



## Guidelines for Conservation Management Plans

The Department of Mines and Petroleum and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) renegotiated the process through 2010 whereby explorers and prospectors seek approval to explore on the following lands:

- Reserves vested in the Conservation Commission and managed by DEC (these may include nature reserves, conservation parks, and a small number of other reserves identified in Tengraph as being related to DEC, its predecessor the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) or the Conservation Commission)
- State Forest and Timber Reserves
- Proposed reserves cited in Tengraph as proposed national parks (with identifiers of PNPnnn); proposed nature reserves (PNRnnn); proposed conservation park (PCPnnn ); proposed state forest (PSFnnn), or proposed CALM Act Section 5(1)(h) reserves (P5Hnnn);

Section 24 of the Mining Act requires the Minister for the Environment (and the Conservation Commission in some cases) to give either consent or recommendations supporting mining or exploration in the above areas. New conditions have been agreed between DMP and DEC that will be requested by the Minister for the Environment be applied to tenements granted over lands managed by DEC.

*See Appendix A for Exploration Conditions on DEC Managed lands*

The key issue to be addressed is that prior to submitting a Programme of Work for approval, the explorer will be required to compile a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) that is acceptable to the land manager DEC. These lands have, or the State Government has intended that, these lands be set aside for long-term protection of the State's wealth of nature conservation values in the plants, animals and scenic attributes. Therefore, if explorers are to be allowed into those areas, there is a requirement that any impacts they cause do not create unacceptable deterioration or loss of the conservation attributes of the areas because exploration or prospecting is only a short-term land investigation activity. Consequently the explorer needs to understand the nature of those attributes, appreciate the effects of their activities on those attributes and minimise the impacts to levels that are acceptable for the long-term survivability of those attributes.

In order to assist industry in compiling the CMPs, DEC has published guidelines that are available at:

<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/category/25/976/2362/>

These guidelines define the processes for assessing the risks from the exploration activities and managing the impacts in order to minimise the effects of those activities. Note that if any deterioration of the attributes in these areas for conservation protection may result in a "significant environmental impact" then the proposal may trigger Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

## APPENDIX A

### **MINING ACT 1978 – SPECIFIC TENEMENT CONDITIONS TO BE PLACED ON EXPLORATION AND PROSPECTING LICENCES FOR THOSE PARTS ENCROACHING ON LANDS-MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION**

#### **CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON GRANT OF EXPLORATION OR PROSPECTING LICENCE**

##### **Conservation Management Plan (CMP)**

*Prior to lodgement of a Programme of Work (POW), the licensee/lessee preparing a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to address the conservation impacts of the proposed activities and submitting the CMP to the relevant Regional Manager of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). This CMP shall be prepared pursuant to DEC-prepared "Guidelines for Conservation Management Plans Relating to Mineral Exploration on Lands Managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation" to meet the requirements of the Minister for Environment for acceptable impacts to conservation estate. A copy of the CMP and of DEC's decision on its acceptability under the guidelines is to accompany the lodgement of the POW application with the Department of Mines and Petroleum.*

##### **Pre-activity notification condition**

*At least five working days prior to accessing the reserve or proposed reserve area, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant Regional Manager of the Department of the Environment and Conservation (DEC-R), the holder is to provide the DEC-R with an itinerary and programme of the locations of operations on the licence/lease area and informed at least five days in advance of any changes to that itinerary. All activities and movements shall comply with reasonable access and travel requirements of the DEC-R regarding seasonal/ground conditions*

##### **Post-activity reporting and notification condition**

*The lessee is to submit to the Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP), and to the relevant Regional Manager, Department of the Environment and Conservation (DEC-RO) a project completion report outlining the project operations and rehabilitation work undertaken in the programme. This report is to be submitted within six months of completion of the exploration activities.*

**Refer to note 2 below**

#### **CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON APPROVAL OF PROGRAMME OF WORK (POW)**

##### **POW approval**

*The construction and operation of the project and measures to protect the environment being carried out in accordance with the document titled: "\*\*\*PROMPT\*\*\*" dated \*\*PROMPT\*\* and Conservation Management Plan titled: "\*\*\*PROMPT\*\*\*" dated \*\*PROMPT\*\* and retained on Department of Mines and Petroleum File No. \*\*PROMPT\*\*. Where a difference exists between the above document(s) and the following conditions, then the following conditions shall prevail. (Note: need to cite other management plans also when prepared and accepted).*

##### **Reporting condition**

*The lessee is to submit to the Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) and to the relevant Regional Manager of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC-RO) in {month} of each year, a brief annual report outlining the project operations and rehabilitation work undertaken in the previous 12 months and the proposed operations, environmental management plans and rehabilitation programmes for the next 12 months..*

**Refer to note 2 below**

Notes for clarification

1. These conditions apply to existing conservation reserves, State Forest and Timber Reserves and to proposed reserves cited in the regional management plans for the Southwest Forest, South Coast and Goldfields and to the new reserves agreed by Cabinet in September 2010 for the Mount Manning Region.

2. Issue to be defined in a proposed DMP-DEC MOU is that following receipt of either of the activity completion report or the annual environmental report, a site inspection by DMP's Environmental Officer may be arranged in collaboration with the DEC-RO.