



Conservation  
Council SA



6 April 2017

Executive Director  
Mineral Resources Division  
Department of State Development  
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### Leading Practice Mining Acts Review

The Conservation Council SA and The Wilderness Society SA welcome this Review as an opportunity to update and strengthen South Australia's mining regulatory regime.

We work closely with other individuals and groups who advocate for best practice regulation of South Australia's mining industry.

We fully support the recommendations made in the submissions by the Environmental Defenders Office SA, Nature Conservation Society SA, and environmental campaigner David Noonan.

Specifically, we support the need for the Review to address these issues:

- separation of agencies that regulate and promote mining, by giving increased powers to the Environment Minister and environment agencies
- independent guidance and oversight of mining activity (eg via the establishment of an independent expert scientific committee and a Land and Water Commissioner)
- removal of all exemptions for private mines and those operating under indenture agreements to ensure all mines are regulated to the same standard
- ensuring that all regulatory powers under the Mines and Works Inspection Act are transferred to the Mining Act or the Environment Protection Act and ideally enhanced if the former is repealed
- remove exemptions for mining in environmental legislation/regulations
- stronger protection for Matters of National Environmental Significance
- mining exploration or activity to be excluded from areas that have important environmental assets
- improved accountability by increasing the amount of publicly available information
- stronger provisions to ensure rehabilitation occurs for all mines
- increased transparency and preventative measures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Wilkins".

Craig Wilkins  
Chief Executive, Conservation Council SA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Owen".

Peter Owen  
Director, The Wilderness Society SA

