

A malgamated
Prospectors and
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Representing Prospectors
Since 1904

Urgent updates: Re Conservation Parks

Dear APLA member,

The APLA Executive is extremely concerned about the potential removal of access to proposed Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) conservation parks under the terms and conditions of the Miner's Right. The DEC has 6.9% of the WA landmass in conservation estate and plans to increase this to 15% with the parks. This is a much larger loss of available Crown land for the Prospectors and Explorers of WA, and brings the total to over 20%. The State Government has not recognized this.

The original DEC proposal, conveyed through the DoIR at the Mining Industry Liaison Committee assured APLA that access would be negotiated for Miner's Right holders. APLA have requested confirmation of this from DoIR, DEC, Conservation Commission WA, the Minister for the Environment, and the Minister for Resources. To date APLA have not received any correspondence in writing to clarify this.

APLA have requested to see the areas planned for purchase and creation of parks, and the criteria used for selection and to be able to have input to these decisions for the benefit of all parties. The criteria for the acquisition of land are unclear and the process is not transparent which is not in the public interest.

Prospecting is a short-term activity that is almost a no impact activity; the same as recreational prospecting and fossicking enjoyed by thousands of Western Australians. These activities will be excluded, the decision without public consultation and will affect many other land uses currently enjoyed by the public.

The lack of due process and accountability is further demonstrated by the fact that negotiations are being made to accommodate mining activity of much higher impact, yet Miner's Right holders with minimal impact have no input to this proposal that is under the guise of conservation.

APLA have investigated the economic impact to the States economy. Regional development will suffer as with every other land access restriction in the past, jobs are lost and costs rise. Attached is a copy of APLA's economic impact statement that shows the serious economic consequences of this proposal, which our government needs to recognize.

In recent times the Esperance Port Lead scandal has demonstrated the lack of co-ordination, planning and accountability of the government departments. With the "closed door proposal" on conservation parks APLA can see the same happening and our Premier once again apologizing to the public and the regional communities for the mistakes of his departments, the lack of public consultation, the restriction of input by land users affected, and once again the size of the detrimental impacts caused by these decisions on the public. All of which could be prevented by proper and open consultation.

APLA urge every member to take action and express your concerns to our government. Every MP makes time available to meet the public in their electorate, and we ask you to make an appointment to see your local Member of Parliament and to take your copy of the Datum Post cover story to them along with this update and APLA's economic impact statement.

Sean Ashcroft

APLA President

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