

Reporting mineral discoveries

(Minerals of economic interest) – Guidance Note

Tenement holders have an obligation to promptly report in writing to the Minister all minerals of economic interest discovered within their tenements. This guidance note is to remind tenement holders of this obligation, and to assist tenement holders in determining when this reporting is required. If you require further assistance, please use the contact details provided below.

The relevant sections of the *Mining Act 1978* and/or Mining Regulations 1981 which govern the reporting of minerals of economic interest are listed in Table 1 at the end of this guidance note. Tenement holders are required to report **minerals of economic interest** discovered within the following types of tenement:

- exploration licence;
- prospecting licence;
- mining lease;
- miscellaneous licence; and
- general purpose lease.

Holders of Miner's Rights are also required to report recovered minerals but do so through a specific reporting form (see Table 1).

Tenement holders should note that the requirement to report minerals of economic interest is **in addition** to their requirements to:

- provide information in association with Mineralisation Reports, Resource Reports and other tenure applications requiring data on minerals; and
- provide data for mineral exploration reports required under Section 115A of the Mining Act.

What is meant by minerals of economic interest?

The department interprets this statement to mean any concentration of minerals confirmed by exploration results to:

- exist at a concentration/grade similar to those typical for mining operations of that mineral, without consideration of the volume of mineral present;
- demonstrate the possibility of a spatially continuous mineralised zone; and indicate potential for future results to demonstrate that the site contains mineable volumes of the mineral.

The exploration relating to these results does not need to have established that the minerals are in economic concentrations such that mining is likely to be profitable. Exploration will be at an early phase, and subsequent exploration may or may not lead to mineral resources or ore reserves being estimated, or to subsequent mining. Occurrences of minerals at marginal grades and/or widths and/or 3D continuity are still within scope of economic interest and should be reported. Economic interest also corresponds to what the wider exploration industry would in general consider significant or encouraging results, regardless of how significant/material these are to the tenement holder.

For mineralisation discovered in areas with no or little exploration, tenement holders need not report individual results - for example, the results of a single drillhole. However, if a similar concentration of minerals is subsequently identified adjacent to this initial result which suggests continuity of minerals of economic interest between these two results, then these results should be reported as indicating minerals of economic interest.

For mineralisation discovered in areas near known mineralisation, the same requirement applies. However, newly-identified mineralisation that could logistically be recovered by the extension of an existing mining operation need not be reported. Examples include new mineralisation that could be mined by an open pit extension or via existing underground workings, the results of infill-drilling on known ore bodies and drilling for extensions of known ore bodies.

What is meant by promptly?

Promptly means when analytical results have been obtained that confirm the discovery. If the discovery is to be made public via reporting to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), report your discovery when you lodge your announcement with the ASX. Companies and individuals who do not intend (or that are not required) to disclose discoveries to the ASX should submit a discovery report when analytic results have confirmed a discovery of minerals of economic interest.

Are reports of minerals of economic interest confidential?

Yes.

Are there penalties for not promptly reporting all minerals of economic interest?

Yes. Failure to comply can result in forfeiture of your tenement, as reporting is a condition of grant. A penalty applied by a Warden may also be received.

My minerals of economic interest were found by following up historic results. Do I still need to report it if the historic result was already reported (for example, in an ASX release or within an annual exploration report submitted to DMPE)?

If public announcements have been made for this prospect in the past (for the same commodity/mineral), you do not need to report. However, if you discover a new mineral of economic interest on an historic prospect (for example, a gold discovery on a nickel prospect), and this has not been made public before, this needs to be reported. You will also need to make a report if the historic data was previously contained in a confidential data source.

What if I need help?

Please contact us by email to:
mineraldcoveries@dmpe.wa.gov.au

How do I report my discovery?

Please email the information to:
mineraldcoveries@dmpe.wa.gov.au

What information must my report include?

- Location data* for each mineral of economic interest. Include a map that clearly shows the location of the minerals of economic interest, and the tenement(s) on which the minerals of economic interest were found.
- All locations* of sampling points that indicate the minerals of economic interest. For example, drillholes with collar identification, surface sample points with sample numbers, etc.
- The minerals/commodities identified. You should include an interval table for all sampling results. The table should include the actual assay results, not an averaged grade, including grades/number of minerals, location data* for each sample, sample identifier numbers, and the units of all results.
- List the parties involved in the project - tenement holder/ joint venture partners/royalty holders, and explorer if different from the tenement holder.
- Provide the email address and phone number of a contact person that can assist us if we need more information.

**Location data includes the coordinates and coordinate system used for each location. Use an established coordinate systems (for example 2020 Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA2020) or latitude/ longitude, not a local or mine survey grid.*

Table 1	Sections (s) of the Mining Act 1978 and/or Mining Regulations 1981 (r) governing the reporting of minerals of economic interest	
Tenure type	Section/Regulation	Reporting requirement
Exploration licence	s.63.(a)	Conditions attached to exploration licence Every exploration licence will be deemed to be granted subject to the condition that the holder thereof will explore for minerals and – (a) will promptly report in writing to the Minister all minerals of economic interest discovered in, on or under the land subject of that exploration licence;
Prospecting licence	s.46.(a)	Conditions attached to every prospecting licence In addition to any conditions that may be prescribed or imposed with respect to the prospecting licence, every prospecting licence shall be deemed to be granted subject to the condition that the holder of the licence will prospect for minerals and to the following conditions – (a) that all minerals of economic interest discovered in or on the land the subject of the prospecting licence be promptly be reported in writing by the holder to the Minister;
Mining lease	s.82.(1)(f)	s.82. Covenants and conditions of lease Every mining lease shall contain and be subject to the prescribed covenants by the lessee and in particular shall be deemed to be granted subject to the conditions that the lessee (f) will promptly report in writing to the Minister all minerals of economic interest discovered in, on or under the land the subject of that mining lease;
Miscellaneous licence	s.92, r.41(e)	Section 92 confirms that s.46 (see prospecting licences in this table) applies to miscellaneous licences. Regulation 41(e) also applies: r.41 Covenants and conditions Every miscellaneous licence shall contain and be subject to the following covenants and conditions that the licensee shall – (e) promptly report in writing to the Minister details of all minerals of economic significance discovered in, on or under the land the subject of the licence;
General purpose lease	r.36	Covenants and conditions (e) promptly report in writing to the Minister details of all minerals of economic significance discovered in, on or under the land the subject of the lease;
Miner's Rights	r.4N	For prospecting under section 40E permits, r.4N Prospecting report on recovered minerals applies. The Section 40E Minerals Recovered Form to lodge this report can be found here: www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/section-40e-minerals-recovered-form

Government of Western Australia

Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

8.30am – 4.30pm

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on request to assist people with special needs.

For more information, email: geological.survey@dmpe.wa.gov.au or head to our [website](http://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/section-40e-minerals-recovered-form)

