



NORTH QUEENSLAND MINERS' ASSOCIATION

ABN 76 525 585 093

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Mining Lease Objection Review - NQMA Submission

This is a very complicated Review and impossible to answer all points. NQMA wishes to respond with the following :-

If enacted this process will apply to both Mining Leases and EAs. It will sound the death knell for small to medium sized mining projects in Queensland, unless projects have already granted tenements.

The grant of Mining Leases will be an extremely expensive exercise held up at every stage by a minority of groups who are determined to stop any kind of mining venture. Our elected Government who owns Queensland's minerals should be the only one to have a say regarding the grant of mining tenure and EAs.

As for First Nation involvement in the objection process, we note that there is no mention of local Traditional Owner groups, who miners currently pay Native Title yearly fees to, and have Native Title cultural clearances inspections (for a fee) carried out on granted leases before work can commence.

Objections should only be submitted by people or groups who are directly involved in the mining industry or who are directly affected by granting of mining tenure.

Currently the procedure required for getting a Mining Lease is costly, and a lengthy process. More and more miners have to deal with hostile landholders while trying to negotiate compensation agreements. Some of these landholders only have leases on their properties, pay a fraction of the rent a miner pays, yet seems to have all the rights compared to a miner.

In addition there is the process of trying to negotiate a Native Title Agreement if there is no ILUA in place. It appears that money is the only consideration for the majority of Traditional Owner groups. To further complicate matters, Local Traditional Owner groups appoint Land Councils (who do not support mining) to be their legal representatives.

At least using the present procedure of getting mining tenure granted and EAs approved, a mining project can expect to commence operations within a couple of years. With these new proposals, unless the miner has unlimited time and money, virtually no new mines of any sort would be operating in Queensland, when deposits on current Mining Leases are exhausted.

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In summarising, NQMA members are horrified as to the future of our industry. These proposals are divisive in the extreme and bypass the role Government should play as the owners of the minerals.

Queensland's mining industry will wither and die as current mining leases are mined out.

Mining will not be the only industry affected by these unwarranted and unfounded proposals. Associated service businesses and providers, tenure managers, even small rural towns who rely on the mining industry, will all be affected by the flow on effect as current mining activity ceases.

These proposals are the most serious issue to face our organisation's members since the WIK ruling brought in Native Title.

Yours faithfully

 (President)