

Dept. for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources & Energy
Mining Regulations & Rehabilitation
Minerals Resource Division

6th November 2013

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to express our concern about the proposed mining activity on Yorke Peninsula, in particular the Hillside Mine Project, by Rex Minerals.

There appears to be a plethora of reasons as to why this mine should not go ahead or at least be treated with much trepidation in the case of the surrounding landowners, and/or townsfolk.

We personally, are extremely concerned about issues such as; the inability to sustainably continue farming, dust pollution, the threat of lost farmland, the lack of genuine community consultation regarding the proposed mine, the impact on marine life and the usage of roads that are already in need of repair.

If a mine is sanctioned, we feel our ability to sustainably continue farming into the next generation will be undermined. With a mine so close to undoubtedly some of the best farming land in Australia, will this put in danger grain markets that have taken many a generation to establish and undo the Australian clean & green image? It also makes the forward planning of a farming business extremely difficult as no one can be certain of where another potential mining proposal may be lodged.

The threat of dust pollution is very real and there are many unanswered questions regarding the health effects the dust may cause. We understand the mine is looking to extract copper, gold, uranium, and other minerals. Would it be safe to drink water captured from our roofs, as all people in this area currently do so? Also, would we be able to wash using rain water as dermal absorption of chemicals through water could be hazardous to our health?

Losing farmland to mining is a false economy. With governments looking to grow populations around Australia, that means more food will be needed. So, in turn, if you lose high quality farm land to a mine, it is gone forever. It cannot be returned to the original state that it began, no matter how hard you try or no matter how much rehabilitation a mining company says they will do. Revenue from this mine lasts for fifteen years, while farming will go on for hundreds or thousands of years, underpinning

this states' economy as it has done so over the past century. The Central Yorke region alone has produced over 1.6 million metric tonne of grain during the last *four* seasons. That expands to a value towards the state's economy, of 480 million dollars (assuming an average value of \$300/tonne during this period). Is this not a figure of significance to our State?

If the proposal does go ahead, what will happen to the current road network that exists and will it be maintained or upgraded? Also, will other mine sites across the Peninsula just slam 'haul roads' across farmers' paddocks to get the ore to the proposed Hillside project, further eradicating valuable food producing farmland?

With wind on Yorke Peninsula, it would be impossible to control all dust containing potentially toxic substances during mining operations such as blasting, crushing and trucking ore. What happens when wind deposits this into the adjacent ocean? What effect will this have on the marine life and the ocean itself?

Why do farmers (that have been farming in this region for over 100 years) have to justify their position and existence because some large mining company wants to take over the land that has been sustainably managed for over a century? Does that not seem unfair?

We would hope that this project does not succeed in its application. However, if this proposal does go ahead, and the afore mentioned issues arise that are directly related to the Rex Minerals mine, then compensation to surrounding residents and landowners will be essential.

If the proposal is successful, I see the only way for both Mining and sustainable intensive Agriculture to have a harmonious union, is to enforce the mine to be an underground operation, not an open cut pit. This would alleviate many of the concerns that are held in the community by both farmers & residents in nearby townships.

As this decision nears, we would recommend a public forum be held, where an independent assessor (ordered by you, DMITRE) can present information regarding all of the communities' apprehensions about the Hillside Mining Proposal.

We look forward to your response.

Evan & Charmain Kakoschke

Farmers - Sandilands