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The Advertiser

Mines and farms can both thrive

CLEAR heads must prevail in the contest of wills over the proposed Hillside copper mine near Ardrossan on the Yorke Peninsula.

South Australia is in desperate need of job-creating enterprises, so the prospect of work for 2000 people is definitely welcome.

But — however pleasing the prospect — it does not give developer Rex Minerals the right to go ahead without due regard for the interests of other industries and the environment.

This is where the community and stakeholders, with leadership from government, need to work together so the mine and its neighbours all flourish.

If opponents of the mine stand firm and refuse to collaborate they need to realise the consequences.

They would be denying thousands of people a job, mostly people from SA.

It would be harder for people all around the world to access copper for electrical products which are integral to modern life. They would be telling millions of people in developing countries such as China they can't

have the iron and copper to lift them out of poverty-stricken villages into cities.

Yet, Rex Minerals and government must answer legitimate fears of farmers and tourism operators.

Agriculture has historically been the backbone of SA's economy. It is still a crucial sector which should continue into perpetuity.

The community needs complete faith and reassurance that mine operations will not harm the land beyond the open pit, nor the sea nor the air quality.

South Australians support mining and the economic benefits it brings.

To date, most modern mines are in sparsely populated areas so there has been little conflict. But this is changing with a string of mineral projects in Yorke and Eyre Peninsula and gas prospects in the South-East.

SA is a first world jurisdiction with the highest regulatory standards and an educated, articulate population. Surely it is within our ambit to have different industries co-existing.

That will be the most welcome outcome for us all.

Ensure insurance

THE wisdom of the State Government's overhaul of the Compulsory Third Party insurance scheme is beginning to come into question a year after the changes were made.

Yes, something needed to be done about the spiralling cost of premiums and the large take made by lawyers.

Something also needed to be done about the failure of the old system to compensate those who suffered the worst injuries, but where there was no fault by another driver.

However, legitimate concerns, which are now being exposed by lawyers - in par-

ticular the elimination of many injuries from the so-called "pain and suffering" payments and others from future economic loss when people cannot return to work - suggest the effects may not have been properly canvassed by the State Government when the changes were made.

It will not bode well for the Government if a paper trail can be unearthed showing a link between making the CTP scheme less expensive to the operator by adversely impacting victims, and the subsequent Budget plan to open it up to private providers.

Be job realistic

I SUPPORT Government initiatives to try to reduce the numbers of people who live their lives entirely dependent on welfare, purely by choice.

However, I think that the number of jobs which unemployed persons are going to be asked to apply for is ridiculous.

I have seen my children going through the process of applying for jobs, and to do that task properly takes a lot of time. There are selection criteria to be addressed, and each application has to be done individually and tailored for the position.

Just running off 40 replica resumes and emailing them, or dropping them in to places, is a waste of everyone's time.

Suggestions by business people that their time is going to be wasted by hordes of job seekers turning up at their door is also valid.

At the very least, the number of job applications should be reduced to one per day, and realistically there are probably not that many positions which the applicant would be suited to anyway.

J. SHORT, Rosslyn Park.

Unfairly targeted

PERHAPS Tony Abbott should wait until there are more jobs available before initiating "Operation Screw the Unemployed".

CHRIS WARFE, Glenelg.

Misguided

SUSIE O'Brien's article on working for the dole (*The Advertiser*, 29/7/14) lacks consistency and conviction. There are important considerations in any social policy reform.

They include first effectiveness - is the policy likely to achieve its stated objectives? A second is equity - does it treat its target population fairly? Given that it is disparate, the latter should nevertheless include some analysis of the characteristics and circumstances of the population concerned.

In this instance, there is no substantial body of evidence which suggests work for the dole policies are effective in the long term in helping people to find and retain full-time em-



ployment. As Ms O'Brien suggests, the creation/availability of jobs and training and support programs are also necessary but still no guarantee of success.

Having initially raised the issue of mutual or reciprocal obligation, Ms O'Brien subsequently asks the question: Who is the Government trying to please?

Trying to please anyone is irrelevant. In a just society, the obligation of citizens to work is or should be matched by a reciprocal obligation on governments to ensure that job opportunities are provided or, when they are not, to provide adequate employment compensation.

In considering equity and social context, recognition needs to be given to the fact that many unemployed people have poor education and life skills; a fair proportion will be functionally illiterate; some will have mental health problems or personality disorders; in many instances, these difficulties will be compounded by other barriers.

These same factors also play a part in missed interviews, as do administrative errors in the delivery of Centrelink services.

EDDIE LE SUEUR, Panorama.

Old-fashioned

SUSIE O'Brien (*The Advertiser*, 29/7/14) writes about "the dole", a very 19th century term. Perhaps she wants them all in the workhouse.

There are about 60,600 people receiving "unemployment benefit" in SA. How long

will it take for businesses to be lost under the paperwork?

IAN WALKER, Croydon Park.

The willing suffer

I'D rather watch endless repeats of the excruciating *MasterChef* while handcuffed to Sarah Hanson-Young, than be looking for a job in the Australia of today.

We have the Labor Party who want to tax big business out of existence to pay for more endless welfare schemes. We have the Greens who want to flood our country with hundreds of thousands of refugees, and close all businesses except basket weaving. Then we have the Palmer United Senators who want to do whatever Clive Palmer tells them they want.

Every effort the Government makes to cut spending or to start paying back our huge national debt is being blocked in the Senate. Those who receive unemployment benefits should be made to put in some effort in exchange for the taxpayers money they get.

However, to expect job-seekers to apply for 40 jobs a month is simply ridiculous because there aren't 40 jobs a month to apply for.

We will never solve our unemployment problems until the government is allowed to create the conditions for business to expand.

GEORGE DANBY, Morphett Vale.

Jobs for whom?

LET'S get everyone off the dole, an all-inclusive society. The only problem is where will all the Centrelink staff work?

P. O'CONNOR, Royal Park.

Don't punish all

THE Criminal Law (Sentencing) Act 1988 states that hours of community service to be performed by someone as punishment should not be less than 15 or more than 300 hours, spread over a period not exceeding 18 months.

Jobseekers younger than 30 will now be asked to do 25 hours work a week; those aged

30-49 will be asked to do 15 hours work a week; and people aged 50-60 will be asked to do 15 hours a week of an approved activity.

Basically, the unemployed are being sentenced to more community service than a low life, common criminal.

There are some bludgers. There are also lots more good people out of work through no fault of their own, all trying hard to obtain employment. But there simply are not enough jobs.

It's very unfair to be treating everybody like the worst-case scenario, long-term bludger. The self-worth of the genuine, conscientious members of the unemployed are already at an all-time low.

Unlike bludgers, they do not enjoy being on the dole. They don't deserve what is like a criminal sentence. Weed out second and third-generation stereotypical bludgers and give them the sentence.

TANYA CLARK, Brompton.

Keep us happy

REGARDING Susie O'Brien's article on working for the dole (*The Advertiser*, 29/7/14), working people should be asked: Are you happy working and your taxes subsidising the lifestyle of people who don't?

ANGELA GOOD, Adelaide.

Rules too tough

SO job seekers must do 25 hours a week of voluntary work. That is three or four days and apply for 40 jobs. If your application is good then interviews will be needed. A couple of hours a day for interviews.

So 40 applications in one and a half days. To be successful applications must be personalised, which would take at least 40 minutes each. Cost of posting is \$2.60 each. That is \$104 each week for postage.

How can these new requirements not be designed to be too hard? Not designed to have reason to get people off the benefit through no fault of their own?

DENNIS BROWN, Greenacres.