



# The Miner's Right

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

**January 2011**

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**Next Meeting:**

**Monday**

**14th February**

**12.30 pm**

**Mareeba Leagues**

**Club**

President's Comment January 2011

**DERM (EPA)**

The DERM mass mail out of invoice to miners continues despite the fact we have been given assurance from senior management that major changes would be made and errors and mistakes would be rectified. The letter from DERM Associate Director General Mr Terry Wall dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 is available on the NQMA web site.

In summary the letter states:

1. Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 DERM will work with industry to develop a simple procedure to allow EA holders to amalgamate current EA's where possible.
2. DERM will work with industry to better define a 'Mining Project' and develop clearer guidelines that will allow miners to amalgamate EA's.
3. DERM will allow a 12 month transitional period, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011, in which miners will be encouraged to amalgamate EA's where possible.
4. DERM will correct legislation so that EA's only commence when tenement granted. The annual fee in advance to become due only when tenement granted.

The NQMA position still remains the same: DERM to stop sending invoices, DERM to work with industry to fix the problems, allow miners to amalgamate EA's where possible, then DERM to send the correct invoice for the correct amount starting from when the tenement is granted and at that point the correct invoice will be paid. Current unjustified invoices or invoices for annual fees on tenement applications will not be paid.

**DEEDI**

A two day workshop was held with DEEDI in Brisbane on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December to commence work on the proposed 'small mining Platform'. A working group has been formed consisting of the following :-

*Secretariat:* Rachael Cronin (DEEDI), Andrew Barger (QRC)

*Attendees:* Luke Croton (DEEDI), Jon Womersley (DERM), Archana Mishra (QRC), Stacey Lingard (Hetherington), Eric Stezler (QOMA), Kev Phillips (QOMA), Fiona Abbey (NQMA), Ralph De Lacey (NQMA), Raleigh Henderson (QSPA).

The industry representation on this working group consists of delegates from the various small miner associations throughout Queensland coming together as the Queensland Small Miners Council (QSMC). The purpose of this working group is to develop a streamlined process that will allow 'small mining' tenure to flow much faster to grant with less unnecessary paperwork.

The aim of the working group is to have a proposal before government within six months (from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010).

One of the first real issues encountered was the definition of a 'Small Miner' (ie the size of mining operation that will be able to participate in the streamlined small miner grant process).

This issue was recognized some time back and in the latter part of last year the QSMC agreed on the following definition:-

"A Small Scale Miner is an individual, partnership or company that prospects, mines or explores for any Minerals other than coal as prescribed under the Queensland Minerals Resources Act. and has no more than ten (10) "Mining related" employee's."

It appears this definition will not be acceptable to government and a compromise will have to be reached. The workshops are scheduled to continue with regular meetings by teleconference, plus some further face to face meetings in Brisbane.

The concept of a streamlined process for the grant of all small miners tenure is an opportunity that is too good to miss and should be pursued to achieve the best possible outcomes.

**Native title.**

Paul Crossland is leading the negotiations and will provide an update elsewhere in this newsletter

**Next meeting Monday February 14.**

Regards

Ralph

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Update on The Native Title Act Section 29 - Right To Negotiate by Paul.E.Crossland (NQMA representative for Native Title matters)

The 4 month closing date for the first batch of mining lease applications in the RTN process has now been reached, as at the 22nd November 2010. The 6 month closing date is the 21st January 2011.

The applications which are outside of a registered Native Title area now refer back to the Mineral Resources Act, the Native Title conditions having been complied with. Applicants in the unclaimed areas now need to contact the Registrar at their local district DEEDI (Mines Department) office to make sure they have complied with all their requirements under the MRA, including the Environmental Conditions. Once all MRA and EPA (DERM) conditions have been complied with, the Mining Registrar can recommend these applications for grant and the grant process will continue.

Those applications which are in a registered Native Title Claimed area are in the negotiation process for an agreement with the relevant Native Title Claimants.

The North Queensland Land Council has resumed correspondence with the NQMA this month and is working with the Native Title Claimants for the Batch 1 agreement negotiations for the Western Yalanji Claimed areas. The tenement applications in the Jirrbal Claimed area are separate to the Western Yalanji agreement negotiations. The NQLC has advised that they will be sending letters out to the respective mining tenure applicants in the relevant Native Title areas. An initial meeting between the NQLC, the Western Yalanji People, the State representative and the NQMA has been proposed for the second week in February, before the next NQMA general meeting. This initial meeting is aimed at setting a clear process and specific agenda to achieve in both the RTN agreement negotiations and the Small Scale Miner ILUA negotiations.

The RTN Batch 2 Section 29 Advertisements, the combined BarBarrum People, the Olkola People and the Wakaman People batch was advertised on the 15th December 2010 and the notification date was the 22nd December 2010. The 3 month closing date is the 22 March and the 4 month closing date is the 22 April. These tenement applications are in the negotiation phase of the RTN process for the negotiation of an agreement which is an ancillary agreement "Commercial In Confidence". The Qld State Government will be liaising with the relevant Aboriginal Land Councils to organize the agreement negotiation process. The Land Councils will identify the authorized Native Title Claimants who will be involved in the agreement negotiations and who will be the Native Title signatories to the agreement. Once the negotiation of agreements is completed then the mining tenure applications can be recommended for granting by the Mining Registrar, subject to all the conditions of the MRA having been met by the tenure applicants. Those tenement applications in the Wakaman area are in an unclaimed area and will proceed towards grant providing that the applicant has complied with all their relevant obligations under the Mineral Resources Act and the Environmental Protection Act .

Applicants are advised to contact their local DEEDI office ( Mines Department ) to ensure they are fully compliant to avoid any delays in their tenement progress.

Miners who have tenure applications in the RTN process and are financial members of the NQMA will receive assistance from the NQMA in the negotiation process.

I urge any miners who are not financial members to do so promptly, the benefit of this will reduce your costs in the negotiation process and ensure that your views are adequately considered. The overall costs to the applicants for their side of things in the negotiation process are to be shared between the mining tenure applicants who are involved in the RTN batch. The NQMA has authorized a group representative who will be liaising between the applicants, the Native Title Claimants and the Qld State Government representatives. The group representative is responsible as the chief negotiator and spokes person for the mining tenure applicants and to oversee the conduct of negotiation meetings on the part of the tenure applicants.

Update on Native Title cont.

I would like to remind all members that to obtain the best outcome in the R.T.N. matters we need your input as to agenda you would like to be included in the agreement negotiations.

Contacts: Paul. Crossland 40968464  
Graham Byrne 40914905  
Graham Steene 0438726854  
Paul Turpin 40963015

Update on the Small Scale Miner Area I.L.U.A.s by Paul.E.Crossland.

The negotiations for the renewed Small Scale Miner ILUAs for the Ewamiam, Djungan and Western Yalanji Peoples areas is scheduled to resume in early February and it is proposed to combine the RTN agreement negotiations where appropriate. All parties involved have indicated a willingness to achieve these ILUA agreements and recognize that these ILUAs are of importance.

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### For Sale

5 ton Dawn Hand Winch - \$350.00

6 x 6 Kelly & Lewis low head bare pump - \$600.00  
20" Rota Sluice

Needs rebuild - \$150.00

Two 8 x 4 jigs - \$2,500.00 each

### Wanted

6/5 or 5/4 High Pressure Water pump

Ph 07 40914905  
0429959459

### Editor's Comment

Although January is already behind us I hope 2011 has started well for everyone and that it will be a good year. No doubt miners are looking forward to some fine weather so industry can get back on track.

The first NQMA meeting will be on February 14th at the Mareeba Leagues Club at 12.30 pm. Please come along and show your support for the organization.

Planning has begun for the annual Gold Panning Championships. If you have any suggestions to make towards this event can you please contact myself or any of the NQMA committee. We are always looking for lots of help, so mark Saturday 13th August on your Calendar.

In the following article, I would like to recount on a very interesting tour I recently took through the Mareeba Historical Society's Centre. A wealth of information on many topics is available here and it is run by a small band of dedicated volunteers.

Lyn Byrne

**The Mareeba Historical Society** is located in between the Heritage Centre and the Arts Society. It is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 am to 4 pm and the 2nd Saturday (Mareeba Market Day) from early until 12 pm. And also by appointment.

The Society was formed 17 years ago by Helen Kindt due to her keen interest in family history and other historical events and information.

For a minimal fee they will carry out research or people are able to come in to use the facilities. They restore books and documents and also offer a small scale light restoration of metal cups. The Society's current project involves the restoration of a very early map of Irvinebank thought to be early 1800's.

There is an extensive collection of information and records on the mining industry and for anyone wanting to research old leases, there is a large file of original Mining Wardens Annual reports spanning from 1891 - 1960. Some have been written on old envelopes or any paper they had at the time.

(Below: Helen Kindt, founder of the Society)



Photographic displays in the Centre include Queensland heritage and mining. Detailed collections of specific locations and people eg Palmer River, Northcote, Carbine, Irvinebank, Mulligan, Harbord, have been put together with a comprehensive index.

(Below : Photographic Display)



A valuable book display features an original and complete set of the Queensland Government Gazette from 1907 - 1968. Approximately 130 in total these books are leather bound and gold tooled and are in excellent condition.

In addition, an extensive library includes Qld Govt Mining Journals, ML Transfers, Genealogy, Geology and Minerals.

The Society is always on the lookout for any old photos, newspapers, maps, history books etc. Once the history of a place is gone, thrown away or destroyed it is lost forever. If you think you have anything of interest please see them. They are also able to offer a service which will copy personal photos and documents onto disc.

For further information Phone Helen on (07) 4092 3599

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The Association of Mining and Exploration companies (AMEC) is the national peak advocacy body for small to medium sized mineral exploration and mining companies, and the many individuals and supply companies that so vitally contribute to them.

We work on advocacy initiatives nationally and have industry members across the country, with the bulk of AMEC's membership currently operating out of Western Australia. In early 2010 however steps were taken to better nationalise AMEC's representation and to give the industry a truly national lobby group.

To reflect this, a strategy is now in place to **establish an office in Brisbane** to meet the needs of mining companies based and/or operating in Queensland.

A number of meetings have already been held with mining company and industry representatives to assess the most effective way for AMEC to work on behalf of the industry in Queensland. The feedback and insights from these meetings were strong and a number of key issues have been highlighted as being unique to Queensland and having a significant impact on the industry. These issues include:

- Strategic Cropping Land
- Wild Rivers
- New Land Access Laws
- Massive increases in fees and rents
- Long and expensive delays

*If you are an exploration or mining company in Queensland you will probably be affected by these and other legislative and policy changes.* These laws and fee increases represent significant new barriers to entry and will disproportionately impact on the junior end of the resources industry in this state.

These changes have been implemented by government because of political pressure from special interest groups. The Queensland Government has repeatedly yielded to this pressure because they know the juniors are currently fragmented and do not constitute a unified block of voters.

#### **You can help change the status quo!**

AMEC is seeking a mandate from Queensland Juniors to establish a *Queensland Chapter* and thereby provide a much needed unified voice at State level. We need a minimum of 40 full (mining) company members to justify the establishment of a Brisbane office with a full time employee, but we want 200 company members!

#### **It's time George Street heard your voice..**

A steering committee of Queensland mining representatives has been established to ensure that this process is carried out smoothly with the strong support and expertise of the AMEC Perth office. Once the Queensland Chapter is established, the appointed employee and management committee will have the full resources of AMEC to assist in dealing with local issues.

AMEC has a strong track record of responding to major issues confronted by the mining industry. By far the biggest of these issues in the past year have been the new mining taxes (RSPT and subsequent MRRT) and the federal election. AMEC has played a key role in opposing the new mining taxes and ran a national strategy that was directed at educating Australia's non-mining public of the impact of these taxes on their lives. This strategy was focused on the east coast where huge financial resources were applied in promoting this message. Through this focus and emphasis particularly in Queensland and NSW, AMEC's profile has increased to the point where a number of companies have joined in recognition of the anti mining tax efforts.

AMEC has also played a significant role in representing the mining industry in key regional issues, particularly in WA, where we have strong relationships with the state government and government departments which assists in delivering positive outcomes for the industry. AMEC is currently leading the fight on streamlining the native title, cultural heritage and environmental approvals processes in WA.

AMEC also offers a number of other commercial benefits to members including discounts on insurance through Strathearn Insurance Brokers.

If you would like further information about AMEC please feel free to contact our Membership Services Executive David Gallagher on 1300 738 184 who will be happy to discuss any enquiries.

Regards

**Simon Bennison | Chief Executive Officer**

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## NORTH QUEENSLAND MINER'S ASSOCIATION INC.

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ABN 76 525 585 093

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We.....  
the undersigned, being an eligible person, partnership, or company, hereby apply for Membership of the North Queensland Miner's 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 (including metal detecting); 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, partnership or company that provides goods or services to the mining industry but is not directly involved in mining'*.

SIGNED ..... DATE ...../...../.....

Please send Application form to: NQMA, PO Box 133, Malanda, Q4885

## ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD

So how do you know you have the genuine article?

With a small file, make a scratch in an inconspicuous place. With a wooden, glass or plastic stick, apply a drop of 70% nitric acid to this scratch and observe the reaction. When you've finished, rinse it well in running water.

- => No reaction It's gold
- => Bright green bubbling all over It's brass
- => Green only in the scratch Gold layer over brass
- => Milky in scratch Gold over silver

To be accurate, a sample must be assayed in a testing laboratory.

Finding what karat the gold is requires a kit of; nitric acid; aqua regia; samples of a known karat (usually a set of gold needles); touchstone (slate or ceramic). Rub the object on the touchstone to leave a streak.

Rub the known test needle on the touchstone, parallel to the first streak. This is the "test streak".

Acid\* is then washed across both marks. Observe, and when the sample colours at the same rate as the "test streak" a match has been made.

\*nitric acid is used for low karat gold and aqua regia is needed for high karat gold.

## Perfect Cut

Paddy and Murphy were standing on the footpath one day, having a friendly chat, when a truck loaded with turf drove past.

"Will you look at that" declared Paddy.

"That's what I'm going to do when I win the Lotto".

"What's that?" asked his friend Murphy.

"Send the grass away to get cut" replied Paddy.

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## GOLD (Au) TERMINOLOGY

Pure gold is too soft for most uses so it is mixed (alloyed) with other metals to achieve the desired colour, hardness and melting point. Generally silver and copper are used in the alloys but many other metals may also be used.

The relative amount (proportion) of gold in an alloy is called the **karat** (not to be confused with carat which is the weight of precious stones). The table below left shows the % of gold in karats most often used in today's commercial jewellery.

The table below shows common gold alloys in use

Karat	% gold	NAME	% Au gold	% Ag silver	% Cu copper	%Ni nickel	%% Zn Zinc	Melting Point C	Spec Grav.
		22 K coin-age	90	10				940	17.2
10	.4167	18K yellow	75	12.5				904	15.5
14	.5833	18 K white	75		5	15	5	904	15.7
18	.7500 (3/4)	18 K rose	75	5	22			932	15.5
22	.9167	14K yellow	58	25	17			802	13.4
24	1.000 100%	14 K white	58		20	14.5	7.5	927	13.7
		14 k rose	58	10	32			827	13.4
		10K yellow	42	12	41			786	11.6
		10 K white	42		26	20	11	1760	11.8
		10 K rose	42	10	48			927	11.8

**Please support our Associated Members**

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