



## MINING REVIEW

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the mining act of 1971 Review.

I write to you regarding the mining review. Currently landholders are given 21 days' notice to give access to land and have the right to object in an appropriate court. However this objection can be over ruled. There are 2 parts I disagree with here. First;

I don't believe 21 days' notice is long enough.

Our mail, like many farmers isn't delivered to our property. We may only make it into town once a week to pick it up, and do our shopping. This would leave 14 days for the landowner to seek legal advice and try to get a proper understanding of what it means and its long term implications. This would require at least one appointment with an attorney, probably 2 or 3 appointments. This takes time. 21 days' notice doesn't give that time needed. As you can understand, receiving notice of intent to enter by a mining company is can be terrifying for a farmer.

Business decisions are made with careful consideration. A mining or exploration company doesn't just decide to 'explore and area' on the spur of the moment. The planning would have been in the pipeline for a long time. By extending the notice of entry from 21 days to 60 days, it would encourage the miners to enter into discussions with landowners and communities at a much earlier stage. Something the DSD encourages.

I also believe that the final say on land access should rest solely with the landowner, and not with the court.

I would like to give you a brief overview of our family business:

As dairy farmers, we rotationally graze and run a very high stocking rate. The milking herd is shifted to new paddocks at least twice a day, once after each milking, sometimes a third time onto a fodder crop or feed pad. Feed requirements are calculated at the start of the financial year taking into consideration the milk price, Cost of grain, hay and other feed inputs, last years feed reserves, and the long range weather forecast (El Nino or La Nina). Outside fodder is bought in; Paddocks are renovated and locked up for hay and silage. Fodder crops are sown ready to be grazed 5 months later.

Calving patters are set to take advantage of home grown feed. Cows are dried off as pasture growth slows and due to calve and start milking again as pasture growth rates increase. Our wettest paddocks over winter are saved for our young stock and are grazed at a low stocking rate as to many animals would bog the paddock up. Supplementary grain is taken down to them on 4 wheel motor bike as a 4 wheel drive Ute would get bogged and a tractor would leave deep ruts. If these paddocks were bogged up they would require renovation and would take them out of production for 6-10 months, pending the season.

As you can see, cattle movements are constant, paddocks that are renovated and re sown for fodder crops, hay and new pasture are no go zones particularly where heavy machinery is used this can affect the quality of crops and pasture and silage cuts.

From a practical point of view, it would be very difficult for us to accommodate machinery, vehicles and people, without them getting in the way of the day to day running of business. They would need to be supervised the whole time to ensure they didn't get bogged or leave gates open.

From a Bio Security point of view, the spread of weeds, pests and disease from other properties is also a concern. For us, two diseases of particular worry are: Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV or Pestivirus) and Bovine Jonnies Disease (BJD). Both can live in dirt and faeces, and can be brought onto the property by dirty vehicles and footwear. Pestivirus causes still birth, birth deformities and abortions in cattle and will show up that season. BJD is a wasting disease and the organism can live in soil for up to a year and the animals gut for 2-3 years before the animal shows any symptoms. By which time it has already spread the disease through the pasture to infect other animals.

A case study-Economic analysis of an acute outbreak of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV) in a South Australian dairy herd, Printed in the Australian Cattleman Veterinarian, June 2012- Found that the acute infection of BVDV in a naive dairy herd near Meningie resulted in an economic loss of \$144,700 to the dairy business over a 2 year period. This included loss of milk quality, loss of milk quantity, replacement cattle for those that died veterinary, testing and treating costs. Bio security is a very real and serious threat.

All farm enterprises differ, and as such access onto the property needs to be negotiated with each individual landholder so the mining/exploration activity has minimal impact on the farming enterprise. The farmer needs to have more say, and if he isn't satisfied that the miners cannot work around his operations without negatively impacting the farming operation, the farmer needs the right to refuse access.

It is also my view that 'exempt land' should remain exempt land. As stated on page 30 of the mining review:

Exempt land is:

a) Land that is lawfully and genuinely used— a. as a yard, garden, cultivated field, plantation, orchard or vineyard; this should be extended to include prime agricultural land; including, horticulture, viticulture and grazing.

f) land that is situated— a. within 400 metres of a building or structure used as a place of residence (except a building or structure of a class excluded by regulation from the ambit of this paragraph); or b. within 150 metres of— a building or structure, with a value of \$200 or more, used for an industrial or commercial purpose; or – a spring, well, reservoir or dam. An aquifer is an underground reservoir of water and as such should be afforded the protection of the regulation.

**These two inclusions are paramount to protect the state's agricultural sector, help maintain our clean green image as a world leading supplier of high quality, safe food. As well as helping to secure future investment in agriculture.**

**Demand for high quality produce is continuing to grow overseas and within Australia. Farmers and agribusiness require certainty that the soil, air and water resources they rely on to produce this quality food and fibre are permanently protected. Without this, investment in the sector will slow down, and become more difficult to procure.**

**It's important to look at things in context. Agriculture's contribution to the states bottom line should not be under estimated, nor should the employment opportunities it provides.**

2015/2016 Indicators and values

	Agriculture		Mining
Farm gate production	\$4.38 Billion*		Mining production \$4.5 Billion
Gross food revenue	\$16.52 Billion*		Mining exploration \$50 Million
SA Food Exports	\$3.89 Billion*		Mining exports \$3.8 Billion
Interstate commodity and processed food sales	\$2.52 Billion*		Mining royalties \$146 Million
Agriculture forestry and fishing jobs	40,100**		Mining jobs 10,000
Post farm gate jobs: manufacturing/processing and goods and service providers	108,200***		Mining service jobs 15,000

Source:

\* PIRSA Food Score card 2015-16

\*\* Department of Agriculture and water resources. ABEARS. Agriculture, Fisheries and forestry in South Australia, September 2016

\*\*\* Primary Producers South Australia Farm Facts Nov 2013

Mining facts from: Leading Practice Mining Acts Review Mining Act 1971 and Mining Regulations 2011 V2

South Australian Food and Fibre exported overseas and interstate for the 2015 FY totalled \$6.9 Billion As seen above, the agricultural sector directly and indirectly employs 123,300 people more people than mining and its service industries.

The type of employment is also different. Mining has a boom and bust cycle. The vast majority of the jobs are short term and are created during the construction phase; it often employs a Faye in Fly out work force, and prefers to poach skilled workers from other industries than to train their own. It is based around the removal of finite resource, with majority of profits going to overseas investors.

Agriculture is much more stable. Employment opportunities are local and long term, service providers put on apprentices and graduates, farmers put on trainees. When primary producers do well, they spend money on upgrades and improvements. South Australian Food and Fibre exported overseas and interstate for the 2015 FY totalled \$6.9 Billion, This is all money brought in and cycled and recycled through the state economy.

By preventing mineral and resource extraction within prime agricultural regions. You give agribusiness confidence to invest, upgrade, and value add. Having a mining exploration or extraction licence hanging over your property undermines the farmer's confidence to make improvements and upgrades.

Resource extraction and Agriculture are not compatible.

Thank you

David Black

