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Farmers push for heritage listing of Mt Lofty Ranges farmlands

- by: LAUREN NOVAK POLITICAL REPORTER
- From: The Advertiser
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UNIQUE: Farmer Ken Cobbledick — pictured with his granddaughter Ella — is backing efforts for World Heritage listing for farm lands in the area. Picture: Matt Turner.

Source: News Corp Australia

- **READ MORE: Should the ranges be World Heritage listed?**

(<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/giving-the-mt-lofty-ranges-world-heritage-status-could-cause-problems/story-fni6uo1m-1226952376488>)

- **POLL: Should the Mt Lofty Ranges be heritage listed?**

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- **TELL US BELOW: What do you think of the proposal?**

KEN Cobbledick's family have been farming vegetables in Piccadilly Valley for six generations.

But they are a dying breed.

In the 1970s the area was home to more than 40 producers, but the Cobbledicks are among the last left.

To protect the industry and the region, he is backing a push for World Heritage status for agricultural lands in South Australia's Mt Lofty Ranges.

Support is growing for the bid to gain protection for up to 150,000ha of land across the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Peninsula regions as a "working agricultural landscape".

Experts say the accolade could lure more tourists and enable producers to charge higher prices for produce which comes from the protected area.

However, there are concerns about the impact of international protection on local planning and development.

Mr Cobbledick, whose children also work on the farm which produces cabbage, leek, cauliflower and lettuce, said world heritage status could give the area the "boost" it needs.

"If we can't get something going we won't last long," he said.

"We need all the help we can get.

"Our prices for the last 20 months have been terrible.

"We want to stay here and keep doing what we know best."

The group behind the bid, which includes local councils, academics and producers, will have to lobby the Federal Government to pursue World Heritage listing with UNESCO.

National heritage status is needed before it can progress to world status, which could take 10 years to achieve.

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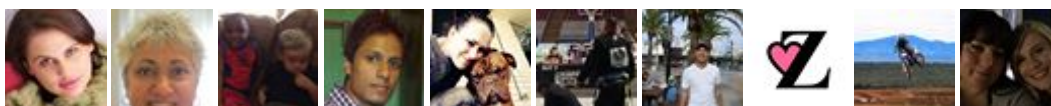
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**Rose**

Jun 13, 2014

Too much good farm land has already been lost to so called 'development'. Good development is using this land for growing food. If we don't protect it now, it could be lost forever with dire consequences for local food security.

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**Marilyn**

Jun 13, 2014

I absolutely support this move. As a Hills born and bred person I have been devastated by the lost of land around Mt Barker. We must preserve this precious land or end up with little or no local produce and have to buy imported food of dubious nature. Let's put our heritage first not the "Almighty dollar".

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**Sam**

Jun 13, 2014

They have got to get this done

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