

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DEM:Mintabie Opal Mining](#)
Subject: Mintabie Miner's Progress Association submission
Date: Monday, 24 September 2018 2:46:42 PM

To Whom it may Concern

On behalf of the Mintabie Miner's Progress Association (MMPA) I wish to submit the following information to the appropriate body for deciding the future viability of the Opal Fields at Mintabie.

- The previous State Government had issued notice that the township of Mintabie would be closed, which meant no miners would be able to reside in Mintabie. This has since been modified by the current government, which intends to hand over responsibility to the APY Council, who have the power to decide who, if any residents are able to remain, with as yet unknown conditions. This arrangement would be totally unsatisfactory to most miners in the town as it would mean only a very few residents would be inclined to accept the terms, thus leaving those remaining to be increasingly vulnerable to the escalating break-ins, robberies, harassment and intimidation by residents from the nearer communities on the APY Lands
- There are millions of dollars worth of equipment in the Field which is almost impossible for miners to relocate in the time frame given, and opportunities to move this to another Field is extremely limited. The machinery is purpose built to suit the conditions found at the Mintabie Field
- There are a number of miners and companies currently operating from the Mintabie Fields and the majority have faith there is considerable opal to be found. Given that opal is Australia's national gem stone and that Mintabie opal is of the highest quality it would be foolhardy to stop production
- It has been suggested that the Field could remain open and whilst the town will be effectively closed, miners would be able to travel to the Field to continue mining. At present this is an untenable option. The only site for residency that would be even remotely possible would be Marla, 38kms away, along a rough road, inaccessible when it rains. There are no accommodation options in Marla and no plans to release land for people to erect living structures. Water supplies and sewerage are not able to cope with an influx of new residents.
- Even if Marla was to be able to be opened up to new residents, miners would be reluctant to leave their machinery in Mintabie because of fear of theft of diesel and/or vandalism to the machinery
- For the sake of the opal mining industry it is crucial that Mintabie remains a viable field. For this to occur there needs to be some guarantee that those currently mining are able to continue to reside in Mintabie without undue penalties being put upon both their residency and their mining operations. Miners have, in good faith, invested and continue to invest considerable money in the Mintabie Opal Fields and should be able to legitimately pursue their business without fear of arbitrary decisions occurring which could impact negatively upon their livelihood.

Yours faithfully,
Veronica Hartnett
Secretary
MMPA

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