

# MRT NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of Mineral Resources Tasmania



## New Prospecting Policies Prove Popular



### New Maps for Prospectors and Fossickers

In order to ensure prospectors are able to easily determine where they can, and cannot prospect, MRT has drafted new maps for use with the [Map Viewer](#) on the website, under the **Layers** tab.

The layers are designed to make it clear where prospecting can occur without permission from a land manager or tenement holder and where permission must first be sought before prospecting can commence. Gazetted fossicking areas are shown on a separate layer for those without prospecting licences.

In July 2020, Mineral Resources Tasmania, in consultation with the public and relevant State regulatory bodies, made changes to its prospecting licence, and group prospecting licence policies.

For individuals, it meant prospecting licence holders could retain a valid licence for 5 years, rather than needing to apply annually. The Group Licence was made available to clubs and school groups.

The changes have proven extremely popular, with the number of licence holders almost tripling in the short time since the new measures were announced. While prospecting can be considered a fun and healthy recreational activity, there are some factors which should be taken into account before prospecting begins:

- Prospecting on private property may only be conducted with the consent of the property owner or occupier.
- Prospecting on existing mining leases, retention licences or exploration licences may only be conducted with the consent of the mineral tenement holder and the owner or occupier of the land (if private).
- Prospecting on land which is subject to an application for an exploration licence or a mining lease may only be conducted with the consent of both the applicant and the Director of Mines. Tenement applications can be found on the MRT website by opening the [Map Viewer](#).
- Prospecting is not allowed in National Parks, Nature Reserves, Nature Recreation Areas, Historic Sites, Conservation Covenanted Areas and in public and municipal reserves (tips, cemeteries, etc.).
- Only hand prospecting for material is allowed and only hand-held tools may be used. Hand-held and un-motorised sluices less than 1m in length which can be easily carried in the field by an average person may be used. If in doubt please check with MRT prior to their use.
- The use of explosives is prohibited.

[Click here for a full list of Prospecting rules and conditions.](#)

## Recommendations to Grant 3 New Exploration Licences

The Director of Mines intends to recommend to the Minister for Resources that he grant the following exploration licences:

1. [EL3/2020 - Lisle](#)  
(Pacific Trends Pty Ltd. + Kingfisher Exploration Pty Ltd.)
2. [EL4/2020 - Oxberry Plains](#)  
(Pacific Trends Pty Ltd. + Kingfisher Exploration Pty Ltd.)
3. [EL7/2020 - Wyena](#)  
(Edrill Pty Ltd.)

The applications exclude existing mining leases, National Parks and reserved or other lands exempted from the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*. All three applications are for Category 1: Metallic minerals and atomic substances.

If the licences are granted, consent is required from Mineral Resources Tasmania prior to any exploration activity taking place. An explorer must provide 14 days notice prior to accessing private land. Security deposits are held against each licence in the event that the explorer fails to meet their rehabilitation obligations. Comments on these applications may be lodged with the Registrar of Mines (PO Box 672, Burnie, TAS 7320).

Any person holding a mineral tenement, or claiming an estate or interest in respect of any land within an application area may [lodge a formal objection](#) to the granting of that application. Each objection must be in writing and lodged with the Registrar of Mines on, or prior to 30 October 2020. The objection form must be accompanied by the prescribed fee of \$45.36.

For further information in relation to the application, including the effect on private land within an application area, please phone the Registrar of Mines on (03) 6477 7097. Calling the Registrar prior to lodging an objection is recommended in order for the process, and possible outcomes, to be fully explained.