

Graticular Sections (for Petroleum Titles) Explained

The State of Western Australia, together with State Waters and the W.A. adjacent area, (Commonwealth waters), are divided into graticular sections. Each section is five minutes of latitude by five minutes of longitude. These graticules constitute the building blocks for all exploration and production titles.

The entire State of Western Australia together with adjacent areas are divided up into a series of 1:1 000 000 Map sheets. Each of these Map sheets is 4 degrees of latitude by 6 degrees of longitude. Each Map sheet has a common name eg. Hamersley Range and also an index name SF 50 this is the horizontal code: SF and the zone in which the sheet is in: 50.

These Map sheets are comprised of 3456 graticular sections which, as mentioned before are five minutes of latitude by five minutes of longitude. The sections are defined on the **Australian Geodetic Datum 1966, (AGD66)**.

Each section has an average area of about 78 sq kms. Sections to the north of WA have an area of about 84 sq kms while sections to the south of the State have an area of about 70 sq kms. The difference is brought about by the convergence of meridians of longitude between the Equator and the South Pole.

Within a Map sheet each section is individually numbered starting at the top left and working across and down, (just as you would read a book).

The Million Series Map sheets are split into three separate series:

Offshore Series – to depict Petroleum Titles within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967. The section numbers for this series are numbered from 1 through to 3456.

State Onshore Series – to depict Petroleum Titles within the jurisdiction of the Petroleum Act 1967. The section numbers for this series are numbered from 5001 through to 8456.

State Territorial Sea Series – to depict Petroleum Titles within the jurisdiction of the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982. The section numbers for this series are also numbered from 5001 through to 8456. To denote the difference between this series and the State Onshore series these sections are suffixed with a T.