

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DEM:Mintabie Opal Mining](#)
Subject: The Future of Opal Mining at Mintabie
Date: Tuesday, 30 October 2018 3:22:29 PM

Dear Sir,

Re: Questions to assist with making a Submission

We will go through the various questions as listed on the Submission form.

The cost to transport heavy mining equipment such as bulldozers, scrapers, loaders, noodling machines and associated servicing equipment from Mintabie to another field would be enormous.

As we all know Mintabie Opal is keenly sort after throughout the world – if you cant mine – you cant sell.

The Mintabie precious stones field produces some of the best quality opal in Australia and not being able to supply would make our country and the opal industry look extremely stupid.

What would happen if Saudi Arabia, one of the worlds leading producers of oil suddenly closed down their oil fields – they would be classed as a very backward country and rightly so.

Mintabie Opal Fields supply a large proportion of this beautiful stone throughout the world. The tourists clamour to purchase our beautiful natural icon.

We understand there has been some illegal behaviour in the past but thankfully that has now been sorted out, those responsible are certainly not welcome and never were. Why should the hardworking law abiding miners be penalised for these badly behaved people.

We believe if both the Mines Department and SA Police and the Governments of the day had carried out their duties correctly by enforcing both the regulations and the law this situation wouldn't have evolved.

A major impact on Mintabie has been the ongoing doubt – not about the precious stone fields BUT always about the Town Lease where the various miners reside. As we understand the current regulations do not allow miners to live or camp on the precious stones field.

We are of the opinion that it is impactable to expect the miners to travel in and out from Marla each day, not only because of the high cost and time involved to do so. The problem also arises regarding servicing of the heavy mining equipment, which requires heavy lifting equipment to be on site.

If the APY community do not want under any circumstances to re-lease the town area, we suggest the government reallocate part of the precious stone field area into a residents area.

The Government should actively encourage mining in the Mintabie Precious Stone Field for the good of the South Australia economy and more widely the Australian economy.

There would be many more opal miners keen to return mine and live at the Mintabie Opal Fields it were not for the uncertainty over the last few years.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas & Zola Ortenburg (former miners, who would be keen to reinvest)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10