



The Datum Post

eNews of the

Amalgamated Prospectors & Leaseholders Association. WA



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APLA is made up of individual members in 5 Branches throughout the State of WA.

Perth, Mandurah, Goldfields, South West and Albany.

It can only run as effectively as its input from the members. Your contribution at meetings, articles to the Datum Post and help at Open Days and annual camps is much appreciated.



**APLA
NEEDS
YOU**

From the President's Desk, February 2024

Welcome to a new year and lets hope all our members can have success in the outback finding some nice, shiny yellow metal.

Since the last Datum Post I have been busy with 3 submissions dealing with the Mining Rehabilitation Fund, the Fee for Objection and the Standard Conditions for Mining Tenements. The details are contained within this report.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Implementation group has now wrapped up with most of APLA's concerns either addressed or taken on notice for further clarification.

The Aboriginal Heritage Native Title Industry Liaison Committee (AHNTILC) meeting in December was attended by myself, in person, and Julie Bradley, online, with many issues tabled and discussed in detail. These details are also contained within this report.

APLA's Submission for Standard Conditions for Mining Tenements

Background

The DEMIRS applies standard conditions to mining tenements on grant, and following Ministerial consent being granted for access to protected lands. These conditions provide a consistent approach to the regulation of activities on mining tenements granted under the Mining Act 1978 and clarity to tenement holders of their responsibilities and obligations. To ensure these conditions remain robust, efficacious and enforceable, DEMIRS has completed a review of its Schedule of Standard Conditions (the Schedule). The review was limited to conditions imposed on grant, or those applied after Ministerial consent for access to protected lands. It did not include environment-related conditions to prevent or reduce injury to the land.

Scope

The review sought to rationalise the Schedule with a focus on conditions that were;

- Inconsistent with the Mining Act or beyond one's power or authority
- Addressed within provisions of the Mining Act or other legislation
- Appropriate to the scope of activity on grant of tenure
- Redundant or duplicative

General Comments

There is a total of 677 general conditions for mining tenements however, this review, will only focus on the 116 conditions that are more relevant to the present-day prospectors, exploration companies and miners.

This submission will review the conditions that have a direct or indirect impact on prospectors. The below conditions are, by reference number, accepted by APLA without any further comment; 4, 5, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 34, 36, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 55, 125, 301, 305, 306, 307, 378, 379, 430, 431, 436, 508,

515, 517, 518, 519, 520, 529, 534, 536, 537, 538, 539, 551, 553, 554, 555, 556, 566, 567, 572, 576, 633, 635, 636, 637, 638, 640, 641, 642, 643 and 673.

Reference No.22 applies to no mining for all vested stock route reserves. APLA considers that unvested stock route reserves should be open for prospecting and exploration without any conditions being applied.

Reference No.'s 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630 and 631 relate to the Section 40E permits and directly apply to prospectors seeking ground to explore/ detect. APLA understands and supports these conditions.

Reference No.660 refers to the Regional Standard Heritage Agreement (RSHA) and the 90days allowed for Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate to request a RSHA after the grant of the tenement. APLA does not support this condition as the tenement applicant has already waited 4 months for the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) to assess the application after the submission of the application, then if there are no objections, after grant by DEMIRS, having to wait a further 90 days to see if a PBC requires the tenement applicant to enter into a RSHA. APLA would like to see a parallel assessment of both the application, NNTT assessment and the PBC requirements. This will have a twofold effect being 1. Allowing the applicant to assess whether to proceed with the application or withdraw and, 2. Save time and valuable resources if the application is withdrawn.

Conclusion

1. APLA considers that all unvested stock route reserves should be open for prospectors and explorers without any conditions.
2. Condition 660 should be removed. Parallel assessments should be undertaken prior to tenement grant.

APLA's Submission for Fee for Objections

Background

Amendments to the Mining Act 1978 to enable a fee to be prescribed for lodgement of objections were made as part of the Mining Amendment Act (No.2) 2022 which came into effect on 2 November 2022.

The amendments provide that an objection under the Mining Act be accompanied by a prescribed fee. The Act provides the legislative authority for a fee to be prescribed for objections. To prescribe a fee, the Mining Regulations 1981 need to be amended.

General Comments

APLA supports a deterrent for nuisance objectors to limit the congestion caused by the increase in workload for the Warden's court as a direct result of the lodgement of ambiguous and frivolous objections. The prospecting industry is best served by having the ability to access land with the potential of discovering a resource that could be exploited to the benefit of the State.

However, the introduction of a fee would be an unfair impost on tenement holders who need to legitimately object to applications such as SPLs and Miscellaneous Licenses. Rent, rates and costs are continually rising, putting increasing pressure on tenement holders, and in terms of cost recovery, tenement holders are already paying for the Department's processes through our application fees.

The data analysis provided by DEMIRS is insufficient to understand where the problems with nuisance objections truly lie, and hence whether the proposed fee would solve the problem. APLA would like to know what other options have been explored, such as setting criteria for valid objections, etc.

Cost of dealing with objections

DEMIRS quote; "The number of objections lodged has increased over the last three years, resulting in an increasing number of matters before the warden and affecting the timely processing to grant of tenement applications. The increasing volume of objections has resulted in the appointment of a second mining warden in Perth with the cost met by DEMIRS".

DEMIRS needs to list the breakdown in the supposed cost of dealing with objections. It would appear that they are simply bundling all objections together – from the low end, small quick fix issue through to the larger complex vexatious issues. The cost recovery model should only focus on the initial DEMIRS costs of lodgement and the associated processes to get the matter before the court.

APLA questions why should a prospector, who is simply protecting their own rights as granted under the 1978 Mining Act, financially subsidise a complicated vexatious objection that ties up the departments resources just because they lodged the same form?

This is a result of inappropriate use of the objection process by a few and DEMIRS has not adequately spelt out why objections have increased. This issue shouldn't be dealt with by simply advocating a large fee but should address the root cause of the problem.

The approach taken by DEMIRS does not address a system that is obviously under stress as indicated by the massive increase in 2019/21. There is an anomaly that occurred in 19/20 without a clear explanation. Is this justifiable by something or simply an abuse of the system that DEMIRS and fellow bureaucracies (Native Title/Heritage/Environment etc) haven't bothered to correct?

APLA believes that DEMIRS' role is to apply good management of the 1978 Mining Act and they should respond to the root cause of the issue not to the resulting burden. It may prove challenging to separate the vexatious objections from the legitimate, but this is the issue that DMIRS should investigate and come back to industry with a workable solution. One solution could be the introduction of criteria for a valid objection, and/or limits on the number of objections that can be lodged by any organisation or its members.

Cost recovery

DEMIRS comment; “Applying a fee for objections is consistent with the cost recovery policy for government services. As a government agency, DMIRS is governed by rules about the amount and the purpose of fees.”

DEMIRS is governed by applying “good governance with fair process.” Simply dropping an extraordinarily high fee onto industry isn’t going to fix anything. Large corporations, Aboriginal Land Councils, Environmental groups etc will likely still pay it and use the payment as a tax deduction. Prospectors, on the other hand, will suffer, as surplus money for an objection is not readily available as many eke out a frugal living.

“The relevant rule for imposing fees is found in Treasurer’s Instruction 810. This requires agencies to conduct reviews of their tariffs, fees and charges on at least an annual basis.” DEMIRS conducts an annual review of fees and charges, with adjustments implemented from 1 July each year.

DEMIRS comment; “The increase in the number of objections and subsequent increasing cost of administering the objection process can no longer be sustained on a fee free basis”

DEMIRS provides a service and enables the fair and equitable access to the state’s resources by the mining industry of which prospectors are a key part. The resulting royalties, taxes and economic growth makes the costs of providing the service somewhat insignificant.

Government treasury revenue (via royalties/economic growth etc) is not divorced from the operations of the DEMIRS. They are connected - a healthy resources sector leads to healthy government revenue as has been demonstrated over recent years with record multi-billion dollars surpluses.

An impost such as this proposal does nothing to encourage exploration and mining - it imposes a debilitating objection fee for a simple yet vital court process. This process has recently proven to be inefficient under the weight of multiple objections being lodged over single tenement applications, yet it’s still allowed to be abused. DMIRS does not charge a fee every time you walk in the door and there are many examples of services that are a day-to-day feature of government. Ensuring a fair and equitable operation of the 1978 Mining Act is not done solely on a cost recovery basis. We pay an application fee for a mining tenement and objections are a part of that application process and APLA would argue that there is a fee already being paid.

The proposed fee will be a huge burden on prospectors who can least afford it (as well as other small operators who legitimately use the objection process). They are lodging an objection to protect their operation or tenement. It’s a part of the 1978 Mining Act. There is no benefit or financial gain for this so called 'service'. Applying a fee is fair enough when you are being given a product or service - but not when you are simply protecting your rights granted to you via the 1978 Mining Act.

Objections lodged by a tenement holder or applicant (the mining industry) are different than those who have caused this increase and are using 'our' process as a way of improving 'their' chances of success by abusing the Wardens Court process.

Proposed fee structure

DEMIRS comment; “A flat fee is proposed for administrative simplicity and consistency with all other prescribed fees applied under the Mining Regulations 1981. This can be contrasted with a differential fee model that charges different fees to different people for the same service”

As previously mentioned, there is an abuse of the objection system by those operating outside of the 1978 Mining Act (non - mining industry), using it to suit their own purposes. If the DEMIRS can't or won't fix this then perhaps a way forward is to continue with no fee for tenement owners and as suggested above "different fees to different people" via the 'differential fee model'. Vexatious objectors that seek to play the system should be made to suffer the impost – not the battling prospector trying to protect their rights.

After discussions between the parties, many objections are often resolved and withdrawn before any real action has occurred. There are minimal costs incurred however, under this proposal, the end result will be a windfall for DEMIRS whilst causing financial stress to prospectors.

Courts in general have a differential fee structure because they exercise judicial powers over a wide range of subject matter, not infrequently associated with matters of personal justice affecting members of community at large. Tribunals exercise executive powers, usually in narrow areas of competency or under specific statutory provisions under which they are called to determine technical matters related to the administration of legislation. Wardens under Part IV of the Mining Act similarly exercise executive powers, rather than judicial powers.

Objections are a mechanism for legitimate leaseholders/applicants to protect their rights under the 1978 Mining Act. They are in effect acting as police to alert the courts that their rights may be being impinged.

There are other types of objections that could be considered to be a service but all cannot be lumped together.

The Wardens Court is not a Tribunal and it's operated by a Warden not an Executive. There are a wide range of subject matters that objections are used for and a simple flat fee type won't address the issue. Considering a simple objection with a predictable outcome could attract a small fee whereby complex, multi-party objection should attract a higher fee. APLA finds it very difficult to homogenise all objections and their varied outcomes by the justification of a single high fee.

Under a differential fee regime an applicant would need to determine which category of fee they are required to pay. The risk being that an incorrect fee being paid with the result that an objection is not accepted for lodgement and no recourse for reimbursement. Although it leads to increased administrative costs, because of a differential fee regime, resources would be needed to verify that a correct fee has been paid.

DEMIRS has many different fees already that a couple more using a differential system isn't going to matter and APLA is of the opinion that a differential system is the fairest and best solution.

For objections against expenditure exemptions, restoration of tenements or marking out anomalies the fee should be no higher than the original tenement application fee of \$434 for a prospecting license with the proposed higher fee of \$859 having no substantial justification.

When addressing the objections against application for any mining tenement, this could come into two separate categories:

(a) Objection by natural person - no fee. This relates to the actual tenement holder(s) being named on the tenement title deed. APLA members will fall under this category.

(b) Objection by another legal entity (eg. incorporated association or company) - \$434 fee (which is currently the lowest fee which an applicant pays for applying for the tenement). This relates to pastoral lease holders trading under a company or corporation name.

Where an objection is to proceed to a substantive hearing (not a mention hearing), then the objector and applicant could jointly pay a substantive hearing fee. Hearing fees exist in many other jurisdictions (eg. SAT, Courts) and are a way of recovering some costs for the operation of the Warden's court.

There are two reasons for why APLA is advocating a no fee for objections to tenement applications by natural persons.

Firstly, the system predicts it is appropriate for people to negotiate with a tenement applicant about conditions which may help address their concerns. By applying a large fee, this may be deemed barrier for a negotiated settlement to occur.

Second, the Warden retains a discretion under reg 165(4)(a) to make an order for costs against a party where the party has frivolously or vexatiously commenced or defended proceedings. So there is an established mechanism whereby costs can be recovered and, where a case has been proven to be frivolous or vexatious, the Warden(s) should be encouraged to impose such costs.

Proposal

APLA considers that in the first instance, other options for dealing with the issue of rising vexatious objections should be explored before the introduction of a fee is considered.

Further understanding of the data on the issue would support the development of these options, however one option could include the introduction of a triage process, similar to the new expedited procedure process. This could be supported by the development of criteria for a valid objection. These criteria could include:

- (a) organisations (including their members) can only lodge one objection to represent that body
- (b) the objection needs to include details of how the application is creating inconvenience or interference.

This could both act as a deterrent to frivolous and vexatious objections, as well as providing a process to weed them out to alleviate the burden on the warden's court.

Conclusion

1. Objections are a valid and integral part of tenement ownership and are used by our members to protect their rights.
2. The problem is the increase in the vexatious use of the objection process and it's not the lack of cost recovery by DEMIRS. APLA's proposal for a triage process, including the development of criteria, is a way of addressing the root cause of the problem.
3. It is well documented that the State needs to be encouraging exploration and by introducing an excessively high objection fee would have a negative incentive.
4. The proposed fee is exorbitant and placing such an impost on prospectors will see many of them elect to not lodge an objection to either protect their rights or to instigate an action. This non action would be a travesty as the ramifications of losing your claim or application will be traumatic with the flow on affect that there will be no winners and the State will lose in the long run.

5. Many prospectors own Exploration Licences and SPL's can be applied for (often vexatiously) over these exploration licenses and an objection needs to be lodged to be able to argue your case against such an application. Paying for this 'privilege' doesn't make sense. If no objection is lodged the SPL will be granted and ownership of the ground lost to the tenement owner. APLA asks "who wins"?

Proposed meeting with Hon. David Michael (new Mines minister)

APLA will be seeking the current status of the 2017 Validation Bill knowing the State Solicitor's Office is speaking with their Federal counterparts so mining tenements are valid under both state and federal law.

The 40E permit system directly applies to prospectors seeking ground to explore/ detect. However, APLA members face numerous obstacles when dealing with pastoralists, exploration and mining companies.

Would the Minister direct DEMIRS to undertake an education programme, specifically targeting the pastoralists, exploration and mining companies, to inform these parties of the rights of a prospector, when using the 40E permit system.

Standard Conditions for Mining tenements, (reference No.660) refers to the Regional Standard Heritage Agreement (RSHA) and the 90days allowed for Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate to request a RSHA after the grant of the tenement. The tenement applicant has already waited 4 months for the National Native Title Tribunal to assess the application upon submission, then if there are no objections, after grant by DEMIRS, having to wait a further 90 days to see if a Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) requires the tenement applicant to enter into a RSHA. With the view to expedite the approval process, would the Minister consider implementing a parallel assessment of the application, the NNTT assessment and the PBC requirements. This will have a twofold effect being 1. Allowing the applicant to assess whether to proceed with the application or withdraw and, 2. Save time and valuable resources if the application is withdrawn.

Compliance section. At present there are 2 investigation officers based in Perth which, by their very location, positions them far removed from where daily breaches of the Mining Act occur. It is common knowledge that most of the breaches take place in the northern and eastern goldfields. Would the Minister consider employing 4 additional officers to have 2 based in Kalgoorlie and 2 based in Karratha.

The Fee for Objection proposal and the introduction of a \$859 fee will be counterproductive for prospecting and exploration throughout the state. The modelling for the Warden's court cost recovery shifts the onus onto the tenement holder, whereby the tenement holder must pay to protect their given rights under the 1978 Mining act and as the holder of a granted tenement. APLA is of the opinion that the Warden's court operations costs should be funded via the Treasury department from funds gained from mining royalties.

APLA's Submission for the Mining Rehabilitation Fund 10 Year Review.

This submission by the Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association Inc (APLA) is made on behalf of its 2000+ members. APLA has been representing prospectors since 1904.

Prospectors are the backbone of many regional towns and communities throughout Western Australia and are a critical part of the mineral exploration ecosystem. APLA members can be found in all Western Australian goldfields, exploring and prospecting over large tracts of land. These same prospectors are cognizant to all aspects of their environmental responsibilities from removal of personal rubbish to reinstating ground that

has been subjected to a scrape and detect operation. Our members work their tenements on a regular basis, carry out rehabilitation as they finish working a particular area and report their activities via the MRF reporting process.

Do you think the MRF Act objectives and purpose remain relevant today?

APLA is of the opinion that the MRF Act objectives and purpose remain very relevant today as more and more small opencut mining pits remain open, filled/ filling with polluted ground water and next to no rehabilitation being carried out. These open pits pose a greater risk to safety and health than say a deep shaft which has a small surface opening. Any abandoned mine, whether open pit or deep shaft, poses a residual liability on the State despite having clear regulatory policies attributing responsibility on the tenement holder.

Would any changes improve the Act's clarity?

At present, the Act requires each tenement holder to submit a report regarding the activities carried out on the tenement. APLA suggests, that when you have a tenement holder with multiple tenements, that a single detailed report be provided for all the tenements. This will reduce the reporting burden and the potential for confusion. This change will still need to ensure that all tenement holders acknowledge that they remain responsible for the accuracy of the provided data.

Do you think the MRF Act is effective in achieving its purpose?

Referring to the Mining Rehabilitation Fund Bill 2012 it reads “(the MRF) achieve a number of economic and environmental goals. It will reduce and, overtime, eliminate the state’s exposure to financial risk relating to the rehabilitation of abandoned mines. It will diminish the annual financial operating burden on resource industry participants, which strengthens Western Australia’s attractiveness as an investment location. It will secure adequate funding to deal appropriately with the environmental and safety risks caused by business failure and default in the mining industry, and the state’s legacy of historical abandoned mines.” It is very clear what the objectives of the MRF Act are and the overall purpose. APLA recognises there is a financial burden on tenement holders by way of a levy for ground disturbance (or exceeding the prescribed limits) but, at the same time, noting that the accumulative funds held within the MRF can be used in the case of business failure or default.

Are there changes which would improve its effectiveness in the future?

APLA would like to see improvements to the categories used in the regulations [to be and](#) expanded to include a greater variety of potential users of [the MRF funding](#).

What changes would enhance the MRF's effectiveness?

APLA believes that the current allocation of funds solely to rehabilitation of mines that contributed to the fund, does not adequately address the large number of historic abandoned mines and workings requiring rehabilitation across the State. APLA believes that all funds, both principal and interest should be open for use for any historic area that requires rehabilitation.

The current scheme appears to focus on large-scale, expensive areas for rehabilitation. Although it is acknowledged these large-scale areas are a priority, there are also many abandoned workings, including old camps and rubbish dumps that could be rehabilitated at low cost for maximum effectiveness.

It is proposed that a program could be established to engage local prospectors and tenement holders who have existing earthmoving equipment to begin smaller scale rehabilitation projects that re~~instate~~~~habilitate~~ these areas. Old camps and rubbish points on tenements could be cleared and rehabilitated and pathways for disposal arranged through local councils. Shafts should be recorded, fenced off with signage (perhaps done through local Historical Societies and/or DEMIRS History Division) giving visitors a snapshot of a time that should always be preserved. Old costeans and scrapings could be backfilled and rehabilitated. These are small scale projects that can make a big difference to both safety and the environment in a relatively short period of time, requiring only a small administration for coordinating and recording purposes.

This is an opportunity for government and land users to work together to restore small scale historic disturbances with moneys available in the MRF budget by engaging tenement holders and land users to begin rehabilitation programs throughout the State. Tenement holders would need to provide consent, and in the case of small-scale tenement holders, should be given first option. By employing local on the ground operators in these regions it would give a financial boost to these small operators who support local economies. It is important that operators with experience in the Mining Industry be engaged for these activities as they can most effectively assess the workings and what is appropriate rehabilitation / conservation. These operators have the capacity, capability and are locally-based which would keep costs at a minimum. These are low risk and cost-effective measures that can commence at short notice and can revegetate areas again quickly.

Are there elements of the Act that could be improved?

DEMIRS are insistent that industry provide two annual reports being the Annual Environmental Report and the Mining Rehabilitation Report which basically cover the same topic. APLA can see no clear rationale for the duplication although the information is used for slightly different purposes. APLA has raised this issue with the view of streamlining on many occasions. -If the reason for the duplication is because the MRF report is named in the legislation then this review is the best opportunity to resolve the problem. APLA has and will continue to work with DEMIRS so that the two reports can be streamlined into one.

Progressive rehabilitation is not part of the MRF as there is no incentive within the current framework for such rehabilitation. The reasoning is the MRF payments are only reduced upon submission of a rehabilitation report which is not tracked through the EARS online system. The EARS system should be upgraded to allow for a reconciliation between disturbance undertaken and the reported rehabilitation of that disturbance.

Could the Act/ Regulations/ processes be amended to reduce the cost of reporting or compliance, but maintain (or improve) the delivery of the objectives from an industry point of view?

The online system is cumbersome, particularly for smaller tenement holders who have done little or no work during the reporting period.

~~A~~~~There should be~~ simpler reporting ~~arrangement~~ ~~process~~ for tenements with a nil report. ~~This~~ could be achieved with a tickbox on the first page of the report that does not require onerous clicking through multiple pages to submit. This ease of reporting could be extended to include reports for areas that are below the threshold for a payable levy.

Also, smaller tenement holders with multiple tenements for which the addresses have been entered slightly differently, require the holder to complete the process separately for each tenement. Either addresses should

be able to be streamlined so they are the same for each tenement holder, or the tenements should be grouped by the tenement holder's name so the process can be completed once for all tenements.

Conclusion

APLA will continue to work with DEMIRS to improve all their ~~online~~ systems to make them more user friendly whilst reducing the cumbersome reporting procedures that are currently in place.

Aboriginal Heritage Native Title Industry Liaison Committee (AHNTILC) APLA representatives, Julie Bradley and myself

ACH Act 2021 repeal (Ben Harvey):

The ACH Act was repealed on 15 November. The revised amended 1972 Act is now in place.

Ben ran through the key changes to the 1972 Act. A document outlining Ben's summary will be circulated.

The government also announced two programs to support the new Act:

The Capacity Building Program which is similar to the one for LACHS under the 2021 Act

A Heritage Survey Program which is still in development stages. There has been a commitment to consult with aboriginal groups in the development of this program but getting hold of people at this time of year is difficult.

There was some discussion around the Survey Program. The Government is still working out what the program is going to look like but has committed that surveys will only be undertaken with the agreement of relevant aboriginal people and consent of landowners. The intent is that information from these surveys will be included on the system and be publicly available. There may be different types of surveys – looking to both identify where things are as well as where things aren't. Consultation to inform the Survey Program will start sometime in the new year.

DPLH advised that heritage surveys will commence in early 2024 and the priority will be set by relevant stakeholders.

The Regional Standard Heritage Agreement (RSHA) will be reviewed to ensure the requirements are still fit for purpose meanwhile any agreement still stands.

There was a lengthy discussion related the Section 18's and where a proponent wants to operate within a known buffer zone. Allowances will be applied where dust and vibration could be an issue.

A question was asked about whether discussions had been had with proponents or Traditional Owner groups about sharing information from existing surveys. The Department would be keen for this to occur however most surveys are currently bound by confidentiality provisions as Traditional Owner groups generally don't want the information being shared.

APLA asked about due diligence requirements in the interim while the Survey Program is still being developed – will looking up the Register be sufficient due diligence? DPLH advised that while there is no legal requirement under the 1972 Act to consult or undertake surveys, the Register is not the sole source of truth and it is the proponent's responsibility to do their own risk assessment of whether it is likely heritage exists in areas they wish to disturb. You need to understand the area you are working in. While consultation isn't mandatory it is preferred. The only way to be sure if in doubt, is to put in a Section 18 and go through the process.

APLA asked what the requirement to consult is where there is no Native Title body (eg claim) and claimants are not in agreement. DPLH advised the expectation is that you try to engage with all groups. Keep a record of all contact attempts.

APLA asked again about whether caravans are considered a private dwelling under the 1972 Act. DPLH took the question on notice.

APLA noted that numerous aboriginal groups were difficult to contact and return messages were not responded to in a timely manner. DPLH will investigate and advise.

APLA asked for the ability to have a logon identifier on the ACHIS (online inquiry system) printout.

APLA asked for DPLH to attend APLA meeting/s to demonstrate how ACHIS works.

There are no current plans for an education program on the new Act and no further Guidelines planned. There are also no plans to review the implementation of the Act in the near future, however further guidance could be developed if required.

DPC Update:

DPC offered to provide an update on the Marlinyu Ghoolie claim at the next meeting.

There have been two new Native Title determinations since the last meeting. No change in the compensation space.

Heritage agreements are being reviewed in light of the legislation change but no major changes expected.

DEMIRS Update:

Simon Moore discussed the Heritage Rebate. Guidelines are on the DEMIRS website.

The RSHA policy continues to apply.

There was some discussion about the new Native Title Tribunal process for dealing with Expedited Procedure objections. The new process is more of a case by case rather than one size fits all model. Feedback from industry was that this appears to be working better.

EPA Update:

Kathleen Lowry did a presentation on the interface between the EPA Social Surrounds policy and the ACH Act. EPA have done some minimal revisions to the Social Surrounds policy since the 1972 Act has been reinstated. The EP Act is broader in some areas than the ACH Act. The focus of the Social Surrounds policy is on environmental values/outcomes. Technical guidance is available on EPA's website. EPA is collecting feedback and will undertake a review in the next 6-12 months.

Members gave updates including activities and Christmas closures.

Members were requested to look at the AHNTILC Terms of Reference for discussion at the next meeting.

Proposed Temporary Closure of Davyhurst-Ora Banda Road

APLA has drafted and submission on behalf of its 2000+ members and we have pointed out that APLA has been representing prospectors since 1904.

We stated that prospectors are the backbone of many regional towns and communities throughout Western Australia, and are a critical part of the mineral exploration ecosystem.

Our members own and operate numerous tenements on a daily basis, complying with all of Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) rules and regulations and other requirements under common law. Prospectors, in general, are only interested in gaining access to ground to continue their prospecting activities.

We would like to draw your attention to Section 157 of the W.A. Mining Act. "Obstruction of persons authorised to mine under this Act." To temporarily close the Davyhurst-Ora Banda Road for five years (5 years) will obstruct many within the Mining Industry of being able to carry out their lawful right to gain easy access to the surrounding land.

Good Acts and Policies are drawn up with all Stakeholders and the States best interest in mind. The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is the Governing authority of possibly the largest Mining Centre in Australia and yet it is moving to lock the mining industry out of thousands of hectares of valuable prospective land by this temporary road closure.

APLA recognises how important a project of this nature is to our community and do not wish to jeopardise it from continuing. However, any road or cleared access point is a valuable asset to the industry, and particularly a gazetted road. So, while we have these assets, the Council should be going out of its way to retain these roads for all to use. It is important to have these roads as main arteries to control the traffic to the points of interest where those in the industry can turn off and enter the native bush to their area of interest.

All roads are valuable for their ability to provide service to emergency agencies such as fire, ambulance, police etc. as well as the continued use by the mining industry, pastoralists, tourism, seed collectors, hunters, pest control, bird watching (Mallee Fowl) and the general public for recreational, historical and any other uses. If these roads are lost, prospectors and exploration crews will have to cut their own new access to the surrounding areas, which could mean more unnecessary damage to the environment.

Just because a Mining Company has held a particular piece of land as a tenement, does not mean that land has been fully explored and will no longer have a use within the mining industry. Mining companies all use different techniques in exploration, meaning when a tenement is dropped another will take up that land for their use. Prospectors also use differing techniques and will always need access to all land. It is important to understand that prospectors are still out there making new discoveries. With company exploration figures on the increase, it is so important prospectors are kept out on all land doing Greenfield Exploration. This is the type of exploration Companies avoid because of the high cost and high risk, they prefer to concentrate on known Brownfields Exploration.

The proposed access permit system must take into consideration that it is 2024 and we have moved on from when Paddy Hannan ventured into the Mineral Fields, rolled out a swag under a shady gum tree to camp up to nowadays where we take modern caravans out for accommodation. Therefore, there is a great need for caravans to co-exist on these gazetted / temporary Haul Roads with the trucks.

It is important to provide easy crossover from the road to the surrounding bush for vehicles when prospecting, exploration, pastoral activities, seed collecting and any other reason someone may need to cross the road. The road surface should be wide enough to allow easy, safe passing of heavy vehicles and caravans.

APLA has requested to meet with the Council to discuss the potential permit design.

James Allison

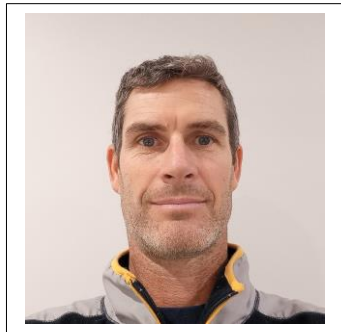
APLA President

EDITORIAL

Ryan Daws. Editor

Contact:

aplanews@apla.com.au



From the Editors Desk

Up Skilling

Happy New Year fellow prospectors! I have just returned to Perth from 5 weeks over east to find myself in a world of hurt with house renos, contracting work, school duties with the kids, sport etc!

I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels a bit swamped at the moment. I am looking forward to hitting the goldfields this year and leaving the rat-race behind as much as possible. With the new car, (new second hand), all ready to go, Myself and my prospecting mate, are hard at work researching a new area for this year. Not that I am totally done with my current locations, but it is always good to have a look at different ground as you may pick up new indicators which you can transfer back to your known ground.

I have only been in the game for a few years so still have plenty to learn. I liken gold prospecting to fishing, it's not just about how you swing the detector! You need to put yourself in the right location, at the right time with the right coil. Half the fun is in the planning and location research.

I think the first real virgin patch I found took me a good 50-100hrs on the computer to come up with the spot. It is verry satisfying putting that sort of work in and actually getting rewarded for it!

Spend the time now researching on the computer instead of driving around aimlessly when you get out. Its a far more affective strategy, less time spent setting up/packing up, cheaper to do and far more comfortable!

If prospecting in the heat is not your thing and you would like to keep in the game, there are plenty of courses being held over the next couple of months to upskill or just retrain yourself. APLA have a raft of courses starting shortly, from Geoview/Tengraph training to navigation. All of APLA's training is free for members, it is operated entirely by volunteers. Courses are held at the Perth Lapidary club in Rivervale and also at Lake Gwelup. More details can be found on the APLA website and also down on page 29.

Leonora gold talk are also offering some training through March which covers different subjects, all the way up to pegging your own ground and tenement responsibilities. These are run by Lisa and Tony down in Mandurah. Course dates and details can be found on Lisa's add on page 33-34

Gold 2023 Record Prices & Safe-Haven Status Amid Global Unrest



Gold had a remarkable year in 2023, with its price soaring above \$2,000 per ounce and remaining at that level throughout the closing weeks of the year and into the first months of 2024. This surge in gold prices was fueled by several factors, including geopolitical events, conflicts between countries, a weaker Chinese economy, political tensions in the US, and fluctuating inflation amid high interest rates from central banks.

The strong value of the US dollar and the level of US Treasury bond yields were primary influences on gold prices. These factors made gold an attractive investment option and a safe-haven asset. The London gold price closed 2023 at \$2,078.4 per ounce, marking a record year-end high and generating a 15% annual return.

Central banks played a crucial role in supporting gold prices by buying 1,037 tonnes of gold in 2023, nearly matching the 1,082 tonnes purchased in the previous year. This increased demand from central banks helped to bolster the price of gold.

Gold ETFs, on the other hand, experienced their third consecutive annual outflow in 2023, losing 244 tonnes. However, the pace of outflows slowed toward the end of the year. Despite this, gold bars and coins saw increased investment, particularly in Over Counter (OTC) transactions. Demand for gold bars and coins was driven by China, India, Turkey, and the US.

EYE ON IT

DMIRS have on the bottom of their website page a box entitled.

Subscribe to updates.

The department provides a range of newsletters and information products to keep you up to date. Subscriptions to the latest DMIRS news services of your choice are available.

They are free to the public and cover a wide range of articles and information.

Click and keep yourself informed on the DMIRS web page.

Annual bar and coin investment saw a mild contraction of 3% from 2022. European demand for gold plummeted, but this decline was offset by recovery in China, India, Turkey, and the US. Jewellery consumption remained steady at 2,093 tonnes, with China's recovery in buying supporting global demand.

In terms of supply, mine production remained relatively flat in 2023, increasing by an estimated 1% to around 3,644 tonnes. However, the final quarter saw a decline of 2%. Australia, despite the rise in the Australian dollar price of gold by 13% in 2023, experienced a significant decrease in local gold consumption by 34% due to record-high gold prices.

The World Gold Council's (WGC) annual review highlighted the impact of geopolitical events on gold prices, stating, "These included geopolitical events like the October 7 attack by Hamas on Israel, Israel's counter-assault on Gaza, and increased attacks on shipping in the Red Sea." Gold acted as a 'safe-haven' asset during these uncertain times, attracting investors seeking stability and protection for their wealth.

The WGC also mentioned the stability of gold mine production, stating, "In terms of supply, mine production remained relatively flat in 2023, increasing by an estimated 1% to around 3,644 tonnes." Despite fluctuations in demand and price, gold mining operations maintained a consistent level of output.

The review also highlighted the decline in gold consumption in Australia, stating, "Despite the rise in the Australian dollar price of gold by 13% in 2023, local gold consumption decreased by 34%." The high gold prices deterred local consumption, causing a significant drop in demand within the country.

In conclusion, gold had an exceptional year in 2023, with its price soaring to new heights and remaining strong throughout the year. Geopolitical events, central bank purchases, and increased demand from countries like China, India, Turkey, and the US contributed to the robust performance of gold.

Despite some challenges, such as the outflows from gold ETFs and the decline in Australian consumption, gold proved its status as a safe-haven asset and maintained its position as a valuable investment option.

Article care of Gold Secure

WA delivers record \$254 billion of mineral and petroleum sales in 2022-23

- LNG sales skyrocket to \$56 billion
- Lithium becomes WA's second most valuable mineral, after iron ore
- Sector achieves sixth consecutive year of jobs growth

Western Australia's resources sector delivered record sales of \$254 billion in 2022-23 and supported the sixth consecutive year of jobs growth.

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety data revealed resources sales were up \$20 billion on 2021-22, smashing the previous record of \$251 billion set in the 2022 calendar year.

The sector also broke employment records with more than 126,480 full time workers in WA.

Iron ore continued its dominant position with historically high sales of \$125 billion supported by record production of 861 million tonnes.

Lithium (spodumene concentrate) achieved all-time high sales of \$21 billion on the back of record prices and expanding production, making it WA's second most valuable mineral.

The value of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) surged to \$56 billion, almost \$18 billion more than 2021-22, and \$2 billion more than the previous high set in 2022.

Gold (a record \$18.6 billion), nickel (\$5.7 billion, among the highest levels in the past 15 years), domestic gas (an all-time high of \$2.5 billion) and salt sales (a record \$714 million) all reflected the strength of the resources sector.

The value of some other major commodities remained steady including condensate (\$8.6 billion), alumina (\$6.7 billion), and mineral sands (\$1.4 billion).

Investors poured more than \$27 billion into mining and petroleum projects, the highest level of investment for a calendar or financial year since 2015-16.

Mineral exploration expenditure in WA was valued at \$2.5 billion, a new financial year high. Gold, iron ore and critical minerals were all popular targets.

"As the world moves to a low-carbon future, we're positioning WA as a renewable energy powerhouse – and our record lithium sales show we're on the right track.

Comments attributed to Mines and Petroleum Minister Bill Johnston:

"WA's resources sector continues to underpin our State's success as one of the fastest growing developed economies over the past 20 years.

"The future looks promising too, our world-class resources sector has an estimated \$55 billion worth of projects under construction or committed in WA." Article care of DMIRS.

Mining Rehabilitation Fund yearly report now available

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety has released its Mining Rehabilitation Fund (MRF) yearly report, which outlines the key activities and achievements of the MRF and Abandoned Mines Program (AMP) in 2022-23.

The MRF is a pooled fund, which Western Australian mineral tenement holders contribute to, and is essential to the State's capacity to manage and rehabilitate abandoned mines.

During the year, mining rehabilitation levies totalling \$42.8 million were assessed, representing a 9.2 per cent increase from the previous year.

The MRF compliance team reviewed 1,665 tenements and found 203 tenements required amendments to their submission. The outcomes of the annual compliance plan resulted in additional levy payments of \$376,508.77 and refunds of \$13,071.40.

As at 30 June 2023, the net balance of funds was \$291.2 million including \$3.1 million in net interest.

The principal funds are available for abandoned mines across the State in circumstances where the tenement holder/operator (that contributed levies to the MRF) has failed to meet rehabilitation obligations and efforts to recover funds from the holder/operator have been unsuccessful. The work carried out by the AMP has been prioritised on a risk basis, with consideration to significant risks to the community and environment.

Major progress was made on the AMP's Ellendale project. The first phase of significant safety works is now complete with the removal and clean-up of all redundant and obsolete infrastructure and equipment across the former diamond mining lease. Notable achievements include zero recordable injuries or incidents, as well as the removal of all waste materials (7,184 tons) to off-site licensed disposal facilities. Fifty-five per cent of those materials were recycled.

In collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, the AMP completed several key actions to reduce community and environmental risks associated with the Donnybrook Shafts project area. Rehabilitation works were successfully completed by a local Indigenous business and the site continues to be monitored.

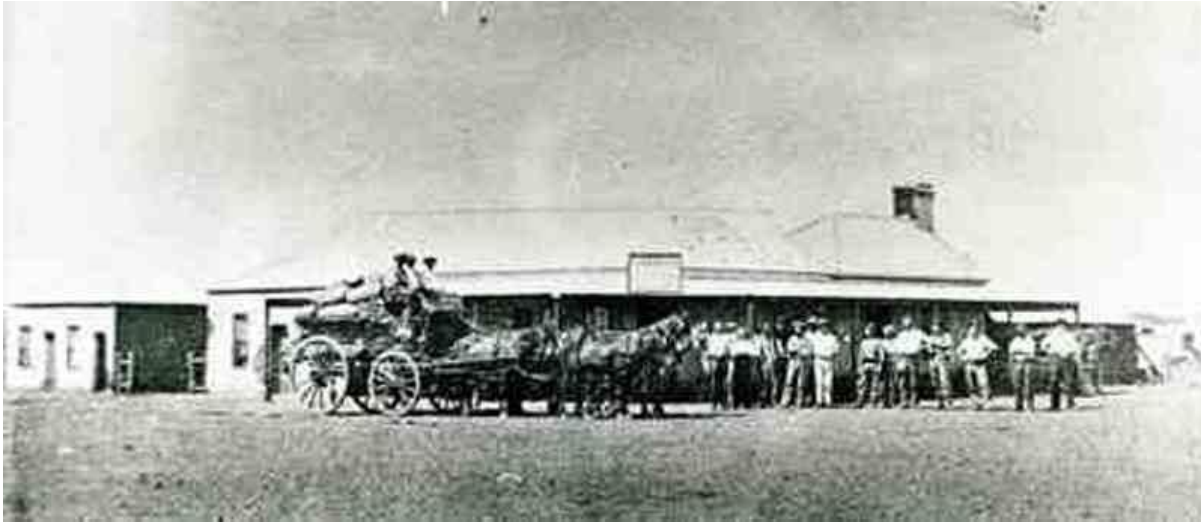
The department would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of panel members Renee Young, Vern Newton, Naomi Hutchings and Helen Chernoff and Angela Bishop.

Article care of DMIRS

Wiluna

Shire of Wiluna

534km NNW of Kalgoorlie-Boulder



When surveyor and explorer Lawrence Wells travelled through this area bordering the Western Desert in 1892, he reported seeing promising auriferous country.

Four years later, prospectors Woodley, Wotten and Lennon discovered gold at nearby Lake Way and, within three months, 300 miners had established a rapidly growing settlement that was initially known as Lake Way.

The name was soon changed to the Aboriginal term for the area, Weeloona, believed to mean “Place of the Winds”. Another interpretation of the name is that it echoes the cry of the native curlew. The spelling was modified and the town of Wiluna gazetted in 1898.

In 1906 the Western Australian Government appointed Alfred Canning to survey a 1,500km stock route from Wiluna to Halls Creek. Commercial droving along the Canning Stock Route began in 1910 and, with the pastoral industry augmenting strong gold production, the town flourished.

By the mid-1930s the population had grown to more than 9,000. At the height of its prosperity in the years before World War II, Wiluna boasted a regular railway service to Perth, four hotels and a wide range of businesses and services.

The war severely affected the gold mining industry and many mines shut. However, as arsenic was being produced as a by-product, workers were “manpowered” to keep production going for the war effort. Arsenic is a component of the chemical warfare agent Lewisite which was manufactured by the US, Germany and Japan before and during the Second World War.

Wiluna's rail line closed in August 1957 and by 1963 its population had fallen to less than 100.

The Gunbarrel Highway, linking Western Australia to the Northern Territory, opened in 1958 and is today a popular tourist route with Wiluna its western starting point.

Gold mining resumed in 1981 and today still thrives in the region, with Wiluna now home to more than 1,500 people including a large population of Aboriginal Martu people and fly-in fly-out mining employees.

Near Wiluna:

Waldeck's Find

Just north of the present-day Mount Keith nickel mine, Waldeck's Find was a gold prospecting area in the 1930s. There was a minor rush to the area and one prospector, Logan, found rich "floaters" in 1934, but no substantial discoveries were made.

Article care of Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

Rules and Obligations for Section 40E permits

(Taken directly from the 1981 Mining Regulations)

Part IIA — Permits under section 40E [Heading inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 705; amended in Gazette 1 Feb 2013 p. 450.]

4A. Terms used In this Part — date of issue, in relation to a permit, means the day on which the permit is issued; issuing officer means the mining registrar or the holder of the office referred to in regulation 4B; licensee statement, in relation to land, means a statement made in relation to the land under regulation 4H; permit means a permit under section 40E; permit holder, in relation to a permit, means the person who is or was the holder of the permit; relevant exploration licence, in relation to an application for a permit in respect of land, or a permit issued in respect of land, means the exploration licence that was in force for the land when the application was made or the permit was issued. [Regulation 4A inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 705; amended in Gazette 1 Feb 2013 p. 450.] 4B. Prescribed office (Act s. 40E(1)) For the purposes of section 40E(1) the office of Manager Mining Information Counter, Resource Tenure Division of the Department is prescribed. [Regulation 4B inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 705; amended in Gazette 18 Mar 2011 p. 912; 1 Feb 2013 p. 451; 22 Dec 2017 p. 5990.] Mining Regulations 1981 Part IIA Permits under section 40E r.

4C. page 6 Version 11-j0-02 As at 22 Jan 2018 Extract from www.slp.wa.gov.au, see that website for further information 4C. Prescribed depth (Act s. 40E(6)(b)) For the purposes of section 40E(6)(b) the prescribed depth is 2 m below the natural surface of the land. [Regulation 4C inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 705; amended in Gazette 1 Feb 2013 p. 451.]

4D. Application for permit (1) An application for a permit is to be in the form of Form 1A. (2) The application is to be accompanied by the relevant application fee set out in Schedule 2 item 9. (3) The application may be accompanied by a licensee statement. [Regulation 4D inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 705-6; amended in Gazette 15 Jan 2010 p. 98 and 136; 24 Jun 2011 p. 2510.]

4E. Area of land to which permit applies (1) The area of land in respect of which a permit is issued is to be a block or blocks but is not to exceed 10 blocks. (2) If a permit is issued in respect of 2 or more blocks the

graticular sections that constitute those blocks are to — (a) constitute a single area; and (b) each have a side in common with at least one other graticular section in that area. (3) The area of land in respect of which a permit is issued is to be specified in the permit by reference to the number of the block or each block, as the case requires, on a plan held at the Department. [Regulation 4E inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 706.] Mining Regulations 1981 Permits under section 40E Part IIA r.

4F As at 22 Jan 2018 Version 11-j0-02 page 7 Extract from www.slp.wa.gov.au, see that website for further information 4F. Permit conditions (1) An issuing officer may impose one or more of the following conditions on the issue of a permit in respect of land — (a) a condition relating to the conservation of the land and its environment; (b) where the land is the subject of a pastoral lease within the meaning of the Land Administration Act 1997, a condition requiring the permit holder to give a copy of the permit to the holder of the pastoral lease before prospecting for minerals on the land; (c) if the application for the permit is not accompanied by a licensee statement, a condition requiring the permit holder not to prospect on the land before the permit comes into operation under regulation 4I; (d) a condition requiring the permit holder to comply with regulation 4O(1); (e) any other reasonable condition. (2) An issuing officer may vary or cancel a condition imposed under subregulation (1) by notice in writing given to the permit holder. [Regulation 4F inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 706.]

4G. Notice of issue of permit An issuing officer is to cause a copy of a permit to be given to the holder of the relevant exploration licence as soon as practicable after the date of issue. [Regulation 4G inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 706.]

4H. Statement by holder of exploration licence (1) The holder of an exploration licence for land may make a written statement setting out any comments the license holder wishes to make in relation to prospecting activities proposed to be carried out on the land under a permit. Mining Regulations 1981 Part IIA Permits under section 40E r. 4I page 8 Version 11-j0-02 As at 22 Jan 2018 Extract from www.slp.wa.gov.au, see that website for further information (2) A licensee statement may be given to a person who proposes to apply, or has applied, for a permit, or to whom a permit has been issued, in respect of the land. [Regulation 4H inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 707.]

4I. Commencement of operation of permit (1) If a permit holder received a licensee statement before the permit was issued, the permit comes into operation on the date of issue. (2) If a permit holder receives a licensee statement after the date of issue, but within 21 days after the date of issue, the permit comes into operation on the day on which the permit holder receives the licensee statement. (3) If the permit holder does not receive a licensee statement before the end of the period of 21 days after the date of issue, the permit comes into operation at the end of that 21-day period. [Regulation 4I inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 707.]

4J. Expiry of permit (1) A permit stops being in force in respect of land when one of the following happens — (a) a notice of the surrender of the permit is lodged under regulation 4K; (b) the permit is cancelled under regulation 4L(2)(b); (c) the relevant exploration licence stops being in force; (d) a mining lease, general purpose lease or retention licence is granted in respect of the land; (e) the period of 3 months after the date of issue of the permit ends. (2) Subregulation (1)(c) does not apply if the relevant exploration licence stops being in force because a prospecting licence or an Mining Regulations 1981 Permits under section 40E Part IIA r. 4K As at 22 Jan 2018 Version 11-j0-02 page 9 Extract from www.slp.wa.gov.au, see that website for further information exploration licence is granted in respect of the land as a result of a reversion licence application. [Regulation 4J inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 707; amended in Gazette 3 Feb 2006 p. 576.]

4K. Surrender of permit (1) A permit holder may surrender his or her permit by lodging notice in writing. (2) A notice under subregulation (1) is to be — (a) signed by the permit holder or each permit holder (if more than one); and (b) where possible, accompanied by the permit. [Regulation 4K inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 707; amended in Gazette 18 Mar 2011 p. 912.]

4L. Powers available to Minister where breach of condition etc. (1) This regulation applies if the Minister is satisfied that a permit holder — (a) has contravened a condition referred to in section 40E(5) or imposed on the permit in accordance with regulation 4F; or (b) has included in the application for the permit information that the permit holder knew was false or misleading in a material respect at the time the application was made. (2) The Minister may, subject to regulation 4M, do one or more of the following — (a) order the permit holder to pay a monetary penalty not exceeding \$5 000; (b) cancel the permit; Mining Regulations 1981 Part IIA Permits under section 40E r.

4M page 10 Version 11-j0-02 As at 22 Jan 2018 Extract from www.slp.wa.gov.au, see that website for further information (c) disqualify the permit holder from holding or applying for a permit for such period, not exceeding 3 years from the date of the decision to disqualify, as the Minister thinks fit. (3) The Minister may take action under subregulation (2)(a) or (c) whether or not the permit has expired or has been surrendered. (4) If there are 2 or 3 permit holders for a particular permit, those permit holders are jointly and severally liable for the payment of a penalty imposed under subregulation (2)(a). (5) The Minister may recover a penalty imposed under subregulation (2)(a) in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due by the permit holder to the State. [Regulation 4L inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 708; amended in Gazette 1 Feb 2013 p. 451.] 4M. Right of permit holder to make submissions (1) The Minister is not to take action under regulation 4L(2) unless the Minister — (a) has caused a notice in accordance with subregulation (2) to be posted to the permit holder at his or her last known address; and (b) has considered any submissions made by the permit holder on or before the date specified in the notice. (2) The notice is to specify — (a) the proposed action; and (b) a date on or before which the permit holder may make written submissions to the Minister on the matter. [Regulation 4M inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 708.]

4N. Prospecting report on recovered minerals (1) If a permit holder recovers any minerals from land in the course of prospecting in accordance with the permit, the permit holder Mining Regulations 1981 Permits under section 40E Part IIA r. 4O As at 22 Jan 2018 Version 11-j0-02 page 11 Extract from www.slp.wa.gov.au, see that website for further information is to prepare and lodge a written report in accordance with subregulations (2) and (3). (2) The report is to — (a) contain details of each type of mineral recovered from the land; and (b) specify the quantity of each type of mineral recovered; and (c) specify, in relation to each type of mineral recovered, the exact location of its recovery. (3) The permit holder must, within 14 days after the permit stops being in force — (a) lodge the report, or cause it to be lodged; and (b) give a copy of the report to the holder of the relevant exploration licence. (4) A person who contravenes subregulation (1) commits an offence. (5) A person who, in a report, gives information that the person knows is false or misleading in a material respect commits an offence. [Regulation 4N inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 709; amended in Gazette 18 Mar 2011 p. 912.]

4O. Prohibition of use of certain hand tools (1) A permit holder is not to use powered or hydraulically driven hand tools on the land the subject of the permit. (2) A person who contravenes subregulation (1) commits an offence. [Regulation 4O inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 709.] Mining Regulations 1981 Part IIA Permits under section 40E r.

4P page 12 Version 11-j0-02 As at 22 Jan 2018 Extract from www.slp.wa.gov.au, see that website for further information 4P. Application of r. 98 and 99 Regulations 98 and 99 apply to a permit holder as if references in those regulations to — (a) the holder of a mining tenement included a permit holder; and (b) the tenement included the land the subject of a permit. [Regulation 4P inserted in Gazette 2 Feb 2001 p. 709.]

The 2 main points for APLA members to be aware of are;

1. You must wait 21 after the issuance of the permit before you can enter the applied ground,
2. Once you have completed your prospecting/ exploring activities, a report is required to be submitted to DEMIRS even if nothing was found.

Submitted by James Allison

2023 Goldfields Year in Review

This year the Goldfields Branch welcomed two new committee members, Roy Richards and Sue Murphy. We also had a slight internal shuffle of positions and the Committee as it stands now is:

President – Julie Bradley

Vice-President – Tim Bates

Secretary – Rob Laing

Treasurer – Annie Laing

Committee Members – Lindsay Stockdale, Ziggy Wolski, Lawrie Shaw, Roy Richards and Sue Murphy

APLA Executive Delegates – Lindsay Stockdale, Ziggy Wolski and Julie Bradley

Our wonderful Committee has been very active behind the scenes this year attending meetings and providing input to consultations and submissions to DMIRS and DPLH. Lindsay and Julie have been kept busy with all the changes in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, and the Committee as well as James Allison held a meeting with Mia Davies MLA, Shadow Minister for Mines and Petroleum and Aboriginal Affairs in July.

Once again, this year the Goldfields Branch had some lively meetings with interesting guest speakers. Speakers included:

- Peter Green who gave a very informative and interesting talk on the Search for Hunt's State Well, a historical water catchment which was a valuable water source for our pioneers
- Krystal Coleman from Westernex who gave us a presentation on their products for exploration, including navigation equipment etc
- Grant Bussell from DPLH Kalgoorlie who gave us an update on changes in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage space
- Scott Wilson who gave a very engaging overview of his prospecting background and the history of the Golden Mile
-

At each meeting we give away door prizes from Minelab, local businesses, members and speakers. Congratulations to all recipients and a big thank you to our sponsors. In April, at members' request, we hosted Aaron Raddock to deliver his course "Cracking the Prospecting Code" in Kalgoorlie. We had a great turnout and everyone learnt a lot.

The APLA State AGM in September was held in the Goldfields this year in Coolgardie, and we had three Goldfields members give great presentations. Thanks to Scott Wilson, Tony Pilkington and Lindsay Stockdale for sharing from their wealth of knowledge and experience.

This year the Goldfields Branch contribution to the raffle was a Minelab Vanquish 450 which was won by Jan Zyla from the Mandurah Branch.



This year APLA Goldfields once again participated in the annual St Barbara's Day Parade held on the first Sunday in December. We had a ball and Lindsay and Rob throwing "gold nuggets" to spectators was a real crowd pleaser. Thanks to Ziggy once again for the use of his truck and thanks to Ziggy and Nola Wolski, Lindsay Stockdale, Rob Laing, Sue Murphy, Gorden Allen, Tim Bates and Julie Bradley for participating.





Next year we hope to amp up the parade to celebrate APLA's 120 year anniversary and would love as many APLA members as possible to join us. **We welcome all Branches to consider participating next year.**

The Goldfields Branch wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you next year!



Prospecting Poem by Gerry Baylee.

I have a poem for you all, about the year to come
It will be lucky for a few, if not for everyone.

You may be in the Outback, your detector in your hand
You're hoping for a signal, and a big one would be grand.

You're looking at the ground ahead, which doesn't seem that hot
Until you get a signal that reveals you've hit the spot.

You think of all the trash that you have picked up in the day
And once you've found the trash at hand the noise will go away.

You scrape the ground to move the rocks cause that's what you've been told
And use the rare earth magnet, which will pull trash from the gold.

And once you have the hole revealed, the signal's still within
It must be just a bullet or you've missed a bit of tin.

So you scrape a little deeper and dig to find the source
And now you have just two small heaps to separate of course.

One heap shows no signal so you push it in the hole
And the pile that you are left with must most surely hold the gold.

This one is elusive, and it must be small to hold
But every little nugget is worth its weight in gold.

For around four thousand million years, it's lain there in the ground
Just waiting for the moment that it's presence will be found.

And there it is, it's in your palm and shining, as does gold
The wonder of the planet and your pleasure to behold.

You hold your breath, and breath a sigh; you've had a mighty find
The effort that you spent today flows freely from your mind

That's why we go prospecting in the outback as we do
Cause the next big nugget found out there, may be found by me, or you.

Gerry (Banjo) Baylee January 2024

APLA TRAINING DATES FOR 2024

APLA will be conducting several FREE training sessions early this year to get you ready for the 2024 prospecting season.

Training sessions will be run as per the schedule below.

Please contact persec@apla.com.au to book your spot as early as possible as some of the sessions will be in high demand.

Tengraph and GeoView Training dates.

Location, Western Australian Lapidary and Rock Hunting Club - 31 Gladstone Rd, Rivervale, Perth

Session 1	Wednesday 14 th February	½ - 1 day
Session 2	Monday 19 th February	½ day
Session 3	Wednesday 28 th February	½ - 1 day

Tengraph Training Dates.

Location, Western Australian Lapidary and Rock Hunting Club - 31 Gladstone Rd, Rivervale, Perth

Session 1	Wednesday 6 th March	2 ½ hrs
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GeoView Training Dates.

Location, Western Australian Lapidary and Rock Hunting Club - 31 Gladstone Rd, Rivervale, Perth

Session 1	Tuesday 12 th March	2 ½ hrs
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Navigation and GPS Training dates.

Location, Lake Gwelup Reserve Karrinyup

Session 1	Sunday 17 th March	10am - finish
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Contact APLA Perth Branch (persec@apla.com.au) for more details.

BRANCH NEWS

ALBANY BRANCH UPDATE

Meetings held 3rd Saturday of every second month. Each meeting consists of general Branch business and a guest speaker to assist members.

Next meeting 18 February

Contact Michael McCaffery

GOLDFIELDS BRANCH UPDATE

Meetings are held at the Regency Room at the Tower Hotel Crn Maritana and Bourke st Kalgoorlie. Contact R Laing 0418 930 064

Next meeting 8th February

MANDURAH BRANCH UPDATE

Meetings held at 1.30pm, 2 Leslie st Mandurah. See APLA website for dates.

Contact Bob Wilson 0429 001 515

Next Meeting 10th March

SOUTHWEST BRANCH

Meetings Fourth Wednesday of every Second Month at the Capel Golf Club at 7:00pm - \$5 Includes Supper)

Next meeting 26th March

Annual camp is proposed for the long weekend in June.

Contact Judith, SW Secretary for more information, 0428385457

PERTH BRANCH UPDATE

APLA Perth Branch is conveniently located for Perth Members and now meets in the WA LAPIDARY AND ROCKHUNTING CLUB.31-35 GLADSTONE ROAD, RIVERVALE WA.

Next Meeting 20th March



Why you should Join APLA

- Protect Your Rights under the Miner Right.
- Ensure your access to prospecting ground is fought for.
- Free \$20m Public Liability Insurance for Financial members.
- Access to valuable information and help in the Members Newsletter
- Access to APLA training
- Bush Training and Prospecting Camps
- Annual Membership Draw for a Minelab Detector
- Help, advice and support from your fellow members.

Join Now

To take advantage of all the Benefits that a like-minded group of Enthusiasts and Professional Prospectors and Leaseholders can offer you.

AMALGAMATED PROSPECTORS AND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION



Postal Address
PO Box 2715
Ellenbrook WA 6069
www.apla.com.au



Protecting your prospecting rights and future



Take advantage of all the Benefits that APLA of WA Inc, has to offer. APLA has over 100 years of industry knowledge.

Importantly, APLA represents stakeholders to Government on Policies that exclude Prospectors from accessing some areas within WA. APLA fight for your rights to go Gold Prospecting. Delegate Representatives from each branch are attending, representing our members, all 2145 members as at year end 2023. We run training Camps free for Members. Our Branches

do fantastic volunteer work to improve your prospecting experience. Your membership includes public liability Insurance. These are the things that are important.

Recently joined **New Members** please **check out**, up and coming events listed on the APLA webpage. www.apla.com.au click on your branch and the **events** window in the bottom right corner to find out more. Join our members only APLA Facebook page. Link can be found on the bottom of the webpage.

[APLA | Facebook](#) If you need help with a virtual payment or joining just contact:

Membership Officer: **Marise Palmer** Email: tres@apla.com.au Phone: **0403353029**

GOLDHAWK SERIES



Fully Minelab approved for the GPX 6000

Rick Fishers
Metal Detectorist

Swoop in on the smallest flecks to the mightiest nuggets with our magnificent GOLDHAWK metal detector coil:

Available in three Minelab for the (beginner and ser coverage, sharp and swift agility.

- Available in 3 sizes: 9", 10x5" and 14x9"
- Waterproof to 1m / 3ft
- Fits GPX 6000
- 2-year warranty



9" GOLDHAWK MONO

pen or tricky excellent depth and maintained sensitivity for smaller targets.

- 232mm round
- 700g / 24.7oz including attached skid plate
- Waterproof to 1 metre
- 2-year warranty



10x5" GOLDHAWK MONO

Find flecks and deep targets with easy manoeuvrability, outstanding coverage and unparalleled pinpointing.

- 244x140mm elliptical
- 575g / 20.3oz including attached skid plate
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- 2-year warranty



14x9" GOLDHAWK MONO

Prospect all day and spot both smaller sub-gram and larger targets, with reliable ease and accuracy.

- 355x228mm elliptical
- 900g / 31.7oz including attached skid plate
- Waterproof to 1 metre
- 2-year warranty

Access to
1000's of
hectares during
the 2024 season

Prospecting for Gold in WA – training days

Training days for Prospectors held in Mandurah, WA.

If you're just starting out or been in the game for awhile, these one day training courses are for you.

Be a Better Prospector

ONE DAY COURSE

Saturday 16th March 2024

Time: 8:30am to 4:30pm

- Where can I go prospecting.
- How to get onto the right ground.
- Using a Minelab metal detector.
- Secrets of finding gold regularly.
- Getting home in one piece!
- Finding your way around the bush.

Next Level Prospecting

ONE DAY COURSE

Sunday 17th March 2024

Time: 8:30am to 4:30pm

- Ground acquisition.
- Working the ground.
- Tenement expenditure and paperwork.
- Advanced research methods.
- Pegging a lease and the dark art of SPL's (Special Prospecting Licence).



Cost per person \$275 inc GST. Includes morning/afternoon tea.
Access to thousands of hectares of active mining tenements around Leonora for up to 2 months during the 2024 season.
(Offer is only available for course participants).

Training Days to be held at:

Mandurah Business Development Centre, 10 Lively Place, Mandurah WA.

Please go to our website for more details and to reserve your spot by using our 'online booking form'.

www.goldtalkleonora.com.au

Phone: 0418 277 861 or email: admin@goldtalkleonora.com.au

Learn
from
the locals



Training courses for prospectors

Goldtalk Leonora is the only 'school' for prospecting in WA that is run by full time professional prospectors. Local knowledge is critical if you want to find gold in WA! We offer Three Day Training courses in Leonora **AND** One Day Training courses in Mandurah WA.

- The basics you need to learn.
- Patch hunting techniques specific to WA.
- Finding, then working a patch.
- Research.
- Reading the ground.
- Developing a strategy.
- Practical safety.

Aussie Gold Rush Camps

You've seen it on TV. Now come and see it for real! Be part of the crew on our 5 Day/ 4 Night camps. A unique prospecting experience like no other.

- Be involved with a professional prospecting team on active leases as we use heavy earth moving gear to chase down gold.
- Why we dig where we dig.
- As much detecting as you like.
- Drilling.
- Pegging a lease.

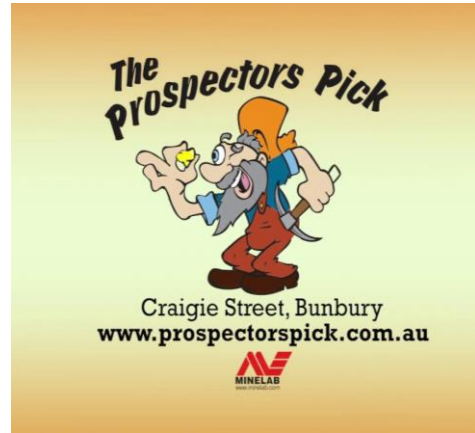
*All training courses and camps gives you **FREE** access to thousands of ha of live mining leases where you can camp/prospect for up to 2 months.*

For course/camp information go to: www.goldtalkleonora.com.au or call 0418 277 861



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NEXT ISSUE OF THE DATUM POST is March.

Cut-off date for advertising 28th Feb, articles, members photos EDITOR contact:
aplanews@apla.com.au

Contact: Ryan Daws 0409 435 702