

Aubrey Lynch

24 March 2016

Mining Amendment Bill Inquiry Committee
Standing Committee on Legislation
GPO Box A 11
Perth WA 6837

Dear Committee members,

Mining Amendment Bill policy, Consultation and DMP Generally

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission

I have been a Justice of the Peace since 1975, was previously manager of the Mount Margaret Mission, I was also former chairperson of the Aboriginal lands Trust and a founder of the Goldfields Land and Sea Council.

I am supportive of mining as this is the backbone of the West Australian economy. Importantly I want to explain individual small miners and prospectors are the backbone of the mining industry as Wendy Duncan MLA has indicated in parliament are responsible for the discovery at least 80 percent of all the mines in WA. As kids we grew up where we were taught the values/importance of small mining/prospecting and how Aboriginal people sink shafts, dig holes, could crush, treat dirt/ore through the battery, and many other productive activities. This essentially taught us the work ethic for working for money and contributing and participating in the community.

Recently I was proudly asked by Anglo Gold Ashanti Australia to do welcome to the country for the opening of the gas pipeline at the Tropicana Gold Mine . At this opening the Minister for Mines Bill Marmion MLA was at the opening at Tropicana. I told Bill Marmion privately at this opening that we had some unfinished business and would catch up with him as I had previously met the Minister on the 21 June 2015 in Kalgoorlie concerning the Mining Amendment Bill where I addressed the Minister and also gave him a file of information.

In terms of some background I and others were called Wombats by the president of APLA for fighting to have consultation on this Mining Amendment Bill. The president of APLA I now understand has resigned and I simply say that's the best thing that could have happened. I will address this later but I want to say this. In my lifetime I have been called lots of things including having adverse racist comments made about me.

In one sense I'm very proud of being called a wombat from the former president of APLA and my history growing up with mining culture/small mining/ prospectors and working with mining companies all over Western Australia. If you want to call us wombats, well us wombats dig holes/ look for minerals in the downtimes and goodtimes. We also contribute to the economy by spending money in the various mineral districts within WA which is far more than some of these St George's Terrace miners who basically only warehouse land with mineral titles with the full support of the department, spend virtually no money on real exploration to find the mines of tomorrow and essentially don't do much grass roots exploration in the regions. Incidentally in Kalgoorlie we also have the WASM Wombats which is part of the West Australian School of Mines (WASM) supporting the mining sector and these are good people.

I am not a member of APLA and I can honestly say after this experience with this Mining Amendment Bill and the former President that I will never join APLA in my lifetime simply because of the injustices that one person from APLA created to so many other small miners/prospectors in which we are now fighting for our survival by trying to have this bill rejected /changed because of the complete lack of consultation with such an important group in the industry

Unfortunately in my view APLA largely but not entirely represents recreational fossickers and 'weekend warriors' so any consultation that may have taken place even with APLA is not necessarily representative of professional small miners and prospectors. To support my view and understand one only has to read the email from Mr Les Lowe dated 8 May 2015(see attached) who was on the executive of APLA with the former President of APLA Mike Lucas. I now understand Mr Les Lowe is the President of APLA. I have attached this email so you as the committee recognise what I have said about APLA representing weekend warriors and recreational fossickers.

I wish to make the point I'm not doing this to attack APLA but it gives you an understanding of even when consultation was purportedly being undertaken with APLA, it was not necessarily with a group whom the Minister for Mines identified on the 21 June 2015 as being in between APLA and AMEC. At the meeting on the 21 June 2015 in Kalgoorlie after I and a few others gave presentations, the Minister told the group at a public meeting that he could see that we hadn't been properly consulted with this Mining Amendment Bill.

I again emphasize and make the point on the 21 June 2015 which is well after the Bill was introduced into the parliament the Minister Bill Marmion told the big group in Kalgoorlie that he could recognise and see that we hadn't been properly consulted.

I will go one step further not only hadn't we been consulted, we have been neglected and overlooked in terms of proper consultation and pushed aside even when identified by the Minister on the 21 June 2015 and in my view treated harshly, in a highly disrespectful manner all because we have been fighting to do what my father proudly taught me and others who grew up with for the past 50 years and that is being involved in mining and contributing to the WA mining industry/economy. This actually makes me feel sickened and disgusted as I felt like the Minister and his department have been kicking us and treating us like dirt and when I was at Tropicana with the Minister.

The Minister Bill Marmion MLA put out a press release dated 11 February 2016(see attached) about this gas pipeline opening at Tropicana in part stating

'Early consultation with stakeholders is now a fundamental part of doing business in Western Australia;'

I agree that **'early consultation'** with stakeholders is now a fundamental part of doing business in WA but obviously the Minister for Mines does not apply that same principle for stakeholders who conduct business with the Department of Mines and Petroleum because if he did he would simply recognise that something seriously has gone wrong with the consultation with this Mining Amendment Bill. In other words the Minister appears to expect industry to conduct **'early consultation'** but with his own department that he is responsible for it doesn't seem to matter if no real consultation takes places with important stakeholders **'early' before the bill** is introduced into parliament outside the Associated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association(APLA), Chamber of Minerals and Energy(CME) and Association of Mining and exploration Companies(AMEC).

With respect to this Mining Amendment Bill being possibly challenged in the Legislative Council on or about the 15 February 2016 the Minister went on ABC radio saying that there was a group in Goldfields who wanted no environmental approvals as required. I would like you as the Committee to request from the Minister Bill Marmion MLA whom this specific group is that he referred to on ABC Radio on or about the 15 February 2016 and name them. Not only name them ask the Minister to produce the evidence that this so called group does not want no environmental approval processes as required, because with all of the Aboriginal people and all the other small miners and prospectors that I know, no one has ever expressed or told the Department of Mines and Petroleum or the Minister that we don't want no environmental approval processes. That proposition put by the Minister on ABC radio would be just outright stupid and for him to tell ABC radio listeners what he did this in my view is insulting to responsible operators in the industry and spreading misinformation, to the wider community which is very unhelpful.

Quite the contrary to what the Minister has said every Aboriginal person I have spoken to whom Im representing and many other small miners and prospectors have all indicated we wanted to work with the DMP to reduce the regulatory burden and make things easier to do business. The problem is though the DMP under guidance of the Minister does not want to work in consultation with us to have policies and laws which are reflective of our education, culture including mining culture and 'unsophisticated business model'.

One example of this complete ignorance and lack of consultation is where the DMP is only going to allow for online lodgement of Mineral title forms and all sorts of other environmental documents. Most of the Aboriginal people I know will never have the computer skills to be able to comply, so we will be forced into a position of having to do things illegally all because the department will not allow for manual online lodgement of forms and various environmental documents. I do not advocate people doing things illegally but when people are faced with survival to be able to do the things they have been doing for a very long time period, human nature is they will resort to whatever they can do to survive. This is absolutely stupid policy from government and I hope you as a committee can recommend that this policy of only

electronic online lodgement and attitude be changed to simply allow for manual online lodgement of all mineral title forms and many other documents.

I predict this policy not only will it create illegal activities it will create illegal mining and this is not good for the industry as a whole or the people whom want to actually comply and do the right thing by completing and lodging forms manually to be able to do what they know best contributing to society in the industry and have done so for a very long period of time.

This issue of online lodgement has partly been raised by Wendy Duncan MLA in a grievance speech in parliament

Wendy Duncan MLA clearly in part stated : (see attached)

'Many prospectors run sometimes small, sometimes unsophisticated, businesses and some have been going into the bush for generations. Whilst they are doing this, they are not on the dole and they are living in and supporting our small regional communities. They are the lifeblood of my goldfield towns.

...

However a very telling statistic is that very few, if any prospectors have submitted a POW online. They do not have an administration officer in town and some do not have a computer ...'

Regardless of how many prospectors lodge online there will always be a significant number of people including many Aboriginal people who cannot lodge documents online and the government needs to simply recognise this because of skills/ education and those people do not need to be disadvantaged or forced into a position where they cannot work legally because they cannot lodge documents manually in hard copy. We are not electronic robots capable of sitting and operating computers simply to go to work in the mining industry, we are human beings and as such need to be respected with our diversity of education and culture.

To be honest part of all this reminds me of what happened with the Eureka Stockade a long time ago and I told the Minister on the 21 June 2015 to read parts of the Eureka Stockade book in that we should have all learnt from lessons of the past. After the 21 June 2015 meeting the Minister Bill Marmion could have easily withdrawn the Mining Bill indicating that extensive consultation had not taken place with a large important group within the industry, instead what has transpired, he has tried to push forward pretending to consult afterwards which is so unjust and not fair to all of us that who want to work constructively to get a good outcome for the betterment of all West Australians in the mining industry and those outside who rely upon the important industry.

To me the DMP environmental division wants to put us out of business without any proper lengthy consultation and due regard for our current operating unsophisticated business model on a large range of matters but at the same time the Minister Bill Marmion keeps telling us he is helping us. Because it might be described as 'unsophisticated business model' does not mean it is bad either as one only has to look at the success for over 80 per cent of all the mines in WA being discovered by individual small miners/prospectors. So the so called unsophisticated business model described by Wendy Duncan MLA has served this state very well as these mines generate enormous royalties and employment for all West Australians.

The gold mining industry according to media articles is in a 9 year low and the Minister with his department with a complete lack of consultation on this Mining Bill from important stakeholders wants to ignore the very people as individuals who have been responsible for finding over 80 per cent of mines in WA which are capable with the right policies and laws supportive of the overall mining sector to bring us out of the 9 year low. I would like my submission and attachments to be made public as all of the matters I have raised are far too important not to be made public. I honestly feel the Minister and this Mining Amendment bill if it is not changed/rejected and with proper extensive consultation is on the verge on sending the industry into a downward spiral.

Overall I believe we need to have a permanent parliamentary inspector like the CCC parliamentary inspector who has extensive mining knowledge and experience and can monitor the misconduct/conduct and behaviour of the DMP and the Minister for Mines on a whole range of matters which I have not mentioned in this submission.

I would like to give further evidence in Kalgoorlie when the Committee visits.

Kind Regards

Aubrey Lynch

RE: URGENT CONTACT

Les Lowe
8/05/2015

To: Michael Charlton

All good stuff, Mike. Thanks for your "thanks"!

I'm pleased that at last someone shook Mike Lucas to his roots. It's odd that he's complaining about getting mixed up with "outsiders" when I was him that told Steve Keane to phone me 'cos Lucas was about to go on holiday!!! I got GBH of the earhole for two hours from Steve - God Bless him. Lucas has always had the view that ALL correspondence must pass through him before issue - which is all well & good as long as you're here to sign everythingand KNOW what you're signing.....and be fast enough off the mark to stop the beast before it bites ya! APLA had no choice but to get on with this current issue whilst he was away in Egypt or wherever. I reckon we've done him a big favour by moving it along and all he can do is moan about it.

I warned people about him and his "she'll be right" attitude last November. Now people can see what I was talking about. I was stunned when as Pres of APLA he reckoned we didn't need to put in a submission last year. I was outraged and put one in as a private person as he didn't want APLA's name on it! Then I found out it was him that said to the DMP that "0.25" hectare was acceptable. I hit the bloody roof at that stage but had to keep my cool and work with him. EGPA and APLA elders in Kal reckon they won't have a Pres if he quits. Don't worry - I may know a guy that will do it ;) We need an action guy ATM and not bloody airy-fairy procedure driven amateur.

Mike, ATM I'm so frustrated that I may back right off after this as I can't tolerate APLA's current piss weak and amateur methods and lack of awareness for much longer.

My leases may all be sold soon and I'll go back to just detecting if something within APLA doesn't change soon.

Bob Fagan was right in his recent email that heavily criticised the APLA Executive. I have to work with 'em and the bulk of 'em are "weekend warriors", basically clueless.

But all is not lost. We will NOT be stuck with "0.25 hectare" and fossicking I will guarantee that statement. I reckon we've got at least "2.0" hectares in the bag, notification only and no fee.

BUT - I'm going for "5.0" hectare and I feel reasonably confident that I can get it. The next stumbling block that will be attacked is the "shaft sinking" issue. That topic requires a complete rethink by the DMP. They have shown absolute amateurish ignorance over that one. I will prevail.

Thanks for the support and keep in touch,

Les Lowe

APLA Executive

APLA president under fire, call for resignation

In response to APLA president Mike Lucas saying in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*: "It is a blatant lie that I set up this 0.25" (Fee attack swivels to APLA, 18/6).

Firstly, in a ministerial briefing note by Tyler Sujdovic — principal policy adviser from Minister For Mines Bill Marmion's office it clearly states: "27 January 2015, Mike Lucas, Phil Gorey discussed (telephone) the letter of 7 January 2015, and APLA suggested a threshold of 0.25ha be applied in the programme of work fees."

You seem to suggest that it is blatant lie. That is quite remarkable while you suggest it is lie and you haven't even seen fit to attack the minister's office for purporting it was a lie.

Instead, you choose to attack Goldfields First publicly rather than the very people who have generated the briefing note.

For the president of APLA to

later come out publicly in the media criticising the minister is gross hypocrisy by him at a monumental level. Mike Lucas can deny it as much as he likes, but his behaviour in having private meetings with DMP environmental officers, and excluding some of his own full-time, long-serving members has really cast another negative light on him.

As far as I am concerned if you have the slightest sense of honour and decency you should resign immediately. In my view you have not only betrayed some of your own full-time bona fide members but jeopardised the future prosperity of the entire junior mining industry, and all of the ancillary industries that rely on mining and prospecting for their livelihoods.

I maintain we appear to have been sold out by the APLA president mismanaging this

whole affair, and misguided by recreational fossickers dominating APLA at various levels.

Currently we have low impact set as two hectares and up to five hectares, and for APLA to even suggest 0.25 — as recorded in the ministerial briefing note — is nothing less than scandalous for all the full-time, small miners/prospectors operating in the industry.

In a letter dated May 21, 2015, Mr Marmion states: "The Exposure Draft of the Bill was provided to APLA late last year and a specific consultation offered.

Mike, instead of labelling people in Goldfields First as Wombats; rather than attack us, the best thing you could do before you resign is call for a royal commission into the DMP.

Aubrey Lynch,
Kalgoorlie

**DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM — MINING PROPOSAL AND PROGRAM
OF WORK APPLICATION FEES**

Grievance

MS W.M. DUNCAN (Kalgoorlie — Deputy Speaker) [9.50 am]: I thank the Minister for Mines and Petroleum for taking this grievance. I also thank the member for Eyre for his grievance on behalf of my constituents in Williamstown. It is a matter of concern to me also. I have written to the Environmental Protection Authority and to the Minister for Lands because a complex tenure issue is involved there.

This grievance is important because there are some principles at stake and I would like the minister to have the opportunity to record in *Hansard* some of the verbal assurances I have received from his officers. The matter came to a head in January when Dr Phil Gorey, the executive director of environment at the Department of Mines and Petroleum, wrote to prospectors about the implementation of application fees for mining proposals and programs of work, known as POW. He advised that after 1 July, the fees will be \$590 for a POW and \$6 950 for a mining proposal in an endeavour to raise \$2.7 million through cost recovery to implement the reform of environmental regulation, known as the RER process.

Minister, these fees will jeopardise the exploration that is critical to the future of our mining industry and the royalty flow that is so important to our government and our people. It will also jeopardise the attractiveness of our state for mineral exploration. When I met with representatives of DMP on 10 February, they advised me that consultation around the RER had been happening since 2009 and that the Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association was part of it. However, APLA has told me that it was firm throughout that there should be no new fees, that this proposal has come totally out of left field and that it has greeted it with consternation and dismay.

The key issue is that these are up-front fees. By its nature, prospecting is a very risky business, with no guarantee of income and I fear that these fees will discourage prospectors from going bush. Many prospectors run sometimes small, sometimes unsophisticated, businesses and some have been going out into the bush for generations. While they are doing this, they are not on the dole and they are living in and supporting our small regional communities. They are the lifeblood of my goldfields towns. Gold has been the driver of these communities for 120 years, but all the easy gold has been found. Gone are the days when we could kick over a nugget, as Paddy Hannan did. The gold that is available for discovery these days is usually in very isolated places like Tropicana or Telfer, and is often covered with an overburden of topsoil that masks the geology or is of low grade.

We are sending a mixed message to our prospectors. Through royalties for regions, we have spent over \$100 million through the exploration incentive scheme which has not only the co-funded drilling component, but also streamlined applications and approvals. It has enabled the development of databases and tens of thousands of pieces of information. Thanks to this RFR investment, DMP is well on the way to a paperless system, which one would think should deliver immense savings to government. However, a telling statistic is that very few, if any, prospectors have submitted a POW online. They do not have an administration officer in town, and some do not even have a computer. Hon Norman Moore got it right in his valedictory speech on 21 May 2013 when he said the following —

... the exploration incentive scheme, which was a National Party initiative in the 2008 election ... is a very, very important scheme. It is all about encouraging companies to explore in greenfields areas of Western Australia. ... Every mine ... is finite, every ore body is finite, and if we do not find tomorrow's mines today, this industry does not have a future.

I am told that, historically, 80 per cent of our mines in Western Australia have been originally found by prospectors. In fact, APLA has provided me with some information from a 2002 newsletter "Datum Post", which stated at that time that 43 per cent of all prospecting licence titles, 15 per cent of all exploration licence titles and 31 per cent of all mining licence titles were held by non-corporates. If that ratio was extrapolated to today, DMP would expect around \$60 million in expenditure requirements on tenements held by non-corporates. This is the problem. In isolation, the proposed fees might not seem like much, but on top of expenditure requirements as well as dramatic increases in local government rating of mining tenements, prospectors can see little hope of coming out in front.

As a result of the decision by the Valuer-General on the valuation of mining tenements, local government rates have increased, in some cases, by over 400 per cent. One prospector told me that council rates on one of his ELs will increase from \$4 789 to \$19 637. This is just unsustainable and will kill the industry that is not only the lifeblood of our goldfields towns but also very much a part of our culture and heritage.

I acknowledge that the department has advised its intention to ease the burden of the rollout by granting exemptions for low impact works that disturb less than 0.25 hectares. However, while appreciated, this just

introduces more uncertainty. What is low impact? How is the 0.25 hectares defined? Is it the area scraped, does it include the area where vegetation and topsoil are pushed up, does it extend as far as the dozer tracks? Prospectors also tell me that 0.25 hectares is too small to be of any use. There is also uncertainty about how often a POW needs to be submitted. Prospectors are concerned that if, having submitted a POW and paid \$590, they find nothing and decide to move on, then another fee will be applicable. One prospector, in an email to me said —

As the rules stand now to dig the old style shaft 1mtx2mt and 10mt deep with a windlass or my modern air winch I need to apply for a mining proposal and after July 1st that is going to cost \$7000k, I hope there is some gold at the bottom.

There must be a better way to raise \$2.7 million. When I asked the DMP representatives what happens to the tenement application fees, royalties and rent they collect, I was told it went into consolidated revenue and Treasury would not give it back. First and foremost, these fees should fund the legislative responsibilities of the department that collects them. Are we being asked to fund the Rolls Royce of environmental regulation when a more economical model might suffice?

Yesterday, the Resource Information Unit Explorers Conference noted a dramatic drop in budget allocations for exploration. We need to encourage exploration, not jeopardise it. I ask that this decision be reviewed.

MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [9.57 am]: I thank the member for Kalgoorlie for the grievance and some notice of it last week. I probably should begin by acknowledging the member's point. I agree with the member that prospectors are the lifeblood of the industry; indeed, they are responsible for the majority of mineral finds in Western Australia. I have received not only this grievance but also letters from prospectors, including prospectors I have met in my role as a minister, such as one prospector who discovered the Andy Well gold find that Doray Minerals is processing. It was discovered by a prospector, and it is a good example of a find that has become a proper mineral proposal.

The member made the point, and I will probably emphasise it during my response, that these are very small fees in relation to the whole operation of a program of works and also, of course, a mining proposal. Indeed, someone applying for a mining proposal would be seeking to mine for a mineral. That is why \$7 000 is quite small compared with what is paid in other states. It relates to work undertaken by the department. It does not go to the consolidated fund; it funds the processing in the department and it will be linked to that and, indeed, is audited. If it is less than that, it will be reduced in future. With those opening comments, I can say that no-one likes any fees. With any introduction of fees, there will be push-back. Indeed, I can say that one sector of the industry—the prospectors, the smaller operators—has written a number of letters to me.

I will deal first with the issue of consultation, and there has been consultation. The Mining Act was changed before my time to allow the introduction of fees and since 2009, there has been some consultation with industry, including the prospectors' association. I think the prospectors' association changes membership, so that means the people vary. I am not necessarily criticising the association; it may be that the feedback to prospectors from the representatives on our advisory committees could have perhaps been a bit better.

Ms W.M. Duncan interjected.

Mr W.R. MARMION: Possibly, or perhaps the person on the committee did not speak up as much as some of the other industry representatives. Nonetheless, there has been consultation. Indeed, the initial pricing model was around \$4.8 million that the department put up to me as the minister. I basically said, "Go back and think again." In terms of the environmental reforms that we are putting in, the argument from the department was that we are moving from a risk-based and outcome-focus to a process that allows more flexibility and scope and innovation for mining companies to run their own operations in making sure they look after the environment. The outcome will be good for the environment if they do it how they want to, rather than a prescriptive process with inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum going out regularly. The counterargument is that if that is the case, fewer resources are needed. We are looking at that, so we can implement these changes and not have any fees. In this case, I asked them to halve the money they want to recoup. Rather than being an annual fee, I have aligned it to an actual application fee; the fee is paid only when the application is put in. I will get to some further work we are doing on that in a minute. In terms of implementation, the member for Kalgoorlie has the figures right: it is \$590 for a program that works, which does allow for four years of activity; and the fee for a mining proposal is just below \$7 000. That lasts for the life of the mine. Once the mining proposal is put in, that is the only application fee to be paid.

I make a quick point in relation to Queensland, which I guess is our major competitor of the states. Queensland has an annual fee for exploration and prospecting activities—and it is over \$1 800. The charge for mining activity can be as high in Queensland per annum as \$77 000. We are well under that, and we would never want to go anywhere near that.

I quickly touch on shire rates. That is a serious concern to me, and the figure the member gave was disturbing—it going from \$4 800 to nearly \$20 000. I have been talking to the Minister for Lands. We understand how that has happened and we are working very quickly to resolve that. We hope to get some legislative changes through so that we have resolved that problem before rate notices go out next year. There should be good news on that matter. That is way and above the impact in terms of dollars of these application fees. I hope that the industry will be supportive of those changes and a welcome reduction in fees.

Back to the impact of the fees, we have not shut the gate on the 0.25 hectare. That is what we have at the moment in terms of minimal impact for prospectors. Indeed, this figure came from the advisory board: the 2.25 hectare disturbance related to about 20 per cent of applications for programs of works, and these would be exempt from the fee under that figure of 0.25 hectare. My department and I are open to constructive comment on what represents a low-impact application. I am receiving a lot of advice on that at the moment from my department. I am very open on that aspect. We have not shut the gate on that, and we are working with prospectors to see whether there can be a resolution on that front.



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

Gas boost for Eastern Goldfields energy supply

Minister Marmion was joined at the official opening by representatives from AGA Group and Tropicana.

Date: Thursday, 11 February 2016

Mines and Petroleum Minister Bill Marmion has praised the lead agency role of the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) in the approvals process for the 292km extension of the Eastern Goldfields pipeline.

The Minister said the pipeline was a great example of how lead agency work by DMP and industry collaboration could drive down costs and deliver infrastructure ahead of schedule. It was completed in less than 12 months.

The APA Group's \$140 million extension of the pipeline, which will eventually service a number of mines in the region, was officially opened by Minister Marmion yesterday at the Tropicana Gold Mine, located 330km north-east of Kalgoorlie.

The pipeline will extend from the current Murrin Murrin/Yarraloola terminus to AngloGold Ashanti's Sunrise Dam Gold Mine and on to Tropicana.

"The two mines will use natural gas for local power generation, displacing diesel fuel and liquefied natural gas transported by road," Mr Marmion said.

"Utilising gas as feedstock is not only cheaper, but also reduces truck movements on access roads."

He said he expected the pipeline to be further expanded to service other mines in the region in addition to the initial contracts, with eight proposed or potential mining projects in the region.

"Only last month Dacian Gold said it would make a final investment decision on its Mt Morgan project, which neighbours the Granny Smith operations. The pipeline is only 16km from the Red October project," Mr Marmion said.

"There is also the potential for future gas supply to prospective uranium and rare earth projects with Mulga Rock, the second largest uranium resource in WA, only 83km south of the pipeline and the Mt Weld rare earth mine only 21km north."

Minister Marmion said the growth of the Eastern Goldfields had been assisted by the State Government's Exploration Incentive Scheme (EIS) with funding of a deep seismic survey and an airborne geophysical survey of the area.

"This data is giving us a better understanding of the region's geological structures at depth and prospectivity, with Tropicana representing the most significant gold find in Australia in the past decade, and more recently Gruyere," he said.

He congratulated the pipeline proponents' commitment to consultation with pastoralists and the local shires of Laverton and Menzies.

"Early consultation with stakeholders is now a fundamental part of doing business in Western Australia," he said.

Fact File

- The 292km Eastern Goldfields pipeline comprises 16,500, 18m lengths of pipe
- Primary gas customers will be the Tropicana and Sunrise Dam Gold Mine operations, run by AngloGold Ashanti
- The pipeline is being developed by the APA Group
- The new pipeline will extend the Goldfields gas system to almost 1,800km
- WA's Department of Mines and Petroleum played the lead agency role in the approvals process
- Potential for future gas supply to uranium and rare earth projects
- Natural gas to replace diesel and LNG currently transported by road
- \$140 million project completed ahead of schedule

Environmental Regulation

The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) promotes best environmental management practices by delivering environmental regulatory and policy services to maximise the responsible development of the State's mineral and petroleum resources.

The DMP Environment Division (ED) assesses mineral, petroleum and geothermal exploration and development applications made within Western Australia. It has a responsibility to assess, audit and inspect mineral, petroleum and geothermal activities to ensure their operation is consistent with the principles of responsible and ecologically sustainable exploration and development. ED operates a Quality Management System (QMS) which complies with the requirements of ISO 9001:2008.

Environmental approvals are granted in accordance with the Mining Act 1978 (WA), Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Environment) Regulations 2012 (WA), Petroleum Pipelines (Environment) Regulations 2012 (WA) and Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Environment) Regulations 2012 (WA).

Clearing permits are granted under delegation from the [Department of Environment Regulation](#) in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004.

The headings of each section below link to more information on the environmental regulation of the mineral and energy resources industry.



[The Golden Gecko Award](#)

23 years of recognition of environmental excellence in the mineral and energy resources sector in Western Australia.



Changes to lodgement of Programme of Work (PoW) and Mining Proposal (MP) applications effective 1 July 2015.

Application Fees

From 1 July 2015, DMP is introducing assessment fees for PoW and MP applications. These fees are \$590 for PoWs and \$6950 for MPs. Fees will not be payable under certain conditions.

[Mining Proposal and Programme of Work Assessment Fees - Fact Sheet](#)
Information on assessment fees which apply from 1 July 2015

Online Lodgement

From 1 July 2015, lodgement (where available) is through DMP's Environmental Assessment & Regulatory System (EARS).

This means customers cannot lodge hard copy applications where an online option is in place. All applications other than PoW-Ps (prospecting) and MPs with a Mining Lease Application (MLA), need to be lodged online.

DMP has a target for all customer transactions to be conducted online by mid 2016.

[Lodge an environmental application or report](#)

Applications and annual reports for petroleum or mineral development can be lodged for environmental approval.

[View publicly available information](#)

Approvals and reports for existing sites are made publicly available and can be accessed online.

[Track the progress of your application](#)

If you have already lodged an application with DMP, you may be able to track its progress online.

[Environment standards and guidance](#)

Find out about the environmental standards that apply to the mineral and energy resources sector in Western Australia.

[Reforming Environmental Regulation \(RER\)](#)

DMP to implement a Reforming Environmental Regulation (RER) program, which will fully integrate a risk based approach to achieve best practice in regulatory services.

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