



[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2016 10:36 AM  
**To:** DSD:Mining Act Review  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Leading Practice Mining Acts Review - Message to key stakeholders

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the review.  
 There are a number of factors that do need to be addressed to provide a strong platform for the Opal industry, now and for future growth and stability.

1. From recent experience lawyers, or any persons only concerned with process, should not be involved in any ongoing negotiation. SAOMAI legal costs were in excess of \$23k and yet NO actual negotiation took place, there was approximately 18 months of lawyer process talks. Lawyers only need to review the documentation prior to signing.
2. Prospecting outside of Proclaimed Opal fields:  
 A structure to provide stability and the potential for rewards for prospecting. An individual prospector be allowed to peg an area up to 20sq km for prospecting only, ( annual renewal, nominal administration cost) this would allow the prospector to provide the necessary infrastructure and also reward the person with the knowledge of where to mine.
3. Mining outside of Proclaimed Opal fields:  
 The maximum size of a tenement be 200mr x 200mr, renewable annually. This would allow the miner to camp and mine on the one tenement, each miner restricted to one tenement at a time. All rehabilitation to be the responsibility of the tenement owner and must be completed before a new tenement can be registered.
4. All existing gazetted Opal fields to remain with the initial terms and conditions.
5. An appeal system to be put in place to settle any disputes without involving court action.
6. All land under Native Title to have a sacred site review. Only true sacred sites to be accepted, no lovers lanes or walking trails or people drawing lines on maps from an office. A working example is in Queensland where honesty and mutual respect has grown.
7. Since 1998 SAOMAI has contributed in excess of \$185,000 in Native Title fees and yet is unable to negotiate an agreement with the Native Title party.

The Opal industry needs new fields, this can be controlled by promoting prospecting outside of existing proclaimed fields. Prospectors need Government support which would be provided by point 6.

I am happy to assist further once I have rehabbed my camp at SevenWaterHoles.

Kind Regards  
 Len

Len Richards  
 Secretary  
 SAOMAI

[Redacted]  
 [Redacted]  
 [Redacted]

On 18/10/16 19:40, DSD:Mining Act Review wrote:

I write to inform you that on Tuesday 25 September 2016, the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy announced the Leading Practice Mining Acts Review of the *Mining Act 1971*, the *Mines and Works Inspection Act 1920* and the *Opal Mining Act 1995*. The media release is attached.

This Review will allow for the modernisation of these laws to ensure that South Australia stays a leader in adopting modern and efficient practices for exploration and mining activities.

The Department of State Development plans to release a series of Discussion Papers by early November, with a call for formal submissions on the Papers via the YourSAy website. As a key stakeholder your views are important to the Department and I invite you to make any initial comments on the Review or request a meeting with members of the Review Team, which you can do by sending an email to: [DSD.miningactreview@sa.gov.au](mailto:DSD.miningactreview@sa.gov.au).

The Mineral Resources Division is planning to undertake comprehensive engagement with industry, traditional and other landowners, regional communities and other stakeholders after the release of the Discussion Papers.

To keep up-to-date with progress of the Leading Practice Mining Acts Review please refer to the website

[http://www.minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mining/leading\\_practice\\_mining\\_acts\\_review](http://www.minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mining/leading_practice_mining_acts_review).

Kind regards

**Dr Ted Tyne**

**Executive Director, Mineral Resources**

**Department for State Development**

Level 7, 101 Grenfell Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
(GPO Box 320, Adelaide SA 5000)

[Redacted contact information]



**DISCLAIMER:**

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee. Access to this e-mail by anyone else is unauthorised. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it, is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error, please delete it from your system and notify the sender immediately. DSD does not represent, warrant or guarantee that the integrity of this communication has been maintained or that the communication is free of errors, virus or interference.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 February 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** DSD: Mining Act Review  
**Subject:** suggestions to improve Opal mining in SA

Hi,  
Thank you for the opportunity to provide ideas and suggestions to assist the Opal mining industry.

I have had discussions with a number of people and would like to provide to you the relevant ideas put to me.

With regard to prospecting for Opal outside of proclaimed fields the following has been suggested.

Prospecting standards to be established.

No access to land without written permission from the landowner.

Notice of entry: Responsibility of the individual to ensure permission has been granted by the landowner prior to lodgement with DSD with entry to be 21 days after lodgement.

Prospecting claims to be renewable annually with the prospector providing GPS coordinates to be certified by the DSD.

Prospecting claims to be no more than 20 sqKm. No mining to be allowed on a prospecting claim.

Camps only on the registered claim and are to be portable and self-sufficient (own food, water) waste buried at least 1 metre deep, no access within 500 metres of any watering point.

Caravan is preferred but shipping containers may be used.

Opal mining claims:

All claims to be worked a minimum of 20 hrs per week with a 3 month amnesty over summer.

Police, Landowner and DSD staff to have access to all claims at all times. All other people at the claim owners discretion.

Mining claims limited to 300m x 200m to include living area.

Claims to be renewed annually and to include Native Title royalty (\$200) with DSD to collect to ensure payment.

Rehabilitation to be specified e.g. top soil stacked separately on the claim.

ALL holes to be back filled with the saved top soil on top.

All structures/containers to be removed prior to the claim being cancelled.

Claim owner to be fully responsible.

As most of the possible Opal areas have existing ILUA's in place there is no need for more sacred site surveys.

All existing sacred sites to be avoided by prospectors and miners as the pastoralists do now.

None of the people I spoke with wanted lawyers involved except to verify final documentation.

This is further to the email dated 28/10/16.

Thank you,  
Len

--  
Len Richards  
Secretary

SAOMAI

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]