

23/10/2013

Nathan Zeman

Chief Executive Principal Mining Assessment Officer
DMITRE Mining Regulation and Rehabilitation Branch
via email: Nathan.zeman@sa.gov.au

Dear Nathan,

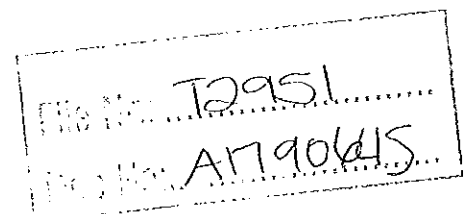
Re: Request for further extension of the public consultation period for the Mining Lease Proposal for the Hillside Copper Mine proposed by Rex Minerals.

I write on behalf of the Hillside Community Consultative Group (CCG) to seek a further extension of the public consultation period for the Mining Lease Proposal for Hillside Copper Mine. Whilst we appreciate the two-week extension already granted by DMITRE, we are very much in need of additional time to consider this significant Project and the implications it may have for our community.

As you are aware, the CCG was established to provide broad community representation on matters relating to the proposed development of the Hillside Mine. The group met on Monday 21 October 2013 and determined to seek a further extension of the public consultation period for the following reasons:

As outlined in my previous letter to you dated 26/09/2013, there remain many issues of concern to the CCG and the broader community surrounding the proposed Hillside Mine. The CCG believes it and the broader community need more time to seek clarification of these issues from Rex Minerals and to fully consider the implications of the proposal for the region. This is particularly the case given the inadequacies of the MLP documentation which make it difficult for us, and the broader community, to understand what development of the mine involves and how Rex Minerals plans to manage its potential impacts. These inadequacies include:

- Many of the technical studies conducted to assess the potential impact of the mine were completed on a project design that has since changed. The studies have not, to our knowledge, been repeated to include the current project design, therefore we lack confidence that their findings truly represent the potential impacts of the mine.
- Incorrect information was provided as part of the MLP documentation in that two of the appendices posted online and provided on CD to interested parties were incorrect. The error has been rectified, but in a timeframe that allows only two weeks from issue of the correct information to closure of the public consultation period. We believe this is vastly inadequate time in which to receive and digest this updated information.
- Further to the aforementioned point, we are concerned that interested persons who downloaded the incorrect version of the MLP documents from the website, or from the CD, may still be unaware of the changes in the documentation and that DMITRE should advertise the matter in at the least, the *Country Times*, and extend the consultation period to ensure all interested persons have the correct documentation and time to digest such.
- The MLP document is an extremely large and technical document. Very few hard copies have been produced by Rex Minerals. These factors have made it difficult for interested persons to fully understand the implications of the proposed mine and be in a position to respond in such a short public consultation timeframe.



We are aware that Rex Minerals will be conducting information sessions in Ardrossan, Maitland and Kadina on the 3rd and 4th of November 2013. We hope these sessions will go some way to clarifying the many issues of concern that remain about the project from our community's perspective. However, that leaves only four days until the closing date for public consultation (currently the 8th November 2013) and we are of the view that this is inadequate time to allow the CCG and the broader community time to consider the implications of the proposed project to our region. For these reasons we respectfully seek a further extension of the public consultation period on the MLP for the Hillside Project.

I thank you in advance, on behalf of the CCG, for DMITRE's consideration of this matter and I look forward to your response.

Regards,

A large, irregular black redaction mark covering the signature area of the letter.

Peter Stockings
Chair
Hillside Community Consultative Group