

Minerals Resources Division  
Department for Energy and Mining  
GPO Box 320  
Adelaide SA 5001 30 October 2018

Submission for the Future of Opal Mining at Mintabie,

I am a woman 55 years of age with minimal super and no other home to go to. I have been mining in Mintabie 18 years. Both hand mining and with a dozer

I have a large collection of machinery and equipment that would have to be moved, this prospect is overwhelming both physically and financially.

The closure of Mintabie Opal field would create a sizable hole in the availability of quality opal to the world market in the future.

The increase in home invasions and robbery by criminal elements on the APY have severely impacted on both my mental and physical health with the result that I have semi closed what was a thriving store supplying both local and APY residents with fresh food and hardware.

I fail to see how any of us can financially and physically relocate to Marla and continue to mine in Mintabie; I find it ludicrous that I would be expected to travel 70 kilometres everyday on a very dangerous road with fuel and equipment in order to mine. Nothing could be safely left in Mintabie.

The possibility for a thriving tourism industry is thwarted by the signs out on the highway. The current permit system, when people are unable to get permits to visit Mintabie because the police station at Marla is frequently closed. The road sign indicating access for the Mintabie Road is often incorrectly displaying as "road closed".

I feel that tourism for Mintabie and the APY lands could be greatly developed and is an underutilised resource for the region, that could potentially offer meaningful employment to many people.

To this end I was setting up Opal miners camp style accommodation in my two homes, but repeated break ins, theft and vandalism have left the homes almost derelict.

Many good people have given up on opal mining because of the perceived harassment by Department for Energy and Mines regarding the uncertainty of our living in Mintabie.

Mintabie Miners Progress Association have been attempting negotiations with the APY council for longer than I have been here and still no working resolution. This creates more uncertainty and opal miners like life simple. It is difficult to find common ground when people will not even talk with us.

The closure of Mintabie Township will bring an end to Mintabie mining for me, a sad end for an industry still primed with enthusiasm and the opportunity of finding it big.

Other things to be taken into consideration is the historical value of the township where people created a community, building homes, a school, preschool, a medical clinic and town hall, supporting and assisting each other with the dream of finding opal. To an outsider our homes may look like ramshackle dwellings but the people within have created for themselves lives that mean something to them and form part the history of the region. Many look decrepit on the outside due to the severe climate but are comfortable and accommodating on the inside. Serving the purpose of "each man's home is his castle".

Sincerely Robyn Lloyd-Grocock