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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 February 2017 10:26 AM  
**To:** DSD:Mining Act Review  
**Subject:** Mining Act Review Submission

Good Morning

Below are some points I believe should be taken into consideration with regard to the Mining Act review.

Community consultation during the approval and post-approval processes I believe has been rushed and not enough consideration has been provided to those most affected by the proposed changes.

The emotional, psychological and financial effects on local residents impacted by delays are ignored. Defined and upheld time frames must be imposed on exploration/mining companies and mining licence cancellations and full resubmission required for failing to meet these limits.

Community concerns/opposition to a project are generally given token attention before being dismissed.

An independent process is required whereby a community which feels its concerns have not been taken into account by the Minister when approving a project can ask a court to independently assess the merits of the project and overturn the Minister's decision if the court decides the project is not in the best interests of the community. Especially when a Minister's portfolio consists of Treasury and mining ie. one having a direct affect on the other.

As part of the assessment process, companies must be required to provide a detailed cost/benefit analysis which factors in the real, long-term costs of an operation to the health and well-being of the local community and the environment. The simple mention of the word "jobs" should not be enough to get Government support.

A Mining Ombudsman, answerable to Parliament, must be appointed to provide an independent umpire to whom residents can refer unresolved complaints against a company.

Notwithstanding any of the points above. I also firmly believe that every person has a right to choose whether or not mining exploration or otherwise can be on their property. Nobody should be held to ransom by an expensive court process either by the government or mining companies because they choose to continue working their land as they have done so for many many years and in many cases generations before.

Nicola Schulz  
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