

Standing Committee on Legislation - inquiry into the Mining Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

SUBMISSION TITLE

Submission by:

Name and contact details: Mr Nigel Heald

A brief outline of the authors background relevant to this inquiry:

I have been self employed as a full time prospector since 1979, am a current tenement holder

General background to this submission

The purpose of this submission is to highlight the harm being done to the prospecting industry by the environmental branch of the DMP who's staff are becoming increasingly more militant and seem more concerned with stopping any prospecting activities at ~~cost~~ and at least delaying any activities to the extent that it becomes too hard to comply with all the required paperwork and reporting to the extent that you just throw your hands in the air with frustration and move onto something else. Below is a list of examples

- ① up to three reports per tenement required per year expenditure report, annual environmental report, MRF report, if you have a modest 10 tenements that's up to 30 reports per year, all requiring you to be in town, when do you get to do any work if you are continuously writing reports

Supporting evidence

② threatening bully boy tactics used, making criminals out of prospectors for nothing more than lodging a report late. example on the 16-3-2016 received a email titled a friendly reminder telling me that if my MRF reports on not lodged on time I could be fined \$4000.00 per tenement, these fines are not for doing any environmental harm but for the late lodgement of a form!

③ unnecessary delays in the approvals process, example took close to twelve months to get approval to carry out some low impact scraping, detecting and dogflowing on EL some of the reasons given, I had used the word mining in my application, apparently I had to use the word prospecting, this required me to rewrite and resubmit my proposal.

④ Department continuously losing reports then issuing a notice of forfeiture for your tenements for non compliance of reporting, when you point out that the report was sent by registered mail and quote the required number the report is mysteriously found, this happens all the time the last time was last year for tenements

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⑤ in 2014 I applied for a extension of term for E this was denied and my tenement put up for forfeiture by a miss Jenny Rowley, when I questioned her why my extension was denied she told me I had not done enough work to warrant her extending the

The case supporting this submission

term of the tenement even though I had done more than the required expenditure amount for each of the prior five years, I complained to my local MP and he made some enquiries, the tenement was immediately given a five year extension, when I again asked miss Jenny Ramily why she had denied the extension she told me she did not no that I had actually worked on the tenement and had a programme of work in place, I asked that she give me that in writing which she refused to do. How could she have not known that I had a programme of work in place a click of a mouse would have told her that and yet she attempted to have my lease forfeited. at best she is not doing her job at worst she is corrupt and was behaving in a malicious manner.

⑥ I have many more examples of the troubles that we prospectors have to go through when dealing with the environmental branch of the DMP unfortunately I do not have the time nor the required amount of paper to document them all

Brief Summary and Conclusion

my belief is that the Dept mines is being overrun by environmental zealots who wish to shut down or curtail any prospecting or small scale mining in west australia yet prospecting has minimal environmental impact and without prospecting most small goldfields towns would no longer exist, a look at victoria or Tasmania where environmentalist hold sway and no prospecting is allowed shows W.A Future

Signed



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18-3-2016

Name

Neil Heald