



Submission to [DSD.miningactreview@sa.gov.au](mailto:DSD.miningactreview@sa.gov.au)

Dept of State Government, Mineral Resources,

GPO Box 320, Adelaide. SA. 5001.

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I am writing this submission to offer my opinion in regard to the mining act review for South Australia.

Firstly, stating the obvious, we have a very limited area of agricultural land in South Australia and this land needs to be protected from miners. Mines and farms cannot coexist.

As a landowner I feel extremely intimidated by big mining companies. We have owned and worked our land for many generations and we employ local people, we do not use fly in fly out labourers as mines do. We (our own family) buy farming goods, fertiliser, chemicals, machinery, insurance, etc. costing hundreds of thousands of dollars from local businesses each year, thus causing local employment. Our children attend local schools, creating more employment. If our area is polluted by mines our town will die because miners do not bring families with them and often their camps do not even buy local produce but ship most things in from elsewhere.

Primary production, grain, fishing, livestock, etc., relies on a clean environment, unpolluted soil and water. On Eyre Peninsula where I live we dry land farm, our product is extremely sought after and will be even more so in an increasingly polluted world that is now seeking good healthy products above anything else.

Mining uses a colossal amount of water. This is usually taken from underground supplies (ancient waters at times). In a dry continent how can we gauge how long this water has taken to accumulate and how can it replenish itself in our lifetime. Will the underground sensitive rock structure crumble when drilled through and the water drawn on to such a big degree? Will our soils become salty as in WA because the underground system has been damaged and the salts no longer drain?

The salt taken from the salt water used by mines has to end up somewhere and it could become a dangerous source of future soil pollution.

Tailings dams are an accident waiting to happen. We do have major rain events which could cause dam walls to burst as well as the leakage of dangerous chemicals into the underground water table.

We live on Eyre Peninsula and travelling on the Port Lincoln highway approaching Whyalla from Cowell the red dust can be seen on the roadsides and out into the paddocks. The ore has been pumped in slurry for some years but the red pollution from trucks transporting in the past is still very visible. When ore has to be transported through our wheat fields they may be polluted as well without the ability to ever recover and if grain accidentally becomes contaminated from dust it could affect our ability to export commodities.



We are an extremely important agricultural area on Eyre Peninsula. We grow millions of tonnes of grains each year and contribute a third of the grain grown each year in South Australia. When we talk about valuable agricultural land it is not just the Barossa Valley or McLaren Vale, it is Wudinna Cleve and other grain growing areas. The Government keep spruiking that agriculture keeps the economy going yet they are influenced by what seems like a quick mining dollar.

When farms are taken over by miners they lose their viability and the farmers kicked off their farms and out of their homes have no chance to buy other property because banks have no collateral on which to base a loan. Neighbouring farms or farms through which miners travel lose their value because no one wants to live next to a huge open cut mine.

I feel this is an extremely important time in the history of South Australia. We should not be manipulated by big mining companies. Australia has an abundance of minerals in land that is not suitable for food production. If our farmers are pushed aside our future generations will be put at risk because the production of healthy food should be put above all other considerations and I feel that in the long run agriculture will continue to bring more wealth to South Australia while mines have a short life and leave the land not viable for anything.

Thank you for the chance to voice my fears for the great country people who live and work in South Australia. Keep our valuable agricultural land free from mines. We cannot exist together.

Yours truly,



Helen Burton.



10/10/10