

ARKAROOLA WILDERNESS SANCTUARY



From the ARK Update 15/02/10

THE SULTANS OF SPIN

"A bias or slant on information intended to create a favourable impression when it is presented to the public". That's one of the definitions for spin in the New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. So move over Mark Knopfler! The new Sultans have arrived and their genre is spin. We're not going to see them on centre stage at WOMAD, but their *Seeking a Balance* gig has certainly put them under the spotlight.

*And then the man he steps right up to the microphone
And says at last just as the time bell rings
'Thank you goodnight now it's time to go home'
And he makes it fast with one more thing
'We are the Sultans of Spin'*

Respondents to *Seeking a Balance* are beginning to receive replies from Minister Weatherill's office. In each instance the response states *"It is intended that approximately 44 000 hectares of land will be zoned to receive a higher level of protection than what is currently in place. This includes the iconic landscape, conservation and tourism sites in the area"*. Does it? That's strange because Siller's Lookout, one of THE MOST iconic sites in the Flinders Ranges now sits in Access Zone 3 where standard mineral exploration and mining access will apply. And what of the world's only known occurrence of the Flinders Ranges' endangered endemic, the Spidery Wattle? The greater part of its population also occurs in Access Zone 3.

The Minister's lyrics continue: *"The policy and management zones will be implemented through the Mining Act 1971 with approval by the Director of Mines for exploration activities."* It appears that one of the most celebrated aspects of the new framework is a requirement that proposed activities within the zones will need endorsement by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife. That is really reassuring when the agency for which the Director is responsible was one of the main architects of a flawed policy rejected by conservationists, the tourism industry, academics and geologists.

Since the illegal burial of mineral and general waste by Marathon Resources on its Mount Gee exploration lease, the new Sultans have been busy, their lyrics creative and cryptic. Future generations will judge whether they are legends or lightweights. But of one thing we can be sure. Biodiversity conservation and ecotourism in the Northern Flinders Ranges will be in dire straits if the government implements the new zoning framework proposed in *Seeking a Balance*.

In the lead-up to the March 20 election, we urge you to continue to argue for an end to mineral exploration and mining on Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.

For more information go to www.savearkaroola.com.au or www.arkaroola.com.au/breakingnews.php

Come on up.
Mineral explorers and
miners welcome.
Great views over
Access Zone 3.



NORTHERN FLINDERS RANGES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA