

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

To whom it may concern,

I have been mining in Mintabie 38 years, it is my belief that Opal Miners as a unique breed of people are like wildflowers, leave them alone and they flourish, as soon as you try to manage and cultivate them they wither and die.

I have a large collection of machinery and equipment that would have to be moved to Andamooka; at 86 this prospect is overwhelming both physically and financially.

The closure of Mintabie Opal field would reduce the supply of opal to the world from Australia. Mintabie opal is often used to bolster stocks at other fields, for example our best black opal often goes to Lightning Ridge.

Services in the town have already been impacted by the township review with the closure of three stores and an increase in home invasions and robbery by criminal elements on the APY.

Miners cannot live in Marla and mine in Mintabie;

There is no land available in Marla, I also have no money to relocate and at 86 I find it ridiculous that I would be expected to travel 70 kilometres everyday with fuel and equipment in order to mine. I would greatly fear for the safety of any equipment left at Mintabie.

The possibility for a thriving tourism industry is thwarted by the permit system and the perpetually non functioning road closed sign out on the highway.

I have watched good men give up on opal mining because of the harassment by Department for Energy and Mines regarding the uncertainty of our living in Mintabie.

Mintabie Miners Progress Association have been in 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.

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 promise.

Sincerely Geoff Watson