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Representing professional prospectors &
Leaseholders WA

30 May 2019
Dept of Planning, Lands and Heritage

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Response to Review of the Aboriginal Heritage act 1972
Consultation Phase 1-Key themes and summary of issues document dated March 2019.**

Members of our Association are typically full-time professional prospectors and smaller-scale miners, who hold mining tenements.

A few of our members attended the workshop/briefing and make the following observations and suggestions for consideration:

- Our sector is very concerned that if the themes and numerous suggestions put forward in the abovementioned document are implemented and included in a possible new Act, this would be very worrying and would make the Act not better, but much worse for our sector.

Some of the most pressing concerns are:

1. Another layer/level of review is mooted.
2. Song lines and dreaming sites to be included as registered sites will open a Pandora's Box, that may be so difficult to overcome on site clearing that many small mining proponents will simply give up.
3. No agreement for a set schedule of fees leaves no indication of site clearance costs.
4. There was a feeling from listening to the Aboriginals present at the Kalgoorlie meeting that they are looking or expecting much more than heritage site protection, rather a form of defacto native title.
5. The proponents of this legislation review are encouraging the various aboriginal families to set up a regional business for site clearance, which may streamline operations, but also may cause confusion on who speaks for what. This idea does have merit and has worked independently in the past as an alternative to a regional aboriginal corporation or representative body. However, it is of concern that the proposed 9-member board in Perth will have oversight on site clearance, except for "projects of State significance".
6. Our view is that Prospectors and Small Miners are small business operators of State significance and may well become extinct if ever-increasing bureaucracy is not curtailed, and we deserve to have a low cost streamlined efficient process to allow for continuity of our profession.

Please don't think for one minute that our sector consists of only non-aboriginals. Many aboriginal prospector/small miners/ and tenement applicants are also caught up in the same system looking for an efficient low cost streamlined system.

In conclusion, our members are looking for certainty for their self-managed small businesses and continued employment. Remember and consider the self-employment opportunities mining and

tenement ownership offer when suggesting and drafting new legislation, and ensure that the said legislation is written in a way to assist productivity and not impede viability of the smaller sector.

We look forward to assisting in the review process to achieving those goals.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Edwards', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Cranston Edwards
President of the
EGPA AHA Review Committee
Eastern Goldfields Prospectors Assn