

Mintabie Opals Australia Pty Ltd
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25 October 2018

Hon. Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP
Minister Department of Energy and Mining
Mineral Resources Division
Government of South Australia
GPO Box 320
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Sir,

Re: Submission for the Future of Opal Mining at Mintabie

My name is Max Novelli and together with my wife Dawn Novelli we are **MDM Mining**. We have been mining Opal in Mintabie for over 30 years.

We are also the owners and directors of **Mintabie Opals Australia Pty Ltd**. This is our registered company which has been in existence for well over 20 years. We continue to mine and trade under the above names and any potential restriction of mining in Mintabie would be catastrophic to us and our livelihood.

We are known in the Opal community for our opals which are mined in Mintabie. As our name suggests, we specialise in Mintabie Opal. To say that we will be severely impacted if mining were to cease in the township of Mintabie is a gross understatement. This closure will directly impact on our livelihood, reputation and ability to continue to provide Mintabie Opal to our existing customer base and severely impact on our current and future earnings.

Our company is known as Mintabie Opals Australia Pty Ltd / Mintabie Opals Aus. We have a large social media presence and this continues to grow steadily. It is a direct reflection of who we are and what we do.

Whilst we understand and support any decisions to stop anti-social or illegal behaviour, we do not feel that the opal mining community should be penalised due to the actions of a select few. There are many hardworking, honest and upstanding individuals who continue to live, work and mine in Mintabie.

Mintabie is a viable opal mining area and we are experiencing promising results in our current mining activities. Mining in Mintabie is our livelihood. If this stops, so does our income stream. This will damage current client relationships and put us in a difficult position with existing client negotiations which are reliant on Opal mined by us in Mintabie.

I have longstanding and harmonious relationships with the Elders of the APY community in and around Mintabie. I have never had any issues or problems with the traditional owners of the land and am always welcomed and well received.

If mining were to cease in Mintabie, we would be forced to relocate all our heavy mining equipment and machinery. This alone would amount to tens of thousands of dollars just to relocate let alone finding a suitable location to house. We have dozers, excavators, heavy load trucks, noodling equipment, storage containers and the like. A complete list of machinery and equipment can be provided if required.

We respectfully request that mining in Mintabie continue so that we can continue to mine and offer our amazing gemstones to the world.

Your sincerely
Max and Dawn Novelli