



The Mining Act review as we all know is a very important change to be undertaken by the South Australian Government. It could very well change the fundamentals of Land access, what roles Government partake into the future and questions a Department that plays both roles of regulator and promoter of all mining activities.

First I believe that such a significant change should not be undertaken lightly and dealt with so swiftly because there are many significant impacts across industries, primarily agriculture that could be affected well into the future.

I have had many discussions with DSD (Department of State Development) about current land access arrangements. No one can give me a straight answer that a freehold primary producer can refuse land access to the South Australian Government to mine minerals without the intervention of a court. It appears that the current Mining Act is in favour of mining for minerals at the expense of the freehold primary producer. It would seem that a basic humanitarian right to own freehold land, whilst paying taxes to the Government for the enjoyment of that land is being waived by the right to mine minerals by the South Australian Government and indeed the Federal Government depending on the type of minerals being mined. The question remains that if indeed the above is true than a balance of law within the Mining Act itself is required. I acknowledge as individual industries both mining and Agriculture play an integral role in providing wealth to this state. As a primary producer I value my industry, a provider of Food, Fibre and Protein as both an important fundamental and basic humanitarian role of these needs. You cannot have a community without these fundamentals of Food, Fibre and Protein so it is vital that the Mining Act seeks to protect this in its legislation.

The ultimate question is, should mining come at the expense of agriculture/food production and to what balance is required to sustain communities into the future?

This is a complex question as one needs to take into consideration other factors that impact on Agriculture/food production including urban sprawl, climate change including drought and flood, and the biggest driver of all, world population increases. In Australia we are poised to captivate worldwide attention because of our natural and unspoilt landscape and resources which is already an appeal to many. So let's take careful consideration of these fundamentals because we won't know what we've got till it is gone!

As a primary producer there is a connection to the land not unlike our indigenous people. The landscape demands respect and nurture and husbandry so it provides fertility, abundance and sustainability of Food, Fibre and Protein well into the future for our communities. It also requires connection and engagement with each other to sustain a successful and harmonious community. It has been my recent experience with significant exploration from the Hillside project, it has caused conflict, dissension and disconnection within our community and I believe I am not the only one to feel this way. It causes me great distress to speak with others who also see these changes in our community. I believe the Agricultural industry needs a Right to Farm Bill to better protect and navigate changes in the future ahead to give better certainty and predictability within the industry, just as the Mining Act protects the Mining industry.

Which brings me to DSD (Department of State Development). Can this department successfully and with an unbiased point of view be both the Promoter and the Regulator? One can only believe that they would be a contradiction of terms. They need to be separated and have a complete independent body, one for Promotion and one for the regulator to have merit.

I believe the South Australian Government and indeed the Federal Government depending on what minerals are being mined, should truly engage the Agriculture industry, both individual landowners, community being affected and Agricultural bodies better than current. It is merely a tick box exercise. Better open and honest engagement policies will help develop trust within communities and restore good politics to our state and nation.

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