



THE MINER'S RIGHT

The North Queensland Miner's Association Incorporated
Representing Miners, Prospectors and Associated Industries
MAY 2016

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www.ngma.com.au

[www.facebook.com
/NorthQueensland
MinersAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/NorthQueenslandMinersAssociation)

Next Meetings:

Monday
9th May and 11th July
Mareeba Leagues
Club 12:30pm

Secretary Report

Welcome to WINTER.....well maybe it should be called the Cooler Summer months as this heat is just not giving up here in Far North Queensland!

A couple of updates within this newsletter include the current state of affairs in regards to EMFRL and general information for our members on Native Title and Fossicking.

GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

As the months tick over we are also getting closer to our Annual Event of the Gold Panning Championships. Fresh faces on the volunteering front are always welcome. The registration tent and timekeepers get extremely busy during the day and we do appreciate all assistance we can get. If you can dedicate a few hours please let us know and we will gladly give you a job!

CALLING FOR GOLD

The major fundraising event at the Gold Panning Championships is the Jewellery Raffle. The jewellery is handmade locally and we endeavour to have North Queensland Gold as the "star" of the pieces. We are seeking some nice nuggets or contributions to the pieces as we need to start the making of these within the next couple of weeks. Please contact myself as soon as possible if you have a donation or at cost GOLD that you can provide.

Legislation Updates

On 23 February, the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was introduced into Queensland State Parliament to amend the Mineral and Energy (Common Provisions) Act 2014 (MERC Act). The bill remains within Parliament and has not been passed as legislation as yet. In a nutshell the purpose of the Bill:

- Repeals those parts of the MERC Act that have not yet taken effect limiting the broader community's rights to object to mining projects
- Includes key agricultural infrastructure in the definition of 'restricted land' and prescribes the distance thresholds for restricted land
- Removes the ability for mining leases to be granted over restricted land where landowner consent has not been given and compensation has not been agreed
- Removes the Minister's power to extinguish restricted land for mining lease applications where coexistence is not possible

If you have any questions on this Bill please email through to me for presenting to DNRMR representatives at the next NQMA meeting.

MAPS and More Maps and QTopo

Did you know that everyone now has access to Topographic Maps online. No longer do you need to buy paper maps over many areas to capture the part you need. <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/business/support-tools-grants/services/mapping-data-imagery/maps/topographic-maps> Maps available from this site include, SmartMaps, Topographic Maps, Administrative Maps, Local free maps and flood check maps... If you need a map check this link out first, you may be surprised of what you can access.

President's Comment

The Miners Right has for many years been requesting NQ miners to contribute with some of their personal stories, with very little take up. I find this incredibly surprising, as every miner I know has great stories to tell and always enthusiastic to tell them. In fact you will be surprised at the yarns they tell – and all true. These are the stories we would like to tell in the MR, the stories you tell and laugh about.

I am going to give an example:-

About mid 2000 the Peter Beatty led Labor government started making noises about relaxing the ban on uranium mining in Queensland. One of my mates and I decided we would 'get the jump' on this by securing the best uranium prospects in NQ. This led to a large scale helicopter survey of all of the best radioactive areas known in NQ that took us about 18 months.

During this time the Queensland Labor government was starting to backpedal on uranium mining (under pressure from the Greens and others). About this time Peter Beatty made his 'not while I am Premier' statement, just before he resigned. It was several months before it was made clear that no change would be made to Queensland government policy on uranium mining.

We began to look at thorium. Our interest in thorium was twofold: 1. We had discovered a large deposit of thorium, and 2. thorium, although radioactive, does not have the negative scare mongering that is associated with uranium. Thorium is difficult if not impossible to upgrade to 'weapon grade' as is the main concern with uranium. At the time Thorium was being looked at seriously by many countries as an alternative 'clean' energy source, with several trial reactors being built and trialled.

One of our associates, who will remain nameless, but well known in NQ, A kiwi with many political contacts in NZ, was convinced NZ was a good market, considering their history on clean energy.

He set up a meeting and flew over to Christchurch. The meeting went quite well with the Minister and Advisers very interested – right up to the moment he reached into his backpack and pulled out a sample. The sample alone may have been okay had he not embellished the story with talk of the high grade 'sending the Scintillometer screaming off the dial'. This was met with silence, followed by panicked exit for the door.

Security seized him and his bag of samples. Police and the bomb squad were called in, the building evacuated, and then the whole city block evacuated and the sample very carefully disposed of. The story made the Christchurch Times.

Our mate was eventually released once he convinced the authorities that the sample was harmless and in fact the team in Australia had a camp set up right on top of millions of tons of the same stuff. He returned to the camp with his tail between his legs and never mentioned selling Thorium to NZ again.

The potential to become 'uranium kings' had passed, so we all moved onto other projects and the uranium and thorium still sits in the ground!

Ralph

Quote from Henry Lawson's "Eureka"

*But not in vain the diggers died. Their comrades may rejoice
For O'er the voice of tyranny is heard the peoples voice
It says: "reform your rotten laws, the diggers' wrongs make right
Or else with them our brothers now, we'll gather to the fight"*

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FIRE AND RESCUE LEVY

By: Claire Mackney

On 1st of February we were advised that the new Minister had been briefed on the concerns of the NQMA and QSMC and that the QFES Revenue Command were awaiting direction from the Minister in relation to beginning the consultation process. I was advised that while the government recognised the plight of the small operator, they were not satisfied that the levy should be reduced for larger operators. The NQMA was tasked with providing an easily implementable way for small and large operators to be differentiated.

The simplest and perhaps most easily recognisable way to identify the size of the operation is be the environmental authority level. At the February general meeting, Luke Croton gave us in principle support that the Mineral Hub would provide the environmental authority category to local governments at time of grant.

On 19th February 2016, the NQMA lodged a submission to the Honorable Bill Byrne, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services for amendments to be made to the Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 2011. The changes we requested were to the amount levied against mining leases to be brought into line with what landholders are currently paying (\$96.40 per annum).

The proposed amendments to the regulation were as follows:

- That miners not conducting activities still have to option to reduce to vacant land;
- A "small operation" (EA level 2) be \$96.40 per annum;
- A "large operation" (EA level 1) be \$235.80 per annum; and
- In the interests of bringing councils onboard, that the changes not be retrospective.

On 13th April I spoke with Phil Horn, Executive Manager, QFES Revenue Command, who advised that they had been in consultation with several stakeholders, including affected councils and DNRM. At that time a draft proposal had been submitted to the Minister's office for discussion. We are advised that it is unlikely that the changes will be through prior to 1 July 2016 and as a result the next levy period may remain unchanged. Phil assures us that statutory declarations will still be accepted by local councils and should we encounter problems to contact QFES to have the matter addressed.

At time of publication of this month's Miner's Right, I am awaiting a return phone call from Phil Horn for further updates in relation to the proposed amendments put before the Minister.

Please also note that the Local Shire Councils are requesting that Statutory Declarations are to be lodged by a cutoff date. If you are eligible for a reduced fee (eg vacant land) and do not lodge your Statutory Declaration by the due date (Miners have been sent individual letters) you will be charged at the full rate. If you have any concerns in regards to this I would urge you to contact the relevant Local Shire Council.

Native Title Information

NQMA Native Title Officer and representative for Native Title matters

NQMA contact: Paul.E.Crossland- (07) 4095 3324 Email- pc403@bigpond.com

The following information is provided in summary by Mr Crossland to explain the Native Title Protection Conditions (NTPCs) and the obligations of the Explorer and the Native Title Parties.

The Explorer's Duties:

1. Identify the Notified Native Title Parties. (also called the "Nominated Native Title Parties")
2. Send notice of grant of the EPM to the Native Title Parties within 7 days of grant of the EPM, including the details under Clause 11.1 ("the Nominated Body Notice")
3. After receiving the invoice for the annual Administration Fee, make the payment to the Native Title Body within 10 business days of receiving an invoice.
4. Before conducting any exploration, send the Exploration Activities Notice ("Program of Works") to the Notified Native Title Parties (can be included with the notice of grant).
5. Depending on the content of the exploration Response Notice, if the Native Title Parties require a meeting with the Explorer, the Explorer must arrange for such a meeting to be held within 20 business days of receiving the Response Notice.
6. If the Explorer is unable to obtain agreement from the Native Title Parties for a time for a meeting, send a written Meeting Notice advising that the meeting will be held on a certain date, at a certain place and time, no earlier than 10 business days from the date that the Explorer gave the Meeting Notice to the Native Title Parties.
7. After the arranged meeting, send an Outcomes Response Notice to the Native Title Parties (8) if a field inspection is required, make arrangements with the Native Title Parties and carry out the Field inspection, within 25 business days of receiving the Response Notice or the Outcomes Notice, whichever is the later (or longer if agreed).
8. After the field inspection, if the Explorer receives an invoice from the Native Title Parties for the field inspection, make payment for the field inspection within 20 business days of the date of the invoice.
9. Send a Field Inspection Notice to the Native Title Parties advising that they must provide a written Inspection Report, within 5 business days of the Field Inspection.
10. If the Explorer does not agree with all the recommendations (a Recommendations Dispute), must send a written Recommendations Objection Notice to the Native Title Parties, within 5 business days of the Inspection Report.
11. Attempt to resolve the dispute within 10 business days of giving the Recommendations Dispute Notice to the Native Title Parties.
12. If the Explorer is unable to resolve a dispute, then must refer the Recommendations Dispute to the Land Court of Queensland to decide the dispute.
13. If the Explorer accepts the Recommendation Report and the Inspection Report contains a recommendation that monitors be on site during ground breaking activities, the Explorer must provide monitors with access to the site during exploration activities, at the Explorer's cost.
14. If the Explorer receives an invoice for payment of the monitors after of completion of the monitoring, must make payment to the Native Title Parties within 20 business days of the date of the invoice.

Native title Information continued...

Native Title Parties duties

1. Send the Nominated Body Response Notice to the Explorer, after receiving the notice of grant from the Explorer. See Clause 11 (note that the NTPCs does not state when the Native Title Party has to send this response notice)
2. Send an invoice for the annual administration fee to the Explorer. see Clauses 8 and 11.2 (note that the NTPCs does not state when the Native Title Party has to send the invoice)
3. If the Explorer sends an Exploration Activity Notice ("Program of Works"), send an exploration Response Notice to the Explorer, within 20 business days of receiving the notice.
4. Attend any arranged meeting with the Explorer.
5. Within 5 business days of receiving the Outcomes Notice, send an Outcomes Response Notice to the Explorer: either advising whether a field inspection is required and nominate the members of the Field Inspection Team or advising that the Native Title Parties have no requirements in relation to the Exploration Activities.
6. If a field inspection is required, make arrangements with the Explorer and carry out the Field inspection.
7. After the field inspection, if the Explorer is to make payment for the field inspection, send an invoice to the Explorer.
8. After receiving the Field Inspection Notice from the Explorer, provide a written Inspection Report within 20 business days of the Field Inspection.
9. If monitors are required to be on site, send the explorer an invoice for payment of the monitors after the completion of the monitoring. The rate of payment for monitors is under Clause 19 in tables contained on pages following page 21 of the NTPCs.

Contact Details for Native Title Groups:

Western Yalanji:

Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
39B Constance Street, Mareeba, QLD 4880
Postal: PO. Box 2682 Mareeba, QLD 4880
Phone: (07) 4092 6712
Email: admin@westernyalanjicorp.com

Ewamian Peoples:

Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation
9A Hort Street Mareeba Qld 4870
Phone: (07) 4092 2555
Fax: (07) 4092 2555
Email: Sharon@Ewamian.com.au

Djungan Peoples:

Nguddaboolgan Aboriginal Corporation
C/- Post Office
Yarrabah Qld 4871
Phone: 0473 614 508 (Judulu Neal)
Email: nguddaboolganPBC@gmail.com



Anson Advisory (Business, Agri & Environmental Consulting)
PO Box 630 Kuranda Qld 4881
Ph: 07 4093 0098 Mob: 0438 877 856
stirling@ansonadvisory.com.au
www.ansonadvisory.com.au

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Fossicking in Queensland

The purpose of this article is to provide a brief overview on fossicking in Queensland. Further information can be found online at <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/fossicking/> or by visiting your local authorised agent.

The dry season is upon us and this typically sees people out in droves camping and enjoying leisure activities such as a bit of gem fossicking or metal detecting. This can cause some concern if people inadvertently step outside of what is considered an allowable activity.

Under the provisions of the *Fossicking Act 1994* an individual, family, educational organisation, commercial tour operator or club may apply for a fossickers licence. A fossicker's licence allows you to search for, and collect approved fossicking materials using hand tools for recreational, tourism and educational purposes. Hand tools include the use of picks, shovels, hammers, sieves, shakers, metal detectors and the like. ***Use of machinery is not permitted under this authorisation.***

Surface collection, ground extraction to 2m below natural ground level from the highest point, or up to 0.5m in streams is allowable. Extraction from overhangs and tunnels are not permitted.

A person fossicking under a licence ***must not*** deface, destroy or injure a tree, clear vegetation, pollute a watercourse or other water storage, dig in a way that likely to cause a gully to form or banks to collapse, place material on a slope where water may wash it away or interfere with improvements, a site of cultural heritage significance or domestic stock.

Materials that can be collected are listed as gemstones, ornamental stones, mineral specimens, alluvial gold, fossils (other than fossils of a vertebrate animal). Fossicking materials do not include meteorites, tektite, or impact or ejected material associated with a meteorite impact structure.

A Fossickers Licence does not allow for extraction of minerals as part of a regular income stream or business. Selling or trades as a hobbyist, or selling the occasional piece is generally permissible.

The state of Queensland has several designated fossicking areas, primarily focussed around the collection of gems and other precious stones. More information on these reserves can be found online at <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/fossicking/>.

Fossicking is not permitted in the following areas:

- national parks, conservation parks and high preservation areas
- nominated waterways of wild river areas
- state forests and timber reserves, except in the declared fossicking areas or general permission areas (see below)
- areas where there has been a determination that native title exists, unless there is an Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the land that permits fossicking
- other areas declared by regulation (these will be signposted).

Fossicking is allowable on unoccupied state land (except where there is a determination of native title), which can be found on MinesOnlineMaps. Fossicking is also permitted on road reserves but you may only collect surface specimens and not dig.

If you wish to fossick outside of these areas, you will need to obtain land holder (pastoral, freehold or otherwise) consent and any conditions. A mining lease holder may also grant you permission to enter the area of their lease for the purposes of fossicking provided you comply with their safety management plan. If you do not obtain land owner consent and enter upon the land for any purpose, you will be trespassing. Consent from an exploration permit holder is not required however, you must maintain a distance of 50 metres from any exploration activities being carried out.

Palmer Goldfields Regional Park

The Palmer Goldfields Regional Park (previously known as the Palmer River Resources Reserve or the R16), was created in 1986 to protect the historically significant remnants of the Palmer River gold era from the 1870's to the 1890's. The park is jointly managed by the Trustees being the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), and the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (DNPSR) (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service).

While mining activity still occurs within the park today, fossicking, panning or metal detecting activities, including the removal of historical artefacts, are strictly prohibited in order to preserve the historical values of the area. Persons found to be undertaking such activities or removing material are subject to penalty in accordance with the Fossicking Act 1994 and/or seizure of tools and equipment.

Further information on allowable activities in the reserve can be found at <http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/palmer-goldfield/about.html#management>.

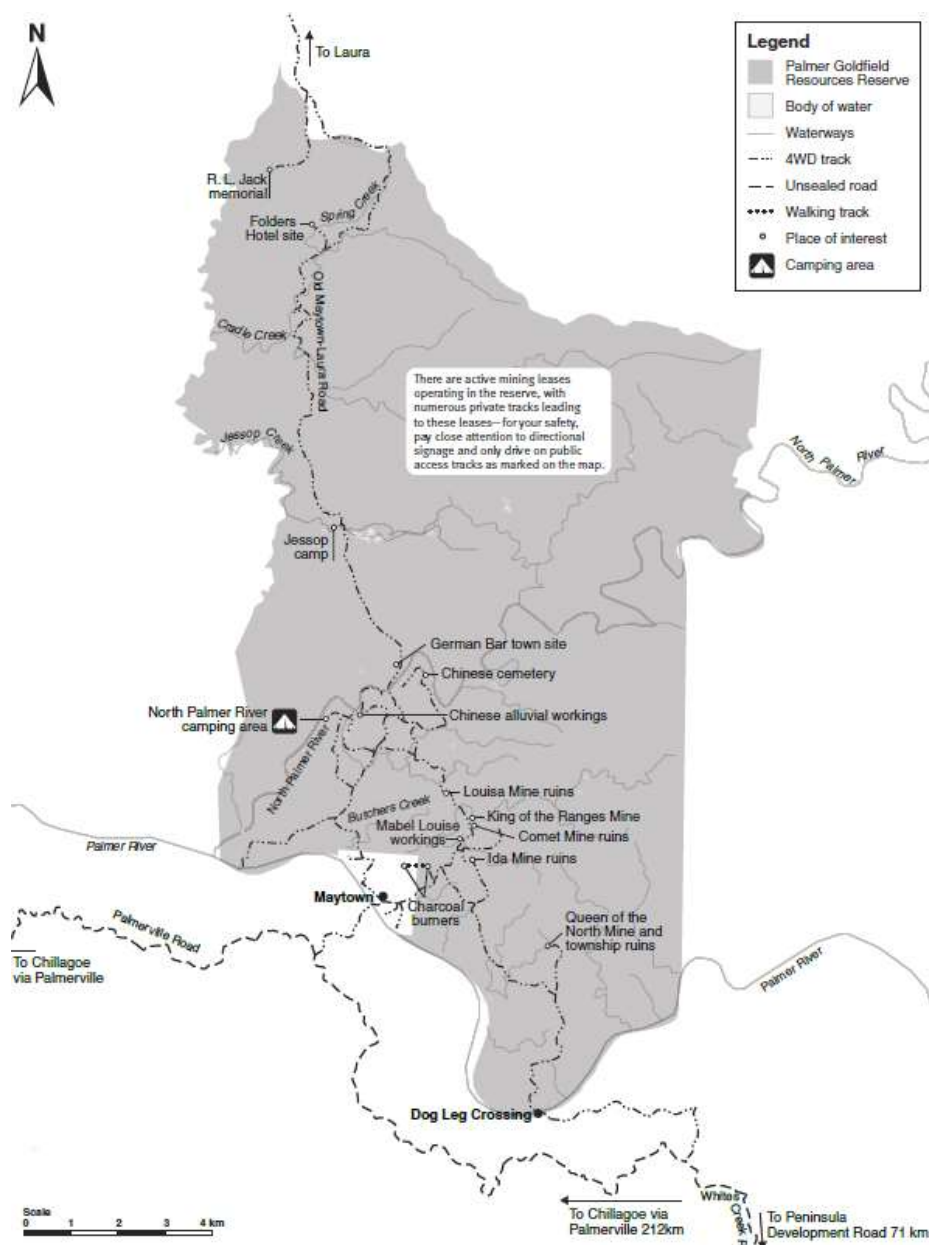




Photo Competition

Don't forget our photo competition held each year in line with our Gold Panning Event. With only 3 months to go before the annual panning championships to be held on 13th August 2016, now is the time to get snap happy to ensure you have lots of great photos to choose from!

AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND METALLURGY 2016 CONGRESS

Far North Queensland Branch

From Friday May 20th to Sunday May 22nd the FNQ branch of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy will be hosting the Institute's annual Congress at the Pacific Hotel in Cairns. This is a gathering of representatives from all of the Institutes branches, societies, and chapters around Australia and overseas.

1. AusImm FNQ Branch Technical Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18th May. This is an all-day (free including lunch) meeting where speakers from all over FNQ talk about their projects. There are also talks and displays by service organisations. There is a Seminar Dinner in the evening (cost is \$50 per person). Venue this year is the Pacific Hotel for the Session and Cairns Sheridan for the dinner.
2. If enough registrations – Thursday 19th May will have an all-day coach tour to Wolfram Camp and Mt Carbine.
3. Friday to Sunday is the AusIMM Congress. Sessions are mostly about governance of the Institute, however there may be some technical presentation. Attendance is free but there will be a fee for catering.
4. On Friday evening 20th May there will be a Harbour Cruise (cost is \$85 per person) hosted by the FNQ Branch. Over 100 delegates from the mining industry within Australian and Overseas will be attending. Anyone offering services to the mining industry could take this as a great networking opportunity!

For bookings to the Branch Technical Meeting (point 1) or other enquiries please contact the Cairns Branch secretary Graham Reveleigh as per below.

Details of the Congress can be found at <http://www.ausimm.com.au/>

Contacts:

Chairman: Rob Ryan, 0429 00 641, mujinga@bigpond.com

Secretary: Graham Reveleigh, 07 4033 1805, mining@cairns.net.au

Seminar Convenor: Brett Duck, 07 4033 0644, brett.bmpl@bigpond.com

Editors Notes:

The Miners Right gets published every couple of months and usually in time for the upcoming meeting. The MR is a great way to get information out to the Mining public. We are constantly asking for contributions to make the newsletter interesting and informative. If you would like to see something in particular or you can contribute in stories, historical information or general mining info please send an email to fiona.abbey@csdtin.com.au or phone through on 07 40539808.

Please support our Associated Members:

- Drill North Pty Ltd, Malanda (Drill Rigs) 07 4095 1199
- Boundary Mining Carbon Services, 07 4091 4905
- Tolga Traders, Tolga (Trailers and Heaters) 07 4095 4296
- North Qld Miners Den, Cairns, 07 4034 3439
- Heavy Equipment Hire, Mareeba, 07 4092 2477
- AMETS Pty Ltd, Tenement Administration 07 4092 6431
- Cooktown Earthmoving and Quarrying, Cooktown 07 4069 5340
- Mining & Resource Permit Services (Pegging and Tenure Admin) 0407 080 673
- Tecsol – Tenement and Environment Compliance Solutions, 07 3855 8875
- BJ Training & Mine Services (incl Explosives Training) 0428 877 940
- Tilly's Crawler Parts Pty Ltd – Freecall 1800Tillys10
- Bremar Minerals (Tin Buyer) 0429 440 604
- Bidner Mining and Engineering, 0447 968 270
- Palmer River Roadhouse, 07 4060 2020
- Marano's Fuel (All Fuel & Oil Needs) 07 4098 8222
- Kim Hillier Turbo Pans 0428 250 364
- Atherton Mower and Chainsaw Services 07 4091 7499
- Mining Tenure Management 07 4093 0052
- Nth Qld Metlabs, 07 4097 6110
- Mangoesmapping Pty Ltd 0409 885 776
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Runs well but needs work
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- 1 x Kobelco excavator
- 2 x 25 ton Volvo 6x6 articulated dump trucks
- 1 x 30 kVA generator set
- 4 x diesel pumps
- 1 x hilux 4x4 tray back
- 1 x Colourbond Shed 11m x 9m
- 1 x 40' container converted to accommodation

Cost: \$128,000

Phone Clyde on 07 4787 1780 or 0408 717 806

1½" Drill Rods

4 x 6 foot length

2 x 7 foot length

\$300.00

1 x Belt type feeder bin - \$2,000

1 x Quick winch - \$1,000

1 x Quick winch with no clutch and brake, all in good order - \$500

Phone Bob Magan
07 4060 2260

ZINC BLOCKS FOR TIN TESTING

Small \$15 Large \$25

Tony King – 07 4096 2185

Did you know, that members can advertise items for sale, items wanted and businesses for free in the Miners Right? For inclusion, please email Fiona with ad details.

Fiona.Abbey@csdtin.com.au



Alluvial Gold Test Plant made by AMTAS WA 25-30 meters per hour. \$25,000 ono Phone: 0419 657 607

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED TO BUY

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MICHELE on 40930052 or Graham on 0438 726854

GOLD ~ COPPER ~ JADE ~ OPALS

Any members who have projects with the commodity gold, copper, jade or opals who are looking to sell whole or part of the project or are looking for investors, please contact Ray Chen from New Century Mining on 0402 386 160 or email ncmaus88@gmail.com or cccsyd@gmail.com



Contact: Mr Reuben Thomas

Phone: 07 40566516

Mobile: 0407080673

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NORTH QUEENSLAND MINERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 76 525 585 093

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We.....
the undersigned, being an eligible person, partnership, or company, hereby apply for Membership of the North Queensland Miners' Association Inc. (See eligibility clause below)

BUSINESS NAME.....

POSTAL ADDRESS.....
.....POSTCODE.....

CONTACT PERSON.....

Phone No during day:.....Fax No:.....

E-mail address if available.....

NUMBER and LOCATION of MINING TENEMENT/S held or ASSOCIATION WITH MINING
INDUSTRY.....
.....

I/We hereby agree to comply with the Rules and Regulations as prescribed in the Constitution of the North Queensland Miner's Association Inc.

☐ **Full Membership.** Enclosed herewith is Annual Membership Fee of \$100.00.

Eligibility for Membership: 'Any person, partnership or company who: is actively involved in mining or prospecting; holds or has an application for any mining tenure allowable under the Queensland Mineral Resources Act 1989 or any Act that replaces it; has a tenement before the Land and Resources Tribunal; or has a direct professional interest in the mining industry.'

☐ **Corporate Membership.** Enclosed herewith is Annual Membership Fee of \$250.00.

Eligibility for Membership: 'Any company which: is actively involved in mining or prospecting; holds or has an application for any mining tenure allowable under the Queensland Mineral Resources Act 1989 or any Act that replaces it; has a tenement before the Land and Resources Tribunal; or has a direct professional interest in the mining industry.'

☐ **Associate Membership.** Enclosed herewith is Annual Membership Fee of \$40.00.

Eligibility for Associate Membership: 'Any person or partnership who has interests in fossicking for gold, gems and metals; or any company or individual providing goods or services to the mining industry but not directly involved in mining'.

SIGNED

DATE/...../.....

Please send Application Form to:

NQMA Treasurer: Vicky Lake, C/- 395 Lake Street, CAIRNS NORTH QLD 4870
email: vickylake074@bigpond.com