



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**

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WA Regional Forest Agreement
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Dear Sir

RFA - PROGRESS REPORT PERIOD 3: 2009 TO 2014 - 6 DECEMBER 2016

I refer to your letter dated 15 November 2016 inviting the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) to provide its comments on the above RFA report.

DMP considers the RFA report's description of the mining and petroleum sector interests is generally appropriate but, there are some suggested amendments to enhance the report and these are discussed below.

Section 5.6 Industry development - subsection Extractive industries, page 56

First paragraph

The *Petroleum Act 1967* was retitled in 2007 as the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967* to enable to the addition of legislation to cover geothermal energy resources development. Thus, the reference to the *Petroleum Act 1967* should be replaced by the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*. It is noted this Act is correctly named in this section's last paragraph (page 57) and in the list of relevant legislation in Attachment 1 (page 150).

Second paragraph

The discussion on the area of State Forest cleared for mining activities could be enhanced by the inclusion of the ongoing rehabilitation of mine and petroleum activity sites as required in the approvals process. It is noted in the RFA's (May, 1999) Clause 86 (page 19) and Attachment 14 (page 128), generally state mineral and petroleum developments can be accommodated in the South West Forest Region "subject to compliance with approval process" which includes the rehabilitation of mine sites. It is suggested this paragraph is inclusive of mining and petroleum activities and could read along the lines "All mining and petroleum activities were subject to compliance with the State's approval processes which includes the rehabilitation of mine sites."

Third paragraph

The stated 2014-15 value of mineral production (\$488 million) in the South West Forest Region should include the value of bauxite and other minerals production (\$6.36 billion) listed in the Peel Region section of the DMP Statistics Digest for this period. It is suggested the sentence could read "While outside the reporting period,

in 2014-15 the value of mineral production across the South West Forest Region was approximately \$6.84 billion. The major commodities produced were alumina, gold, silver, copper, coal, mineral sands and basic raw materials (DMP, 2015). Although there was no petroleum production within the South West Forest Region during the 2009-14 period, there were petroleum and geothermal exploration activities and a short section of the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline passes through the RFA area.”

Attachment 1: State legislation, pages 149 to 151

Purpose column

It is important a list of legislation relevant to the RFA’s purpose is provided to express the roles and responsibilities of the relevant legislation in the RFA progress report. However, the purpose of each Act is a direct quote from its ‘long title’ which does not necessarily provide a clear explanation of the Act’s purpose in relation to the RFA. It is suggested the purpose column in Attachment 1 is reworded to state more simply why the Acts are relevant to the RFA. Three examples of this suggestion are the:

- *Mining Act 1978* purpose (p150) be changed from “to consolidate and amend the law relating to mining and for incidental and other purposes” to read “to ensure responsible mineral exploration and production including appropriate environmental management of these activities.”
- *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967* (p150) could similarly read “to ensure responsible petroleum and geothermal energy exploration and production including appropriate environmental management of these activities.”
- *Petroleum Pipeline Act 1969* (p150) could read “to ensure responsible construction, operation and maintenance of pipelines for the safe conveyance of petroleum.”

Tenure column

The tenure of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967* be amended to read “All tenures”.

I appreciate you seeking DMP’s comments on this important review of forest management during the 2009 -2014 period.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Andrews
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

22 December 2016