

7 December 2015

Mr Andrew Stocks
Managing Director
Iron Road Limited
GPO Box 1164
Adelaide 5001 South Australia

**Grower-driven advocacy for
a profitable grains industry**

Email: admin@ironroadlimited.com.au

Dear Andrew,

Re: CONSULTATION PROCESS OF THE MINING LEASE APPLICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE CENTRAL EYRE IRON PROJECT (CEIP)

Grain Producers SA (GPSA) is the peak industry body for South Australian grain producers. It is unique in that it is a non-political body that represents all grain producers to government, the community and industry. It is funded via the SA Grain Industry Fund (Primary Industries Funding Scheme) which nearly all grain producers in this state contribute to. GPSA is a founding member of Primary Producers SA.

The State's grain industries are large and diverse, making a significant contribution to the economy. Total grain production in South Australia from an estimated 3,000 grain producing businesses for the 2014-15 season was 7.63 million tonnes from 4.04 million hectares. With an estimated farm gate value of over \$1.8 billion and export value of \$2.2 billion, the grains industry is a not only a major contributor to this state's economy it is also a significant export earner for this state. The Eyre Peninsula is of particular significance to the grains industry in this state, contributing around 35% of the state's total crop production in 2014/15.

As the peak body for grain producers in this State, GPSA appreciates the extended consultation period made available on the CEIP Mining Lease Application (MLA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the ability to access these documents on line. However, we would like to express our concerns that affected grain producers in the area are only given one hard copy of both of these documents.

Our members have requested additional hard copies to be able to provide them to their legal counsel only to be told that they would have to pay for them, in the order of \$500. While we appreciate that they can be provided on a USB, this will still incur a cost to our members as their lawyers will still require a hard copy and will likely pass on the cost of printing/time etc. to the affected landholder.

They did not ask to have a mine set up on their land and yet when one is proposed and they ask for more information they are told they will have to pay for it. We understand there is a cost in providing these documents, but that surely should be a cost borne by the proponent of the mining lease, not the farmer. As the mining proponent, we are sure that Iron Road Ltd has vastly greater resources than affected grain producers to meet these costs.

The grain producers did not ask for this threatened incursion onto their land and into their lives and yet, in trying to defend their properties, they are unfairly hit time and time again with costs. We strongly believe that this cost should be borne by the proponent as part of the community consultation process.

We would appreciate your serious consideration of this issue and your assistance in providing additional hard copies, if requested by affected landholders. Please feel free to contact me on 0488 186 707.

Kind regards,



Darren Arney
Chief Executive
Grain Producers SA

Cc: Dr Don Russell
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