

KAPUNDA MINE SITEKAPUNDA

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HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, the Kapunda Mine site is of national importance as the first commercially successful metal mine in Australia, and the first to use open-cut methods and an acid leaching process for extraction. It is also of State importance for its contribution to the Cornish heritage of South Australia and to the State's economic recovery from a period of depression in the early 1840's.

Physically, the item is an abandoned mine site with a large open-cut and numerous shafts. On the site are scattered numerous buildings and ruins which are of archaeological importance.

Environmentally, the mine area established the mining character of Kapunda. It is a well known physical and historical landmark.

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NOMINATION SOURCE/THREAT/OWNER

This report has been prepared as part of an assessment of heritage items in Kapunda which may be affected by mining proposals. The mine site is on Exploration Licence No. 943, held by Northlands Minerals Ltd. It is owned principally by the Hampel Brothers (Lots 30, 19 & 27) and the Corporation of Kapunda (pt. lot 24).

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH RECOMMENDATION:

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*Peter Bell*  
for Manager

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized H1, H2, H3.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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Chairman

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Historic Site	Ref. No. 6629-11535
	Item KAPUNDA MINE SITE KAPUNDA	Status N.Tr.
Age 1840's	Subject INDUSTRY - Primary Extractive PROCESSING OF PRIMARY EXTRACTIVE PRODUCTS	Site Type -

History

Physical

Environment

Integrity

		E	VG	AG	FP	NA
History	Context The first commercially successful mine in Australia and first mine in Australia to use open-cut method and acid leaching process with acid manufactured on site from local materials. Established the State's Cornish heritage and aided economic recovery from 1842 depression.	X				
	Person/Group Cornish, Welsh and Irish miners.		X			
	Event Discovery of copper at Kapunda by Dutton and Bagot 1842.		X			
	Natural Elements A large mine site within Kapunda township, surrounded by agricultural landscape.					X
Physical	Man-Made Elements The site encompasses shaft mines, open-cut as well as numerous structural remains of archaeological interest.			X		
	Representation One of a number of similar large mines in the State of which Kapunda as the first major mine is historically very important.	X				
	Continuity The site contrasts strongly with the natural landscape.	X				
	Local Character A crucial element in establishing the mining character of Kapunda within a rural setting.	X				
Environment	Landmark Because of its large scale and impact on the natural landscape, it is a well known physical landmark.	X				
	Alterations Shafts, open cuts and buildings, many of which have been demolished, show the stages of the mine's development.			X		
Integrity	Condition Not applicable.					X
	Compatibility The site is presently not worked.			X		

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### Supplementary Information

Adaptation: Has limited adaptation potential. An archaeological survey should be carried out.

Interpretation: Has high interpretation potential on both a local and national scale.

### History and Sources

Although considerable funds have been granted to the town of Burra for this State's sesquicentenary, relatively little attention has been paid to Kapunda's mine area, even though "The Kapunda Mine was smaller, earlier, and technically as interesting as the Burra Mine. It was developed by local residents, and the initial capital of eighty pounds to purchase the land and another thousand pounds to finance the original development grew in about ten years to a capital of 64,000 pounds paying 5-10% dividends. It was the first mine in Australia to use open cut methods and an acid leaching process with the acid manufactured on site from local materials". (Cumming, 1982, p.1.)

As Geoffrey Blainey so aptly points out "The last of the Australian colonies to be settled, South Australia produced the first metal mine. This riddle can be simply explained. Metal deposits were close to the main port of Adelaide and so were soon seen and easily developed. Amongst the settlers of that paradise of civil and religious freedom were miners from Cornwall, then the world's centre of metal mining, who knew minerals and how to work them. Above all, the new colony in 1841 was depressed (...) Therefore they had a strong incentive to mine (...)". (Blainey, 1978, p.106).

The first mines in South Australia were at Glen Osmond, where silver-lead ore was discovered in 1841, and at Montacute, where a copper mine was opened in 1844, but "the Kapunda mine was the first to be worked on a commercial scale, and it was certainly the first mine to determine the foundation of a service town nearby. The Burra mine, and the mines at Wallaroo and Moonta proved to be more profitable but they were discovered later". (South Australian Museum Conservation Study, 1977, p.35).

Not only then is Kapunda copper mine important on a national level as Australia's first commercially successful metal mine, representative of the nation's first metal mining boom, but it is also significant at State level. In 1842, when copper was discovered at Kapunda, South Australia was effectively bankrupt. The exploitation of the Kapunda Copper Mine ensured the colony's economic recovery: it "stimulated an inflow of people and capital once more and not only expanded the market for agricultural produce, but for the first time focussed settlement interests towards the more northerly hill country". (D.W. Meinig, cited in S.A. Museum Conservation Study, op cit, p.36).

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### History and Sources

On a regional level the mine made the town of Kapunda pre-eminent in the mid-north of the colony, a fact which was confirmed by the completion of the colony's northern railway to the town in 1860. From this time until a railway was completed to Burra (1870), copper ore was sent from Burra to Port Adelaide through Kapunda. In turn the town's strategic position in regard to both mines encouraged several implement makers and engineering firms to commence operations in the town, so that, for a time, Kapunda became the colony's major industrial centre outside Adelaide and the metropolitan area.

As the very *raison d'être* of the town, the mines are obviously of local historical importance also: a planned township to be named "Victoria" (slightly north of Kapunda) was quickly abandoned when the discovery of copper became known.

On a more general level, this State is particularly renowned for its Cornish heritage and some of the first Cornish miners in South Australia worked at the Kapunda mine.

The prosperity of the town largely matched that of the mines, so that "the fact that Kapunda stagnated economically for so long after the first prosperous years has meant that the town has largely preserved the appearance which it had at the height of its period of prosperity". (ibid, p.39).

The following outline sketch of the history of Kapunda Mine area can be supplemented by reference to several detailed histories in the sources listed below.

The initial discovery of copper at Kapunda was made separately by Francis S. Dutton and Charles S. Bagot (the latter on the property of his father, Charles Harvey Bagot) in 1842. By January 1844 Dutton and Bagot senior had purchased section 1271 and commenced mining operations, using Cornish miners called "tributors" as they were paid a "tribute" or commission on a percentage basis. The land, originally lightly timbered with peppermint gum, soon became "denuded ..... of almost every stick of timber for miles round" (Whitworth, 1866, p.115).

Two distinct areas were at first worked according to the localities of the separate discoveries: Wheal Dutton on the west (the hill) and Wheal Charles on the east (the plain). The ore was shipped to Swansea from Port Adelaide, and as there was little backloading on ships going to England it was classed as ballast, enabling transport at relatively cheap rates.

Water seeping into the mine proved a problem; it was bailed out by horse whims (the earliest example of their use in South Australia) and pumped out by a Draft 30" double-acting steam engine imported from England and commenced operations in July 1848. (Cumming, 1982, p.2.) This was the first steam engine erected in Australia. In 1850 the Draft engine could no longer cope with the water problem, so a 36" Buhl engine was erected at the Buhl pump shaft and the boiler house was connected by an underground flue to the tall stone chimney which still stands. In 1845 Bagot and Dutton purchased section 1284 to the south of the main mine area and then sold nine-twentieths of the mine to an English company. Dutton then sold his entire quarter share to the same company, which later (1857) became registered as the Kapunda Mining Company. This company was far more successful than the Grand Junction Company (reformed as the North Kapunda Mining Company) which probably worked the East Kapunda Mine until the gold rush and was then taken over by the Kapunda Mining Company. (Cumming, op cit., p.30). (Section 1284 later became known as "Hillside Mine", and was worked by tributors from 1880 to 1884, then by the English and Australian Copper Company until 1907. (Cumming, op. cit., p.30).

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### History and Sources

After production of ore peaked in 1851, problems including the labour scarcity associated with the gold rushes almost halted work for a while until full scale operations were resumed in 1855. Although the first smelting furnace had been installed as early as 1849 a refining furnace was added in 1861 to enable the production of high grade copper on the spot.

In 1861 a subsidence in the main workings necessitated rebuilding of the Draft engine house as the Buhl winding house, but this was demolished only after 1920 (conversation with Mrs. D.L. Lamb, June 1983). Of all the numerous buildings associated with the mine at the height of its prosperity (F. Sinnett described them in detail in 1862) very few remain, and there is a notable lack of information concerning their demolition (S.A. Museum Report on the Surviving Cottages - Mine Square, Kapunda, pp.7,1).

In 1865, the year in which Kapunda township became a corporation, the Henderson or "Scottish" Company leased the workings of the mine from the Kapunda Mining Company. Although the Henderson Company spent over £20,000 on new machinery associated with its patented acid leaching process, it managed to obtain only 0.5% copper in ore from the open cut mines. As a result, losses were suffered in 1874, and the Kapunda Mining Company was liquidated in 1877.

For the remaining period, individual tributors worked the mine between 1880 and about 1912; later Northland Minerals were allowed to carry out exploration under special conditions (1972) and it is considered that some threat of possible re-mining of the area exists. In November 1982 Kapunda Council wrote to the Department of Mines and Energy stating that "Council is now of the very strong opinion that the existing surface features of the whole mine area should be retained and enhanced for the purposes of a mining museum". It is difficult to see how future mining operations could possibly conserve these features and it is respectfully requested that no further mining or exploration permits be granted by your Department until this proposal can be investigated". The National Trust has given the mine area an 'A' classification.

### Sources:

Advertiser 13/9/1899, p.9.

F.S. Dutton: South Australia and its Mines (London 1846)

F. Sinnett: An account of the Colony of South Australia prepared for distribution at the International Exhibition (1862).

J.B. Austin: The Mines of South Australia (Adel., 1862).

R.P. Whitworth: Baillieres South Australian Gazetteer (Adel. 1866)

R.R. Charlton: The history of Kapunda (Melb. 1971)

I. Auhl & D. Marfleet: Australia's Earliest Mining Era, South Australia, 1841-1851 (Adel. 1975)

S.A. Museum: Report on the Surviving Cottages - Mine Square, Kapunda

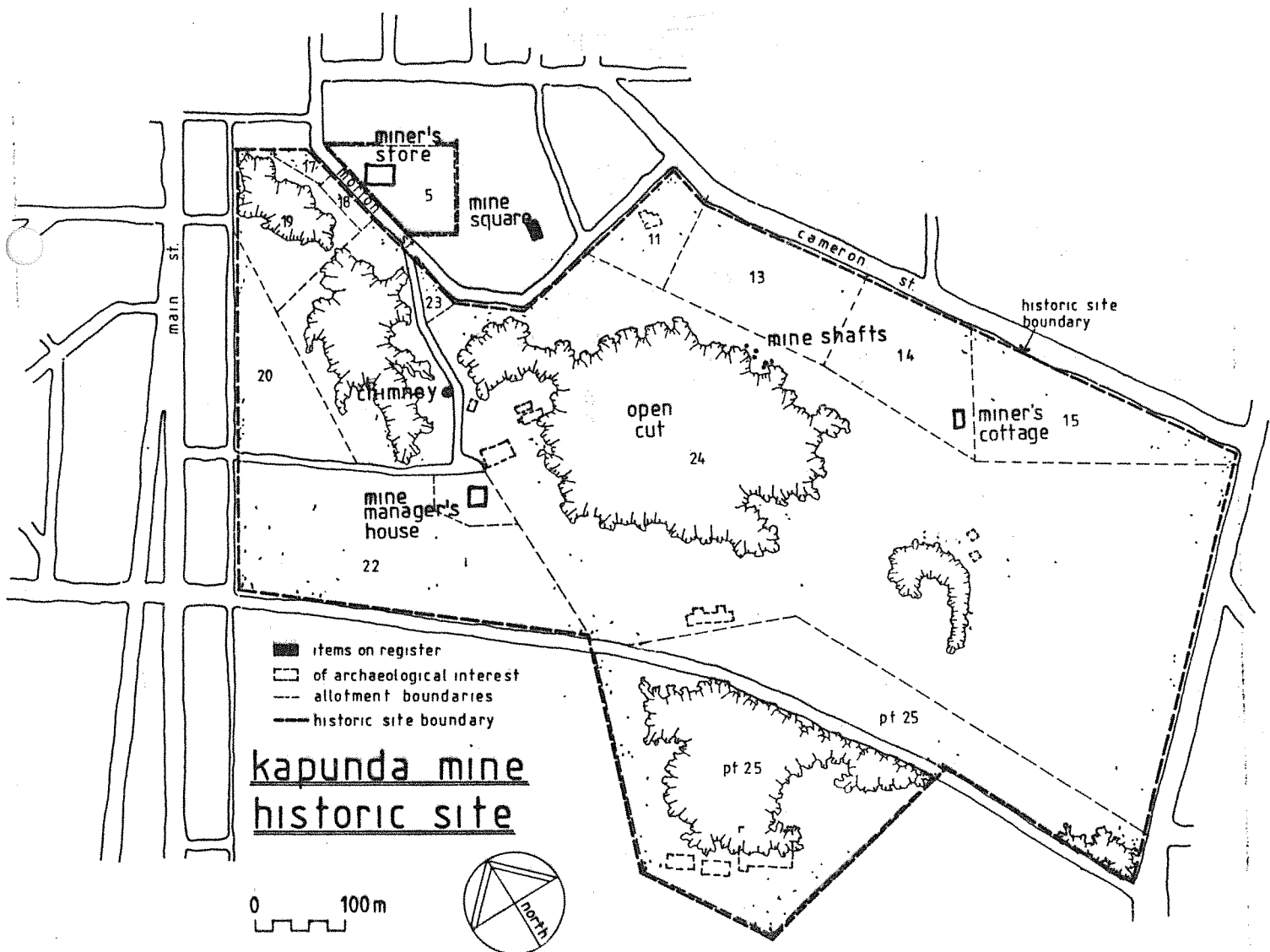
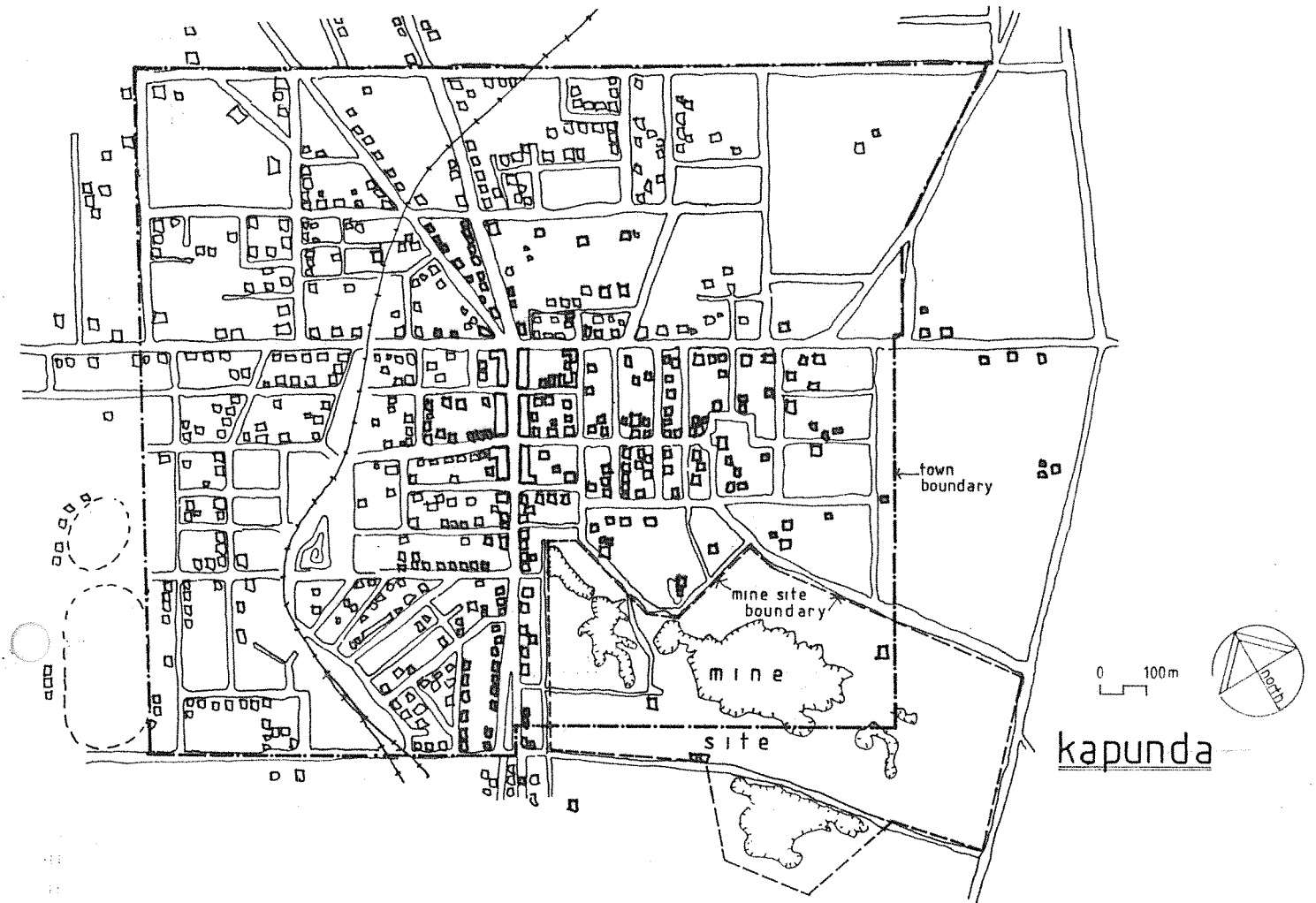
S.A. Museum: Establishing conservation priorities for the built environment: Kapunda, a case study (abbrev. title: S.A. Museum Conservation Study) (Adel.1977)

G. Blainey: The Rush That Never Ended (Melb. 1978)

D. Cumming: The Kapunda Mine - 1842 to 1912, (Oct. 1982)

Also searches in L.T.O., examination of early maps and conversation (June 1983) with Mrs. D.L. Lamb, 6 Queen Street, Kapunda, who spent her youth at the mine manager's house.

Conversation with Greg Drew, Mines Department, 5/-/1983.





## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE ACT, 1978

*Entry of Items on the Register of State Heritage Items*

There has been an increased community awareness of the need to protect those buildings and features of our State which reflect our cultural heritage. The South Australian Government has recognised that awareness by passing the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978, for which the Minister for Environment and Planning is responsible. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Register of State Heritage Items is being compiled.

Where the Minister considers that an item (defined as any land, building or structure) that is not on the Register is part of the physical, social or cultural heritage of the State and that the item is of significant aesthetic, architectural, historical or cultural interest, then the Minister may enter that item on the Register.

Pursuant to the provisions of the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978, I, Don Hopgood, Minister for Environment and Planning and Minister for the time being administering the said Act, hereby give notice that I have entered on the Register of State Heritage Items the items described in the schedule hereunder.

Items listed in the schedule were previously placed on an Interim List in accordance with the provisions of section 15 of the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978. Excepting items owned by the Crown and those within the area of the corporation of the city of Adelaide, the remaining items listed in The Schedule are subject to Part V of the Planning Act, 1982. That Act requires that no development, including demolition, conversion, alteration of, or addition to any item, is permitted without the written consent of the relevant Planning Authority. Items within the area of the corporation of the city of Adelaide are subject to the provisions of the City of Adelaide Development Control Act, 1976.

## THE SCHEDULE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
<b>Corporation of the City of Adelaide</b> South African War Memorial .....	North Terrace, Adelaide, 5000. Crown Land.
<b>District Council of Blyth</b> Hoyleton Railway Goods Shed .....	Hoyleton 5463. Railway Reserve, Hoyleton. Hundred of Hall. D.P. No. 267.
<b>Corporation of the City of Brighton</b> Dwelling—'Townsend House' .....	King George Avenue, Hove 5048. CT volume 3932, folio 7. Portion of allotments 12 and 13 of section 237. Hundred of Noarlunga.
<b>Corporation of the City of Burnside</b> Dwelling—'Woodley House' .....	13 Blyth Street, Glen Osmond 5064. CT volume 4153, folio 681. Portion of allotment 5A of portion of section 295. Hundred of Adelaide.
Winery—'Woodley Wines' .....	Corner Blyth and Bagot Streets, Glen Osmond 5064. CT volume 4279, folio 979, CT volume 1323, folio 122 and CT volume 2553, folio 133. Hundred of Adelaide.
Dwelling—'Attunga' .....	Corner Kensington Road and Giles Street, Toorak Gardens 5065. CT volume 1828, folio 116. Portion of section 275. Hundred of Adelaide.
Kiosk .....	Waterfall Gully 5066. Section 920. Hundred of Adelaide.
<b>District Council of East Torrens</b> Winery—Morialta Winery .....	Norton Summit 5136. CT volume 3600, folio 113. Portion of section 856. Hundred of Adelaide.
<b>Corporation of the Town of Gawler</b> Gawler Railway Station .....	Twenty Third Street, Gawler 5118. Lot G/22 part section 8. Hundred of Mudla Wirra and lot G/45 part lot 3. Hundred of Munno-Para.
<b>Corporation of the City of Hindmarsh</b> Retort Buildings and Chimney Stack—Brompton Gas Works .....	East Street, Brompton 5007. Allotments 50, 51 closed road (First Street), 58, 59, 63 and 70 within G.R.O. plan 459 of 1854, section 355. Hundred of Yatala.
<b>District Council of Kapunda</b> Mine Site .....	Kapunda 5373. CT volume 210, folio 65, block 9, section 1429. CT volume 512, folio 197, block 11, part section 1271. CT volume 494, folio 90, block 13, part section 1271. CT volume 4068, folio 17, lot 14, part section 1271. CT volume 4068, folio 18, lot 15, part section 1271. CT volume 326, folio 145, lot 17, part section 1271. CT volume 326, folio 46, lot 18, part section 1271. CT volume 4142, folio 835, lot 19, part section 1271. CT volume 2067, folio 192, part block 22, part section 1271 (excluding chaff plant). CT volume 2067, folio 193, part block 22, part section 1271. CT volume 1345, folio 4, lot 23, part section 1271. CT volume 3139, folio 71, block 25, part section 1271. CT volume 4142, folio 836, lot 27, part section 1271. CT volume 3882, folio 101, part block 28, part section 1271. CT volume 3139, folio 70, part block 29, part section 1271. CT volume 4142, folio 837, lot 30, part section 1271. Hundred of Kapunda.
<b>District Council of Murray Bridge</b> Dwelling—'Round House' .....	Murray Bridge 5253. CT volume 2235, folio 87, section 74. Hundred of Mobilong.
<b>District Council of Northern Yorke Peninsula</b> Shop—Humphries Barber .....	Corner Taylor and Goyder Street, Kadina 5554. CT volume 4259, folio 282. Portion of Lot 111. Hundred of Wallaroo.

Name	Address
District Council of Onkaparinga	
Woodside Institute .....	Corner Main Street and Nairne Road, Woodside 5244. CT volume 2132, folio 79. Portion of section 5022. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Dwelling—Former House and Shop .....	Elizabeth Street, Woodside 5244. CT volume 22, folio 245. Allotment 33, section 5030. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Factory—Former Glengyle Jam Factory .....	Grasby Road, Oakbank 5243. CT volume 4070, folio 289. Portion of section 4049. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Onkaparinga Cheese, Butter and Produce Factory ..	Henry Street, Woodside 5244. CT volume 4215, folio 472. Portion of section 5047. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Balhannah Railway Station and Station Masters Residence .....	Junction Road, Balhannah 5242. CT volume 4287, folios 269 and 270. Section 4029. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Dwelling—Kumnick Road .....	Kumnick Road, Onkaparinga. CT volume 589, folio 112 and 113. Portion of section 24. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Willow Springs .....	Mattners Road, Bonneys Flat. CT volume 4279, folios 238 and 239. Lots 5 and 6 part section 1775. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Terrace Housing .....	11 Moffett Street, Woodside 5244. CT volume 4138, folio 583. Allotment 2 of portion of section 5030. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Former Inverbrackie Church and Manse and Cemetery .....	Nairne Road, Inverbrackie. CT volume 1202, folios 57 and 58. Portion of section 5312. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Oakbank Brewery .....	Oakbank to Lenswood Road, Oakbank 5243. CT volume 3897, folio 49. Section 4033 and portion of section 4018. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Barn .....	Onkaparinga Valley Road, Oakbank 5243. CT volume 4081, folio 725. Portion of section 4017. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Hotel—Stanley Bridge .....	Onkaparinga Valley Road, Verdun 5245. CT volume 4094, folio 49. Portion of section 1922. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Mine Chimney—Lone Hand Gold Mine .....	Pfeiffer Road, Inverbrackie. CT volume 2822, folio 70. Sections 5256, 5258, portion of section 5246, portion of section 5257 and closed road. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Mount Farm .....	Swamp Road, Lenswood 5240. CT volume 3738, folio 111. Part sections 4074 and 5153. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Brauns Farm .....	Tiers Road, Woodside 5244. CT volume 735, folio 69. Sections 5131 and 5132. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
Dwelling—Former Elmsdale Cider Factory .....	Wicks Road, Balhannah 5242. CT volume 4195, folio 632. Allotment 6 of portions of section 4039 and other land. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
District Council of Riverton	
Riverton Railway Station .....	Riverton 5412. CT volume 4283, folio 854. Part section 461. Hundred of Gilbert.
District Council of Stirling	
Dwelling—'The Chestnuts' .....	Foxhill Road, Bridgewater 5155. CT volume 4014, folio 128. Part section 1135. Hundred of Onkaparinga.
District Council of Truro	
Blacksmith Shop .....	Dutton 5356. CT volume 2048, folio 164. Part lot 1 of portion of section 236. Hundred of Dutton.
St John's Lutheran Manse—former .....	Dutton 5356. CT volume 253, folio 148. Lot 4 of portion of section 236. Hundred of Dutton.
Unincorporated	
Railway Structure—Oodnadatta Railway Station ..	Oodnadatta 5734. CT volume 4210, folio 565. Section 623. Out of Hundreds (Oodnadatta) and allotment 1 of section 622. Out of Hundreds.
The Peake Historic Site—Ruins of Overland Telegraph Station, Police Station, Homestead, Smelter and Cemetery .....	Via Oodnadatta 5734. Commencing at a point 800 m due north from the old Peake Homestead; thence due east for a distance of 400 m; due south for a distance of 1600 m; due west for a distance of 800 m; due north for a distance of 1600 m; thence due east for a distance of 400 m to the point of commencement. Portion of pastoral block 791, 'The Peake', north Out of Hundreds, via Oodnadatta. CL volume 1332, folio 1. PL 2432.

Dated at Adelaide, 11 May 1987.

D. J. HORGWOOD, Minister for Environment and Planning

## MINING ACT, 1971, AS AMENDED

Department of Mines and Energy, 28 May 1987

NOTICE is hereby given that I propose to grant mining leases over the undermentioned areas. Any objections to this proposal must be lodged in writing marked 'Objection to Granting of Mining Lease' and addressed to the Director-General, Department of Mines and Energy, 191 Greenhill Road, Parkside, on or before 25 June 1987.

R. G. PAYNE, Minister of Mines and Energy

Applicant	Location	Term	Area in ha	Ref. D.M.E.
<i>Mineral Lease</i>				
Commercial Minerals Limited	In pastoral block 1112, out of hundreds (Parachilna) Willow Springs Station	7 years	11.37	T861
<i>Extractive Minerals Lease</i>				
Gordon Haigh Campbell	In section 603, hundred of Wirrega	7 years	0.33	T983
Special conditions are proposed for the above tenements, details of which are available from the Mining Registrar.				