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ARDROSSAN SA 5571

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Department of State Development
Mineral Resources Division
4/11 Waymouth Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Executive Director of Mineral Resources Division,

We write to you today regarding the current Mining Act and the Department's wish to review it after consultation with the public. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to discuss the review and we look towards the future of South Australia with anticipation that you will take all views of stakeholders into account to make fair and just changes to the Mining Act to favour all stakeholders in the mining process.

Arable agricultural land in South Australia should always be exempt from mining and exploration

The first and foremost thing that stood out to us in the Discussion Paper (which I will abbreviate D.P. in future references) was the map presented on page 22. The map gives a clear view of the state and its land use and which parts are restricted exploration and mining areas. The map depicts the amount of land in South Australia that is arable, suitable for cropping, grazing and irrigating. It does not cease to surprise me, why this arable land would be target for mining exploration and development when one can see the sustainability of our state and country relies on this land to produce food. This is the only land that landowners can use effectively to produce commodities such as wheat, barley, meat, vegetables and fruit. This being said, it is not difficult to see, that **arable land should always be exempt** from mining exploration and development. There is no other way that our whole nation can survive but to make this our State's priority.

If agricultural land continues to be mined, farmers should be able to object if they wish, without a waiver and without court appearance. Their wishes should stand, regardless.

On page 15 of the discussion paper, the writer says that "long term relationships of trust with landowners and the community result in less conflict." I believe that this will not ever be achieved, unless Section 9AA of the Mining Act is removed. Landowners are not going to agree with mining operations in their area if they aren't given the right to object to mining exploration on their

properties. There should not be the option for a waiver to be signed and landowners should not have to go through court to have them decide whether operations would result in "substantial hardship" or "substantial damage." (pg 33 DP)

The above two points are what we see as crucial in the amendment of the mining act. If the government wants harmony between landowners and mining companies/projects, then they must be given the right to say no to exploration and mining if that is their wish. Landowners are very passionate about their land and it is a part of them and their families. This is how it has been for hundreds of years and will continue to be long after any mining project has been completed. Mining may appear to be a positive short term fix to boost the State's economy, but agriculture will continue to be the most reliable source of income for the state.

We eagerly wait to hear the outcome of amending the Mining Act, and trust that you will take all stakeholder views into consideration.

Regards,

Evan, Charmain and Chloe Kakoschke

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