

Dear members,

My credentials are that I have been prospecting and small scale mining in Western Australia since 1988 and hope to continue into the future. I am an active member of APLA and have held local branch positions. The current alterations to the act etc will impact on my operations in some shape and form. Generating point by point the problems I see will be addressed by APLA and other peak bodies.

The existing system for prospectors and small miners has been and will always be a side show as far as the peak mining bodies and the DMP is concerned. Almost all previous adjustments to the act were developed to improve the outdated legislation in regard to large scale mining i.e. Open Pits and associated exploration and milling. They had to be altered because mining in the 1980 bears no resemblance to current practices. Also as a society we want and need more responsibility to be undertaken by companies and individuals for health and safety, the environment, Native Title etc. To aid in this evolution of the act The Mining Industry Liaison Committee was formed to look at current and future direction it will take. The peak bodies are represented along with the DMP and APLA. Unfortunately the APLA representatives are only volunteers who have limited recourse to legal counsel in regard to all alterations. This makes it difficult for APLA to actually fully understand how and what is going to occur if this raft of policy alterations are accepted which might have led to the current situation. The DMP always gives ample opportunity to place submissions forward on any proposed changes to any individual prospectors and interested parties but at this point the policy direction has been set. An area that the DMP could view is as they already have all the tenement owners e-mail addresses on the MRF data base could they not e-mail out any policy documents to all the stakeholders instead of having to subscribe. This might improve the early feedback on proposed changes. What I find is that these policy direction changes have at this early stage no actual changes to the act pencilled in. This is of course is to be expected in the formative stage. But once submissions are processed the legal alterations flowing from this process are not as open as I would like. There should be open forums held at DMP branches to discuss these legal alterations and extensive advertising both in house and in the public domain. At this point changes can still be made that might not cause any future waste of the state parliament's time.

The wealth generated by the small independent prospectors cannot be undervalued. Even though APLA has in excess of one thousand members there are probably over ten thousand part and full time prospectors that derive an income from gold in Western Australia.

The current changes to the act will benefit mainly the larger miners but the collateral damage will be to this substantive block of active prospectors. I know that to legislate just for this other area of endeavour in the mining industry is too onus. So a better solution needs to be found.

In conclusion I fully support APLA's submission and hope that this legislation can be altered to minimise any future impact on my endeavours to mine for gold in Western Australia.

Regards

Glyn Morgan B.Sc.

24/03/2016.