

From:- William Ellis (Bill) McRougall

RECEIVED 25 OCT 2018

To:-

Mineral Resources Division
Department for Energy and Mining
GPO Box 320
ADELAIDE SA 5001.

Dear Sir, Madam,

I first came to Mintabie to prospect for opal in 1981, and have a long association with the town.

I purchased the residence I live in now at Site 241 in 2011. During the following 5 years I upgraded the residence so that it is now well insulated and comfortable to live in.

The presence of much more opal within the Mintabie Precious Stones Field seems likely. This was stated in the 2017 Review of the Mintabie Lease and Mintabie Tenement Lease Agreement.

With this in mind and the coming transition of Mintabie to APY control, have the APY Executive or any APY citizens considered prospecting for opal in the most likely areas? I feel sure that they would get assistance in learning the basic skills required from the miners who are working at Mintabie now, if they decided to.

Even in likely areas finding opal can still

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be costly and very difficult. Because of this I think that a limited government funded auger drilling program in such an area is worth a try. If good opal trace is found, claims could be pegged in the area by APY and non APY people, and prospecting of the claims commence.

Where I live now is the only place I have. If I have to depart from Mintabie because of its closure I will move to a smaller residence in perhaps Cooper Pedy or Port Augusta. I will take with me what I can find a place for. I will sell or give away or leave behind the remainder. The remainder includes my workshop and its contents. A solder-generator unit is included in the contents.

I would hope that after my departure the vandalising of my residence and workshop will not occur. I would not mind if APY took over my campsite and became owners of all or it. I will forward the keys to the residence and workshop when asked to do so by them.

Because of its soundness and the brilliance of its colours Mintabie opal is in big demand by opal buyers. As a result good prices are payed for the "rough" opal when sold by those who mine it, to the buyers. A reasonable supply of such opal coming on to the market will be reassuring to those who are fully involved in the trade over the long term.

Yours sincerely,
W E McJannell.