



Procedures for assessment of mining lease applications: Notes for District Foresters

by C. A. Bacon

MINING LEASE APPLICATIONS

Mining is a fundamentally different activity from exploration. The mining lease is a formal contract between the Crown and the lessee. Unlike activity on exploration licences where approval must be sought for each activity, mining leases are issued with all the conditions to be imposed on that operation included in the lease document. Alterations to lease conditions, once the lease has been granted, are quite difficult to make.

Lessees must supply basic environmental impact information and a mining plan to the Department of Mines, and if moving over 100 t of material must obtain a Licence to Operate Scheduled Premises from the Department of Environment and Planning. Council approval is also required.

CIRCULATION OF APPLICATIONS

Head Office will be notified at the application stage for leases which fall within:

State Forest — Multiple Use Forest Land

Applications which fall within 'sensitive' areas will be circulated via the Mineral Exploration Working Group for comment. District Foresters will receive copies of this correspondence from Forestry's MEWG representative. These areas include:

- Conservation Areas
- Protected Areas
- Reserves brought back under the Mining Act e.g. Forest Reserves, State Recreation Areas.
- Forest Reserves (where the reserve is subject to the *Mining Act 1929*. Most Forest Reserves are exempt from the Act. At this point in time only the Teepookana and Mt Maurice Forest Reserves are subject to the Act. The Mt Victoria Forest Reserve has a management plan which states that the area can be brought back under the Act if required).
- Coastal Areas
- RAPs (whether Crown Land or State Forest)
- Deferred Forest Land (whether Crown Land or State Forest)

- Areas subject to Tasmanian Aboriginal land claims (as recognised by PWH)
- Rehabilitation areas (e.g. Greening Australia Project Area, South Mt Cameron)
- Any other area for which special, natural or cultural features are recorded.

District Foresters will be sent copies of the Environmental Impact Statements when supplied for comment (approximately 2–3 months after the application is lodged).

District Foresters will receive copies of lease documents for leases within their management areas once the lease has been granted. This may take some months.

MANAGEMENT OF LEASES

Day-to-day management of mining on leases is done by Department of Mines Inspectors, who routinely liaise with the relevant District Foresters relating to works on leases on State/Deferred Forests, and also regarding timber on any lease, regardless of land tenure.

REQUESTING ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

There is no Code of Practice for mining as yet, although an Australian Mining Industry Council handbook on mining practice is quite useful. Foresters may request that works, in so far as is possible, be conducted in accordance with the Forest Code of Practice if desired.

Appendix 2 lists standard conditions which are added to all leases on State Forest. Foresters may request additional conditions reflecting site-specific requirements if desired.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For any additional information please contact the Department of Mines, not the lessee.

BREACH OF CONDITIONS

If any work is noticed which is thought to be either inappropriate or unauthorised please contact the Department of Mines at once. Penalties can be imposed, bonds confiscated and tenements cancelled for unauthorised works. Illegal miners can be prosecuted.

[19 October 1992]

APPENDIX 1

Environmental Impact Information, mining



TASMANIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND ENERGY
DIVISION OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT INFORMATION - MINING

The purpose of this form is for mining lease applicants to provide information to the Tasmanian Department of Resources & Energy, Mines and Mineral Resources Division and Environment Division of the Department of Environment & Planning in order that these agencies can assess the likely environmental impact of proposed mining or quarrying operations.

If a licence from the Department of the Environment & Planning is required the information supplied in this form will be used to assess the licence application and determine licence conditions.

In cases where the proposal is for a particularly large operation or one in a sensitive area, more information or a full environmental impact statement may be required.

Instructions

1. Please fill the form out carefully and provide as much information as possible. Delays in processing your application may result if there are not enough details about your proposal. If you need help in answering any of the questions phone the Department of Resources & Energy on:

| | | |
|------------|------------|---------------|
| Inspectors | Hobart | (002) 33 8333 |
| | Launceston | (003) 36 2516 |
| | Burnie | (004) 34 2336 |

| | | |
|-----------|--------|---------------|
| Registrar | Hobart | (002) 33 8341 |
|-----------|--------|---------------|

or the Environment Division of the Department of Environment and Planning,
Hobart (002) 33 2788, (002) 33 3601.

2. Where alternative answers are provided on this form please tick one or more, if this is appropriate.
3. If there is not enough space provided for your answer please use the back of the form or attach additional pages.
4. The maps and plans requested in this form are essential.

A. GENERAL

1a. Applicant:

Company _____

Name of Representative _____ Position _____

Address for Correspondence _____

Telephone No. _____ Fax No. _____

1b. Lease Application:

Application No. _____ Date _____

Location _____ Area (ha) _____

2. Give a brief account of the operations which it is proposed will be undertaken on the lease, including the name of the mineral to be produced.

3. Please supply a section of the relevant Tasmap 1:25000 series topographical map. On this map mark or draw in:

- (a) the proposed mining lease;
- (b) any residences within 1 kilometre of the lease perimeter;
- (c) any existing pit workings within the proposed lease not already shown on the map;
- (d) areas to be disturbed (cross reference with attachment 1).

Roads, rivers and creeks should already be shown on the above published map.

(If a 1:25 000 map is not available please supply the best available alternative e.g. 1:100 000 etc.)

4. (a) Land Status classification

Uncommitted Crown / Reserve / State Forest /
 Conservation Area / Private Property etc. _____

(b) Present use of land

- natural/undisturbed
- recreation
- pastoral
- cropping/orchard
- previous mining activity (unrehabilitated)
- forest production
- other (specify) _____

5. General Geology (refer to relevant Mines Department maps)

6. Description of the site -

(a) Indicate the main characteristics of the site

- beach
- sand dunes
- plain
- river/creek bed/banks
- valley floor
- slope <_____ % slope >_____ %
- hill top
- escarpment
- plateau
- proximity to reserve
- other

(b) Give a broad description of the type (organic or mineral, clayey or sandy), depth and extent of soil in the area of the operation

(c) Previous disturbance and operations

Has the site been previously disturbed by mining or quarrying _____

Who was the previous operator if known? _____

Is there any remaining evidence of disturbance. If 'yes' provide the following information.

(i) Area disturbed by pits, dams overburden etc _____

(ii) Was topsoil separately stockpiled? _____

(iii) Are there any drainage or erosion problems? _____

(iv) Area of rehabilitation work carried out _____

Natural revegetation _____

Not revegetated _____

To what extent will the planned operation rectify or improve existing problems _____

(d) Flora and Fauna:

Vegetation to be affected by the operations: (rainforest/alpine moorland/buttongrass/coastal/wet or dry eucalypt forest/etc. _____

(e) Fauna (known rare or threatened species and/or significant concentrations of wildlife) _____

B. OPERATIONAL DETAILS

1. Working Plan

(a) Please supply a working plan of the site at a scale of 1:1000 using Attachment 1. The following details should be shown on the plan. It should be clearly related to the map required under A3.

- (i) Any boundary of the mining lease within 100 m of the pit.
- (ii) The location of the access track from the nearest main road, and any other proposed tracks.
- (iii) The locations of any rivers or creeks within 100 m of the pit.
- (iv) The proposed location and size of the pit.
- (v) The locations of any existing or proposed buildings on the lease.
- (vi) The locations of overburden heaps, topsoil stockpiles, settling dams and tailings dams.

(b) Will you gain access to the site

- using an existing track?
- by constructing a new track?
- by other means? Please indicate.

All new roadworks should be clearly shown as such on the working plan and on the topographical map mentioned in section A3 above.

(c) Other activities e.g. further sampling and exploration beyond mine site.

(d) Management and maintenance commitments for infrastructure e.g. access roads.

(e) Times of operation.

2. Pit Details (Refer as necessary to Attachment 1)

(a) What is the type and quantity of material to be mined or quarried per year?

(b) Estimate the final dimensions of the proposed pit (length, depth and width)

(c) Quantity of overburden which will be stripped in tonnes per year

(d) Quantity of tailings, screenings or other waste material that will be produced in tonnes per year

(e) Area of land clearing in hectares (includes pit, access tracks and associated workings)

(f) Expected life of the operation

3. Method of Operation (refer as necessary to attachment 1)

- (a) Method of extraction - blasting
- ripping
- dredging
- sluicing
- other (please specify)

(b) Describe the machinery and equipment to be used, and any other buildings to be erected

(c) In the case of mining describe the treatment process to be used

(d) Describe the direction and sequence of working the pit - include bench heights and widths where appropriate

(e) Describe the rehabilitation procedures to be used during the life of the operation (see Reference 1 at the end of this form)

- Ripping
- Drainage
- Soil Source (stockpiled topsoil or imported)
- Soil spreading
- Seed source (local or imported)
- Artificial mulches or mats.

4. Environmental Aspects

(a) Visibility

Will the operation be visible from residences, public roads or scenic viewpoints? YES/NO

If yes, specify and describe proposals to screen the site

(b) Noise

(i) Outline your proposals to reduce noise from the operation, if that reduction is necessary

(ii) Indicate the volume of truck movements per day in and out of the pit

(c) Water Disposal and Erosion

Outline your proposals to minimise water erosion and prevent siltation of nearby water-courses, including the method of wastewater disposal e.g. drains, flocculants, sediment traps, artificial mulches, mats etc.

(d) Dust

Outline your proposals to reduce any dust hazard (if any)

5. Final Rehabilitation

(a) What is the proposed end use of the site?

- return to native vegetation
- forest production
- agriculture
- water storage
- refuse disposal
- recreation area
- urban development
- other (specify) _____

(b) Proposed slope of final pit faces, and final bench heights and widths

(c) Describe the rehabilitation procedures to be used on pit faces, the general site area and access roads

Signed _____ Date _____

Name (in block letters) _____

Position _____

Reference

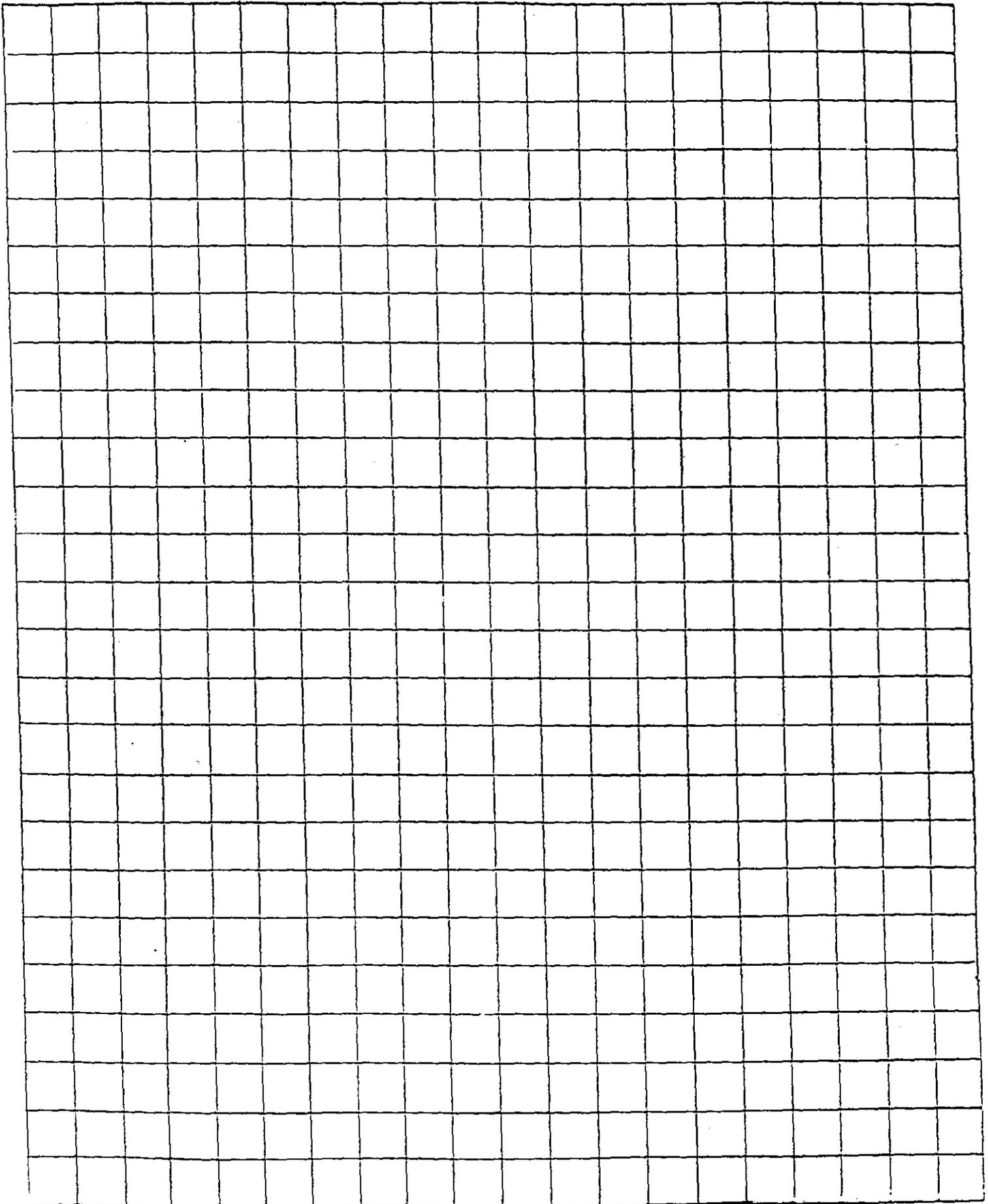
1. Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Quarries and Extractive Pits.
Department of the Environment, Hobart, 1984
2. Australian Mining Industry Council - Mine Rehabilitation Handbook,
Dickson Act, 1990.

10

ATTACHMENT 1

WORKING PLAN

SCALE 1:1000



015

APPENDIX 2

Standard Mining Lease conditions for a lease on State Forest

SCHEDULE 3

The lessee shall liaise with the District Forester ^C, prior to commencement of any mining works likely to affect State Forest or forestry operations on the lease area, and for such works the following clauses shall apply.

1. The lessee shall not cut, remove or use any timber on the lease for mining or domestic purposes without the prior approval of the District Forester ^C, and:
 - (a) Shall pay compensation to the Forestry Commission for each tree removed, such value to be the value at the time of removal as may be assessed by the District Forester, and;
 - (b) Shall not clear any other natural vegetation without first obtaining the written approval of the District Forester, ^C.
2. No damage to be caused by the lessee to existing roads and drainage systems. Any damage so caused shall be repaired at the lessees own expense to the satisfaction of the District Forester, ^C.
3. No fires are to be lit on or adjacent to the lease area without the written approval of the District Forester, ^C and then only in accordance with the provisions of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.
4. The lessee shall be responsible for the immediate suppression of any fires which may occur due to mining operations on the lease area to the satisfaction of the District Forester, ^C.
5. Forest officers and their agents shall have free access to the lease area including the use of roads and tracks for forestry purposes.