

YORKE PENINSULA DISTRICT COUNCIL CANDIDATES' RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED BY YORKE PENINSULA LAND OWNERS GROUP

LARGE-SCALE OPEN- CUT MINING ON YORKE PENINSULA

On behalf of its 250+ members, YPLOG asked each candidate for the upcoming Yorke Peninsula District Council elections to provide their responses to three questions, namely:

1. **Do you believe large-scale open-cut copper mining can co-exist with agriculture on Yorke Peninsula? Please give reasons for your response.**
2. **In your view, how do you believe Rex Minerals' proposed Hillside Copper Mine will impact on Yorke Peninsula?**
3. **Mining tenements cover over 95% of Yorke Peninsula. When mining proposals are put forward for consideration, what do you envisage your role as an Elected Member will be?**

All responses received are provided below in full.

We sincerely thank the candidates for taking the time to respond to our questions.

If you have not yet voted, please consider each candidate's responses carefully when doing so. We urge you to vote for those candidates who oppose the establishment of such mines on YP, especially the Hillside Mine at Pine Point.

If you have decided not to vote, please reconsider! Your vote for candidates who oppose Hillside and other such mining developments on YP **will make a difference!**

KALKABURY WARD CANDIDATES

Trevor Davey - Kalkabury Ward

Q 1: No, I don't believe that large scale open cut mining should co-exist with agriculture. We are agriculturally rich and they are not making any more land.

Q 2. I believe the Rex mine will impact on the visual amenity of all who travel south of Ardrossan. There are many unanswered question in relation to other problems emanating from the sight, eg dust and it's contaminants, and of particular concern I feel

is the possibility of a very significant rain event that may see contaminants being washed into the gulf, what a disaster ! History, verified by the huge washaways we see all down the east coast of YP.

Q 3. Unfortunately development of these projects always rest with the state government of the day. All council can do is lobby the government on the concerns of the ratepayers.

Alan Headon - Kalkabury Ward

Q1: As a general rule, no, primarily due to the intransigent attitudes on both sides to meet in a middle of the road discussion.

The mining section will not normally work with other factions that oppose their viewpoints. How can open-cut mining co-exist with agriculture when this type of development is slash and burn, dig a bloody great hole in the ground, have no control over water levels in the pit, where to put this water on extraction and what impact tailing dams and piles will have over future generations.

To be honest, there is no way agriculture and mining can co-exist under the current terms of indenture in the hillside area.

Q2: My view is that hillside mine will in the long term have a very serious detrimental effect on the immediate area and this will spread across Yorke Peninsula over time. Many voters and residents of our area do believe that the mine will have a beneficial effect for the area, i.e. Youth Employment (apprenticeships), flow-on to other industries and business, etc.

Q3: When this happens, each individual proposal must be assessed on its merits as not all will have a large or widespread impact on a given area. We already have several such operations in existence and these as a rule do fit in with the community.

In the case of large scale mining proposals, the 'yea and nay' power has been removed from councils and taken over by the State Government who tell us that they have a better understanding of what the State needs, and our role is to look after rates and rubbish.

The role of council is to represent their local constituent's wishes, both for and against any proposals, considering each matter with an open mind and in a totally open and honest manner.

David Langford - Kalkabury Ward***

I am against the Hillside mine.

****** David Langford is currently overseas and did not receive YPLOG's questions. He was therefore not in a position to respond. However, in a phone call to YPLOG, he stated that:***

Les Rochester - Kalkabury Ward

In a perfect world open cut mining can co-exist with agriculture through adequate permit controls.

But unfortunately we do not live in that world because the decision to green light any mine in this state rests with the State Government.

Currently because of its poor budget position and a large unemployment rate this government will grant such projects major project status which allows much of controls and community reaction to be circumvented.

The negatives of this current project include the potential for water contamination and inadequate dust suppression, but the biggest is the lack of obligation to restore the land at end of mine life. Under the state's mining laws companies must restore the land back to or near its natural condition but apparently not in this case.

I'm quite confident this project will not proceed because it is a small margin operation. It was conceived when the price of copper was near record levels. The copper price is currently in free fall on the London Metals Exchange because of fears of reduced demand in China.

If the company had sat down with the community and landowners and sincerely worked out a plan to get approval, appeasing the fears of those impacted, then we would have had a completely different project.

If it had been done right it could have increased employment on Yorke and provided a much needed boost to the local economy and a career path for our children. But once again, that would have been in a perfect world.

If mining proposals are put forward in the future it is paramount that those councillors making decisions relating to the proposal declare any vested interest in the venture and abstain from any vote to do with the project.

I would demand a comprehensive input from the community and those affected by such a plan. Not just ticking the box having 'completed consultation' The company must detail how community input has been incorporated into their project, not just say they've considered it.

I'm intimately aware of how big business and governments work on such projects and how community reaction cannot be ignored Twelve years ago I established a community group called the Tamar Residents Action Committee (TRAC) in northern Tasmania to fight against a proposal by Gunns Ltd to build a chlorine bleaching pulp mill on the Tamar River. At the time Gunns was worth \$1.8 billion with a share price of \$4.86. TRAC was so successful Gunns Ltd has been in receivership for the past couple of years and the pulp mill hasn't been built.

Tania Stock - Kalkabury Ward

Q 1: In my view large- scale open cut copper mining cannot co-exist with agriculture on Yorke Peninsula. This type of mining is likely to cause significant risk for our highly productive agricultural area and sensitive gulf waters with the potential for crop and water contamination. It is also likely to have a negative impact on our tourism industry, particularly for the townships and holiday settlements in close proximity to the mine.

Q 2: The Rex Minerals' Hillside proposal was initially a much smaller proposition than is now before us. The mine proposal boasts unprecedented proportions for a location which is as highly productive and as highly populated as YP. The EPA and DMITRE have no experience in monitoring a mine of this type and size in a productive and sensitive environment, so effectively the State Labor Government has given approval to conduct an experiment on some of the state's most valuable farming land.

The operation of the mine will create a lot of noise, dust and heavy vehicle traffic flow. This will give rise to potential crop and water contamination – including underground water, tanks/troughs and gulf waters, for an unknown radius from the mine site. Our premium grain and livestock production will be threatened if there is any trace of contamination, as will the marine environment in the gulf.

Of particular concern is the lack of any real rehabilitation of the site, which includes the 2.4km x 1km x 450m pit, the 100m+ waste rock dumps and highly toxic tailings dam. This will be a legacy that will be left for generations.

The impact on our roads will be significant. Our roads can barely manage the demands of our busy harvest period, let alone an increased heavy vehicle traffic flow that would be continual. Tourist traffic on long weekends and holidays is regularly problematic, so traffic problems and road damage will be exacerbated.

Mining jobs are mostly fly-in, fly-out and this has been demonstrated already by the Titeline Drilling Contractors for Rex Minerals – a peak workforce of around 65 workers, only a handful were from YP, and they resided at a camp-style accommodation where food and supplies were trucked in from Adelaide on a weekly basis. These employees (predominantly male) did not move their families here and they did not join sporting

clubs or the like. Employment opportunities for locals are likely to be minimal and increased growth is also likely to be minimal due to the easy commute from Adelaide.

Rex Minerals' consideration of a further 50 prospective mine sites on YP is also of great concern as this would give rise to further loss of prime agricultural land not only due to more mines, but also the associated haul roads to the Hillside processing plant.

Q 3: The Council does not support the Hillside mine in its current format and I will be ensuring that this stance is firm going forward. I have been nominated as the Council representative for the new Hillside Community Group. There were many shortcomings with the former Community Consultative Group – primarily as it was controlled by Rex Minerals. I will be making a concerted effort to ensure that communication about the mine proposal will be proactively shared with the community and there is continual community input and engagement. Although the State Govt provides approvals for these proposals, local community sentiment plays an important role for investment and security for these projects so it is imperative that the views of the community are clearly advocated.

I have previously worked with PIRSA as part of my involvement with the Heartland Farmers Association to encourage the continuation of identifying Primary Production Priority Areas. PPPAs have been established for other parts of the state including areas within the Outer Metro Horticultural region, the Barossa and the Limestone Coast. YP is due to be reviewed and I believe the Council needs to take a proactive approach to ensure that our unique farming area is recognised for the value that it contributes to the state's economy.

Other mining proposals will need to be assessed on their merit. I see my role as keeping the community informed and actively seeking feedback. Supporting developments and opportunities for growth in our region is important, as is ensuring the long term sustainability of our key industries, agriculture and tourism.

GUM FLAT WARD CANDIDATES

Naomi Bittner – Gum Flat Ward

Q 1: I don't believe that open-cut mining can successfully coexist with agriculture on the YP - This is some of the state's most productive farmland, & as well as landmass lost to the mine & its overburden, the risk of contamination from dust could jeopardise our agricultural markets. My additional fear is that once one large mine such as Rex is operational, it will pave the way for more local farmland being lost to mines & haul roads.

Q 2: While increased employment & local business opportunities may be a positive in the short lifetime of the mine, I strongly believe that the negative impacts of the Hillside Copper Mine will far outweigh the positives for the Yorke Peninsula.

Many employees will come from other regions such as Adelaide, and therefore have no great effect on the local economy. The permanent loss of prime farmland & its income, the high probability of further mines & haul roads being developed, risks of noise & dust pollution, water table damage, gulf damage, increased traffic and negative impacts to tourism & land values are some of my concerns. Less than 5% of SA land is suitable for farming, and with a global population set to hit 9-12 billion by 2050, I believe that it is short-sighted to give any conflicting industry rights over those of farmers (who add more to the state's economy than copper mining does).

Q 3: While looking at each case on its merits, if I were elected I would look to strongly advocate for the rights of farmers & current residents. I am currently a member of the Grain Producers of SA's Agricultural Security & Priority Committee, & would bring their wealth of information to Council regarding the economic & social importance of agriculture in South Australia. Our council region reliably produces a quarter of the state's annual grain harvest, & along with tourism, this is a successful economic earner that underpins the district. Via both channels I will actively lobby the State Government's ministers & planners to acknowledge the high value of agricultural land. If elected, I will do all I can to ensure that the Yorke Peninsula remains agriculturally rich & naturally beautiful.

Jeff Cook -- Gum Flat Ward

Q 1 While mining can only occur where the minerals are, the value of the product and the employment created are not the only factors for consideration. The cost to the broader community and the surrounding environment must also be considered, as the agricultural product can continue be harvested for millennia by farmers who care for the land, while the mining rape of prime farming land occurs over only a short period, but can NEVER be undone.

The jobs may be appreciated for a generation, but have then gone, leaving a broken community, a huge hole, and a huge mullock pile. If money and jobs are the only criteria, then the open cut mine is likely to be an option - but by definition, prostitution fulfils that same objective. That too comes at a huge community cost and is justifiably frowned on! The long term future of the peninsula and it's people's is of far greater concern to me than the short term "prostitution" of the prime agricultural land and the neighbouring gulf with it's valuable marine life which could well be wiped out by this mine and it's byproduct.

As an example, council can stop (for instance) a stock transport depot from setting up amongst a housing area because of the effect on the neighbours, but cannot stop a

mine from affecting it's neighbours and the environment permanently, to the detriment of the locals, the tourists, and the coming generations. A landowner has huge restrictions on what they can build on their property, (and where,) due to the "amenity" of the area, including visual amenity. I cannot envisage (say) a 7 storey building getting approval anywhere in our council area because of those restrictions no matter how much money it may turn over. But a mine ? The government needs the jobs and money, so of course they will back it.

Q 2: See above.

Q 3: While Council is unlikely to be a major decision maker in any mining proposal, elected members must continue to weigh up all factors of any and every application that affects the ratepayers and community to whom they are responsible, and apply the same criteria to that application as any other.

Scott Hoyle— Gum Flat Ward**

Thank you for your invitation, but due to my current harvest workload I will decline your offer of an essay.

I will however be more than happy to inform you & your members that I strongly oppose the development of any open cut copper/gold/uranium mine within our council boundaries. I lived & worked in Olympic Dam for several years, & there is no way any such project should have got traction on the YP.

Helen Joraslafsky— Gum Flat Ward

Q 1: While YP is rich in natural resources it is now creating this problem. Which to give precedence? Once again, it comes down to the mighty dollar! I have a problem with digging up more highly productive land when so much of the arable land has already been covered with housing. But then the minerals are in demand and we need to raise sufficient income if we are to maintain our current living standards and continue to live in the way to which we are accustomed.

As the state government has already given its blessing to the mine our job must be to minimize its affect; to ensure that Rex Minerals follow accepted procedure with redeeming the land.

Co-existence will require considerable strict oversight of the operations to ensure that damage to the environment is kept to the minimum. This will bring further expense both for the mining company and the government.

However, I understand that farming is not the high return industry it once was, and some of the landowners may welcome the income from selling the farm.

Q 2 : The direct impact of the open cut will be obvious, with the open cut and tailings not only creating a blot on the landscape but also subject to wind, which we have plenty of.

There will be more wear and tear on local roads, a lot of which aren't in any great shape already.

Being so close to Adelaide, I doubt that the area will benefit in any great way from an increase in population, rented properties or home sales.

Q 3: My role as an elected member will be to ensure that all aspects of the proposals are considered, pertinent questions asked and appropriate investigations made to accurately assess the possible short and long term affects on our wonderful peninsula.

However, as the final decision rests with the State government, the YP Council can only make strong representations on behalf of electors, both land owners and those depending on mines for employment.

Bob Nicholls - Gum Flat Ward

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

As an elected member I have been involved in the process almost since day one. This applies to the proposed Rex Mine & Wind farm developments.

Both projects have been given major project status by the State Government. Major project status is declared when a development is over \$10 million as is the case with each of these proposals. The right to approve or decline the applications rests with the State & not Local Government.

Council examined both projects and made submissions in relation to Council's Development Plan, environmental, social & economic issues we considered detrimental to our rate payers.

Both projects have received approval with certain conditions attached.

The Rex Mineral approval conditions have not been made available to Council at this time. I am aware the company has accepted the conditions imposed by the State Government and can only assure you that once approval conditions are made known, if re-elected I will work to ensure all approval conditions are adhered to. I give the same undertaking regarding the wind farm development should it proceed.

NOTE: The Hillside Project does not have major project status.

The Mineral Lease Tenement document containing the 98 conditions were uploaded on to the Department of State Development's website in September 2014 and can be found at:

www.minerals.dmitre.sa.gov.au/mines_and_developing_projects/developing_projects/rex_minerals

Jo Peters – Gum Flat Ward

I don't think "Large scale mining" is a good idea in the same area as high quality agriculture but this is now out of our hands as the State Government fortunately or unfortunately has made the decision to support and approve the mine. So has the council, recently. This particular mine is only 1% of the peninsula and has been in the pipe line for a long time. I understand that they may not even be able to raise the last \$750,000,000 they need to move to the next stage.

Tania Stock mounted a very good case against the mine and I think that a committee such as yours has a very important roll to play in making sure that the environmental protection clauses that have been put in place for this operation are strictly adhered to. I have traveled a number of mines in Germany and they are all heaped around the edges with top soil and large numbers of trees are planted to recreate bush land and passages for the native inhabitants to transgress. When that section of mine is finished with, the entire area is flooded and sold off for pretty attractive housing. So they solve their mining needs with beautification and additional revenue.

Now that this project has been approved and if it goes ahead I now feel that handled correctly, there could be enormous benefits for the Peninsula in areas of families moving into the district which will increase the need for schools, shops, services, transport, housing etc and of course there will be major incomes circulating, this can only benefit the local area.

Your third question is a difficult one as mining tenements cover most of the world but whether they are actually taken further depends on price and suitability but mainly depends on committees such as yours making sure that they "do the right thing", protect the environment, have minimal interference on agriculture and don't pollute water tables or rivers, in the same way the EPA protects the toxic chemical use in agriculture. In the same way you operate, the councilors for any council must also consider an act on the above.

INNES/PENTONVALE WARD CANDIDATES

Darren Braund – Innes/Pentonvale Ward

Q 1: At this point in time I believe that a mine could coexist with Agriculture on the Yorke Peninsula. I do admit I do not consider myself an expert at all on the subject, but

have read some of the concerns against and arguments for the concept. Obviously such a project is contentious and emotional subject as many have a long history in farming the land and have voiced genuine concerns. The mine should only go ahead if the majority of concerns are addressed in best practice way.

Q 2: In my view a mine has the potential to impact on the peninsula in a number of ways:

1) In a positive way it would stimulate the local economy with many towns and business benefiting from the investment and people. It may also provide pathways for employment for local residents.

2) In a negative way, if not managed to high standards it has the possibly of increasing air pollution, water quality, agricultural produce quality and the natural beauty of the Peninsula.

Q 3: I believe my role as an elected member would to be to try carefully consider all of the stakeholders and weigh up all of the pros and cons, (economic, environmental, social) focusing on the type of place we want the Peninsula to be not only now but in years to come.

Veronica Brundell – Innes/Pentonvale Ward

Thankyou for your candidate questions.

I will answer it in a general form. I have stated my personal opinion in council chambers in the lead up to Hillside going before the Minister for his decision. Council then formed a collective opinion which was put to the panel at Ardrossan. As you know council doesn't have a say on the process other than that which has occurred or different to any other individual. The decision lies with the government. I believe personally that our moto stands for itself "Agriculturally rich naturally beautiful". I believe that prime farming land needs to be kept for food bowl production no matter what the crop nor where it is situated. On saying that we already have had mines and farming co-existing on Yorke with the mines in the copper triangle, Curramulka and Stansbury, so it can work. I strongly believe that strict guide lines need to be in place and adhered to. I was disappointed to hear that they won't be made to back fill the hole. This is done at Stansbury at the Klein's Point mine and returned to grain cropping successfully. I am surprised at the amount of angst with Hillside and its stockpile of dirt when there is no objection to the mounds at Ardrossan mine, nor was there a murmur from anyone with their recent announced expansion – as this is an open cut mine with dirt mounds as well, I find this rather strange. The mine will generate many employment opportunities for people of Yorke Peninsula and bring more to the area, which in turn will flow onto existing businesses, schools etc, so that will be an economic benefit to the area. If more mines come to the fore council will be diligent in scouring their proposals as they were with Hillside and act accordingly. Individually we weigh up and consider our opinions for

and against and state and debate in council until a collective decision is reached. At that time the decision of council is the decision of the whole.

Cathryn Joseph – Innes/Pentonvale Ward**

YPLOG could not obtain an email address or telephone number for Mrs Joseph, and so the questions were not forwarded to her. She therefore did not have the opportunity to respond.

Adam Meyer – Innes/Pentonvale Ward

Although I wouldn't represent the Ward the Proposed Hillside Mine is located, I believe that the Hillside Development would have an impact on the whole greater Yorke Peninsula Council. Positively for employment but negatively for the environment.

I refer to my nomination statement from the Ballot paper and the YPCT article: "I support sustainable development that doesn't come at the expense of tourism and farming that is so important to the future of the Yorke Peninsula."

I have read a bit on Hillside but not all the documents in depth. I would be concerned if a Mine would be situated on land of such high food productivity if it wasn't going to be restored to its original food productive status. I haven't read how Hillside propose to do this and would not support it in its current format if my assumption is correct.

I am also aware of the need for employment on the peninsula to keep local business open and local residents employed. I support naturally productive enterprises that don't have large environmental impacts, but expand employment opportunities. For example, eco tourism, alternative agriculture and aquaculture that is sustainable and non-polluting.

I have bought a house here and plan to stay here for many years ahead, to give my family stability with residence and education. I am passionate about bringing up my children in a safe environment and teach them about long term sustainability. We have visited many times in the past due to the beauty of the Peninsula and the local lifestyle and environment is why we are putting down roots here.

John Rich – Innes/Pentonvale Ward

Simple questions but complicated issues, however I will try and summaries my views for you.

Council has very little input into mining decisions which are made by State Govt. All we can do is make submissions at the appropriate times with our concerns or recommendations (which are rarely listened too?)

1. There is no one answer to this question as it depends on scale and location. In my view Large scale open cut copper mining on the YP is inappropriate in our prime agricultural lands so no it can't co-exist.
There are possible areas where it could be accommodated and each case needs to be evaluated on merit. My reasons are best summarised in answers to question 2.
2. At the beginning I thought mining and jobs were a positive for YP, bear in mind this was at a time when the project was much smaller and progressive rehabilitation and back filling was proposed.
I currently have major concerns with the scale and size of the proposed operation . Council raised these objections strongly in our submission to govt. Specifically my concerns are:-
 - a. Sheer size of operation, foot print and un-remediated hole in the ground together with the over burden mountain.
 - b. Even more concerning is the likely hood of leachate migrating off site and contaminating our gulf waters and surrounding land and I have heard nothing that gives me confidence that these issues will be addressed in an effective way.
 - c. I am aware that dust and contaminants on surrounding prime land is of major concern to our farmers, However I am not really qualified to make a call on that, I would like to see more science on this aspect.
3. Mining tenements cover much of SA not just YP. Council is not against mining operations per se and we have little opportunity to influence government. That said elected members need to keep themselves well informed and advocate strongly for our communities. We need to try and balance the often conflicting interests and make decisions for the whole of YP i.e. for all ratepayers and residents.
Elected members need to direct our staff to undertake timely investigation of the issues surrounding any mining proposals put forward , which is what we currently try and do.

Yorke Peninsula is a very special and unique place. It combines miles of roads and coastlines with wide spread small communities quite different from most other places in SA. The success in the past has been the mix of agriculture, tourism, small businesses and yes some small scale mining operations. I am dedicated to protecting our environment and the balance that currently exists but I do want to see progress.

John Sedy - Innes/Pentonvale Ward**

I am opposed to large scale open cut mining on YP.

I don't like to see good agricultural land wasted. The number of mines will just increase, I believe, because there are so many leases going out. This [Hillside] won't be the only one – others will follow.

I don't want them because they are going to create a lot more problems. This [Hillside] won't be the first one, because there are others with leases all around, and it goes right up to Arthurton and beyond and will go on forever.

All YP will be in 20 years time will be a heap of bloody great holes.

***** Due to work pressures, John Sedy was unable to provide a written response. The above comments were dictated via a phone call to YPLOG.***

Gina Voigt - Innes/Pentonvale Ward

Q 1: I do not believe that large-scale open-cut copper mining alongside agriculture is in the best interest of the community or protecting our region. Yorke Peninsula Council Logo clearly says "Agriculturally rich – Naturally beautiful". This does not reflect the Hillside Project. There are many issues the community and tourism will face over the next few years with Rex Minerals, not to mention prime land being tied up for a considerable time potentially jeopardising the next generation of farmers and their families with no guarantees the land would be restored or be a viable concern for future farming.

Austin Exploration (oil) came to SYP specifically Pt. Moorowie and created vast amounts of dust, did not consult with their closest land owner, had no respect or consideration for farmers moving stock on roads (this was our experience) and they drained our only water source to the area so we needed to cart water on a regular basis for our sheep. Years later our water supply has still not been replenished to the full extent it was originally. The Hillside Project is much larger and the impact could be far greater. As it has been passed by State Government we do not want to set a precedence of open slather mining in the area. Any food source production including marine life is at risk from toxic contamination. The long term health/environment effects are unknown at this point. Possible changes to Rex Minerals original proposal should be made transparent to the community outlining details for haulage for example, which would greatly impact on our roads.

Q 2: The Hillside Copper Mine will impact on the Y.P. in various ways. The fate of the final pit void. Surface water/ground water interactions. Possible ground water discharges into Gulf St. Vincent.

70% of ground water use required by Rex Minerals, must have a negative impact on the environment. There is a threat to underground water leaving the site in the final 2 years. Valid and understandable concerns are dust, noise and bright lights at night. There are many questions regarding the conditions requiring clarification. The potential impact to this zone is unknown and also the wider environmental implications.

Q 3: When mining proposals are put forward for consideration, my role as an elected member would be to consult with the community, liaison between Council and the ratepayer, and ensure that the community's interests are presented at the Council meetings and ratepayers are heard including the YPLOG.

YORKE PENINSULA LAND OWNERS GROUP
24 October 2014