

Mr Jason Irving
Manager Planning & Policy
Department for Environment & Heritage
GPO Box 1047,
Adelaide, SA, 5001

5th December 2009

Dear Mr Irving,

I write with reference to the proposed uranium mining within the bounds of Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.

I am extremely concerned that, should mining proceed, the real and perceived environmental impact will ultimately result in an irreversible negative visitation trend, not just for Arkaroola, but the entire Flinders Ranges. Should this occur, many tourism operators would be unlikely to remain viable.

Tourism, as I am sure you are aware, is a key economic driver within the Flinders Ranges and many pastoralists would have been unable to survive the drought had they not diversified into tourism. The impact of further economic hardship on this sector has the potential to be nothing less than devastating.

Additionally, environmental sustainability and "eco-touring" have become extremely important factors in the choice of destination for long haul travel, particularly to the European market. With the Flinders Ranges becoming one of Australia's first National Landscapes, our place amongst Australia's future most desired Landscape destinations was assured.

Australia's National Landscapes are particularly appealing to the international, high yield, market given the program's high conservation values. The impact to tourism of uranium mining within a wilderness conservation area is potentially catastrophic. Of those who do still choose to come the devaluing of the landscape will quickly result in negative experiences, impacting on not only the Flinders Ranges, but on South Australia. Additionally, should mining be approved within the bounds of a Landscape this will not only place our right to be a Landscape in question, but undermine any marketing leverage that this fantastic South Australian destination has on the world stage.

I implore you to consider the long term ramifications of mining approval within the bounds of Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary, a valuable tourism asset, and to reconsider adoption of the management zones, as outlined in the *Seeking a Balance* document.

Yours sincerely,