

Howe, Mark (DMITRE)

From: JM & JM Vandeppeer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 November 2013 10:04 PM
To: DMITRE: MiningRegRehab
Subject: Rex minerals proposed Hillside mine at Ardrossan

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Ardrossan SA 5571
08/10/2013

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make comment on Rex Minerals proposed mine at Ardrossan known as Hillside. As a farmer 15 km's to the NW of the site and as a shack owner at Black Point I feel the proposal will significantly compromise the economic backbone of the area in agriculture and tourism. Environmentally the mine has the potential to be detrimental to both land and St Vincent's Gulf not only in the short term but well after the mine has closed.

The proposal is mammoth in size encroaching on prime agricultural land that will be rendered unproductive for all time for agricultural purposes and should be taken into consideration especially given the short term life span of the mine. Whilst the mine may encompass some 3000 ha the effects of dust and noise pollution will be felt over a much larger area. Rex in their proposal will not back fill the mine but instead will take a cheaper option of making dump sites up to 115 meters high. Despite Rex's assurance that they will comply with current legislation, their dust mitigation controls methods in my mind will prove to be insufficient.

YP is frequented by many windy days the dust that will blow will have a negative effect of the surrounding land and gulf as well as the visual amenity for the many shack owners and surrounding land owners. There is no way Rex can control over the life of the mine dust pollution in such a closely settled and productive area.

The noise pollution from this proposal from its 24 hour 7 day a week operation with dump trucks, blasting and crushing plant will be of considerable and continuing annoyance to shack owners like myself at Black Point.

Another major concern of the mine is insufficient testing and knowledge of the hydrology of the area and the impacts on the Gulf and it's marine environment. Rex have indicated that they will dig to at least 450 meters deep. Has there been any initial drilling to this level to give an indication of the hydrology of this area at this depth. My concern is the mine is only 1 km from the sea and digging to a depth of 450 m deep would be well below sea level. Have they any concept of how the water could inundate the mine and how they would pump it out. Remembering this water could be contaminated with copper from the mining process.

As for the shipment of copper concentrate and iron ore from the port of Ardrossan despite the best of attentions as far as segregating these materials from the marine environment accidents do and will happen. Ardrossan is at the top of the gulf and doesn't have a large tidal flow and any spillage will not be dispersed quickly by tidal movement. Copper concentrate has a well known toxic affect on marine life.

This proposal unlike the majority mines is in a closely settled area close to the sea. It's magnitude amplifies the many environmental concerns that mining has on the environment. This is a low grade resource over a vast area in which its marketing edge is said to be its proximity to infrastructure and a working population. However it puts a strain on the very infrastructure of water, power and roads which have been insufficiently dealt with and as such the surrounding community, services and quality of life will be compromised. In short this is a low grade deposit that will be mined to suit investment criteria and as such, will cut many corners such as the non back filling of the mine as the mining process goes on as well as insufficient investment in the surrounding roads, water and power supplies, and dust mitigation. A

short to medium term mine that will devalue surrounding farms and coastal shacks in the immediate vicinity as well as impact on the agricultural and social well being of its citizens should not be given approval.

James & Julianne Vandeppeer.