

26 September 2019

Hon Dan van Holst Pellekan MP

Minister for Energy and Mining

Via email: [dem.ministervhp@sa.gov.au](mailto:dem.ministervhp@sa.gov.au) and [dem.miningregrehab@sa.gov.au](mailto:dem.miningregrehab@sa.gov.au)

Dear Hon Dan van Holst Pellekan MP,

**Letter of opposition – Terramin Gold Mine, Woodside**

I wish to oppose the Mining Lease Application made by Terramin Exploration Pty Ltd in relation to the proposed Gold mine at Woodside in the Adelaide Hills.

I have worked in the Adelaide Hills at Bird in Hand Winery for the last 2 years. The beauty of this site and the surrounds are breathtaking. Last night I locked up the office at 6:30pm and as I walked to my car, I was lucky enough to see the last glimpse of light as the sun set. The sky was filled with pink and purple, two resident kangaroos were between the vines and there was silence. Complete silence. I was in awe, as I often am with the beauty of the Adelaide Hills. However, my thoughts were quickly interrupted, remembering the noise made by Terramin when they were carrying out tests drilling bore holes. The noise could be heard within our offices, restaurant and cellar door as well as on the terrace. This will be the noise that all residents, businesses and wildlife will be subject to 24/7, 365 days a year. The impact will be immense.

I share the concerns of the Adelaide Hills community and businesses in relation to this high risk mine. Since June 2017, Terramin have been regularly meeting with the Woodside Community Consultative Committee. Although there have been many meetings, they have still been unable to convince the community that this mine will not be disastrous for the Adelaide Hills. I attended the community meeting in August 2019 at the Woodside Institute. This meeting further reinforced what the Adelaide Hills community already know. Our community does not want this high risk mine. There are still so many unanswered questions and no guarantees of the extent of the impact.

I have read Terramin's application and many of the associated reports. I have seen Terramin's CEO answer community concerns. I have read the information provided on their website re the proposed mine. I have seen and engaged with Terramin on their Facebook page re the mine. Every interaction fills me with more concerns. I have found them to be disingenuous in their community consultation and often extremely misleading. Even after meeting for two years, the WCCC were left with many unanswered questions.

At the community meeting at the Woodside Institute, the community raised concerns about the life of the mine. Terramin's CEO continued with the rhetoric of a 5 year mine. In the opposition letter to the Council from Terramin re a Bird in Hand Winery development they stated, 'the future gold mining activity will conclude in 15 to 20 years once the orebody has been extracted'. I queried the CEO on this statement at the community meeting, he answered that it may extend out to 15 to 20 years. If I had not questioned the CEO in front of the community, would he have willingly informed

them of such a variance in the lifespan of the mine? I do not believe he would. There is a very big difference between 5, 15 and 20 years. To suggest the mine life is 5 years to the community and then 15 to 20 years to the Council is unethical and misleading.

Terramin have recently created a new website: [www.birdinhandgoldmine.com.au](http://www.birdinhandgoldmine.com.au) The website has the following tag lines: 'Adelaide Hills Gold Mine', 'Minimal Impact Mining' and 'Get the facts'. I take issue with the following misleading statements made by Terramin:

"The mine will not use ground water"

"There will be no impact on the local water supply"

"Apart from the benefits to the community, you will hardly know it's there"

"This mine has been designed to be virtually invisible"

Under the title 'Community Policy' on this website, Terramin have stated that they will "be open and transparent". The statements on this website that I have listed above do not reflect this sentiment. This same website has the following statement: "We also recognise that it is vital to inform, consult, involve and collaborate with the local communities to work towards beneficial outcomes and continually strive to secure our social license to operate".

On 23 August 2019, Terramin created a Facebook page named 'Bird in Hand Gold Mine'. On 12 September 2019, the Facebook page put up a number of posts which contain similar messaging to the website, which I believe to be misleading. I personally commented on a number of posts raising my concerns. On any post I commented on, I received the blanket response of:

"Chiara, we understand you work as a communications executive at Bird in Hand Winery, which has been running a vociferous and very public scare campaign aimed at stopping the development of a Minimal Impact Mining development.

We commend your loyalty to your employer, but not to the broader community many of whom would appreciate the employment opportunity and other economic benefits."

Instead of meaningfully engaging with the community, Terramin's first instinct is to be on the attack. I've worked at Bird in Hand Winery for 2 years and I've never seen any indication that we are participating in a public scare campaign. Along with many others, Bird in Hand Winery and its employees, many of whom live locally, have serious concerns about this mine and want to understand the risks. Terramin's website states "we recognise that achieving positive relationships within the communities in which we operate is imperative in conducting responsible business". However, if you ever question their statements or raise concerns, it is labelled as participating in a 'public scare campaign'.

Co-existence with Terramin is just not possible on so many levels.

Terramin advocates for co-existence, however they have opposed two Bird in Hand Winery developments based on their concerns of co-existence. Terramin just can't get their story straight. In late 2017, Terramin objected to an application to move the winery's offices to a location that was further away from the boundary shared with Terramin than its current location. Terramin stated that the "*proposal for storage and office use should not extend the scale of the existing winery and horticulture uses to the extent that it leads to a conflict with the longstanding mining activity nearby*". I feel they may have forgotten that the mine has been shut for approximately 100 years.

In the second instance, Terramin opposed Bird in Hand Winery's proposed \$30m hospitality and art gallery expansion. A letter of support for the development was received from every other surrounding neighbour. The CEO of Terramin and their lawyer attended the Council Assessment Panel Meeting to affirm their opposition. I was also in attendance. Their aggressive opposition was extremely disappointing. What they were opposing was long term employment for our community well into the future, continued work for Adelaide Hills construction companies and millions of dollars to be injected into the community through Tourism. Terramin stated in their opposition letter that *"it is also apparent the application is but a precursor to future applications to further entrench the use of the Bird in Hand Winery as something much more than a winery cellar door sales so as to convert it to a function centre for the holding of weddings and other functions together with concerts. Such activities are inconsistent with the expectation of the Development Plan and may be clearly inconsistent with the plans by TEL to resurrect a most valuable gold mine on the adjacent land"*. Terramin's repeated oppositions are a clear example of their disingenuous messaging to the community.

I have many concerns re this high risk mine, which I won't detail as they have been covered in other submissions. I whole heartedly support the submissions of Bird in Hand Winery and Accolade who have spent considerable time outlining the significant risks to:

- Groundwater
- Economic impacts
- Viticultural impacts
- Noise and blasting
- Traffic impacts
- Visual amenity
- Stakeholder engagement
- Financial position of the Terramin Group

If you would ever like to meet with me to further discuss my concerns or would like more detail on any of the items I have raised, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please know that Terramin do not have a social licence to establish this Gold Mine in the Adelaide Hills.

Kind regards,

Chiara Marling.