



25/3/17

Executive Director, Mineral Resources Division

DSD.miningactreview@sa.gov.au

Department of State Development,
Level 7, 101 Grenfell Street
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Mining Act Review,

RE: Mining and Agriculture

Ultimately, the current situation is not working for farmers. I seriously fear there are several suicides on the cards over Mining disputes.

We have a situation where **Corporate** Mining is trying to communicate and negotiate with **Family Farms**. The 2 business models could not be father apart. Farming decisions are governed by the season and the weather. Mining is hot and cold depending on the world markets.

I am not 'anti mining', but the reports I hear from fellow farmers mean the current consultation process and system is totally unacceptable. Once a farmers land is targeted by mining, they are effectively 'black listed'. I've even had reports of Banks becoming difficult when finance is being sought.

Agriculture Advocate for Mining

What we need is an Agriculture advocate specifically for Mining interactions. I need someone I can immediately call when mining come knocking. We already run a farm and all that goes with that role; it's a full time job. We don't have time to now learn about Mining Regulations when we are already juggling a thousand other Regulations such and Chemical, Transport, WHS, Industrial Relations.....the list goes on!

Mining Representatives

I don't appreciate Mining companies 'using' ex-farmers as their local mediator. It's insulting and a form of **passive intimidation** in my opinion. It's great for a mediator to have an Ag background and some knowledge & understanding but it should never be a person from that community concerned. It makes some farmers very uncomfortable and they feel pressured by their community/family affiliations with the Mining mediator. It's sneaky tactics.

Exempt Land

"Exempt land (such as a residence, cultivated field, vineyard, etc.) – Exploration or mining is prohibited on this land (and sometimes additional surrounding land) unless the landowner or a court 'waives' the 'exemption' (see Chapter 1 of this Paper, or Part 1 of the Mining Act);"

If this wasn't such a serious subject, this definition would be quite comical. Obviously, there is currently no such thing as Exempt Land, especially when our state government is broke!

Productive Farming Land

Much like Aboriginal people, farmers have a great affiliation for the land. It's a connection and a pride about what quality crops they can produce from a patch of dirt.

If we must allow Mining to be undertaken on cropping land, then the mineral deposit being mined must be of exceptional quality, otherwise I totally disagree with ruining that productive land with mining.

There must also be other arrangements made for the waste rock piles as the sheer height of these will create havoc for the production potential on neighbouring farms.

Principles of modern agriculture involve no-till farming so many of us do not till the soil at all. So the concept of later returning the land to productive farming is absolute rubbish in our minds.

Land Acquisition

If you want to mine the land, then Mining need to pay for the full relocation of that farming enterprise so they can get on with their life and continue to farm if they wish. Mining also need to make some decisions early. These 5 and 10 year stints of living in limbo are totally unacceptable. The procrastinating nature of Mining based on world markets cannot be allowed to continue when a farmer's livelihood hangs in the balance.

Perhaps there would not be so much opposition to Mining if the regulators of the Act and Regulations were doing a better job of monitoring and managing it!!

It is quite obvious to me that the system is failing farmers and it's time the people we feed start to appreciate our contributions to society. The mental health and wellbeing of the farmers having to 'deal' with Mining MUST be the priority.

This is all I have time to contribute at present.

Kind Regards

Karen Baines
Farmer

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