



# THE MINER'S RIGHT

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

February 2023

**NQMA General Meeting 1PM, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Mareeba Leagues Club**

## Presidents Report

Happy 2023 – and right into February already!

The wet season is sure bringing us some much-loved rain in the Tropics and rivers have been flowing. The photo on the calendar was the first big run of the Palmer River, at the end of 2022 and taken by the Byrne family. Timing of the run over the river at the end of season is just down luck of the rain gods and which side you want to be stuck on 🌑 😊 A good run in the rivers/creeks might show up some more of the shiny` stuff this coming mining season.

There a few consultations papers still open through Department of Resources web sites, and we encourage members to have a read and submit through the surveys. The mining claims submission paper is still open and will close to the public on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023. A link is given further in the newsletter.

We would love to make the Newsletter a bit more personable, if you have any local stories, funny or serious please get out your pen/paper or keyboard and get writing. I am sure there are many a story that has been told around the camp fire but not around our mining community. Our next newsletter is in May and it would be great if we could have a few stories included from you the Miner, instead of me the keyboard warrior. Any mining subject matter from how you sniff out the shiny bits to wild camp set ups are welcome.

This newsletter is a bit on the statistical side.. The article on investment is not to make to you run out and invest (you can if you want) but to show some info on mining investment in Australia and also some data from Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Advertising in the newsletter is FREE to members, and if not a member and want to advertise, we ask you to sign up to be a member ☺ . If there are any newsletter whizzes out there that would just love to put the newsletter together for the Association, welcome to drop a line and take it on!

If there is anything that you would like NQMA to turn their attention to or to publish in the newsletter please email [info@nqma.com.au](mailto:info@nqma.com.au)

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NQMA has a social media profile!! You can become our FRIEND by liking our page on Facebook. You will find mining news, info and re-posts from other relevant mining pages. Search North Queensland Miners Association and 'like' away 😊

Teams meetings available for any meetings you can't be there in person. Send email to [info@nqma.com.au](mailto:info@nqma.com.au) to get the link!.

## Gold Miners



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# Consultation for Mining Claims – changing times....

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The Department of Resources have kept mining claims in the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* however are proposing a number of changes to the way they are regulated. Consultation is still open until 24 February 2023 and NQMA encourages any interested parties to have a read of the consultation paper and complete the survey. The consultation paper is attached to this newsletter.

The link for the survey is here: [An enhanced regulatory framework for mining claims | Have your say – Department of Resources](#)

## **Everything old is new again!**

**Wolfram Camp mine site has been released by Department of Resources as a:**

***“ Mineral exploration opportunity – Wolfram Camp abandoned mine***

*We have released 1 new area via competitive tender (tender MLR2023-1) for mineral exploration in Queensland's Hodgkinson Province.*

*We're calling for tenders to restart resource activities within Restricted Area 442 in Far North Queensland, which includes:*

- *the former Wolfram Camp mine*
- *Bamford Hill mine*
- *surrounding exploration areas.*

*This area, totalling 480 km<sup>2</sup>, is open for tenders for an exploration permit for minerals.*

*Companies must have adequate financial and technical capabilities to explore this area for potential mineral opportunities.*

*This tender process opens on **Friday, 27 January 2023** and closes at 2.30pm (AEST) on **Thursday, 20 April 2023.***

For more information or to register your interest to attend (online) an information session being held on 15 February please click on the following link : [Current tenders | Business Queensland](#)

The following is an article published in the Investing News Network dated 9 February 2023 by Matthew Flood. NQMA is not promoting investing, the article is a good summary of Australian Mining!

*"Australia's resource industry is a key part of the country's economy. How did it rise to prominence, and how can investors get involved?"*

*Australia ranks as the 13th largest economy in the world, due in no small part to its mineral largess. Between 2020 and 2021, mining contributed an impressive AU\$217 billion to Australia's economy, an increase of 3.8 percent from the previous year.*

*The country is a global mining hotspot, and its abundant natural resources and government incentives have attracted some of the mining industry's biggest names: BHP (ASX:BHP,LSE:BHP,NYSE:BHP), Rio Tinto (ASX:RIO,LSE:RIO,NYSE:RIO) and Newcrest Mining (ASX:NCM,OTC Pink:NCMGF) all have major operations in Australia.*

*Nearly half of the companies trading on the Sydney-based Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) — the primary stock exchange in Australia — are listed in the basic materials and energy sectors.*

*The state of Western Australia is the world's premier mining jurisdiction according to the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies for 2021. Four other Australian states and territories rank in the top 20 mining jurisdictions in the world: South Australia (10th), Northern Territory (14th), Queensland (18th) and Tasmania (20th).*

*Australia has been a plentiful provider of diverse commodities in the resource investment space for over a century; if you're curious about exploring it for yourself, here's a quick guide on the origins of the country's resource industry, the current landscape for mining investment and future opportunities.*

## **Australia investing: The beginning**

*European settlers first arrived in Australia in the 1780s, and by the 1790s, whale oil and baleen (whalebone) had become the colony's first major exports.*

*When the 1820s rolled around, the economy grew exponentially through fine wool production. By the 1830s, wool had overtaken whale oil as the colony's biggest export, with New South Wales replacing Germany as Britain's primary supplier by 1850.*

*1851 saw the beginning of a major gold rush in Australia, causing the area's population to surge from 430,000 to a whopping 1.7 million by 1871. In 1901, Australia's first federal government was formed, and for the next 30 years, agricultural goods remained one of the country's biggest exports, with wheat and dairy products being added to the roster.*

*The UK was Australia's biggest export destination by the early 1960s, but it had begun to enhance its relationship with its European neighbours. At the same time, Australia was working to strengthen its ties with Asia, and by 1966/1967, Japan had become the country's biggest export destination.*

*While Australia's economic roots were formed in the agricultural sector, the 1970s brought a surge of mineral and fuel exports, driven specifically by iron ore and coal.*

Fast forward to 2013/2014, and iron ore, coal and natural gas had become the country's top three exports, with rural commodities falling to the wayside.

During this transitional period, Australia's trading relationship with the UK further waned as Japan and China became the country's two primary export destinations. China eventually overtook Japan as Australia's leading export partner in 2009/2010, and according to a report from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the UK made up only 1.4 percent of Australia's exports by 2013/2014.

## **Australia investing: Current opportunities**

Today, Australia's mining industry is comprised of more than 350 operating mines producing 19 different mineral commodities in significant amounts. Gold mines are the most common operations, and according to the US Geological Survey, the country is the world's second largest gold producer.

While Australia's major gold rush took place over a century and a half ago, current industry trends show that there is still much to be explored and discovered. You can find a number of gold investment opportunities to consider in the Investing News Network's (INN) Best Gold Stocks on the ASX article.

Along with precious metals, Australia's most valuable mineral exports include base metals, battery metals and energy resources. The country leads the world in iron ore production, and is also an important source of global aluminium, nickel and copper supply.

Western Australia is the only nickel-mining jurisdiction within Australia, and accounts for 7 percent of the world's production of the mineral. BHP and Glencore (LSE:GLEN, OTC Pink:GLCNF) both have nickel-mining operations in the state. Other important nickel stocks for investors to watch include IGO (ASX:IGO) and Mincor Resources (ASX:MCR, OTC Pink:MCRZF). Those interested in learning more about nickel opportunities should check out INN's article Nickel Stocks in Western Australia.

Australia is second only to Chile when it comes to copper reserves, and the red metal reigns supreme in South Australia, which is home to one of the world's largest copper-producing mine, BHP's Olympic Dam. Other copper operations in South Australia are OZ Minerals' (ASX:OZL, OTC Pink:OZMLF) Prominent Hill and Carrapateena mines. INN's Copper Stocks in South Australia and Copper in Australia articles offer investors further insight on what to know about the base metal in the country.

Aside from that, Australia is abundant in energy resources such as natural gas and uranium. With more than a dozen basins that yield natural gas, Australia hosts significant reserves. Natural gas is the country's third most valuable resource export, as per the most recent data from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, earning more than AU\$47 billion for the economy. BHP and Woodside Energy Group (ASX:WDS) are the biggest natural gas producers in the country.

Uranium is another important sector in Australia's resource industry. The country is the fourth largest uranium producer globally and hosts more than one-quarter of the world's known uranium resources. Both of the country's two producing uranium mines are in South Australia: BHP's Olympic Dam mine, the largest-known uranium deposit in the world; and the Four Mile mine owned by Quasar Resources.

In recent years, Australia has also come to dominate the global lithium industry and is well-positioned to capitalise on the rapidly growing electric vehicle market. Increased demand for lithium has proved positive for ASX-listed lithium stocks. The nation ranks second in the world for lithium reserves behind Chile, but when it comes to annual lithium production, Australia's output is more than twice as high.

Australia's largest lithium mine is Greenbushes, which is majority controlled by China's Tianqi Lithium (SZSE:002466). Greenbushes is the largest hard-rock lithium operation in the world. In 2021,

Greenbushes accounted for 40 percent of the country's total lithium production. Tianqi owns a 51 percent stake in Talison Lithium, which operates the mine, while major producer Albemarle (NYSE:ALB) owns a 49 percent stake in Talison via its acquisition of Rockwood Holdings.

Rare earths are another important commodity segment for technology, and Australia is set up to take advantage of opportunities in this market too. The country holds the fifth largest-known rare earths reserves in the world, and rare earths production in Australia has been rising over the last few years.

Northern Minerals (ASX:NTU) opened Australia's first heavy rare earths mine, Browns Range, in 2018, producing heavy rare earths products such as dysprosium, which is used in permanent magnet technology. Lynas (ASX:LYC,OTC Pink:LYSCF) operates the Mount Weld mine and concentration plant in Western Australia, and in 2019, the company announced plans to boost production to 10,500 tonnes per year of neodymium-praseodymium products by 2025.

Other rare earths projects in the country include Australian Strategic Metals' (ASX:ASM) Dubbo project in Central New South Wales, Arafura Resources' (ASX:ARU,OTC Pink:ARAFF) Nolans project in the Northern Territory as well as Hastings Technology Metals' (ASX:HAS) Yangibana project in Western Australia."

## DATA DATA AND MORE DATA:

Ever wonder why you fill in and lodge all those exploration and mining stats.... Well the Australian Bureau of Statistics loves your data and converts into graphs as per below. The trend for exploration in Australia is definitely on the upward trend. [Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, September 2022 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

Mineral exploration, by deposit type, original series



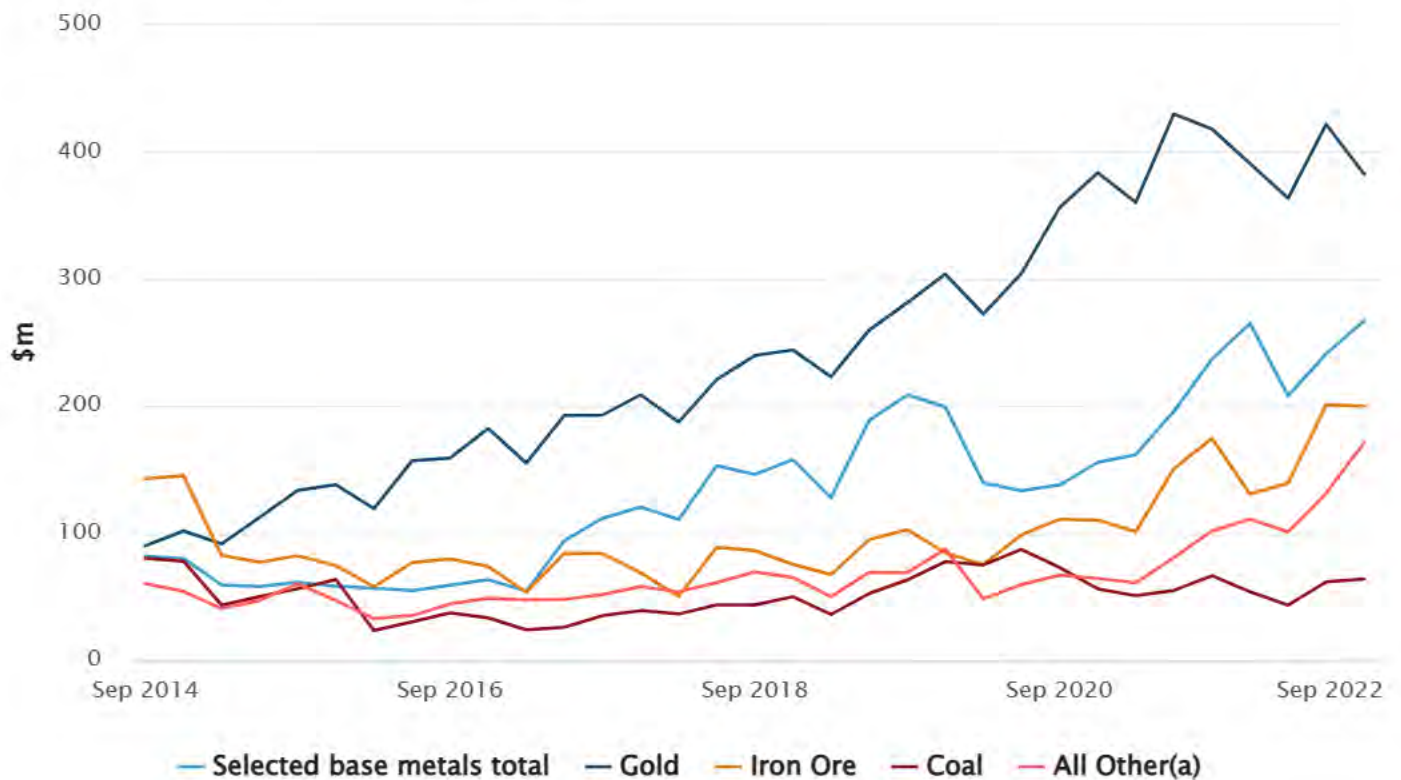
## Mineral exploration, by mineral type, original series

- Other Minerals recorded the largest rise (up 36.6%, \$37.7m) to \$140.7m
- Gold recorded the largest fall (down 9.3%, \$39.4m) to \$382.3m

Graph Table

Download

### Mineral exploration, by mineral type, original series



## Explanatory notes

### Introduction

- The private sector exploration statistics appearing in this publication have been collected and compiled from the Mineral Exploration and Petroleum Exploration quarterly censuses conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This publication contains actual and expected exploration expenditure.

### Scope and coverage

- The Mineral Exploration and Petroleum Exploration censuses cover private enterprises known to be engaged in exploration in Australia, and in Australian waters.
- A new Maritime Boundary Treaty between Australia and Timor-Leste came in to force on 30 August 2019. The new treaty provides exclusive jurisdiction of the former Joint Petroleum Development Area excluding Greater Sunrise in the Timor Sea to Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. The new maritime boundary is reflected in the estimates from the September quarter 2019 publication onwards.
- The tenements in the Ashmore and Cartier Islands are administered by the Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy. Therefore all petroleum exploration expenditure in this area has been included with the Northern Territory data.

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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](mailto:info@nqma.com.au) before End of January to have your ad included in the next edition of the Miners Right.

### **Editors Notes:**

The Miners Right is published every February, May, July, September and November, usually prior to the NQMA general meetings. 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](mailto: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.*

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Some of our past clients, across the above work streams, include:



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**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



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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 places, 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](mailto:resources.info@resources.qld.gov.au) to discuss your concerns or register a complaint.



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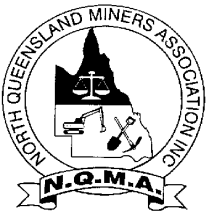
# An important licencing reminder for Queensland mining technicians

In addition to a QBCC licence, mining technicians that handle scheduled extinguishing agents in Queensland must also hold an **extinguishing agent handling licence (EAHL)** with the FPIB.

This is an Australian Government legislative requirement under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Regulations 1995*.

While a special hazard fire system licence is recognised under the Queensland system, technicians in the state holding this licence are not exempt from the national Fire Protection Industry Permit Scheme.

**If you are a mining technician or mining company based in Queensland please contact the FPIB to obtain dual licences.**  
Call **03 8892 3131** or visit **[www.fpib.com.au](http://www.fpib.com.au)**



**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 ...../...../.....

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