Rec'd 23/2/17

[redacted]

The Mining Act Review.

Submission

To the Executive Director

Mineral Resources Division.

If there was no mining we would not have electricity to a power point in our home because there would be no copper wires to transfer the power. There must be a place for mining or else we would be deficient in numerous commodities like gas, coal and iron, just to recognise a few.

However in conducting the mining there needs to be consideration for the people and near environments in the process. During exploration it would involve people, including owners of the land in question and others nearby. Subsequently a similar range of people would be involved during construction and erection of mining equipment.

The next stage would be during operation of the mine where dust, water and noise are likely concerns as well as the possible pollution of the local environment.

Finally when mining ceases there is the need for rehabilitation and continued protection of the environment.

Landholders seem to have little or no right to prevent a mine being established on their property. We are told that we only have access to the top few inches of the land. If that is correct, why can we sink a post hole or build a dam, both of which would be beyond the top soil owned legitimately?

Why should miners have greater powers than landowners?

To arrive at some sort of balance, resistance to mining occurs mostly where the operation will be near or on, a built up area, a unique building or geographical feature, a farm on arable land or another resource like a river, an aquifer or reservoir. It is these sectors which deserve protection, including the right to absolutely refuse the mining to occur. Surely these examples have the right and deserve to be sustainable.

My address above will provide you with reasons for my concern about protecting a valuable resource like our underground water. The South-east has no rivers, no reservoirs - we have only underground water for personal consumption, township supply, industry, livestock and irrigation. To be casual and permit any mining operation which may physically damage the soil and rock structure holding the water resource would be a catastrophe. Even worse would be the mixing of any chemicals used in mining, to contaminate the water. There can never be too much care taken here.

I do not see the necessity for such impediment to mining in areas beyond those mentioned above. Of course the Great Artesian Basin needs protection but I believe it would be protected under the regime above.

K W Grundy

[redacted]

Naracoorte SA 5271 [redacted]

K W Grundy.