

**Mineral Resources Tasmania**

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources



# **Mineral Exploration Code of Practice**

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**Edition 5 — 2012**

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MINERAL RESOURCES TASMANIA, PO BOX 56, ROSNY PARK, TASMANIA 7018 ISBN 978-0-7246-4023-2

**ENDORSED BY THE TASMANIAN MINERALS COUNCIL**

### **NOTE TO EXPLORERS**

This edition of the Mineral Exploration Code of Practice has been arranged in three parts, including a section containing references and links to additional information which may be of use to explorers.

- Exploration procedures — information for explorers
- Mineral Exploration Code of Practice — exploration work standards
- More information

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## Introduction

Exploration in Tasmania is regulated under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*, with Mineral Resources Tasmania being responsible for the approval of exploration works. The *Mineral Exploration Code of Practice* is an approved Code under Section 204 of the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*. It is a standard licence condition that explorers must comply with this Code.

### Purpose

The purpose of this Code is to provide an outline of the current procedures which must be followed to obtain on-ground exploration work approval, and at the same time to give useful, practical information on the expected standards of exploration activities. The Code also details the controls and monitoring procedures which are currently in place. Conditions under which the exploration work may proceed are decided on a site-by-site basis, after consultation with other government departments.

### Sustainable development

The Code embodies the principles of sustainable development which are reflected in the emphasis on low impact work which is rehabilitated, the consideration of natural and cultural values that is required before conditions are set for each on-ground activity, the early engagement with the community, and the use of surety bonds to provide the confidence that all works will be repaired.

### Use

Extensive liaison networks are in place, and there is regular consultation with land managers such as staff from Forestry Tasmania and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

Earthworks must be rehabilitated on the completion of the exploration program unless the works are specifically required by an incoming explorer. In this case, the new explorer must accept responsibility for the tracks and drill pads left open for their use. Security deposits are held which

are sufficient to cover the environmental liability at each stage of the exploration process.

This Code gives detailed information on various earthmoving activities to allow this work to be done in the best possible way. Other issues of importance to the explorer, such as protocols with private landowners and the need to prevent the spread of weeds and fungal diseases, is also documented. We envisage that the Code will provide explorers with a useful guide to questions relating to all aspects of exploration.

### History

The first edition of the *Mineral Exploration Code of Practice* was issued in December 1990. Since then, the code has been updated four times. This edition of the Code has been designed to allow for delivery via the internet and can be downloaded in its entirety or in sections that relate to specific activities. Where information that may be of use to explorers is presented elsewhere links have been provided rather than reproducing the information here. Following the signing of the Regional Forest Agreement between the Tasmanian and Australian governments, it was agreed that the *Mineral Exploration Code of Practice* would be reviewed every five years and consistency would be maintained with the *Tasmanian Reserve Management Code of Practice*.

### Petroleum, coal seam gas and geothermal

The approval of onshore exploration for petroleum, coal seam gas and geothermal energy is governed by a schedule (Appendix 1). Site access is approved using this Code and explorers should use the 'Onshore wells: approvals to drill checklist' to ensure that they have all the required documentation before submitting a program for approval.

### Occupational Health and Safety

Explorers and contractors must comply with the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*, and *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations 1998* and associated legislation.