

Dear Mr Irving & Dr Tyne

It is with great regret that I have to put pen to paper on this matter. I did not believe any Government could ever contemplate opening up Arkaroola to mining. When I heard of the proposed changes to the Mining access legislation I was horrified.

My involvement with Arkaroola started in the early seventies when as a teenager I accompanied my Father (a friend of the late Reg & Griselda Sprigg) to assist in the culling of feral goats to realize Reg's dream of a native sanctuary free of feral animals.

This has been spectacularly successful and the success of the Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby is testament to this as is the undisturbed flora and fauna.

Reg Sprigg's simple philosophies of 40 years ago have worked and are now being threatened by Greed.

I have been back many times both as a volunteer culling feral goats and as a visitor to wonder at the splendour of the Northern Flinders.

I now work in the Cooper Basin where "low impact" activities have caused mass destruction to the environment in the search for and production of Oil & Natural Gas.

What is "Low Impact"???

How can dozers, graders, road trains and drilling rigs be "Low Impact"????

How can the Surveyor get a true picture and understanding of Arkaroola without walking it?

I have spent hundreds of hours walking the remote areas of the Northern Flinders Ranges and that is the only way to appreciate and know what is really there.

Ask Stavros Pippas how many photos he took from his car – zero would be the answer.

What is going to happen to water supplies – There is not enough to go around now let alone another 5million litres per day – someone is dreaming.

I have seen first hand the Government's attitude to mining rehabilitation.

As a Foundation Member of Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby Preservation Society I have seen the Dept of Mines refuse to rehabilitate open cut mining on “The Bunkers” adjacent to the Flinders Ranges National Park because “it is not in the Public view”

I am of an age now where the legs are tired and worn out but there are generations to follow who deserve the right to see what is really there.

“Seeking a Balance-Conservation and resource use in the Northern Flinders Ranges.”

Perhaps we should rename it

“Bugger the Balance – Screw Conservation and all power to Mining and the Income the Government will receive”