

Fwd: Mining Memo - May 2023 edition

Shane Ferna Vagg

Tue 18/07/2023 1:49 PM

To: Marylou Potts <ml@mlppl.com.au>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Shane Ferna Vagg <vagg.huntingfield@outlook.com>
Date: 26 June 2023 at 8:48:49 am AEST
To: mandana.mazaheri@planning.nsw.gov.au, Stephen.odonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fw: Mining Memo - May 2023 edition

Hello Mandana & Stephen,

Please find below a newsletter from MEG. If you scroll down to the bottom to the section of Enforceable Undertakings, you will see a comment on RZ Resources being found to have committed over 100 offences under the mining act.

These offences were from a previous investigation by the Regulator. We understand there is a new investigation by the Regulator relating to the complaints/issues that we have raised.

Thank you,

Ferna & Shane Vagg

From: "Mining, Exploration and Geoscience" <donotreply@meg.regional.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 22 May 2023 at 11:16:44 am AEST
Subject: Mining Memo - May 2023 edition
Reply-To: donotreply@meg.regional.nsw.gov.au

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NSW MINERALS WEEK

The NSW Government had a productive and busy week at NSW Minerals Week,

participating in a series of events focussed on exploration and mining in NSW.

The Minister for Natural Resources, Courtney Houssos, was a keynote speaker at the Sydney Resources Roundup where she spoke of the importance of the minerals industry to regional industries and the NSW economy.

It was great to welcome Minister Houssos to the NSW Government stand where MEG staff promoted investment-ready projects, geological data and Government support for the exploration and mining sectors.

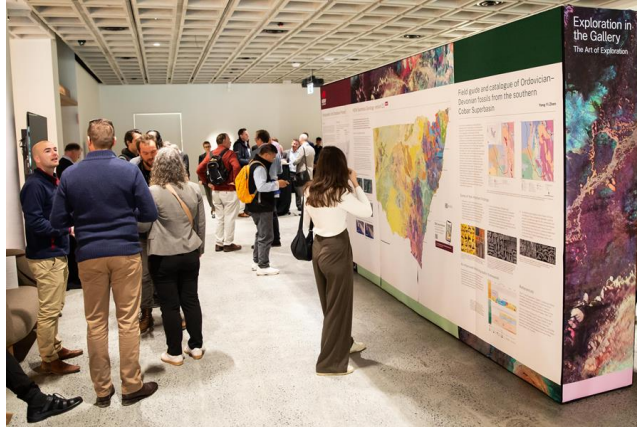


Left to right: Rob Blayney, Georgina Beattie, Courtney Houssos, Yvette Lloyd, Grant McLatchie and Giselle Carney.

Mining, Exploration and Geoscience hosted Exploration in the Gallery at the Art Gallery of NSW which featured presentations by the Geological Survey and others on current projects and their implications for exploration, mining, research and investment in NSW.

The keynote speaker was Dr Allison Britt, Director Mineral Resources Advice and Promotion, Geoscience Australia.

A NSW Exploration Data Workshop followed where the team showcased an overview of MinView and its related data discovery and delivery systems to over 30 external stakeholders.



*Georgina Beattie, Chief Executive Officer - Mining,
Exploration and Geoscience*

COMMENCEMENT OF REGULATION REFORMS

Reforms to the [Mining and Petroleum Legislation Amendment Act 2022](#) ([Amendment Act](#)) and its accompanying amending Regulations commenced on 1 March 2023.

The Mining and Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment Regulation reforms will enable faster and more efficient decision-making, streamlining and modernising of regulatory processes, improved clarity and enhanced

compliance. They also allow for hydrogen and non-metals to be regulated under the Mining Act 1992 and other miscellaneous amendments.

The new amendment Regulation provisions commenced on 1 March, with the exception of the following three provisions:

- partial cancellations of authorities to identify the land sought to be retained commenced on 13 January 2023 in conjunction with associated amendments of the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No 2) 2022
- future fee and levy adjustment consultation processes will commence on 1 May 2023, alongside the amending Act's Schedule 1
- the use of the Map Grid of Australia 2020 standard with certain applications under the Mining Act 1992 will commence on 1 March 2024.

An order to establish a Mineral Allocation Area (MAA) for hydrogen and non-metals over the whole of NSW has also been issued.

END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORTING

On 7 October 2022, MEG introduced changes to the community consultation reporting requirements through updates to the [Exploration Code of Practice Community Consultation](#).

A six-month transition period was introduced to give titleholders time to adopt the changed reporting requirements. This transition period expired on 7 March 2023.

Titleholders must now comply with the requirements of the code, which includes:

- publishing annual community consultation reports online or making them available within 14 days on request

- including the impact of airborne surveys within community consultation strategy and engagement plans
- ensuring personal or commercially sensitive information is excluded from annual community consultation reports.

Further information can be found on the Department's [website](#).

UPDATED GUIDELINE: REHABILITATION OBJECTIVES AND REHABILITATION COMPLETION CRITERIA

All large mines in NSW are required to submit rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria statements to the NSW Resources Regulator for approval pursuant to Schedule 8A of Mining Regulation 2016.

We have recently updated our Guideline: [Rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria](#) to assist mines in preparing their statements.

One of the key changes is an update to the example rehabilitation objectives. Additional examples have now been provided for the 'ecological rehabilitation' objective category where there may not be a target vegetation community / target Plant Community Type (PCT). The examples on pages 35 to 37 now provide two options for each of the three ecological rehabilitation objectives.

**Read the updated guideline:
rehabilitation objectives and
rehabilitation completion criteria**

SUSPENSION OF MINING OPERATIONS POLICY

Under the *Mining Act 1992*, a mining lease holder can only suspend mining operations with the written consent of the Department. Without consent, the suspension of mining operations is a breach of the statutory

conditions of a lease and an offence under 378D of the Mining Act.

The new policy sets out the circumstances and requirements for a mining lease holder wanting to suspend a mining operation temporarily. The policy stipulates:

- To suspend mining operations for a period up to 12 months, a lease holder must notify the Department using the form or through TMS within 30 days of suspending operations
- To suspend mining operations for more than 12 months and up to three years, or for a period within two years of a previous suspension, a lease holder must obtain written consent from the Department using the form or TMS
- To suspend mining operations for more than three years, the Department may undertake, on a cost recovery basis, a review including onsite inspection and an economic review.

Visit the Department's [website](#) to read the policy and download the relevant application forms, or email titles@regional.nsw.gov.au if you have questions.



NSW'S LARGEST GEOPHYSICAL ACQUISITION CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Forbes to Dubbo AEM survey

The Forbes to Dubbo geophysical survey is being conducted in collaboration with Geoscience Australia. The airborne survey will take two to three months to complete and aims to identify groundwater resources that may help drought-proof areas of NSW. It also hopes to identify critical mineral

deposits with the potential to drive investment.

Yathong AEM and AMR surveys

The north-eastern end of the Yathong will soon undergo AEM and AMR surveys to locate deep groundwater or areas with that could store water in times of surplus. The airborne surveys will also provide detailed geoscientific information that will be used to map the geology of the area.

Cobar – Yathong seismic survey

Seismic surveying of Yathong–Ivanhoe Trough, south of Cobar, will analyse geology up to 60km below the surface. It is hoped the seismic study, along with the airborne studies of the area, will uncover valuable groundwater to provide water security for communities, farmers and businesses.

All data will be made publicly available through MinView in the second half of 2023. For more information on these projects, visit

regional.nsw.gov.au/groundwater.



*Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference
2023 - Australian Minerals delegation*

MEG ATTENDS THE PDAC CONFERENCE

In March, MEG staff travelled to Canada to represent NSW as part of the Australian Minerals delegation at the [Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada \(PDAC\) 2023 Conference](#) in Toronto.

PDAC is the world's largest mining industry conference, attracting over 20,000 delegates from across the globe all focused on exploration and investment.

MEG presented at the Australian Minerals Seminar during PDAC on the NSW value proposition for mining and exploration investment, as well as prospectivity and opportunities in NSW with a focus on critical minerals.

RESOURCES REGULATOR CALL FOR SPEAKERS

MESS, MEMSS and EESS 2023

The Regulator has confirmed the details for its major safety seminars in 2023 and more details can be [found on the website](#).

The seminars include:

- [Mechanical Engineers Safety Seminar \(MESS\)](#), Wednesday 2nd August 2023
- [Mining Engineering Safety Seminar \(MEMSS\)](#), Wednesday 18th October 2023
- [Electrical Engineering Safety Seminar \(EESS\)](#), Wednesday 8th November 2023

To register or to express interest as a speaker please email
rr.workshops@regional.nsw.gov.au



ENFORCEABLE UNDERTAKINGS

RZ Resources

The Resources Regulator commenced an extensive investigation into 10 of the 14 exploration licences following a site inspection as part of a compliance audit in 2020. It was found that RZ Resources Pty Ltd (RZR) had committed over 100 offences under mining legislation in NSW across

multiple titles.

In lieu of prosecution, the Regulator accepted an enforceable undertaking from RZR.

The Regulator continues to monitor all operations undertaken by RZR to ensure compliance with its regulatory requirements.

Wollongong Coal Limited and Wongawilli Coal Pty Ltd

Wollongong Coal Limited and Wongawilli Coal Pty Ltd has completed an enforceable undertaking accepted by the Regulator on 1 January 2023. The enforceable undertaking decision was handed down on 7 June 2018.

For more information on enforceable undertakings [visit the website](#).

LAUNCH OF SMALL SCALE TITLES APPLICATION (APP)

After months of intensive work, MEG has released a new Small Scale Titles app, built on the ServiceNow platform.

The app will transform Small Scale Titles Management by offering more effective data management, with efficiencies for Small Scale Titles customers.

It is one of several large projects recently launched as part of an overall business improvement program which will see more advancements delivered in the next few months, including:

- Tools to enhance MEG's interactions with Small Scale Titles customers, including a new mobile app and integrations with our spatial systems
- A new custom-designed application to support the Funds and Levies system which manages all financial transactions related to mining and petroleum titles
- A range of skill-building resources to support the MEG Title Assessments team
- Digitisation of plans and other hardcopy resources to modernise and improve

accessibility for research teams and surveyors.

Watch this space for more information about the rollout.

Please [give us your feedback](#) on this newsletter.



Mining, Exploration and Geoscience | Department of Regional NSW

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