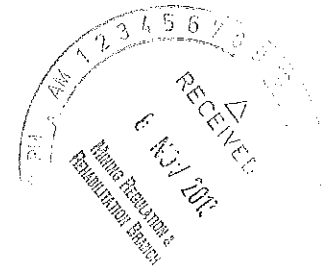


DMITRE
GPO Box 264
Adelaide SA 5001



4th November 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to express our serious concern about the proposed Hillside mine on the Yorke Peninsula. We have many concerns in regards to this proposed mine which are similar to the concerns expressed by others and to date have not been directly answered.

The Yorke Peninsula has been described by the local Council as 'Agriculturally rich and Naturally Beautiful'; they use this as their slogan on their website and signs. They are quite correct the Yorke Peninsula is rich in agriculture and naturally beautiful. We believe that mining on the Yorke Peninsula will make this statement no longer accurate.

We have a major concern with the dust contamination from this proposed Hillside mine. Rex have said that the composition of the dust will not have any health impacts (YPCT 29/10/2013). Where they may believe this statement it does not answer the question of the dust. There will be large amounts of dust from the mine due to the fact the Peninsula is a windy place and the dust will travel kilometres. The dust itself will be a major problem to the health of many, to those that suffer from dermatitis, eczema, psoriasis, allergies, asthma and other lung and skin problems. This will affect many people. The dust although 'harmless' will coat everything from houses to sheds, machinery and crops not just in the immediate area but a large section of the peninsula. The dust on the crops will make sprays on the crops less efficient leading to chemical resistance and lower yields.

The mine itself is said to be only 0.3% of the Yorke Peninsula, this may be so but is it 0.3% of the land used for agriculture or does it include towns, roads, parks etc. It may be only 0.3% of the Yorke Peninsula but it is 100% of the land now being used for agriculture. To the people that own and work the land it is their history, their heritage and their future. The mine itself will be a large open pit mine which will be like a large sore on the Peninsula, not naturally beautiful. The rehabilitation of this pit area will not happen it will not be back-filled but fenced and left to be filled with whatever is blown, falls or thrown into it effectively becoming a large rubbish pit for all to see.

There is also the question of water and the use of groundwater. Rex has said that their use of groundwater, which is salty, will lower the watertable in the area around the Hillside mine (YPCT 29/10/2013). They do not state how large the watertable is and what area it will affect. We do not know how this will affect the area and surrounding watertable. They also state that underground fresh water sources elsewhere on the Peninsula are unconnected to the groundwater at Hillside (YPCT 29/10/2013). They do not state they will not be affected.

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The mineral will need to be moved from the proposed mine, this will put the road system under stress with more heavy trucks on the roads, the roads will deteriorate quicker. There will be more accidents due to the amount of traffic on the roads.

In the long run it will be a question of mining versus agriculture. Will the Hillside mine give the community ongoing jobs and economic benefits that agriculture now does? Over a period longer than 15 years?

We employ both family and non family on our farm, we have relatives and friends that work in the agriculture sector on the Yorke Peninsula some of them have a disability. What will they do if mining on the Yorke Peninsula goes ahead? They will not be able to work in the mining industry.

To use the South Australian Governments own buy South Australian campaign. Instead of starting with the egg you start with a grain of wheat, barley, canola, bean, pea or lentil. You start with a farmer, the farmer needs machinery, the farmer needs workers, back to the farmer, the farmer needs chemicals and fertilizer, the farmer needs advisers, back to the farmer, the grain needs transport and storage, the grain needs a buyer, back to the farmer, the grain needs processing or shipping, the processor needs machinery and workers, back to the farmer, the grain is made in to pasta, flour or bread, the food is then sold. We could also substitute sheep, cattle pigs and other livestock. We like to call it food security.

South Australian farmers have a reputation of having the best world practises in environmental management and quality produce.

We need this to continue.

Let the farmers on the Yorke Peninsula continue to do what they do the best in the world, farm.

Please STOP the Hillside mine.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.

Cherelyn & Nick McCauley
Wonstrow Farming
[Redacted]
Maitland SA 5573