

I fully support the reintroduction of a royalty for gold mining.

I don't believe however that the proposal goes far enough. The RIS states '...The royalty will not apply to the first 2,500 ounces of gold production per annum, to reduce impacts on small producers and reduce administrative and regulatory burden...' It should apply to all holders of Mining Licences.

In my experience as a Bendigo region resident, the impacts created by small miners, particularly in our forests and parks, is not well regulated. Small miners often don't rehabilitate well, and are 'subsistence' miners at best. This type of operation could be discouraged by application of a royalty.

It's time that Earth Resources Regulation actually did some regulation on behalf of all Victorians and helped us look after what's left behind by these miners. The gold royalty could be put toward rehabilitation of our precious parks and forests for all Victorians.