



Government of **Western Australia** Department of **Mines and Petroleum**

Basic Provisions

Revised as at February 2006

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Crown Ownership of Minerals

1. Except in the case of land alienated in fee simple before the 1st January, 1899 (in which case minerals other than gold, silver and precious metals are the property of the owner), all minerals are the property of the Crown.
Section 9
2. The following, when they occur on private land, are not minerals:
limestone, rock, gravel, shale (other than oil shale), sand (other than mineral sands, silica sand or garnet sand) and clay (other than kaolin, bentonite, attapulgite or montmorillonite).
Section 8
3. Where the minerals are the property of the Crown a mining title must be obtained from the Department of Mines and Petroleum before any mining operations may be undertaken.

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Mineral Fields

4. For the purposes of the Mining Act, 1978 the State is divided into various mineral fields, some further divided into districts (Section 16). The locality of the various mining registrars' offices is shown on Appendix "A".

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Miner's Rights

5. A Miner's Right allows the holder to prospect on Crown land and take and keep samples and specimens of any ore or material up to 20 kilograms. However, a Miner's Right does not authorise the holder to carry out mining operations.
6. Entry onto certain classes of Crown land is restricted (eg. within a 400 metre radius of a pastoral lessee's well), other than to gain access to other Crown land for the purpose of prospecting or marking out that other land.
7. The holder of a Miner's Right may also fossick¹ on Crown land, whether or not that land is held as a mining tenement, subject to the prior written consent of any occupier of that land and the mining tenement holder.

Note 1:

"Fossick" means to search for remove rock, ore or minerals other than gold or diamonds not exceeding 20 kilograms for a mineral collection, lapidary work or hobby interest by use of hand tools only (ie: mechanised equipment, metal detectors etc may not be used in fossicking). Information Pamphlet No. 2 explains the rights and obligations of the holder of a Miner's Right in more detail.

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Land Open for Mining

8. There are three categories of land open for mining:

Crown Land (Sections 1-22)
Public Reserves, etc. (Sections 23-26)
Private Land (Sections 27-39)

Crown Land

9. 9.1 As defined in the Act Crown land includes reserves for common and public utility, leases for grazing purposes only, leases of Crown land for the use and benefit of the Aboriginal inhabitants and leases for timber or pastoral purposes. It does not include private land or other reserved land.

9.2 In respect of Crown Land, a miner² may:

- Prospect under the authority of the Miner's Right.
- Mark out a mining tenement.
- Carry out exploration or mining activities when a mining tenement has been granted.

9.3 Where the Pastoralist or a Manager is living on the pastoral lease the miner should give that occupier prior notification of proposed movements and activity, and compensation is payable for damage caused by the miner to any improvements on the lease.

9.4 When a mining tenement is applied for, the applicant must send to the pastoralist by registered post a copy of the application and plan within 14 days of lodging the application.

9.5 If the mining tenement is granted, the holder must then obtain the approval of an environmental officer of the department (located at Perth, Kalgoorlie) before mechanical equipment is used for purposes such as clearing, grading or costeaning.

9.6 An application for an approval to use equipment should include the proposed methods of rehabilitation, and any approval given may be subject to specific conditions. Information as to these conditions can be obtained from the Environmental Division.

9.7 One of the conditions of grant of a mining tenement, situated on a pastoral lease, is that the lessee/licensee or transferee as the case may be, must notify the pastoralist when the mining tenement is granted or transferred.

Note 2:

For the purpose of these notes "miner" refers to a person who holds a Miner's Right or a granted mining tenement.

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Public Reserves etc

10. 10.1 Mining (which by definition includes prospecting and exploration) may not be carried out on Reserved land without the written consent of the Minister responsible for the Mining Act, 1978.

10.2 Restrictions also apply in respect of entry onto some categories of reserved land, and specific permission may be needed to enter and/or mark out land.

10.3 Specific restrictions include:

- National Parks, Class "A" Nature Reserves and any other Class "A" Reserves within the South West Land Division, Esperance and Ravensthorpe Municipal Districts.

The Act provides that Ministerial consent is required prior to prospecting or marking out in these reserves.

- State Forests or Timber Reserves

May be marked out or applied for only in accordance with the conditions and restrictions prescribed pursuant to Section 128(1)(h) of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (ie. approval must be obtained from the Regional CALM officer prior to marking out).

- Aboriginal Reserves

An entry permit must be obtained from the Department of Indigenous Affairs prior to entering an Aboriginal Reserve.

10.4 In instances where part of a mining tenement involves Reserved land, title may be granted with a "no mining condition" in respect of the Reserve. This restrictive condition applies to all exploration, ore development and mining activities. Where such activities are required to be undertaken the prior written consent of the Minister responsible for the Mining Act, 1978.

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Private Land

11. Private land may only be marked off by virtue of a permit to enter private land issued by a warden. Generally, a mining tenement giving a right to the surface (or to within a depth of 30 metres of the natural surface) may only be granted with the written consent of the owner and occupier of that land. Until compensation has been resolved no mining activities can be commenced on the surface of private land.

Information Pamphlet No. 4 entitled "Private Land Provisions" contains more detailed information.

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Compensation

12. The provisions of Sections 123 to 125 of the Act apply in relation to the determination of compensation in respect of private land.

In addition to compensation in respect of private land compensation may also be payable to the lessee of a pastoral lease or a lease or concession granted by the Crown for grazing purposes only for damage to improvements, loss of earnings, etc.

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Mining Tenements

13. The mining tenements available under the Act are:
 - Prospecting Licences (Sections 40-56).
 - Special Prospecting Licences for Gold (Sections 56A, 70 and 85B).
 - Exploration Licences (Sections 57-69E).
 - Retention Licences (Sections 70A - 70M).
 - Mining Leases (Sections 71-85).
 - General Purpose Leases (Sections 86-90).
 - Miscellaneous Licences (Sections 91-94).

Some of the basic features of these tenements are outlined in the following paragraphs.

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Prospecting Licence

14.
 - The maximum area for a prospecting licence is 200 hectares.
 - Prospecting licences must be marked out.
 - Application is made to the Mining Registrar of the relevant Mineral Field (see Appendix "A").
 - An application fee and rental is payable.
 - There is no limit to the number of licences a person or company may hold, but a security (or bond) is required in respect of each licence.
 - The term of a prospecting licence is 4 years, with the provision to extend for one further 4 year period.
 - The holder of a prospecting licence may, in accordance with the licence conditions, extract or disturb up to 500 tonnes of material from the ground, including overburden, and the Minister may approve extraction of larger tonnages.

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Special Prospecting for Gold (SPL)

15.

- An SPL is limited in area to 10 hectares.
- A person may have an interest in no more than ten SPL's at the same time.
- An SPL may be marked out in respect of land within an existing prospecting licence or exploration licence (viz. "the primary tenement") that has been in force for one year.
- With the consent of the lease holder an SPL may be marked out in respect of land within an existing mining lease (viz. "the primary tenement.")
- An SPL on a prospecting or exploration licence may be granted if it is considered that activities could be carried on without undue detriment to the activities of the "primary tenement" holder.
- Other information and restrictions apply in respect of SPL's and these are outlined in the Information pamphlet No. 14 "Special Prospecting Licence (for Gold)"

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Exploration Licence

16.

- On 28.6.1991 a graticular boundary (or block) system was introduced for exploration licences.
- The minimum size of an exploration licence is one block, and the maximum size is seventy blocks, except in areas not designated as mineralised areas, where the maximum size is 200 blocks.
- An exploration licence is not marked out.
- Application is made to the Mining Registrar of the relevant Mineral Field (see Appendix "A").
- An application fee and rental is payable.
- There is no limit to the number of licences a person or company may hold but a security (or bond) is required in respect of each licence.
- The term of an exploration licence is 5 years. The Minister may extend the term in prescribed circumstances.
- At the end of both the third and fourth year of its term, the licensee is required to surrender 50% of the licence. For a licence applied for and granted after 10.02.2006, the surrender requirement is 40% at the end of the fifth year.
- The holder of an exploration licence may in accordance with the licence conditions, extract or disturb up to 1000 tonnes of material from the ground, including overburden, and the Minister may approve extraction of larger tonnages.

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Retention Licence *

17.

- A Retention Licence is a "holding" title for a mineral resource that has been identified but is not able to be further explored or mined. See Information Pamphlet No. 13 "Retention Licence" for further details.
- A Retention Licence may be granted in respect of the whole or any part of land within the boundaries of a primary tenement (ie prospecting licence, exploration licence or mining lease or combination of such tenements).
- Application is made to the Mining Registrar of the relevant Mineral Field (See Appendix "A").
- An application fee and rental is payable.
- The term of a Retention Licence cannot exceed 5 years and is renewable for further periods not exceeding 5 years.
- There is no maximum area.

** From 10 February 2006 the holder of a prospecting licence or exploration licence may apply for "retention status" for that licence, and not a separate retention licence.*

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Mining Lease

18.

- The maximum area for a mining lease applied for before 10.02.2006 is 1000 hectares. After then, the size applied for is to relate to an identified orebody as well as an area for infrastructure requirements.
- Mining leases must be marked out.
- Application is made to the Mining Registrar of the relevant Mineral Field (see Appendix "A").
- An application fee and rental is payable.
- Pursuant to section 74(1)(ca) an application for a mining lease shall be accompanied by a mining proposal OR a statement in accordance with subsection (1a) and a mineralisation report that has been prepared by a qualified person. The statement under subsection (1a) shall set out information regarding the mining operation likely to be carried out including:
 - When mining is likely to commence
 - The most likely method of mining; and
 - The location, and the area, of land that is likely to be required for the operation of the plant, machinery and equipment and for the other activities associated with those mining operations.
- There is no limit to the number of mining leases a person or company may hold.
- The term of a mining lease is 21 years and may be renewed for further terms.
- The lessee of a mining lease may work and mine the land, take and remove minerals and do all things necessary to effectually carry out mining operations in, on or under the land, subject to conditions of title.

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General Purpose Lease

19.

- The maximum area is 10 hectares, unless the Minister approves a greater area.
- General purpose leases must be marked out and are limited to a depth of 15 metres or such other depth that may be specified.
- A general purpose lease is for purposes such as operating machinery, depositing or treating tailings etc.
- Application is made to the Mining Registrar of the relevant Mineral Field (see Appendix "A").
- An application fee and rental is payable.
- There is no limit to the number of general purpose leases a person or company may hold.
- The term of a general purpose lease is 21 years, and may be renewed for further terms.

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Miscellaneous Licences

20.

- There is no maximum area for a miscellaneous licence.
- Miscellaneous licences must be marked out.
- A miscellaneous licence is for purposes such as a road, pipeline, water, as prescribed in the Regulations, or such other purposes as the Director General of the Department of Industry and Resources may approve.
- Application is made to the Mining Registrar of the relevant Mineral Field (see Appendix "A").
- An application fee and rental is payable.
- There is no limit to the number of licences a person or company may hold.
- The term of a miscellaneous licence is 21 years, and may be renewed for further terms.
- A miscellaneous licence can be applied for over (and can "co-exist" with) other mining titles.

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Requirement to Meet Annual Expenditure Licence

21. Prospecting Licences, Exploration Licences and Mining Leases are subject to a prescribed minimum annual expenditure commitment. This requirement applies to granted tenements only and the labour cost of the tenement holders' own work on the tenement (contract equivalent) may be treated as expenditure.

There is no prescribed annual expenditure for a Retention Licence, however, the Minister may determine the level of expenditure by condition on grant.

If a licensee/lessee cannot fulfil the expenditure obligations, he/she may apply for exemption from all or part of the commitment.

A separate Information Pamphlet is available concerning exemptions.

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Annual Reporting of Activities

22. The holder of Prospecting Licences, Exploration Licences, Retention Licences and Mining Leases must lodge a Form 5 (Report on Operations on Mining Tenement) Report each year with the Department of Mines and Petroleum at Perth.

Any person may, on payment of the prescribed fee, obtain a copy of the front page of that Report, which summarises the activities undertaken and their cost.

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Royalties

23. When any minerals are produced or obtained from a mining tenement, a quarterly production report must be lodged and a royalty is payable. Regulation 86 sets out the rates of royalty payable.

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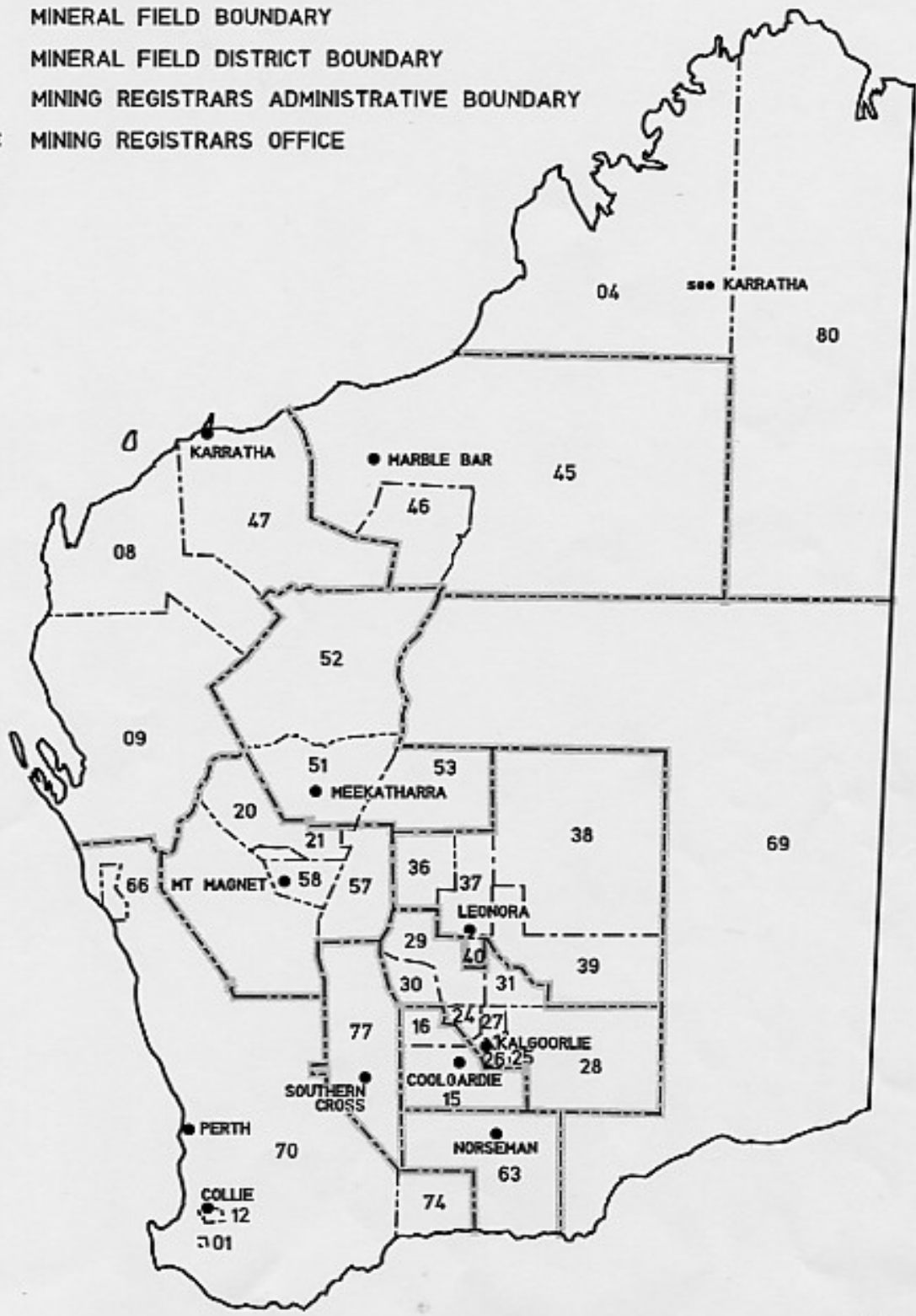
Fees Payable

24. A handout entitled "Fees and Charges - Information on Mining Tenements" is available from the Department and this shows the charges payable in respect of the various types of tenements.

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State Locality Map of Mining Registrar Offices and Mineral Field Boundaries

- 45 MINERAL FIELD PREFIX NUMBER
- MINERAL FIELD BOUNDARY
- - - - - MINERAL FIELD DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- ===== MINING REGISTRARS ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY
- KALGOORLIE MINING REGISTRARS OFFICE



APPENDIX A

Mining Registrar	Mineral Field	District	Prefix Code
Perth			
1st Floor, Mineral House 100 Plain Street (Cnr Adelaide Terrace) EAST PERTH WA 6004 Telephone: (08) 9222 3333 Fax: (08) 9222 3452	Greenbushes	-	01
	Collie River	-	12
	Northampton	-	66
	Warburton	-	69
	South West	-	70
	Phillips River	-	74
Coolgardie			
62 Bayley Street Box 41 COOLGARDIE WA 6429 Telephone: (08) 90 266 066 Fax: (08) 90 266 204	Coolgardie	Coolgardie	15
		Kunanalling	16
Kalgoorlie			
cnr Hunter and Broadwood Streets WEST KALGOORLIE WA 6430 Telephone: (08) 90 213 066 or (08) 90 213 453 Fax: (08) 90 912 428	Broad Arrow		24
	East Coolgardie	Bulong	25
		East Coolgardie	26
	North East Coolgardie	Kanowna	27
		Kurnalpi	28
	North Coolgardie	Menzies	29
		Ularring	30
		Yerilla	31
Karratha			
Cnr Welcome Rd and Hedland Place Box 518 KARRATHA WA 6714 Telephone: (08) 91 868 888 Fax: (08) 91 868 889	West Kimberley		04
	Ashburton		08
	Gascoyne		09
	West Pilbara		47
	Kimberley		80

Leonora			
Rochester Street Box 173 LEONORA WA 6438 Telephone: (08) 9037 6106 Fax: (08) 9037 6248	East Murchison	Lawlers	36
	Mt Margaret	Mt Malcolm	37
		Mt Margaret	38
		Mt Morgans	39
	North Coolgardie	Niagara	40
Marble Bar			
Box 7 Bohemia Road MARBLE BAR WA 6760 Telephone: (08) 91 761 044 Fax: (08) 91 761 048	Pilbara	Marble Bar	45
		Nullagine	46
Meekatharra			
Box 7 Main Street MEEKATHARRA WA 6642 Telephone: (08) 99 811 008 Fax: (08) 99 811 482	Murchison	Meekatharra	51
	Peak Hill		52
	East Murchison	Wiluna	53
Mt Magnet			
Box 13 Richardson Street MT MAGNET WA 6638 Telephone: (08) 99 634 040 Fax: (08) 99 634 488	Murchison	Cue	20
		Day Dawn	21
		Mt Magnet	58
	East Murchison	Black Range	57
	Yalgoo		59
Norseman			
Box 139 Prinsep Street NORSEMAN WA 6443 Telephone: (08) 90 391 082 Fax: (08) 90 391 657	Dundas		63
Southern Cross			
Canopus Street SOUTHERN CROSS WA 6426 Telephone: (08) 90 491 107 Fax: (08) 90 491 431	Yilgarn		77

This pamphlet is issued by the Mineral Titles Division of the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

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N.B. The information contained in this pamphlet is designed to assist in gaining a general awareness of the requirements of the Mining Act 1978 and is not intended to be a substitute for understanding the statutory requirements of the Act and Regulations there under.