

As a local land owner in the vicinity of the proposed Copi Mineral Sands Mine, I would be affected by the contamination of heavy metals including radio-active particles that are mixed in the dredging actions of sludge mining where the ground water that is 120 000 ppm saline, four times saltier than the sea , is mixed and allowed to re-enter the underground water table and flow south as it naturally occurs to flow under Lake Victoria and the Murray River and its flood plains. These natural water flows are known to seep into Lake Victoria which is considered a major water supply in the Murray Darling Basin System which is a main reservoir to South Australia for irrigation and population water supply to the value of over 80 million dollars in water value annually. Office of Environment Heritage NSW has a section 90 protection act over Lake Victoria which is under the control of Murray Darling Basin Authority for the storage of water and the protection of Cultural Heritage. The damage caused by Copi Mine to the flows of underground water and the contaminants mixed with it would be catastrophic to the water supply in Lake Victoria and Murray River and the flow on effect to population of South Australia that rely on this clean water source.

The mining proposal area which includes Huntingfield and Sunshine properties should not be included in the EIS as RZ Resources do not own nor do they have access agreements in place for these properties. Good neighbor agreements would not even cover the Biosecurity event that would be incurred by the owners of Huntingfield and Sunshine Properties because the radioactive and heavy metal dusts would cover these properties pastures and therefore render the stock grazing on them unable to be sold and processed on the Australian and World Markets as these contaminants are tested for by countries meats are exported to. Other Environmental Issues would be that native flora and fauna species are very easy to destroy and almost impossible to replace in a fragile 200mm rainfall climate. Protected Nulla Grass and old growth Mallee would never be replaced if allowed to be destroyed by the suggested Copi Mine. The salt water in the mine and surrounding areas would remain a sludge basin that will not grow vegetation once destroyed. The EIS final form suggests that the land capability and production will be returned to similar capabilities to what it is now. To be rather polite this could be considered total rubbish as trees won't grow back in salt effected areas and perhaps thousands of trees will also die outside the mine area due to salt seepage as can be currently seen around southern area of Land Victoria where pressure of the water table has created a tree waste land. The trees will not grow back and bird and native animal life will be nonexistent. The EIS suggests that RZ Resources rehabilitate the mine site by putting top soil back and deep ripping the area mined. Two points here are that deep ripping will bring the salt and contaminants to the surface. Secondly it would be impossible to dry out the mine site enough to get heavy machinery in to deep rip as it would sink into the sludge

that won't dry out due to the salt content, as similar to the natural salt lakes in the surrounding mine area never dry out as they are silt under the top salt layers.

Environmental figure ES 5 shows no understanding of the flow volume and direction yet RZ Resources are proposing to interfere with the water flows with little or no understanding to the consequences or damage to the salt and heavy contaminants that would leach back into the Murray Water System. ES page 17 states that one farm dam within the boundary of Huntingfield Station will be relocated. It is not possible to move a ground dam as they are located in the most appropriate drainage area to gain natural rainfall flows. Secondly it states that a compensation agreement will be negotiated with the landholder. Perhaps RZ Resources should negotiate with the owners of Huntingfield and Sunshine Properties about ownership and access and proposed land used before a dam removal on land RZ Resources don't own.

Page ES 18 states that the Agricultural value of the land is \$50414pa, this is not even close to returns in drought times or what is on offer for carbon credits. The annual return for the land is understated even considered laughable as it is many times this value.

ES page 19 states negotiations of commercial agreements with all directly affected land holders. It also suggests good neighbor agreements. How can this even be considered in the EIS when the proposed mine is partly on land that RZ Resources have failed to secure any agreements with notably Huntingfield and Sunshine properties. There is no ongoing agreements on surrounding properties where radioactive dust and heavy metals may affect the long-term viability of these properties due to Bio Security concerns. These contaminants are considered over and above a Sand Mine as it is proposed.

It should be considered that land ownership and approvals must be established before the project is considered. The HEALTH of the people in the mine area must be the number one propriety along with the Bio Security of the land around the mine. RZ Resources should be considered sound commercial agreements rather than trying to force landholders out. The bigger area of RZ Resources is applying for should not be allowed as it has had no exploration on yet it stops land owners from being able to explore carbon credits. RZ Resources should be considering compensating landowners that are unable to get carbon credits due to the area their maps cover. As a landowner this affects me and the damage that the contaminants that could be allowed to flow into the ground water system and

surface in the southern Lake Victoria land form will affect our Bio Security future outcomes. Questions should be considered that RZ Resources have the money to rehabilitate the proposed mine area and major compensation for damages to surrounding property ownership and re sale value. It also should be considered that possible radioactive contamination of the local residents and the population on future here the mining material is being sent to and processed. It should also be considered the ongoing viability of the mine to cover the total rehabilitation of the site in the future instead of a useless wasteland as it likely to occur.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. Contaminated waste water to be pumped into the natural occurring salt lake yet no consideration given to the thousands of tons of evaporated salt which would blow onto surrounding land area or leach back into the water table to further contaminate the water table and southern flows.
2. On going interference of the aquifer and underground fresh and saline flows into the Murray and Lake Victoria Water Systems.
3. Public health with radioactive dust and heavy metals in drinking water and livestock and farm vegetable gardens. All farms rely on rain water run off farm buildings for drinking water.
4. Are the roads up to standards for this amount of mine trucks and is it safe to cart the mine materials through populated towns.
5. RZ Resources EIS is not considered comprehensive or accurate in many areas. Especially in the access to land shown in the mine maps.
6. Is it even feasible to supply power and fresh water and a mine village in an area possible under radioactive material
7. If RZ Resources wish to press forward with this proposal then they should be prepared to purchase the land around the mine at inflated values.
8. This EIS doesn't address the real issue associated with the construction and rehabilitation of the mine in a fragile sensitive low rainfall environment.
9. Heritage NSW should be engaged to do a comprehensive study on Aboriginal Heritage in this proposed area as it was the last area of the Harry Nanya Tribe before being shifted out of this area.
10. Last point is Bio Security contaminants, Livestock feed on water and grasses that may be contaminated by heavy metals and radioactive dust. A very real risk to Australian overseas food markets if found in meat.

CONCLUSION

As a concerned landholder which has been to Murray Darling Basin Authority meetings at the Lake Victoria over the last 27 years and on the land for nearly 63 years, local experience and concerns should be considered in the environmental damage that would occur if RZ Resources were to proceed with the Copi Mine. As has happened with other mines in the Western Division of NSW rehabilitation is expensive and not considered successful.