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MINING THE FLINDERS RANGES WILL DESTROY TOURISM

The South Australian Tourism Industry Council (SATIC) strongly **rejects** any mining activity in Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary as it is imperative that South Australia's key tourism destinations are protected.

SATIC Chief Executive Ward Tilbrook says any mining activity in the award-winning Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary will damage the positioning and realisation of South Australia as a legitimate world class nature based eco-tourism destination.

"While mining is a finite resource, tourists are an infinite sustainable resource for the State creating 53,000 jobs in South Australia and an economic impact of \$4.4 billion, with the Government declaring a target to increase the value of tourism to the State to \$6.3 billion by 2014," Mr Tilbrook says.

"Mining exploration and activity is incompatible with credible nature based tourism, Arkaroola should remain completely protected, the impact of mining activity will damage a spectacular and unique wilderness sanctuary, which is of enormous tourism value to South Australia and is intrinsic to our tourism identity.

"Tourism Australia has declared the Flinders Ranges as one of just ten unique iconic Australian landscapes, and the biodiversity, vast landscape and cultural heritage of Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary is an integral part of this 'National Landscape' accolade.

"I urge the South Australian Government to reconsider any planned mining activity within the Sanctuary."

Nature-based tourism in Australia contributes \$33.3 billion in tourism expenditure, with more than 28.3 million visitors each year. 81% of international visitors to South Australia are likely to be nature visitors.

South Australia has diverse, accessible and world-class nature tourism experiences with a strong focus on intimate close-to-nature encounters. The State's nature experiences contribute to South Australia's distinctiveness as a destination, generating economic benefits for the State and regions.

As South Australia's peak tourism body, the South Australian Tourism Industry Council's role is to engage in all of the processes that shape our State's tourism future.

SATIC represents over 550 members, with 48 located within the Flinders Ranges and Outback region.