



Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines and Petroleum

Programme of Work–Prospecting (PoW-P) Policy

(Used for small scale prospecting)

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Summary

This document provides a framework for the application and assessment of a Programme of Work - Prospecting (PoW-P). This process replaces the old application form for “Low Impact Mining Operations” (LIMO). This policy outlines the categories and limits of production that are appropriate for a PoW-P.

Appropriate activities for a Programme of Work – Prospecting

To define prospecting, consideration should be given to Section 48 (b) of the *Mining Act 1978* (the Act), which states that prospecting activities include the: *digging of pits, trenches and holes, and sinking of bores and tunnels in, on or under the land*. In addition, Section 48 (c) of the Act further describes prospecting as *excavating, extracting or removing, land, earth, soil, rock, stone, fluid or mineral bearing substances not greater than a prescribed limit*.

For the purpose of this policy, activities that can be deemed as prospecting include:

- Scraping and detecting / shallow pushing
- Costeaming / trenching
- Dryblowing
- Small wet alluvial plants
- Some small scale operations with a small footprint (e.g. less than 5 hectares)
- Small bulk sampling projects (e.g. less than 10,000 tonnes)
- Small ornamental rock operations

For prospecting activities to be considered to be exploration as opposed to mining, (and therefore be an acceptable activity on Exploration Licences, Prospecting Licences and Special Prospecting Licences), the activities must satisfy the following criteria:

- The activity can be considered to be “low impact” by the DMP Environmental Officer (e.g. minimal ground disturbance)
- No permanent infrastructure required (e.g. plant and camp are mobile)
- No permanent waste or ore stockpiles required
- Rehabilitation is progressive, low cost and easily achievable
- Area can be rehabilitated to pre-mining ground conditions
- Tonnage is appropriate for type of activity and tenure

If the application meets the above criteria, then the Programme of Work–Prospecting Form (PoW-P) may be used: <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/ENV-MEB-150.doc>

A Programme of Work – Exploration (PoW-E) is to be used for exploration activities (e.g. drilling, track clearing for exploration work, soil sampling, etc.) <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/ENV-MEB-002.doc>

If the proponent is undertaking productive mining activity and it falls outside the classification of a PoW-P as listed above, activities must be on a Mining Lease or General Purpose Lease and the proponent is to submit a Mining Proposal as per the guidelines prepared by the Department of Mines and Petroleum <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/836.aspx>. A PoW-P cannot be used to apply for a Mining Lease, only a “Mining Proposal” or a “Statement and Mineralisation Report” may be used to support an application for a Mining Lease (see DMP’s MP guidelines). Please consult your regional Environmental Officer at DMP if you need help to prepare a Mining Proposal.

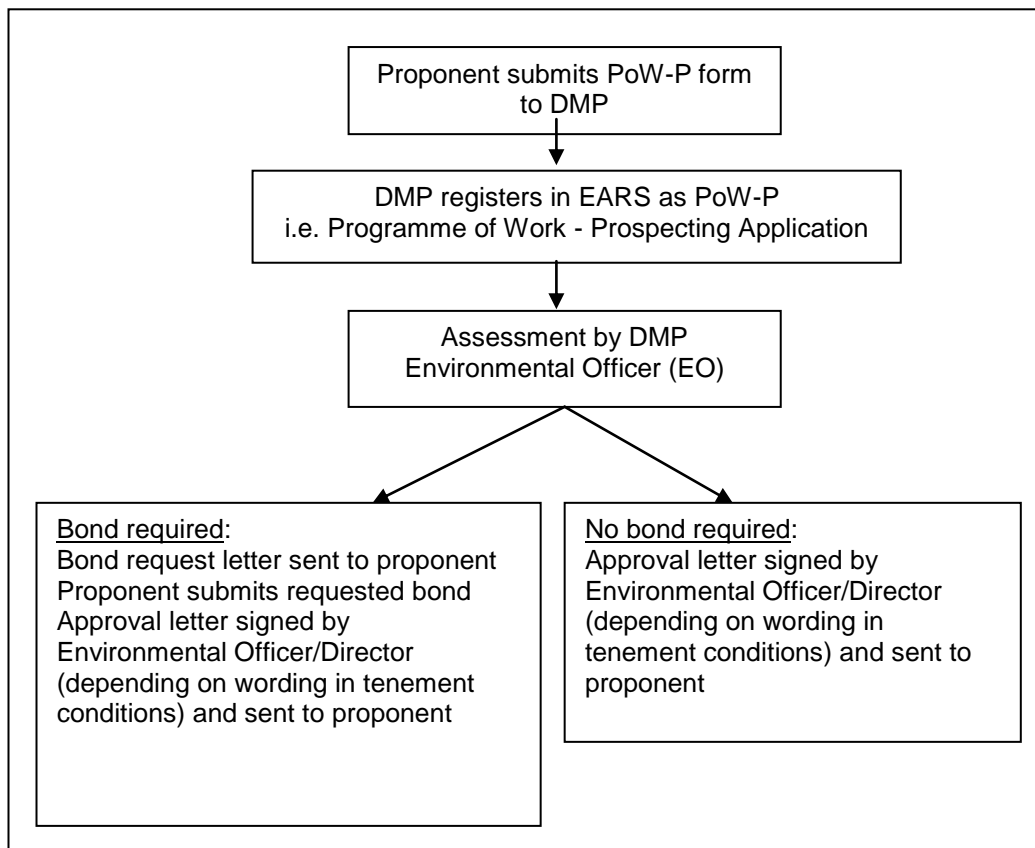


Application Process

Applications for a PoW-P can be lodged with the Department of Mines and Petroleum in the prescribed format and are available for download off the DMP website <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/ENV-MEB-150.doc>. A covering letter should be included if there is insufficient room to detail the activities that will be undertaken on the tenement. The application is to be signed by all tenement holders and operators and include a detailed map showing the location and extent of the proposed prospecting activities (see section 10 of PoW-P form for details to be included on maps).

DMP Assessment Processes

The assessment process of a PoW-P is outlined in the flow chart below:



Application of Bonds to Prospecting Proposals

The following criteria may trigger the application of a bond to a PoW-P:

- Operations proposing disturbances of greater than 2 hectares
- Wet plants/ processing equipment involved
- Ornamental rock operations
- Lack of progressive rehabilitation on tenement
- Failure to submit the PoW-P close out report
- Cumulative disturbance as a result of multiple proposals on the same tenement
- Sensitive environment



Reporting Requirements

The proponent is required to complete and submit the "Rehabilitation Report on Prospecting Activities" to the Department upon completion of the rehabilitation work (see last page of the PoW-P application form). A site inspection may be scheduled to determine compliance against the tenement conditions and commitments made by the proponent in the PoW-P application.