

Prospecting - The Right Way

Unauthorised Prospecting is Illegal

Unauthorised gold prospecting is illegal and carries a fine of up to \$10,000. Any gold found by a person convicted of unauthorised prospecting will be confiscated. A liability also exists to rehabilitate any damage caused to the land and to pay compensation for any loss caused.

Before you begin prospecting - and this includes using metal detectors - contact the Mining Registrar for the area to find out whether your area of interest is open for prospecting.

A Miner's Right is required. Plans showing mineral fields and mining tenements are available at the Mining Registrar's office for viewing and purchase.

What Can I Do?

Miner's Right holders can take up to: 20 kg of rock, ore or minerals at any one time.

Prospecting may be done only with hand held tools or metal detectors.

Where Can I Prospect?

You may prospect on:-

- unoccupied Crown land;
- pastoral leases - provided prior notice is given to the pastoralist;
- mining and exploration tenements - provided you have the written permission of the tenement holder.

What is Crown Land?

For the purposes of the Mining Act, Crown Land includes land which has not been set aside for any purpose, pastoral leases and common reserves.

National parks, nature reserves, townsites, other classified reserves and private property are excluded.

Prospecting on Pastoral Leases

If you plan to prospect on a pastoral lease, notify the pastoralist by telephone, in person or in writing before beginning.

In addition, permission must be obtained (pastoralist or private landowner as the case may be) to prospect within 100 metres of land that is:-

- used as a yard, stockyard, garden or cultivated field;
- an airstrip;
- residential land where there is a house or substantial building;
- within 400 metres of a pastoral dam, well or bore.

Prospecting on Mining Tenements

To prospect on a mining tenement you must have the tenement holder's permission. Information on tenement ownership can be obtained from the Department's offices.

No Prospecting on Burial Grounds or Cemeteries

Burial grounds and cemeteries are protected under the Mining Act 1978. No prospecting is allowed within 100 metres of a burial ground or cemetery.

Aboriginal Sites and Heritage Sites are Protected and Must Not Be Interfered With.

Damage to a site under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1980 carries a penalty of up to \$2,000 and one year imprisonment and under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 a fine of up to \$10,000 and two years imprisonment.

Environmental Responsibilities

Care must be taken at all times to ensure minimal disturbance to the land when prospecting or fossicking. All holes must be filled in and no refuse left.

Is there a Prospectors Association?

Yes, there are branches of the Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association in Perth, Boulder, Norseman, Nullagine and Southern Cross. For details write to Secretary, APLA, PO Box 2570, BOULDER WA 6432.

This information is provided to improve public awareness of the requirements of the Mining Act 1978 and is not a substitute for understanding the statutory requirements of the Act and Regulations.

For further information contact:-

**Tenure and Native Title Branch,
Mineral Titles Division
Department of Mines and Petroleum in Perth
Phone (08) 9222 3409**

or

Mining Registrar's Offices - listed herunder.

Regional Offices

Area/Region	Telephone Number
Coolgardie	(08) 9026 7931
Leonora	(08) 9037 6106
Marble Bar	(08) 9176 1044
Meekatharra	(08) 9981 1008
Mt. Magnet	(08) 9963 4040
Norseman	(08) 9039 0642
Southern Cross	(08) 9049 1107
Kalgoorlie	(08) 9021 9499
Karratha	(08) 9186 8888