya Whittaker

Ardrossan 5571

Petersville 5571

18/10/2013

There are many situations in life where we need to have insight and wisdom before making decisions where the outcome is uncertain. When the government allowed legal gambling in the form of Poker Machines they justified their actions by promising to do 'good works' from the revenue raised. During this debate, large groups of people, particularly Christian churches strongly opposed the idea. Now, years on, the government are having to provide welfare for gambling damaged families. Those same groups who foresaw the problems and opposed the introduction of legal gambling are now, often involved in the repairing of broken (gambling effected) families. This is the result of being 'Free to Gamble'.

Ardrossan, Pine Point, Black Point and surrounding districts are in danger of losing a most treasured possession to a mining company. Rex Minerals advertise their plans through newspapers and pamphlets, employing trained people to present a 'non offensive', 'everything will be alright', big financial benefits to the community, view of their proposed mining venture. They go to a lot of trouble to keep people happy with their guided tours, smooth talking which is loaded with promises but they have only one objective and that is to make money out of this farming land.

For as long as city people have been taking holidays Y.P. has been a favourite destination. The East coast of Y.P. is particularly popular with its good roads, easy access from Adelaide, great climate, clean, safe beaches, ideal camping spots, seafood to be caught and enjoyed, unique native scrubs, and the quiet peaceful environment. Ardrossan swells with tourists each summer. This rich grain producing farm land is part of the tourist attraction. The quiet small towns are another reason why people visit Y.P. in droves. We need to consider the big picture and look deep into the future of this special small farming district that offers so much. There is a lot to be lost! Rex Minerals proposes a huge area of change. (destruction) The mined land will never be the same again. Fifteen years of tearing up the soil and then its all over and we the locals are left with an eyesore. There is no guarantee that the jobs offered by Rex will go to the local people. It is common knowledge that people who seek mining work will come from far away, interstate and possibly overseas. The proposed mining of 'Good, Grain, Growing' land is only a quick fix for brief, speculative, financial venture with no consideration for the land that has been farmed with respect for generations. Farmers farm for long term benefits often passing the enterprise onto their sons and grandsons. Mining doesn't really care about the land and its future. The top soil would be removed and food producing land would no longer exist. We need to protect the heritage of the men and women who have farmed this land before us, to speak up for them, not allowing a mining company with its wealth and power intimidate and push the 'smaller people' around. Who cares about preserving the natural beauty and rural productivity of the Ardrossan, Pine Point area? We the locals do and possibly a big majority of the regular tourists do too. Once permission is given for any mining company to operate it will be too late as bit by bit we will witness changes in all sorts of areas that we just didn't foresee.

An influx of mine workers will demand more housing, spend more money locally but it will come to an end leaving vacant, unwanted homes, unproductive farms and unemployed people. This area already enjoys seasonal work every year thanks to the grain harvesting and tourism. Please don't allow Rex Minerals the right to mine anywhere on Y.P. (The scale proposed is way too massive). Lets keep this special leg of land in tact so that the locals can go on farming in peace, and the tourists can still come and enjoy the tranquillity which will certainly not exist if mining goes ahead. The noise, lights, 24 hour activity, strain on water supply, dust, pollution and the trucking of minerals will all change the way life is. Save our spot before it's too late.

Phil & Tanya Whittaker