

### A. INTRODUCTION

I am an Adelaide Hills resident, Chair of Adelaide Hills Tourism and Chair of the first South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy, cofounder of The Lane Vineyard an Adelaide Hills wine business and tourist destination and past Chair of the Adelaide Hills Wine Region Association. On the available evidence provided by Terramin Mine Australia I oppose the granting of a mining lease. Following are details of my five key areas of concern.

### B. WATER

Surface and ground water are critical commodities to economic development in the Adelaide Hills through agriculture, horticulture and rural holdings. Groundwater, accessed by bores into fractured rock aquifers, and surface water storage is the sole sources of water that sustains agriculture, viticulture and associated tourism attractions in the Western Mt Lofty water catchment. Mains water is generally only available in townships.

There will be a direct and high-risk impact on the aquifer due to the water re-injection and grouting process with the long-term impacts of these processes largely unknown.

This mine project therefore puts at significant risk water quantity and quality placing long term, valuable agriculture, viticulture and tourism businesses in the wider Woodside precinct in jeopardy. Adequate supplies of surface water stored in dams, particularly during summer, are also critical to the Country Fire Service's response to bushfires. In an era where a changing climate has already increased risk because of lower rainfall and surface water flows escalating this risk is irresponsible.

### C. AMENITY

#### Proximity

Terramin claim mining operations coexist with wineries and vineyards in neighbouring Barossa Valley and next to the d'Arenberg Cube in McLaren Vale. The closest mines to Barossa wineries and vineyards are five kilometres. The white chalk clay quarry 500 meters from The Cube in McLaren Vale is not visible from the property, is mined infrequently and all truck movements are in the opposite direction to traffic to the d'Arenberg property. The 23metre proximity of the mining operations to Art Wine Estate and neighbouring Petaluma and Bird in Hand Winery is extraordinary and unacceptable in terms of amenity and risk.

#### Visual Amenity

While Terramin have undertaken reforestation of the above ground 40 hectares of the mine, mullock heaps, truck loading towers, concrete production and delivery facilities, shedding, industrial lighting equipment and traffic movements will enable the public to clearly discern this site as a mine diminishing the rural and tourism amenity of the Pfeiffer Road precinct

#### Noise

Terramin argue they will meet EPA standards in relation to noise. In a rural setting where ambient noise is very low the noise associated with the 24/7 operation of a mine will adversely effect local residents quality of life and visitor experiences particularly at wine tourism businesses on Pfeiffer Road. Currently dining, concert, wedding, festival or luxury accommodation experiences in this precinct and not interrupted by viticulture and winemaking noise as business owners schedule these activities to limit noise nuisance.

### Industrial Lighting

According to Kyba and Hölker 2013 the introduction of artificial light has caused an unprecedented transformation of nocturnal landscapes over large areas of the Earth. However, the emission of light is rarely neutral and may have serious ecological and evolutionary implications for many organisms, from bacteria to mammals, and may reshape entire ecosystems. There is increasingly strong evidence that all night artificial light can be considered as a major stressor for organisms similar to noise, soil, water, and air pollution. It is argued by the Dark Sky movement in the USA that light pollution disturbs the breeding cycle of some local fauna and may reduce plant pollination. Industrial lighting associated with the 24/7 operation of the Terramin mine in close proximity to vineyards is likely to impact on vine pollination and subsequent fruiting levels.

The light flood and halo will adversely impact on any Dark Sky activities such as Stargazing and amateur astronomy events conducted at nearby Cobbs Hill Estate.

### Traffic Movements

Pfeiffer Road and the Woodside/Nairn road are not designed to safely accommodate an additional 24 large truck movements a day. Terramin's estimate of traffic fails to take into account supply vehicles including concrete trucks. This significant increase in heavy vehicles and light vehicle movements will be detrimental to local residents and visitor safety and the amenity of the area.

## **D. ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE**

Federal, state and local governments and private investors have contributed millions of dollars since the early 1990's positioning the Adelaide Hills as clean and green in terms of agriculture, wine and food production. There has also been significant state and private investment in best practice environmental management as part of the above credentials.

A bid for UNESCO World Heritage listing of the working agricultural landscape of the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley, Mount Barker and McLaren Vale is also in progress. World Heritage listing will recognise the thoughtful settlement of the Mt Lofty Ranges and unique character as a working agricultural region. The region's food, wine and tourism industries could be globally branded accordingly.

"World Heritage listing for agricultural landscapes is very rare, and rarer still for working, evolving agricultural landscapes," says Professor Stringer, a University of Adelaide agricultural economist who has had extensive experience with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. If successful, the Mount Lofty Ranges would join other working agricultural sites in Italy, Portugal, Hungary and Mexico to be recognised in this way.

"Achieving World Heritage Site status conserves the unique qualities of the Mount Lofty Ranges, not just for future generations of Australians but also for the world" World Heritage listing would provide the globally recognised branding that our food, wine and tourism industries are seeking - it would tell the story of what makes this place so special to the outside world, and to the people of Adelaide. World Heritage status has evolved into a widely respected brand that countries use to attract tourists and to promote and add value to their products," Professor Stringer said.

Mining can co-exist in an agricultural region however the high density of agriculture, horticulture and viticulture in the Adelaide Hills region makes co-existence high risk and a potential threat to significant long term economic development achieved through environmental credentials and World Heritage listing.

## E. BRAND AND REPUTATION

The State and Region built our Adelaide Hills international food and wine reputation on:

- A clean & green image,
- Premium food and wine production.
- Acclaim as Australia's premier cooler climate wine region and
- Establishing world's best practice in environmental management.

Two leading international wine brands who have achieved significant global recognition; Petaluma and Bird in Hand Winery, are immediate neighbours and in close proximity to the Terramin Mine.

In the past month food and wine businesses in the Woodside and nearby precinct have been recognised in national and international competitions, e.g.

- Lot 100 was included in Weekend Australians HOT 50 Restaurants, (just 7 mins from the proposed mine accessed from the Woodside/Nairne Rd)
- Simon Tolley Vineyards Best Sauvignon Blanc at the Sydney Wine Show – (2 mins from the mine)
- Art Wine Best Fiano Sydney Wine Show – (1 min from the mine)
- Bird in Hand International Red Wine Makers of the Year, Great Wine Capitals Wine Tourism- Best Restaurant (next door to the mine)

Savvy consumers are likely to find these brand credentials disingenuous in the context of Terramin's current negative reputation, financially and environmentally, as a mine operator, and the immediate proximity of this mining operation to globally recognised Adelaide Hills viticulture sites.

## E. THE VALUE OF TOURISM

Terramin argues the economic benefit of the mine without an informed and independent comparison with the economic development potential of tourism to the Adelaide Hills economy.

South Australia's tourism industry is booming, employing more people than ever before. August 2019 results show the total number of people employed in the sector has risen to an all-time high of 38,900. When you add-in people indirectly employed in the industry, the number employed increases to 61,300. 5000 of these new jobs have been created since the launch of the 2020 State Tourism plan, 2000 in regional South Australia. Jobs Growth for the sector is at 15% compared to the broader economy at 1% during the same period. "More than **four** times as many people are employed in Tourism as the **mining** sector," Minister Ridgway stated in an Advertiser Interview in August 2019).

This follows recent news South Australia's tourism expenditure has hit a record high \$7.2 billion at the end of March 2019. Tourism is a key driver of Economic Development growing at 22% ahead of state growth of 7%.

The Adelaide Hills Region has the greatest number of 15-19yr olds in the State and the 6<sup>th</sup> region nationally for this age group (ABS 2018 Census) Tourism provides casual employment for many in this age groups providing them with invaluable life skills such as customer service, interpersonal skills and ambassadorial knowledge about the Adelaide Hills. Early engagement of this age group in work in the region is one factor that contributes to young people staying in South Australia

The Adelaide Hills has diverse quality attractions in food & wine, nature and landscape, art and culture, accommodation and health and well being. The region is well positioned to sustain significant and sensitive growth.

Woodside is a growing, important hub in our region. The towns attractiveness as a destination, particularly the Pfeiffer Road precinct is key to dispersing visitors to Hahndorf and Stirling further into the region from Hahndorf taking advantage of longer stays and higher spend.

A vibrant Tourism sector has a social impact on a community creating healthy, vibrant quality places and communities that attract residents, workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs key to continuing growth and investment. In the Adelaide Hills

The Adelaide Hills Region in 2013 contributed \$117M to the State and Regional economy. This increased to \$172M in 2018 is projected to grow to \$310M by 2030 (The South Australian Visitor Economy Sector Plan 2030)

## **F. SUMMARY**

In making my decision to oppose this mining application I took an Adelaide Hills resident quality of life and visitor quality of experience perspective. On all counts I find the degree of risk unacceptable to the future of the Adelaide Hills, the Woodside Township and Pfeiffer Road tourism precinct.

Co-existence between mining and tourism in high-density agriculture, horticulture and viticulture areas is rare for good reason as the issues re amenity and character are significant.

The risk triggers associated with water quality and quantity in an era of climate change are unacceptable.

I look forward to a decision that accords with our founding fathers dedication to careful, thoughtful planning that preserves the amenity and character of the Adelaide Hills.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Helen Edwards  
19 September 2019