



Submission for the Review of the Mining Act 1971.

From Kenneth and Elizabeth Nield, [REDACTED]

30-3-17

To DSD:

- We are third and fifth generation Australian farmers [respectively] and we feel very strongly that where mining is a threat to agricultural land it should not be able to occur. There is too little agricultural land to be threatened by any mining activity particularly open cut mines with tailings dams and waste rock piles and drilling where it will threaten underground water supplies.
- Mining and agriculture cannot exist together. Australia has some of the finest, cleanest and well-regulated production of food in the world. Why would we want it destroyed?
- Agriculture is for generations. If a mine lasts for 1 generation you are lucky!
- We are still yet to be answered by anyone...why did the government urge us all to freehold our land to "protect it" so many years ago,...at our expense and still give mining companies compulsory acquisition?

Concerns about the Mining Act:

- Need a clearer and less vague interpretation of "exempt land".
- The current mining Act is quite simply too verbose and unclear.
- Consultation with the land owner is usually poor. We had a mining company enter our property searching for #*^### some years ago. We had asked them to avoid certain parts of the farm due to noxious weeds. After they left we went and saw where they had criss-crossed through a paddock. They had completely ignored what we told them and we are still chasing this weed because of their visit. Why would any farmer allow them access?
- There needs to be an independent body formed who are not regulated by miners or the government who advocates for those who are already affected by mining and who can act on behalf of land holders when mining companies ask to look for minerals.
- If needed, the costs of the Warden's Court and Environment, Resources and Development Court should be at the cost of the mining companies. Not the farmers. They didn't ask the mining companies to come.
- There needs to be an independent regulator of the Mining Act as well as an independent mining ombudsman.
- We hope DSD employees are not too fearful of losing their jobs if they don't do what the current government tell them to do? So glad we live in a democracy!
- We would like to see real figures by an independent body of what mining and farming [in real terms] earns for our state/country. If you look at revenue, tax paid, people employed...not one country town on Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Mid North, Lower North, Murray Mallee and South East would exist without agriculture. Ask many city businesses...how do you go after farmers have had a good year? This state would collapse without farmers. So why does our government want to threaten it? You don't build a state with politicians and public servants. They are simply there to serve those who elected them. THINK! PLEASE!

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