

AMEC REQUIREMENTS IN BRIEF - TENURE LICENCES

	Western Australia	New South Wales	South Australia	Queensland	Northern Territory	Victoria	Tasmania
Exploration Licence (EL) legislation and government authority	Exploration licence required under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> (WA). Regulated by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety .	Exploration licence required under the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> (NSW). Regulated by the Department of Regional NSW, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience and NSW Resources Regulator .	Exploration licence required under the <i>Mining Act 1971</i> (SA). Regulated by the Department of Energy and Mining .	Exploration licence required under the <i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i> (Qld) (MRA). Regulated by the Department of Resources .	Exploration licence required under the <i>Mineral Titles Act 2010</i> (NT). Regulated by the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism (DITT) .	Exploration licence required under the <i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990</i> (VIC). Regulated by Earth Resources Regulation Branch , Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions under the <i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019</i> .	Exploration licence required under the <i>Mineral Resources Development Act 1995</i> (TAS). Regulated by <i>Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT)</i> .
EL terms, fees, security	Exploration licences have an initial period of 5 years and can then be extended for one period of 5 years and further periods of 2 years. ¹ (For an EL applied for on or after 10 February 2006, the licence be reduced by 40% at the end of the 6th year of its term). Fees – Application fees together with the first year’s rent is payable on lodgement of an application for a mining tenement. ²	Exploration licences are granted and renewed for periods up to 6 years (with 50% area reduction at renewal unless special circumstances). Fees – Application fee and an annual rental fee before an exploration licence can be granted.	Exploration licences are usually granted for a 1 or 2-year term. ³ Licences can be renewed by lodging a renewal application (for up to 18 years cumulatively). Renewal of term is normally granted in increments of 1 or 2 years. ⁴ Fees – Application and annual (+ others).	Exploration permits for minerals granted for up to 5 years. Fees – Application fees plus rent fees .	Exploration licences may be initially granted for up to six years and can be renewed more than once for periods of up to two years. Half the blocks in an exploration area must be surrendered every 2 years in the initial grant period unless exemption applies. Fees – Application fee, annual rent, and annual administrative fee.	Exploration licences granted for up to 5 years. Renewals possible if satisfactory exploration has been undertaken. Fees – Application and annual fees.	Exploration licence granted for up to 5 years. Extended at the discretion of the Minister if the holder is able to show grounds for extension. Fees – Application and annual fees.
Security or financial assurance	Security – A \$5,000 security in the form of a signed Form 32 for compliance with tenement conditions must be lodged with every application and transfer. The Minister may require the holder to lodge an additional security. ⁵ Mining Rehabilitation Fund – An annual levy of 1% of the estimated environmental rehabilitation liability is payable based on the deemed cost of rehabilitating the disturbances on tenements (calculated in accordance with the <i>Mining Rehabilitation Fund Regulations 2013</i> ⁶). If the Rehabilitation Liability Estimate (RLE) for a tenement is less than the \$50,000 threshold, there is no levy payable. Bonds – DMIRS will impose Unconditional Performance Bonds (UPBs) on tenements where it considers that there is a high risk of the rehabilitation liability reverting to the State, regardless of MRF payment.	Security – Security deposit (minimum of \$10,000) as cash or bank guarantee required before grant of tenure. Security deposits are reviewed before and after each exploration activity program as part of the activity approvals.	Security – 100% of the estimated rehabilitation liability. The rehabilitation liability estimate should be the reasonable third-party costs of undertaking the rehabilitation strategies covered by the approved program for environment and rehabilitation (PEPR). DEM will review the estimate prior to setting the final bond. Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund – the establishment of the Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund (EARF) under section 63, of the Act provide a surety mechanism to protect the state from assuming post mining rehabilitation liabilities.	Security – Environmental Authority holders for a resource activity must calculate their estimated rehabilitation cost (ERC) and apply for an ERC decision. The financial assurance payment, known as ‘surety’ will equal the ERC. ⁷	Security – The Minister is to calculate the amount of security to be provided by an operator by reference to the level of disturbance likely to be caused by the mining activities to be carried out. Levy – Annual 1% levy of the full amount of an operator’s environmental bond to go into the Mining Remediation Fund that is set up to address legacy mining liabilities across the Territory.	Security – \$10,000 rehabilitation bond required in cash or unconditional bank guarantee.	Security – \$5,000 + \$20 per sq km + 1% exploration expenditure for first 2 years as cash or bank guarantee and lodged before grant. ⁸

¹ <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Minerals/Unconditional-Performance-Bonds-3012.aspx>

² <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Minerals/Unconditional-Performance-Bonds-3012.aspx>

³ Page 2, M05 Mineral exploration licences - General conditions, procedures and information (<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/ISM05.pdf>)

⁴ Page 2_M05 Mineral exploration licences - General conditions, procedures and information (<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/ISM05.pdf>)

⁵ Section 60 of the Mining Act

⁶ http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_13067_homepage.html

⁷ <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/environment/licences-permits/rehabilitation/resource-activities>

⁸ https://www.mrt.tas.gov.au/exploration/exploration_licences

	Western Australia	New South Wales	South Australia	Queensland	Northern Territory	Victoria	Tasmania
Example of government fees for a 100km² EL for gold/similar metals for one year	Application fee: \$1,660 Annual rent: \$4818 Total: \$6,478 + Security Deposit and Levy	Application fee: \$1,417 Annual rent: \$425 Annual administrative levy: \$100 Total: \$1,942 + Security Deposit	Application fee: \$892 Annual administration fee: \$178 Annual regulation component: \$1,360 - \$2,290 Annual Rent: NA Total: \$2,430 - \$3,360 + Security Deposit Please visit this link to identify which Zone your project will be in.	Application fee: \$1,017 Annual rent: \$5,607 Total: \$6,624 + Security Deposit	Application fee: \$434 Annual rent: \$1,292 Annual administrative fee: \$310 Total: \$2,036 + Security Deposit	Application fee: \$2,191.40 Fee for grant of exploration license: \$2,191.40 Annual rent: \$1,370 Total: \$4,752 + Security Deposit	Application fee: \$1,419 Annual rent: \$2,994 - \$5,998 Total: \$4,413 - \$7,417 + Security Deposit
Example of minimum expenditure fees for a 100km² EL for gold/similar metals one year	\$33,000	Minimum standards for work program but no stated \$ commitment	\$39,700 ie \$30,000 + \$97/km sq	Expenditure is no longer an exploration permit work program requirement.	Est \$15,000 but stated at grant ie \$10,000 plus \$150 per block (about 3km sq). This figure is expected to increase to \$250 per block per year	\$16,500 ie \$15,000 + \$150/graticule ie 1km sq (overheads no more than 20%)	\$20,000 – stated as a guide, with minimum expenditure stated at grant.
Environmental requirements for EL * Federal - For advanced activities, they may also require Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 approval	Program of Work is required to be lodged and approved by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum prior to conducting any ground disturbing activities with mechanised equipment (advanced exploration activities). ⁹ Referral and approval by Environmental Protection Authority may be required if activities likely to have a significant effect on the environment . A native vegetation clearing permit may be required unless an exemption applies. Native vegetation clearing regulated under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 + Regulations 2004 . Tenement may be granted with conditions requiring additional approvals/requirements depending on type of land/activity. Federal: The Commonwealth Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is triggered by ' matters of national environmental significance and controlled actions '.	Environmental assessment is required for an 'assessable prospecting operation' which is anything not classified as 'exempt development' (most reconnaissance exploration activities). Assessable prospecting operations requires an environmental assessment via the Resources Regulator Portal , or form . Federal: The Commonwealth Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is triggered by ' matters of national environmental significance and controlled actions '.	An approved program for environment protection and rehabilitation (PEPR) must be in place prior to the commencement of any exploration activities (not including low impact = e.g. rock sampling or geological surveying). ¹⁰ For low impact activities the Department of Energy and Mines has developed a generic PEPR which must be adhered to. ¹¹ Federal: The Commonwealth Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is triggered by ' matters of national environmental significance and controlled actions '.	Work program required for tenure. Federal: The Commonwealth Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is triggered by ' matters of national environmental significance and controlled actions '.	Minister for Mining and Industry may require security payment to be made to cover any damage made to the land and securing environmental rehabilitation requirements. The operator of a project is responsible for rectifying any environmental harm arising from mining activities and for final rehabilitation of the affected area. ¹² Federal: The Commonwealth Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is triggered by ' matters of national environmental significance and controlled actions '.	Work plan required for EL and may be varied with an increase in significant risk, etc. Federal: The Commonwealth Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is triggered by ' matters of national environmental significance and controlled actions '.	All proposed activities must be approved, in writing , prior to the commencement of any on ground works and explorers must comply with the Mineral Exploration Code of Practice . Federal: The Commonwealth Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is triggered by ' matters of national environmental significance and controlled actions '.
Government website	https://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/	https://www.regional.nsw.gov.au/our-work/meg	https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals	https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/	https://industry.nt.gov.au/publications/mining-and-energy	https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/	https://www.mrt.tas.gov.au/home

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⁹ <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Environment/Programmes-of-Work-5966.aspx>

¹⁰ https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/exploration/exploration_activities

¹¹ [Page 5_M05 Mineral exploration licences - General conditions, procedures and information \(https://sariqbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sariq1/image/DDD/ISM05.pdf\)](https://sariqbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sariq1/image/DDD/ISM05.pdf)

¹² <https://industry.nt.gov.au/industries/mining-and-energy/mine-rehabilitation-projects/about-legacy-mines/levy-and-security>