



THE MINER'S RIGHT

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

August 2021

NQMA General Meeting 11am, Monday 13th September 2021 at Mareeba Leagues Club

Presidents Report

It's hard to believe that it is August already. Another financial year gone by, and the production leases have their annual reporting, rents and rates coming due again.

The Mines Department has provided some information in relation to concerning trends with production tenure, this is provided later in this edition.

NQMA Secretary, Taylor Somerville resigned her position, leaving the role vacant. The committee has approved our Treasurer Sue Day as the interim Secretary until the **AGM to be held on 13th September 2021.**

The committee is made up of volunteers. People who contribute their time and knowledge to the Association. We liaise with multiple levels of government and multiple departments.

It is important to have a broad knowledge base and willing contributors on the committee, I would urge members to give some consideration to accepting nominations and being involved in making changes for our industry.

Membership invoices have been sent out to all current members. If you have not received yours, please let us know and we will follow it up for you. Please ensure that all invoices are paid by 13th September to ensure that you remain a financial member.

If you need to contact the committee in order to update your contact details, please email info@nqma.com.au.

Claire

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I was going to tell a joke about a gold mine...
But everyone would just pick holes in it

PRESIDENT: Claire Mackney
VICE-PRESIDENT: Vacant
SECRETARY: Susan Day (interim)
TREASURER: Susan Day
NATIVE TITLE OFFICER: Paul Crossland
EDITOR: Claire Mackney
EMAIL: info@nqma.com.au
WEBSITE: www.nqma.com.au

Miners Memorial Day 2021

Every September 19th is Miners Memorial Day. A day that we come together to commemorate the lives of miners lost in Queensland mines.

This year marks the 100-year anniversary since the state's worst mining disaster when 75 miners lost their lives in a coal mine explosion at Mount Mulligan.

While the township of Mount Mulligan is only a remnant of its former self, the memory of the lost miners lives on.

This year's service will be held at the site where so many lost their lives. Availability of tickets for attendance on the day is now closed, however the department will be live streaming the event via their Facebook page if you would like to participate from afar.

Live Streaming event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/miners-memorial-day-service-2021-tickets-156999037347>

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RSHQld/posts/the-2021-miners-memorial-day-service-will-be-held-at-mount-mulligan-on-sunday-19/350188186734191/>

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Annual Rents and Reporting

It's that time of year again! Mining Lease rents, rates, statistical and annual returns are all coming due. Dates to be aware of are below.

MINING LEASE RENT – 31 AUGUST 2021

All mining lease rent is due for payment by 31 August 2021. Late payments will attract a 15% penalty which will be invoiced after 1 September 2021. If payment of rent and late fees is not made by 1 December 2021, the department may issue a show cause notice as to why the tenure should not be cancelled. It is important that your mining lease rent is paid on time. If you have not received your rent invoice, contact Mining.RentEnquiries@resources.qld.gov.au to request a copy.

SHIRE COUNCIL RATES – MID SEPTEMBER-ISH

Rates tend to be issued between July and August for payment. Each Council has their own by-laws relating to the time of issue and payment terms. If your mining lease was only recently granted, it may not have been issued a property identification number yet, so it may be issued at a later time.

It pays to ensure that you are on top of the Emergency Management Levy requirements and other rating categories so that you are being rated correctly and not paying too much. If you have any questions, contact your local rates officer to check on your rating categories.

ANNUAL ROYALTY RETURNS – 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Your annual royalty returns for mining leases are due for lodgement on 30 September 2021. This still applies if you have had no production in the reporting year. If the royalty return is not lodged on time, you will be issued with a late lodgement penalty. Royalty return packages have been sent out to holders and should be arriving in your mailbox soon. You should receive the following:

- a partially prefilled mineral royalty return form;
- a mineral return companion;
- mineral royalty return 2021 fact sheet; and
- a return addressed envelope

ANNUAL STATISTICAL RETURNS – 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Annual Statistical Returns are also due on 30 September 2021. The completion of this form is a mandatory request under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (MRA).

A mining operation may comprise one or more ML and/or MDL that constitutes a distinct mine. You are requested to submit a separate return for each mining operation held by the Authorised Holder during the financial year **1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021**. Non-submission of the information requested by the due date may result in compliance action being undertaken by the department.

Operations that have **not produced or sold from stockpile** during the financial year still need to complete the survey by indicating **nil production** and Operations that have **not produced BUT have sold from stockpile** during the financial year are required to complete the survey.

Please Note: this year the department is collecting Queensland Annual Mineral Production and Statistical Survey 2020-2021 via an Excel form.

Transfer applications and the de-amalgamation of an environmental authority.

You might think that transferring a mining tenure is an easy process. Except, sometimes it is not. If your permit (ML or EPM) is on an environmental authority (EA) with other permits, you will be required to de-amalgamate the permit being transferred from the other project leases. This will trigger a new estimated rehabilitation cost (ERC) for both the existing and new EA's. This process must be completed and approved before the transfer of tenure can take place.

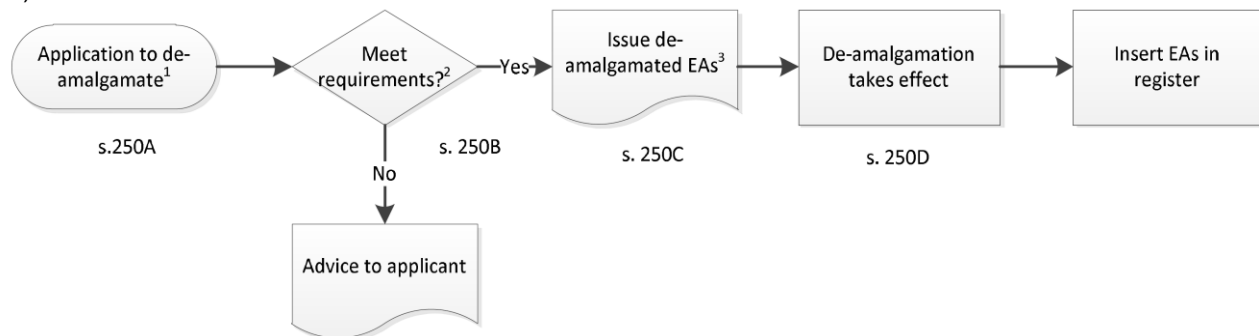
The below information is taken directly from Department of Environment and Science guidelines. I will note that their definition of a simple process, may differ from that of the small operator. The de-amalgamation application itself is not onerous, however the approval of the process also hinges on lodgement of successful ERC applications.

De-amalgamate an EA

There is a simple process for de-amalgamation of an EA. This applies where a single EA covers multiple activities, such as where one ERA project EA is approved for a single integrated operation or where multiple environmental authorities are amalgamated post-approval. In either of these cases, the single EA may cover multiple activities and may include multiple resource tenures.

An EA can be de-amalgamated if:

- it is not a resource project; or
- it is a resource project EA and:
 - the project is no longer being carried out as a single integrated operation
 - it is proposed that the project will no longer be carried out as a single integrated operation, or
 - the existing holder is proposing to transfer the related resource tenure to another person (a transfer tenure).



Notes:

Application requirements

The application must:

- be made in the approved form
- if the application relates to a resource project be accompanied by a declaration by the applicant that:
 - the project is no longer being carried out as a single integrated operation, or
 - the existing holder is proposing to no longer carry out the project as a single integrated operation, or
 - the existing holder is proposing to transfer to another person a resource tenure to which the EA relates, and

Transfer applications and the de-amalgamation of an environmental authority continued...

- if a PRCP schedule relating to environmentally relevant activities for the authority will require deamalgamation if the application is approved, be accompanied by proposed de-amalgamated PRC plans for the activities
- if an ERC decision is, or has been, in effect for the EA—be accompanied by an application under section 298 for an ERC decision for each of the proposed de-amalgamated EAs.
- be accompanied by the fee prescribed by regulation,

Steps after receiving de-amalgamation application

Within 15 business days after receiving a de-amalgamation application that complies with s. 250B, the administering authority must:

- de-amalgamate the relevant authority to give effect to the de-amalgamation
- for de-amalgamation of an environmental authority for relevant activities to which a PRCP schedule relates, de-amalgamate the schedule to the extent necessary to give effect to the de-amalgamation of the authority
- issue two or more EAs to the applicant
- give the applicant a copy of any de-amalgamated PRCP schedules
- include a copy of each EA issued and each de-amalgamated PRC plan in the relevant register.

If an ERC decision is, or has been, in effect for the EA, the administering authority may only do the things mentioned above after the administering authority makes an ERC decision for each of the proposed de-amalgamated EAs.

A de-amalgamation application that does not comply with s. 250B will be refused.

When de-amalgamation takes effect

The de-amalgamation of an EA takes effect:

- if it relates to a transfer tenure, when the transfer tenure is transferred and the proposed holder of each de-amalgamated EA has paid a contribution to the scheme fund or given a surety for the authority under the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018*
- if it relates to a relevant authority for a resource project for which the existing holder proposes to no longer carry out the project as a single integrated operation, when the existing holder stops carrying out the project as a single integrated operation
- otherwise, when the administering authority issues 2 or more environmental authorities to the applicant under s. 250C(b).

Application forms for the Department of Environment and Science can be found at <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/environment/licences-permits/forms-fees>.

Further information on the requirements for ERC, including guidelines can be found at <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/environment/licences-permits/rehabilitation/resource-activities>.

Department of Environment and Science

DES Minerals Business Centre in Cairns

ESCairns@des.qld.gov.au

Ph 07 4222 5352

Queensland Treasury

Financial Provisioning Scheme

FPS@treasury.qld.gov.au

Ph 07 3035 3551

Around the Campfire

By Greg G

Sitting by the fire having a drink listening to the radio is not a bad way to finish the day. If you have a flash camp with internet you can through wifi, live stream your favourite radio station.

My favourite is the breeze from Christchurch NZ that plays a lot of 80,s music with very few ads but that's me, what I like.

Alternatively, you need a good radio preferred with short wave and with an external antenna input. I bought one from Jaycar and they are around \$169.00 now. With the external am antenna there are 2 wire inputs, one wire goes to the ground and the other wire hung up around the camp.

One hint is to keep the earth stake moist for a better connection.

It works quite well mostly at night or early morning.

During the day the best radio is from 4KZ 531 AM, (covering Cairns to Cardwell and the gulf) but listening to it being retransmitted on short wave on 5055

The 5055 short wave is a good alternative to AM radio that gives a good clear signal out in the bush where there is no or very poor reception.



Resources Info Line 137 107

Are you having concerns with a landholder? Has someone been trespassing on your mining lease? Have you seen something industry related that needs reporting?

The department has a dedicated phone number for seeking information and reporting matters relating to field and land access, mining and fossicking. Collect as many details as you can, such as vehicle descriptions, number plates, offender description so you can provide it when you call.

Please contact Department of Resources on 137 107 or resources.info@resources.qld.gov.au to discuss your concerns or register a complaint.

Keeping your contact details updated with Department of Resources

Update provided by the Department of Resources

It's one of the worst parts of moving – finding all the organisations that need to contact you and updating your address details with them. But when it comes to your resource permits, making sure that we have your current address, telephone number and (if you have one) your email address is critical.

We use these contact details to send out communication that is important for your resource permit – this might be a rent notice, reminder that a work program needs to be updated or an expiry reminder notice to let you know that it's time to renew.

We've noticed a worrying trend of clients losing a mining lease or mining claim due to expiry because they didn't get their expiry reminder notice. Many of these were because we sent those notices to an old postal address, or to an email address that is not monitored or is no longer used.

Where you have an email address registered with us, we will send all notices via email. *Please* make sure that you have the correct email address registered with us and that that you have the Department set as a safe sender. Otherwise, you may find that our communication will go to your spam or junk mail folders, depending on the sensitivity of your email providers filtering.

You can check the contact details for your mining permits at any time:

- By logging into MyMines Online (MMOL) and making sure that your details are correct;
 - You can find information about registering for MMOL here:
<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/minerals-coal/online-services/myminesonline>
- By requesting a public report online – go to <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/minerals-coal/online-services/searches>
- Or, if you can't access either of these options, give the Mineral Assessment Hub a call on 4447 9230, or email us at MineralHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au

If you need to update your details, you can do this by:

- Logging into MMOL, going to the 'I want to' menu on the right-hand side and selecting the appropriate option from the 'Change Contact Details' menu. There is no fee.
- Completing the appropriate form and submitting to the Mineral Assessment Hub either via email at MineralHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au or by mail to PO Box 1752, Townsville, QLD 4810

Forms can be accessed on the Business Queensland website:

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/minerals-coal/authorities-permits/forms>

The NQMA is a proud member of the Queensland Small Miners Council (QSMC). The QSMC is made up of 5 small mining associations working together to engage with government to ensure our voices are heard. I encourage all members to have a look at the website, <https://www.qsmc.org.au/> to see what we are up to collectively.



Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc



North Queensland Gold Miners Association Inc



Queensland Opal Miners Association Inc



Queensland Boulder Opal Association Inc



Yowah Opal Mining Community Services Inc

NQMA Membership Survey Results - May 2021

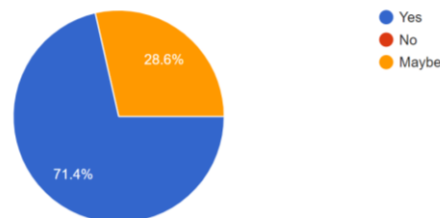
Throughout March to May the NQMA had a survey open with an online link and paper survey form provided in the newsletter. Participation in the survey was not high, however the following information was gathered.

Q1 - Members were asked the question, if the NQMA could facilitate training, what types of training would the members be likely to participate in. SSE safety training, first aid, biosecurity awareness, environmental awareness/industry information sessions, native title (cultural & heritage workshops), supplier provided information sessions, and government resource training sessions.

Q2 - (other response from Q1) There was an expression of interest in having workshops and information sessions conducted by webinar/video link if possible.

Q3 - Members were asked if the NQMA was to provide template documents, what would members like to see. Responses included landholder compensation agreements, native title agreements and biosecurity management plans.

Q4 - When asked if members would be interested in a members only section of the website for access to documents, updates and other information, 71.4% of participants responded with yes, while a further 28.6% said maybe.



Q5 - Members were asked if they were familiar with the Miners Right publication. 100% of respondents indicated that they were aware of the newsletter.

Q6 - When asked if the members were willing to contribute to the content of the newsletter, 83.3% of respondents indicated that they would.

Q7 - The question was asked what subjects they would like to see more of in the newsletter. Responses as follows:

- Any help
- access to bills prior to being debated in Parliament, access to parliamentary papers and the ability to comment on papers prior to them being tabled, copies of Bills Digest (by the Parliamentary Library) Ministers second reading speech for all Bills when introducing a Bill, and tabling of all Regulations impacting on Mining.
- anything relevant to local mining
- Perhaps a general experience section - members experiences with challenges they have encountered in their mining
- Articles for how to sustain growth of the organisation, in order to help navigate through the continued challenges

Q8 - Asked for any other feedback. Some of the responses included praise for the work we already do, and further encouragement for the members only section of the website.

The committee has taken the feedback provided on board and is currently looking at ways we can facilitate positive changes. In order to strengthen and grow the Association, we need strong, positive contributions from our membership base. If you can provide feedback, that's great. If you can assist with facilitating solutions, that's even better...

Changes to DES Online Services

The Department of Environment and Science has been working to make Online Services even better. **Further changes to Online Services went live on Monday 16 August 2021.** The new features will build on the improvements released in late 2020, namely the removal of the Online user fee, a new home page with simpler navigation and controls and online submission of annual returns.

The upcoming changes will improve the way customers complete and submit applications online and manage their account. There will be a new look and feel, simplified processes and additional help text for improved user experience when applying for a new Environmental Authority (EA) or Estimated Rehabilitation Cost (ERC) decision, apply to amend an existing authority, in addition to paying annual fees, viewing annual notices, and annual returns.

What are the key features and changes?

- The online application process for new and amendment EA applications is being streamlined. Each question has been formatted and simplified, where possible.
- The type of EA being applied for will affect the questions asked. By removing unnecessary questions, it will reduce the amount of time customers spend completing the online form.
- Help text is being added for each step in the application. This will assist with completing the application form correctly resulting in less errors and a more positive experience overall.
- A pay later option is being added to the online application process. This is in addition to the pay now (online) and offline payment methods.
- The stage and status of an application is being added. This provides a 'real-time' update on the progress of an application, in addition to being able to view associated documents i.e. Notices, Permits, Invoices.
- New Online Services User Guides that provide step-by-step instruction for:
 - how to apply for new and amend EA
 - how to apply for a decision on the ERC
 - how to view and pay annual notices and invoices

Where can you get more information and assistance?

Environmental authority holders and clients with applications in progress have been contacted about the changes and what they needed to do in advance of the changes.

You can find the changes to online services on our website after 8am (AEST) Monday, 16 August 2021at:

[Online Services \(Department of Environment and Science\) | Business Queensland](#)

Customers will also be able to view updated and new Online Services User Guides on Business Queensland website at <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/environment/online-services/user-guides>

If clients need any assistance, they can contact the Permits and Licensing team by emailing palm@des.qld.gov.au or phoning 1300 130 372 (select option 4).



Those of you with a keen interest in Australian Mining History may consider joining the Australasian Mining History Association Inc (AMHA).

(AMHA) was formed in 1995 to promote interest in our mining past. The Association studies all aspects of the history of mining in Australasia (Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea)

AMHA members come from many backgrounds, both professional and non-professional. Anyone with an interest in any aspect of mining history is welcome to join. Among our members are laypersons, historians, students, heritage and environmental consultants, engineers, geologists, metallurgists, archaeologists, tourism managers etc. Their fields of interest include mining technology, archaeology, heritage and transport, as well as economic, environmental and social aspects of mining.

AMHA holds an annual conference, usually in a current or past mining area, and publishes a scholarly journal and a quarterly newsletter. Members also communicate through the AMHA Facebook page and Instagram.

The Australasian Mining History Association

- Promotes and coordinates activities and programs relating to Australasian mining history;
- Encourages the study, discussion and publication of Australasian mining history;
- Encourages the identification and preservation of records, sites, relics and materials relevant to Australasian mining.

The AMHA is a not-for-profit organisation.

Information on membership can be found here: <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/membership/>

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This digital text of course is designed for first year geology students, prospectors, mining personnel, teachers, engineers, bureaucrats, financial analysts, journalists, corporate executives, managers and other professionals needing a full & comprehensive, overview of geology, what geologists do and understand & make productive use of this information.

More Jokes...

What kind of music did the gold nugget listen to?

Heavy metal

What did the iron say to the gold when it tried to wake him up?

AU, get out of here!

To corny? Send me something better for the next edition... 😊

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FOR SALE

EPM 26321

21 sub-blocks on the North Palmer River. Expiry 1 May 2023.

ML 20715

42.81 on the North Palmer River. Expiry 31 May 2028.

Contact Claire at Avoca Tenement Consulting on 07 4092 6743 for more information.

Are you looking to buy plant and equipment? Have a mining lease, or project you would like to sell? If so, email the details to info@nqma.com.au before 29 October 2021 to have your ad included in the next edition of the Miners Right.

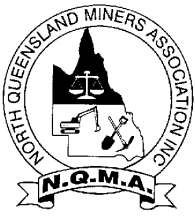
“There is no substitute for hard work!”

— Thomas Edison

Editors Notes:

The Miners Right is published every February, May, July, September and November, usually prior to the NQMA general meetings. On occasion, this schedule gets a little out of whack. The Miners Right is a great way to share information within our mining community. We are always looking for contributions to make the newsletter interesting and informative. If you would like to see something included or you can contribute stories, historical or general mining information please contact the editor. Members can also advertise their business, items for sale or wanted items without charge. Please send requests via email to info@nqma.com.au.

Disclaimer: While every effort is made to ensure that information provided in the Miners Right is correct, it should not be relied on when making decisions in relation for your business. The NQMA committee recommends that appropriate professional advice should be sought.



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: PO Box 1548, Mareeba Qld 4880 or
email: info@nqma.com.au

Payment can be by cheque, cash at the next meeting or EFT. (Preferred) Details:
Bendigo Bank - BSB 633-108 - A/C 1287-02172 - North Qld Miners Assoc.

Tick the box if you would like meeting minutes emailed to you and the Miners Right posted (normally emailed)