

YORKE PENINSULA FARMING PRODUCTIVITY



- Only 4.3% of land in South Australia is available for dry-land cropping (non-irrigated).
- Yorke Peninsula is one of Australia’s prime agricultural regions. The regions’ rich limestone soil makes it some of the most highly productive land in Australia and should be protected.
- Yorke Peninsula is known as the ‘Barley Capital of the World’. You’ll find Barley from the Yorke Peninsula in most glasses of Australian beer.



- Prime Beef & Lamb are produced to supply local & metropolitan butchers as well as overseas markets.
- Yorke Peninsula produces 25% of the State’s grain harvest each year on just 12% of the State’s cropping land.
- Yorke Peninsula enjoys a well- earned reputation for high quality, ‘Clean & Green’ farm produce.
- The figures in Table 1 below illustrate the region’s most recent contribution to South Australian broad acre crop production in 2013-14

CROP	TONNES PRODUCED 2013-14	% OF STATE’S TOTAL
Wheat	644,000	13%
Barley	527,000	25%
Durum (Wheat)	77,000	39.5%
Lentils	124,000	76%
Canola	66,000	15%
Peas	32,000	22%
Beans	26,500	19%
Chickpeas	15,000	51%

Source: PIRSA (2014) Crop & Pasture Report South Australia: 2013-14 Crop Performance Summary March 2014. Primary Industries & Regions South Australia. <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/grains/cpr>

YORKE PENINSULA’S CONTRIBUTION TO SA’S ECONOMY

- The Yorke Peninsula consistently contributes \$400 million to the State’s economy each year.
- Agriculture has been the bedrock of the Peninsula’s economic security since initial settlement began. The land has been farmed for over 100 years and, if unthreatened by mineral exploration and mining, will continue to feed Australia and the world for the next 1000 years.

**YORKE PENINSULA’S LONG-TERM VIABILITY IS BEING PUT AT RISK FOR
SHORT-TERM GAINS FROM MINING**

REDUCTION OF PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND

- The proposed Hillside mine footprint will destroy over 3,000 hectares of highly productive cropping land on Yorke Peninsula. Hillside has an expected mine life of only 15 years.
- Invasive mining and agriculture CANNOT co-exist in areas of intensive farming such as Yorke Peninsula. Mining destroys the very land that agriculture depends on.

Once the farm land is gone.....it’s gone FOREVER!!

For more information visit: yplandowners.com.au

RISKS TO YP FARMING POSED BY HILLSIDE MINE

- Food Security – By 2050, the world’s demand for food is expected to rise by 70%. With increasing world population and decreasing amounts of prime agricultural land, preserving Yorke Peninsula’s agricultural viability is critical for food security both in Australia and the world.
- Dust contamination of crops/pastures –If wind-borne copper sulphides and uranium contaminates crops and pastures on Yorke Peninsula, this could threaten our overseas grain and livestock exports.
- Decrease in productivity –Dust deposition on leaves of developing crops reduces the plant’s ability to photosynthesise; thereby reducing plant growth, crop yields and quality or even causing the plants to die.
- Contamination of soils –Toxic dust from the mine site could cause sterilisation of the soil and would render it infertile and unable to produce crops.
- Contamination of water supplies – Dust emanating from the mine could lead to contamination of rainwater tanks (most farm households are self-sufficient and totally rely on rainwater for drinking etc.), dams & livestock drinking troughs.



- Blasting –The vibration and noise caused by large blasts at the mine site would disturb livestock within the mine’s vicinity, and cause undue stress to the animals. Livestock are located within 100m of the Hillside pit on the adjoining property along with additional surrounding properties.
- Noise & Light Pollution –As the proposed large-scale mine would operate 24/7, 365 days a year for the next 15 years; livestock would suffer stress due to deprivation of quiet rest at night. Farming families and the surrounding rural communities would be exposed to increased health risks due to sleep deprivation caused by bright lights at night and constant noise.

OPEN LETTER TO YORKE PENINSULA RESIDENTS **FROM A FARMER**

Whilst some of you may consider this a highly emotional letter and not at all helpful for discussions, I just wanted to give you a snapshot into our lives at the moment and why myself (and maybe others, although I can’t speak directly for them) ask so many questions and insist on proper consideration of all the issues and our concerns regarding Rex Minerals proposed Hillside Mine near Pine Point. While some of us attending meetings for the Community Group are members of YP Land Owners Group, each of us is there representing our own families and concerns and I wanted to give you my reasons why I have many concerns and ask many questions. I would love to read this out publicly, however I will end up in tears and I’m sure that wouldn’t be helpful.

First off, I am not a radical. I am a mother of 3 healthy children, a wife and a farmer. I volunteer at my children’s school, we attend church and we play sport locally. Until last year, I had never even considered rallying on the steps of Parliament House. At the moment, my husband and I don’t sleep very well. I am often in tears over the prospect of this mine. We can’t make plans too far into the future for our house or our farm because we don’t know where we will be. Imagine my husband, having always wanted to farm with his family, farming the way they want, my father in law for 50+ years and my husband for over 20 years, finally building up a successful business for his children and future generations to benefit from, now in limbo. We are farmers; we can’t just pick up and shift jobs. We just want to farm.

Our farm house will be less than 2km from a corner boundary of the mine site, within 2 km of the waste rock piles and the dust. When those south easterly winds blow, our house, our neighbour’s houses, paddocks and crops will be covered in any dust coming off the mine. This dust could contain anything; copper, uranium, iron ore, any of these obviously harmful. Our rainwater tanks of which we have 800,000 L capacity may all be contaminated. Our health could be at risk. My children’s health and welfare could be at risk and for what? 15 years of benefit for the state and a lifetime of grief and ill health for us, our neighbours and our community.

This is just my family. I can’t imagine what other neighbours are going through, with the possibility of their heritage and family farm being buried under waste rock piles. Hundreds of years of family work and history gone. As far as I’m concerned, this heritage is priceless. Imagine their grief and sleepless nights. Many people’s faith and strength are being severely tested at the moment and I can only wonder about their mental and physical health and hope that they will make it through.

We have read the Mining Lease Proposal and the response documents and so far, all I can read is many “maybes”, “we may’s” and “could’s”. This is not okay. The Rex Minerals way of dealing with these issues is far from satisfactory and I feel the whole community is being manipulated with placating, flippant and condescending remarks of “it won’t happen that way”, “you have to trust us” or my personal favourite “we have a book on 101 ways to use a hole”. I believe this shows the lack of understanding of our community, its heritage and the basis behind YP Council slogan “Agriculturally Rich, Naturally Beautiful”.

NO, I will not put the lives of my family into the hands of a company that won’t even consider the safest way to develop this mine. If there is as much mineral deposit there as they say, the cost for community protection shouldn’t matter.

Rex Minerals need to do this the right way, the safest way or they don’t do it at all and I am having trouble understanding how the people closest to the mine and its impacts are labelled difficult, radicals or anti-mining. I think you’ll find that most of YPLOG just want the best for their children and their community.

Minister Koutsantonis said to me that “people should come first”, “if there is a risk to health, then the mine won’t be approved”.

To me, our community’s health and welfare must come first.

Yes, I will ask a lot of questions and I will discuss issues until I am satisfied that we are all protected, but I won’t be manipulated and I won’t have my children’s lives put at risk.

Thank you for your time.