

Allan, Charlotte (DMITRE)

From: Simon & Asha Starr [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2013 6:31 AM
To: DMITRE:MiningRegRehab
Subject: Hillside Mining Concerns

Importance: High

To whom it concerns ,

We wish to express my grave concerns about the proposed Hillside Mine adjacent to Pine Point on eastern Yorke Peninsula.

The decision to approve such a large open pit mine in prime agricultural area and alongside a pristine marine environment must be made absolutely diligently as the ramifications of a rushed decision are potentially enormous and very enduring.

It is the responsibility of ALL stakeholders – the Government, Rex Minerals, and the the Community – to ensure that if this mine proceeds that it is accountable to the highest and most stringent standards.

Of significant note also is that there is neither a precedent for a mine of this nature (large open pit, prime food production area, unique marine resource, popular tourist destination) and that it will also set the precedent for future applications of this nature or around this mine.

As a result, this decision cannot be rushed and must not be justified behind a curtain of economic benefit without regard for the long term sustainability and health of the region, which also have an economic benefit.

You are one person who must take responsibility for this process and decision being made properly and if this means more time is required to understand all the impacts then a delay in the decision is a suitable course of action.

As a matter of discussion, I submit the following concerns and questions for your reply:

- Are there at least 4 other mines related to this project? (Which means this decision is not just about this project).
- The CEO of Rex Minerals, when speaking at the Australian Stock Exchange to lure investors, said “we will aggressively pursue up to 11 mines in the area”.
- The toxic water pits, being clay lined, are not best practice. Why, when Rex purports to be best practice, are they not best practice? This creates a trust issue that must not be ignored.
- Copper oxide (a product of the mine) is toxic to marine life. How is this not a contradiction to establishing marine parks in Gulf St Vincent just north of Ardrossan when the mine is just south of Ardrossan?
- There is insufficient rehabilitation of the pit (the pit is not going to be refilled)
- Inexperience of Rex as a mining company. They are a mineral exploration company first and foremost.
- The dust issue is of huge concern. The spread of airborne particles will be vast and the risk of contamination to water supplies and crops is enormous. Considering a wind farm was proposed almost adjacent to the mine it is clear that the spread of dust is undeniable.
- Leaching of toxic water into the underground aquifers
- 115m unsightly high tailings
- Blasting so close to the coast – upsetting the spawning run of snapper
- What happens if the bond is inadequate, Rex Minerals go broke or there’s an accident – who pays??

- Prime agricultural land – Yorke Peninsula’s slogan is “agriculturally rich, naturally beautiful”. How will the mine support this?
- True life of the mine – how many extensions will be granted? What will the true size be? What will the ultimate cost to the environment be?

These are just a few of overarching issues and many further questions that exist around the Hillside Mine.

We can assure you that for every person who actually voices there concerns regarding the mine that there are many, many more people who are share these concerns.

We implore you to act responsibly for the future long term benefit of this beautiful part of the world, the Peninsula itself (there are currently approximately 50 Exploration Licences covering most of the Yorke Peninsula), the uniqueness of having two Gulfs side by side running off the cleanest Ocean in the world, future food production, protection of prime agricultural land, preservation of water stocks (both above ground such as rainwater supplies and below ground aquifers) and the ongoing enjoyment of this area as an unspoilt place to live and holiday destination.

All this considered, at what cost and real benefit over the long-term will this mine really bring? I trust that the powers that be will not be seduced by the short-term economic argument and will act in the best interests of the community and future generations.

Yours sincerely

Simon & Asha Starr