



The Miner's Right

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

**September
2020**

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WEBSITE

www.nqma.com.au

Next Meeting

Monday
14th September

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee Meeting and General Meeting of NQMA was held at the Mareeba Leagues Club on Monday 17th August 2020. The AGM will be held at the Mareeba Leagues Club on Monday 14th September. All positions on the Committee will become vacant, so come along and support the Association that has been actively representing members in many issues facing the Mining Industry.

Mike Scott presented the latest information on the Palmer dam proposal. The Lakelands Irrigation Area Project was the subject of a strategic business case, undertaken by Regional Development Australia Tropical North (RDA), and released in April 2019. The strategic business case was funded under the Australian Government's National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF). The Australian Government has committed \$10 000 000 (excluding GST) through the NWIDF to RDA to undertake a detailed business case and environmental assessment for the Lakelands Irrigation Area Project.

The Queensland Government's role is to facilitate payment and processing of claims for milestones associated with the assessment as identified in the bilateral schedule for the National Project Agreement.

In developing the detailed business case, RDA will need to assess and consider technical, social, environmental, financial and economic matters as well as undertake stakeholder engagement.

RDA will be responsible for developing and implementing a Stakeholder Management Plan that identifies landholders, businesses and the community as part of the critical stakeholder group for the project.

SMEC (the consultants for the project) engaged by RDA will be undertaking the engagement with landholders provisioning access to property through the Business Case Development process. SMEC, in collaboration with RDA, will seek to contact landholders within the project area to provide project information and many of the landholders directly impacted by the proposal will also be requested to provide access for field work.

RDA as the proponent for the assessment should be contacted regarding status, activities underway and any concerns with the proposal. The Mineral Resources Act 1989 prohibits any use or any other improvement to land by persons other than the mine lease holder or the owner of that land (as specified in Chapter 14 Section 403 of the Act).

Mike will act as the go to person for any miner who has concerns about the impact of the dam. He is planning to hold a meeting with the miners and dam planners in the near future.

Executive Committee Report (cont)

The first SSE Course is due to be held at the Mareeba Leagues Club with instructor Chris Larkin on Tuesday 15th September 2020 commencing at 9.30 am and finishing at approx. 4pm. The first course is booked out and it is anticipated there will be at least another 2. As soon as a date for the next course is decided participants will be notified as to the date they are booked in to attend.

If you have not previously registered and need to complete the SSE course please contact The Secretary email: glbyrne351@gmail.com Ph 0429482700.

During the week 20th - 24th July 2020 James Purtill (Director General), Cale Dendle (Deputy Director General), Luke Croton and Doug Morrisson (DNRME) visited several mining sites in the North including the Palmer river area. The aim of the visit was to better understand the challenges faced by miners in the industry.

Lyn Byrne (Secretary)

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Ken)

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A Day at the Football

A guy took his blonde girlfriend to her first football game. They had great seats right behind their team's bench. After the game, he asked her how she liked the experience.

"Oh, I really liked it" she replied, "especially the tight pants and big muscles, but I couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents".

Dumbfounded, her date asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, they flipped a coin, one team got it, and then for the rest of the game, all they kept screaming was, 'Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!' "I'm like, hello!! It's only 25 cents!"

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Flocculation and Coagulation

An essential step in the decontamination of water is clarification, which is the physical-chemical process aimed at removing the particles (suspended solids) that cloud water by precipitating them in the form of sludge. Flocculation is the agglomeration of these destabilised particles into larger flocs that can be decanted as sludge and then filtered.

Flocculation is the chemical process of adding substances, known as flocculants, to cause the colloidal substances in the water to stick together, thus facilitating their subsequent filtration and removal. The flocculation process is preceded by coagulation, so we often speak of coagulation-flocculation processes.

Coagulation is usually the first step in the treatment. Its main function is to destabilize the finely divided particles within the water. Suspended particles have a negative electrical charge and are in constant motion (Brownian motion). Coagulation occurs when the particles in colloidal suspension in water are destabilised. Examples of colloids include silt, clay, silica, hydroxides, tannins and humic acids, pigments, oils etc.

The forces keeping the colloidal suspension stable include Van der Waals forces, electrostatic forces and Brownian motion. Coagulants disturb these processes by neutralising electrical charges allowing the small particles to move together and form larger particles or agglomerations. Stokes law states that the speed of rise or fall of a particle in water is a function of the square of the radius of the particle thus an increase in the size of the particle has a dramatic increase in the settling speed. This is offset by the fact that coagulants form a loose, uncompacted mass usually referred to as a microfloc.

The first stage of coagulation is charge neutralisation. This corresponds to the reduction of electrical charges that cause the colloidal particles to repel each other. This is followed by aggregation of the particles.

The major coagulant types in use today are mineral coagulants and organic coagulants. The mineral coagulants are mainly based on soluble iron and aluminium salts for example ferric chloride, ferric sulphate, aluminium sulphate (alum) or polyaluminium chloride (PAC). The ferric (Fe^{3+}) or aluminium (Al^{3+}) ions neutralise negative charges on the colloidal particles permitting them to aggregate. The mineral coagulants are cheap and readily available but tend to form a very fluffy voluminous sludge that is difficult to compact. Organic flocs such as polyamines, polydadmec etc. require a lower dose rate and form a much denser sludge making further treatment and compaction much easier. The organic coagulants do not affect water hardness or pH as do the mineral based systems.

Flocculation is the agglomeration of these destabilised particles into larger flocs that can be decanted as sludge and then filtered or settled out.

The flocculation step causes the microflocs to compact into much bigger aggregations which produce a denser and more compact sludge much faster.

The origin of destabilized particles depends mainly on the origin of the water to be treated. Flocculants can be negatively or positively charged and are selected on a case by case basis depending on the nature of the particles being treated. In general anionic flocculants (negatively charged) are used for mineral particles and cationic flocculants (positively charged) are used for organic particles.

Flocculants are organic molecules with very high molecular weights and varying charge content. These attach to the destabilized particles and aggregates along the molecular chain. This effectively increases the size of the particles in the water phase resulting in the formation of flocs.

These flocs rise or fall more quickly in the water column depending on their size and density relative to water. This gives faster clarification of the water.

Dirty water is a serious problem for any miner. Gold recovery drops as water gets dirtier and thicker. There is also the environmental problem if dirty water is released off any Mining Lease. The first tailings water sample for analysis from the Palmer River area have been sent away for testing and members will be notified of the results and approximate costs to address this problem.

Gold's Rise in Value is Expected to Continue

Bank of America (BoFA) has raised its gold price forecast to \$US 3000 (\$4751.10) an ounce over the next 18 months in a report titled, "The Fed can't Print Gold".

This is a 50% jump on its previous 18-month target of \$US2000 an ounce.

BoFA predicted that the precious metal could reach the price of \$US2063 by 2021, which translates to \$3182 at the exchange rate in June 2020. Gold is forecast to average \$US1695 an ounce this year.

The Perth Mint chief executive Richard Hayes said this was a very attractive time for Australian gold miners.

The Mint refines almost all of Australia's gold and they are seeing that miners continue to be very busy, producing as much gold as they can.

This year the gold price has risen around 10 per cent in US dollar terms, but local gold prices, particularly in producer nations, have been far stronger, breaking records in many cases. In June 2020, gold had risen 24% in Australian Dollars since the beginning of the year.

Courtesy Australian Mining

Support from the Ground Up

Mining is adding billions of dollars to Australian communities each year as it aims to give back to people financially and socially.

An Economics report commissioned by the Minerals Council of Australia, reveals the mining industry paid \$18.6 billion in company tax in the 2017-2018 financial year, equal to about 22 per cent of total tax collected.

It also generated \$12 billion in royalties for state governments across Australia.

Minerals Council of Australia chief executive Tania Constable says in the past 13 years, the industry has paid a total of \$243 billion in taxes and royalties - enough to build more than 9500 schools, or 340 hospitals.

"Mining delivers strong jobs, growth across our regional communities, and the industry's taxes and royalties continue to fund police, teachers, and nurses and other essential services and infrastructure on which Australians rely."

"Mining has been the largest contributor of any industry to economic growth over the last decade."

Courtesy Careers in Mining

Record Gold Price

At present everybody who mines for gold should be happy. At the time of printing the Newsletter, the Au gold price was \$2650 per ounce.

Did you know that the gold price was fixed for long periods of time in the past, and the price was quoted in \$US per ounce.

The official price for many years was \$US \$20.67 up until September 1933. Then \$US 35 up until 1971 (The reason was that there was not much happening in this era).

It rose to \$US 38 in 1972 and was \$US 42.22 from 1973 – 1978. The fixed price finished in 1978 and the price of gold was then regulated by supply and demand. The price is set daily in London.

On February 21st 2020 the record high in 7 years was at \$US 1645 and the Australian Dollar was at it's lowest in 11 years against the \$US.

Tony King Assaying and Metallurgical Laboratory

My lab is still open and will be until the end of the year. Ph 40962185

- Gold and base metal analyses, clean up of gold, tin and tantalite concentrates
- Gold smelting and bullion analysis
- Magnetic separation, flotation and gravity separation.
- Gold Bullion Assay (Duplicate) \$70

Wanted

Wet drum magnetic separator in reasonable condition. Contact Tony King Ph 40962185

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 14th September
AGM
ALL WELCOME

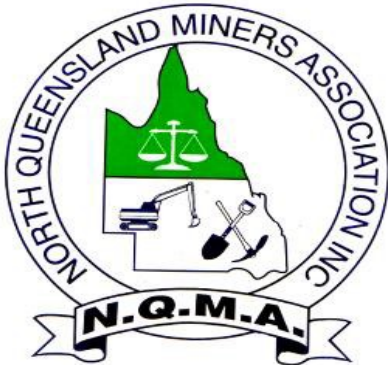
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North Queensland Miner's Association

- ◇ Represents all Miners by addressing a varied and complex range of issues related to Mining, Environment and Native Title.
- ◇ Lodges submissions and provides informed suggestions on any changes to Legislation which may affect the Industry
- ◇ Engages in positive communication and seeks to reinforce positive perspectives of how mining supports many communities and businesses throughout North Queensland.
- ◇ Negotiates and engages with Government departments on behalf of Miners for fair and equitable charges.
- ◇ Member of AMEC (Representative for medium to large scale miners to the Minister and Director General).
- ◇ Publishes "The Miner's Right". A Newsletter covering topics relevant to North Queensland Miners.

Precious Metal Technologies

PMT Pty Ltd (Precious Metal Technologies) is an independent Australian owned precious metal refinery based in Ormeau on the Gold Coast in Queensland. We have over 20 years' experience as a full service refinery for the noble metals Gold, Silver, Platinum and Palladium. We have a wide and varied customer base that includes, Manufacturing Jewellers, Miners, Prospectors, Scrap dealers, Medical Device Manufacturers as well as the general public. All assaying and refining is processed at our production facility in Ormeau.

We offer quality analysis and evaluations using XRF (Xray Fluorescence) Fire Assays and ICP-OES (Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy) on a wide range of precious metals. Experience and expertise matched with modern state of the art facilities and equipment ensures that we are meeting the needs and expectations of our clients.

We are strictly adhering to International and National accreditations so that our result outturns to our clients are comparable to any reputable refinery in the world and we are continuously in the process of achieving any new standards specified by the industry.

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AGM Monday 14th September 1.00pm

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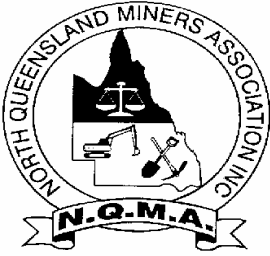
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www.amets.com.au

Do you have a question about mining and exploration that you have not found an answer to? Are you planning to undergo mining and exploration and are unsure of the legislative guidelines of your state or territory? Are you unsure about the different types of mining tenements, or how to apply for specific mineral exploration licence applications, licences, exploration release areas?

AMETS brings together experienced tenement consultants that will answer these questions and more across all aspects of tenement acquisition and management in our upcoming **Q&A Mining & Exploration Newsletter**. Please send in your questions to leanne@amets.com.au and sign up to our newsletter at <https://lnkd.in/gUjQnit> where your questions will be published.

Small Mining in North Queensland helps and benefits all the local communities



NORTH QUEENSLAND MINER'S ASSOCIATION INC.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ABN 76 525 585 093

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 900 Atherton Qld 4883 or
email: info@nqma.com.au

Payment can be by cheque, cash at the next meeting or EFT. (Preferred) Details:

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