

Mr. Mark Howe
Mining, Regulation and Rehabilitation Branch,
Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy,
GPO Box 1264,
Adelaide. 5001

Dear Mr. Howe,

RE Rex Minerals' Mining Lease Proposal for the Hillside Copper Mine, Yorke Peninsula

Submission for Ben & Amanda Gersch

We are aware of Rex Minerals' mining lease proposal to establish an open pit copper mine at Hillside on Yorke Peninsula near Pine Point. We understand that proposed mine will cover an area of approximately 3,000 hectares and will comprise: an open pit 2.4 kms long by 1 km wide by 450 metres deep; three waste rock piles, the highest reaching 115 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 pipelines to carry the ore concentrate to Ardrossan and return seawater to the mine; a filtration plant, storage sheds, water storage ponds and a seawater intake system at the port; major road realignments of the Yorke Highway and Minlaton turn-off.

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

1. **Loss of prime agricultural land** - We feel that any loss of agricultural land is detrimental for the future of all Australians. By 2050 the world's demand for food is expected to rise by 70%, so food sustainability is of paramount importance.
2. **Inappropriateness of locating a mine of this size in a populated rural area**
3. **Detrimental effect on people, crops and stock from exposure to hazardous dust** – we do not wish to be the trial subjects for an exploration company 'having a go' at mining. Nobody really knows what the effects are likely to be and we do not wish to have our lives and livelihood put at risk.
4. **Groundwater contamination and lowering of the water table**
5. **Health impacts associated with exposure to contaminated dust, constant noise, contaminated rain water tanks and sleep deprivation**
6. **Vibrations from blasting a least once every two days**
7. **Inadequate provision for rehabilitation of mine site, resulting in long-term irreversible damage to environment** – This land would never be able to be farmed again. The farming land we have now has not happened overnight, it has taken many generations and new technologies to have the Prime Agricultural land we have today, and complacency plays no part in this, the progressive farmers of Yorke Peninsula are constantly monitoring and protecting our precious land.
8. **Devaluation of surrounding properties including agricultural land and coastal residences**

9. **Increased heavy vehicle traffic and road damage for the life of the mine**
10. **50 more sites** – Rex have said they are aggressively pursuing 50 more sites on Yorke Peninsula. If we let this one ‘slip through’ what’s to stop them effectively destroying the whole peninsula.

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

Yours faithfully,

Ben & Amanda Gersch

[REDACTED]
Sandilands SA 5571
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