

October 22, 2018

Send to: DEM.MintabieOpalMining@sa.gov.au Government of South Australia
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: THE FUTURE OF OPAL MINING AT MINTABIE

To the Government of SA,

By removing the designation of a Precious Stones Field and the township of Mintabie, you are taking away the opportunity of all ordinary Australians to visit and experience the challenges and triumphs of discovering Australia's National Gemstone.

The designated Precious Stones Opal Field at Mintabie, is an intensively mined area of only 2 km². Whereas, ordinary Australians are locked out of the vast APY Lands, 102,700 km², now reserved (sic quarantined) for approximately 3,000 people.

Residents and opal miners were legally at Mintabie for many years before the APY lands legislation came into effect.

Mintabie residents have been systematically bullied and chased out by government.

People don't seem to matter! The economic rent extracted from small communities like Mintabie and Australia's Opal mining towns has clearly been deemed inadequate.

Can the SA government, in good conscience, guarantee that it is not doing the bidding of big resource corporations by forcibly removing the last (proletariat) impediments to the development of more lucrative resources of national and fiscal significance (eg. uranium)?

Mintabie is a proxy for future exploitation of resources within the APY lands as it is for the concentration of wealth and power within our country.

Despite token rhetoric, coexistence between big and small business or between black and white Australia is not on the national political agenda.

This is a simple case of Deep State versus the 'multi-coloured' Little Aussie Battler.

The quintessential Aussie ethos of 'A Fair Go' is being relegated to the annals of history and TV documentaries, as is the Opal industry and Australia's National Gemstone.

Yours faithfully,

G Peter Christianos