

Dept of Energy and Mining  
Adelaide SA

Robert and Gertrude Haanstra  
[REDACTED]

31-10-2018

To the Mintabie Review Panel

It will be disastrous if you close the Mintabie opal field. What do you expect will happen? Everybody will lose their homes, their jobs, their businesses, their friends, their community, they will lose everything. And you expect people to just pack up and go. You don't want to help them with financial assistance. So how are people going to go.

My family has lived here for over 30 years running a business 'Second Hand Store' and opal mining. We have provided goods to the Lands for many many years and we know the local Anangu people like to come and shop in our Store. We know each other well. They want Mintabie to stay.

First you want to get rid of the Mintabie township and now the opal field. Why? Why would you close a functioning opal town and field? It makes no sense.

Over the years, we have invested all of ourselves into our business and opal mining. We have infrastructure that would not fit on twenty semi-trailers and you heard Robert at the meeting when he told you about the dozer and drill and 40 tons of spare parts.

Our family could not possibly move without financial assistance. I will say it again. Without financial assistance we cannot move.

Our family is extremely worried about what is happening. We are under constant stress from not knowing what is going to happen, to where are we going to go and how much it will cost. I think the whole town is suffering from mental stress.

Our Family mining company has invested many dollars to mine over the years. Not to be able to fully finish the cut would see our money wasted. We spent \$120,000 alone last year in diesel fuel for mining.

Closing the field would create severe impacts as opal markets are starting to pick up. To close Mintabie would make things much worse.

Closing the opal field would cut off people's employment forcing them on to CentreLink.

Marla is for Marla people. We cannot afford to live in the Marla Complex when we already have our homes in Mintabie.

We cannot afford to travel back and forth from Marla. Our machinery will be vandalized if left alone.

Crazy proposition.

People still love to come to Mintabie to fossicking opal. Mintabie is unique, people want to come and experience the desert and finding opal.

Mintabie could be a good place for indigenous people to come to and set up their own businesses and enterprises. Like tourism and mining.

The Govt should give us more assistance to help open up more of the current opal field to bring more people to Mintabie and create new work. Electricians, builders, mining operators.

It is absolutely important that we co-operate together and that Mintabie people are included in meetings to discuss the future of Mintabie and any problems that exist in the town.

We have a good town here why spoil it.

Thankyou

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gertrude Haanstra', written in a cursive style.

Gertrude Haanstra  
On behalf Robert Haanstra and Family