Mineral Resources Tasmania

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources



Mineral Exploration Code of Practice

Edition 5 — 2012

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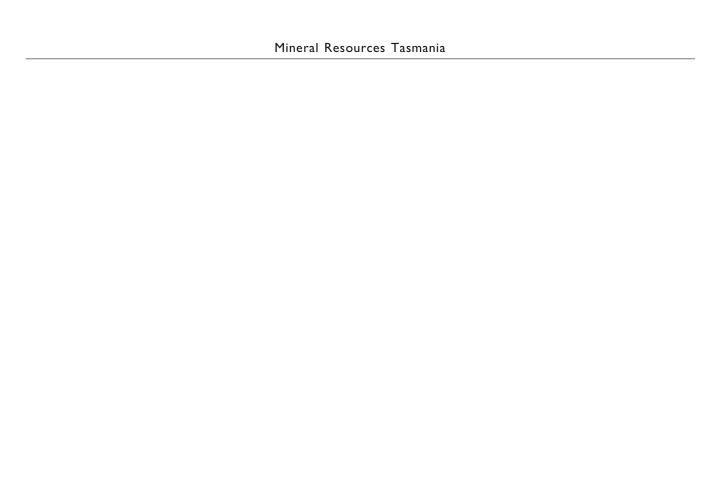
This edition of the Mineral Exploration Code of Practice has been arranged in three parts, including a section containing references and links to additional information which may be of use to explorers.

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

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
Purpose	5
Sustainable development	5
Use	5
History	5
Petroleum, coal seam gas and geothermal	5
Occupational Health and Safety	5
Part I: EXPLORATION PROCEDURES — INFORMATION FOR EXPLORERS	7
Gaining approval for exploration work	7
Exploration approvals on mining leases	8
Land available for exploration	9
Land classification in Tasmania	10
Regional Forest Agreement	12
Tasmanian Exploration Auditing and Monitoring System	12
Mineral Exploration Working Group	12
Cultural heritage	13
Biodiversity	13
Wilderness	14
Geoconservation	14
Community consultation	14
Sustainable development	
Part 2: MINERAL EXPLORATION CODE OF PRACTICE	
Induction and register	15
Grid lines	15
Access tracks	16
Drill sites	22
Costeans and pits	
Rehabilitation and revegetation	
Helicopters and helipads	34
Aerial surveys	
Camping	
Plant diseases	
Weeds	37
Chytrid fungus	
Private property	38
Part 3: MORE INFORMATION	
MRT website resources and links	
Other useful links	
APPENDIX I: Schedule for onshore exploration for petroleum, coal seam gas or geothermal substances	43

Cover: Helicopter assisted drilling south of Queenstown, with Mt Sorell in the background.



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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 I). 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.