



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Via email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Chairman

RE: PETITION NO 92 – BAUXITE MINING

I write in support of the Avon and Hill Mining Awareness Group (AHMAG) which was formed in response to the potential mining proposal that Petition No 92 addresses, and request for the Legislative Council to not allow mining tenements to be converted to mining leases / licenses in Morangup - Shire of Toodyay, Wooroloo - Shire of Mundaring and Wundowie in the Shire of Northam.

It is my understanding that the Principal Petitioner has provided you with a very detailed submission and I strongly support all the elements of the submission.

Further to this, I would like to highlight the change in soil structure that will occur post mining creating a different arrangement of soil separations or aggregate.

Structure is one of the defining characteristics of a soil horizon. A soil exhibits only one structure per soil horizon, but different horizons within a soil may exhibit different structures. All of the soil-forming factors, especially climate, influence the type of structure that develops at each depth.

Granular and crumb structure are usually located at the soil surface in the A horizon. The subsoil, predominantly the B horizon, has sub-angular blocky, blocky, columnar or prismatic structure. Platy structure can be found in the surface or subsoil while single grain and structure-less structure are most often associated with the C horizon.

Mining and compaction are primarily responsible for destroying aggregates. Mining breaks apart aggregates and these are reformed in a new structure when the overburden is replaced and create a form of compaction. Particles that were once part of the aggregates may reorient themselves and form platy structures.

Hence, the proposal raises a number of significant environmental and social issues of concern to local communities, particularly for productive peri-urban farmland. Some properties are located only a few hundred metres away from the proposed mines and many more, including the 900 Morangup residents, are located west of the proposed mine, in the path of prevailing easterly winds typical of summer weather patterns. These proposals also raise wider concerns for potentially affected communities within the Avon Valley and Perth Hills in the Shires of Mundaring, Northam and Toodyay.

Together with the Avon and Hills Mining Awareness Group Inc, I strongly believe that to mine in the Perth Hills this close to the metropolitan area and so close to existing residents, is both socially and environmentally irresponsible. It would set a dangerous precedent that could potentially see the destruction of the lifestyle values of thousands of existing and potential residents of the Perth Hills

Region and the loss of many tens, and potentially hundreds, of kilometres of productive peri-urban farmland that will never recover from the effects of mining.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. H. Chapple'.

The Hon Robin Chapple MLC
Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region
17 September 2015