



Your ref: Regional Forest Agreement Progress Report  
Our ref: A1982/201001  
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**Attention: Dr Stoneman**

**A REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT FOR THE SOUTH-WEST FOREST REGIONS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (THE "PROGRESS REPORT")**

Thank you for your letter dated 26 July 2013 inviting comment on the Progress Report dated July 2013.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) notes the references to mining and petroleum interests in the Progress Report. Specific comments on the Progress Report are discussed below.

Section 4.1 Background, Dot point six (p 14)

Although the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) definition of "mining" includes mineral and petroleum activities, the term "mining" can be misread to mean only mineral activities. DMP suggests that this dot point to read 'Certainty of resources access to the minerals and petroleum industry'.

Section 5.5 The CAR reserve system, (p 41)

DMP has previously raised issues with the creation of new reserve proposals within the RFA and WA Forest Management Plan (FMP) regions. This matter is addressed in the FMP which expresses that the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) will consult DMP on the proposed creation of these reserves. It is suggested that this approach could be reflected in the Progress Report.

Section 5.5, Clause 68, (p 42)

DMP understands that informal reserves have a practical use as a management tool but, they have no formal status under Western Australian environmental, mining and petroleum legislation. It is important that the delineation, purpose and management plan for any informal reserve, in particular, security of access to resources for industry, is made clear to reduce uncertainty in land tenure and access decisions.

### Section 5.6, Extractive industries (p 47)

In the first paragraph

- Delete *Petroleum Act 1967* as it has been repealed and replaced with the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*. Include also the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969*, noting that this was included in the RFA with respect to the Dampier to Bunbury Pipeline's minor encroachment in the RFA near Australind and, to be used for the proposed extension of this pipeline through the RFA region from Bunbury to Albany.
- Delete 'Department of Minerals and Petroleum' and replace with 'Department of Mines and Petroleum'.

Second paragraph

- The total tenement area within the RFA is 2 853 536 ha. Granted Mining Act tenements occupy 930 940 ha and State Agreement tenements 1 922 596 ha. (Noting that these areas are not the exploration and production activities areas within these tenements).
- The 2011/2012 Year Book (Table 20, p 98), states that the annual clearing for "mining and clearing for utilities" was about 1360ha. It is suggested that this paragraph makes it clear how the 30 000 ha of cleared land for mining is derived. For context, it is important to also state the amount of land that has been rehabilitated after mining for equivalent time periods. Progressive rehabilitation is a notable feature of bauxite mining in particular, within the RFA area.

Third paragraph

- The Western Australian Mineral and Petroleum Statistics Digest 2011–2012 (<http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/1088.aspx>) shows that the value of mineral and petroleum production across the south west (i.e. the area covered by the three DPaW forest regions) was in excess of \$5.5 billion, with the major commodities being alumina, coal, mineral sands and gold.

### Section 5.8, Other forest uses, Clause 85 (p 52)

- Delete *Petroleum Act 1967* and replace with *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*.

### Section 5.8, Paragraph under Clause 86 (p 53)

- As the RFA definition of mining includes petroleum activities, DMP suggests that a description of this clause includes rehabilitation under the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*.
- The *Mining Environmental Management Guidelines: Mining Proposals in WA* is no longer current and the link in footnote 98 to the DMP website should be deleted and replaced with:
  - *Guidelines for Preparing Mine Closure Plans* (EPA and DMP 2011) [http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Mine\\_Closure\(2\).pdf](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Mine_Closure(2).pdf), and
  - *Guidelines for Mining Proposals in Western Australia* (DMP 2006) <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/ENV-MEB-200.pdf>.

Appendix 9, Forest employment and industries development strategy, (p 107)

In the first paragraph under “Minerals industry” box DMP suggests that:

- The first sentence is reworded to read along the lines “The RFA *Assessment of Minerals and Hydrocarbon Resources in the SW Forest Region of WA (Jan. 1998)* report shows that the south-west State forests contain metalliferous, energy and basic raw material resources of State economic importance all of which have potential for further development.”
- The second sentence, DMP considers that “WA continues to facilitate access by industry to mineral through SAAs” is not correct and should read along the lines “Access to mineral and petroleum resources require government approval principally through the *Mining Act 1978* and *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*.” Also, delete *Petroleum Act 1967* and replace with *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*.

In the second paragraph under “Minerals industry” box it is suggested that this paragraph is reworded to read along the lines that “DMP’s home page, at <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/3959.aspx>, offers a range of free access online systems, including:

- GeoVIEW.WA - an interactive (GIS-based) mapping system;
- WAMEX - access to non-confidential mineral exploration reports;
- MINEDEX - information about WA mines and mineral deposits;
- WAPIMS - petroleum related data;
- TENGRAPH Online - the position and status of mining tenements and petroleum titles in WA in relation to other land tenure;
- MTO - details of mineral exploration and mining tenements in WA; and
- PGR - information relating to petroleum and geothermal titles in Western Australia and its waters.

There is also publicly available information on mining and petroleum applications and activities, including environmental conditions and annual environmental reports at <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/17206.aspx>

Please contact Mr Ian Briggs (9222 3600) if you require further information.



Richard Sellers  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

(1) September 2013