

"PML4"

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Email received from Ms Glenn Ramke (Endangered  
Wildlife Trust):

Email dated 29 April 2013

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 WSP

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**Holme, Brent**

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**From:** Glenn Ramke <glennr@ewt.org.za>  
**Sent:** 29 April 2013 08:46 PM  
**To:** Holme, Brent  
**Subject:** Comments re Ysermyn Proposed mining

## Comments and Response Sheet

To ensure that all your comments, issues or queries regarding the proposed Ysermyn Underground Coal Mine are adequately documented and addressed, please forward your comments and contact details with the attached response sheet to:

*Please insert your personal details below:*

**Name:** Glenn Ramke  
**Organisation & Designation:** Field Office, Africa Crane Conservation Programme, EWT  
**Address:** P O Box 289, Wakkerstroom, 2480  
**Tel:** 017 730 0001: 072 770 4646  
**Fax:**  
**E-mail:** [glennr@ewt.org.za](mailto:glennr@ewt.org.za)

*Please list your interest in the project and comments below:*

**Brent Holme**  
**WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
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**Email:** [Brent.Holme@WSPGroup.co.za](mailto:Brent.Holme@WSPGroup.co.za)

Hi Brent

Tried to get this off before end of business but failed – sorry, hope its acceptable as it will be with you first thing.

A number of the farms under consideration for this project are known to me in my work and besides some of them being crane breeding sites, a large number of other birds occur that are grassland specials – for example **Secretary birds; Denhams Bustards; Blue, Whitebellied and Black-bellied Korhaan and Bald Ibis** besides the smaller specials.

I have great concern for the future of this rich water area for which there is no guarantee should mining take place. The grasslands and related wetlands are of paramount importance to the country for water supply and for agriculture both of which are **the life-blood of any country.**

Some questions/comments:

- a) The statement that the project will cover about 10ha seems an underestimate if one takes into account all the necessary dams described; admin offices; staff housing and ablutions and although it mentions roads this does not obviously take into account the roads from outside the area and the vegetation which will be "destroyed" and useless for grazing for up to about 20m on either side of the road resulting from the coal dust from the trucks and also the road dust (as these roads will not be paved presumably – and in going by conditions around other mines in the area). I admit the roads do LOOK tarred but this is from the dust build-up over months and years (In another section it states that grazing will be able to take place on the ground above the mine – but take out all the area that is deemed useless by the coal dust contamination and air

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- pollution which could affect stock as much as it does human beings). And what about the space taken by powerlines and the conveyor system?
- b) i) It is said that the LARGE amount of water that will be required will be taken from dams and other water sources - or boreholes will be drilled. This could have a very big impact on farmer requirements downstream of the mine. ii) It also says that the dirty water will be collected in pollution control dams – and then? What happens to THAT water? Presumably there can not be so many of these dams to contain that water for 17 – 20 years, something has to be done to drain these dams then where does THAT water go?
  - c) It says that the SANBI regulations state that nothing should be done within 500m of a wetland – as I know this area, that is almost impossible as there are wetlands/springs/seeps everywhere.
  - d) In 4.1.1 it states that “The study area lies within the high altitude grassland biome, which is the second richest biome in terms of biodiversity in southern Africa” **and then** “Restrictions are placed on these land class types as it is difficult to apply management practices **as negative impacts cannot be easily corrected**. The limitations placed on these land types are due to the steep slope of the area as well as the close proximity to the watercourses”. Considering this, how can an area like this even be looked at for something as destructive as mining in environment that “cannot be easily corrected”? My other concern in areas like this would be fires which may start in the dry seasons and soon be out of control in those “steep areas”.
  - e) Local people are not told that should farmers have to give up farming, they will lose their jobs and although it says that plus 300 jobs will be available, the perception amongst people in say Wakkerstroom, is that many of them will get jobs where as the reality is that a few from each of the areas affected will get jobs. And from past experience, this estimate is very high and would probably be far less

My personal observation: Once again I reiterate – it is a great sadness to think that people from outside our country, in this case India, come here to rape our country to enrich themselves at the expense of our people and their future. We can but hope that sense prevails.

Regards - Glenn



(G. RAMKE)

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