

Austwide Newsletter

November Edition

Adjustments to Annual Fee Invoices – Petroleum (NT)

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The Department of Mines and Energy have recently advised that GST ceased to apply to petroleum title annual fees as of 23/09/2015.

Invoices are now being raised reflecting the anniversary of renewal (where applicable) and with adjustments being made pro-rata to the relevant gap or overlap between periods.

In relation to the GST component, although amendment to the *Petroleum Regulations* has yet to be

passed, notice to that effect is to be issued to all petroleum title holders.

Further adjustments to annual fee invoices are being made to align rental periods to the anniversary of grant of renewals (where applicable).

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Lucy Oborn or Don Perry.

[Western Australia] New forms of land tenure such as rangeland leases are currently being considered as alternative options to existing pastoral leasehold. For further information on the proposed reforms and how they affect existing pastoral leases, please contact Roy Burton of our office

Environmental reform briefing session (WA)

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The Department of Mines and Petroleum is holding a stakeholder briefing session in Kalgoorlie on environmental reform and the recently released draft Mining Proposals.

The Kalgoorlie briefing session scheduled for Thursday 5 November 2015 will follow a similar session for stakeholders in Perth the day before.

Steve Milner and Eldon Stone of our office will be in attendance at the Perth session and would be happy to have a chat regarding any matters raised.

Bills before Parliament affecting Coal, Gas and Petroleum (NSW)

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As promised by the NSW government, substantial changes are being made to the application and grant process – focusing on coal, gas and petroleum.

The concept of “Controlled Release” minerals has been introduced through which applications for coal (in particular) will be restricted, as well as a regime for the right of the Secretary, on behalf of the Crown, to hold a licence for the purpose of developing the State’s database.

The State has upheld its promise to enable previous

applicants of expunged petroleum exploration licences and special prospecting authorities to make application under the new regime where the State approves of such licences in a particular release area. These applicants will be afforded priority rights.

Further changes include:

- The authority of Environmental Protection Authority as the lead regulator of gas activities is been legislated. (Previously the EPA was dependent on authorities delegated by other agencies).
- Land access arbitration framework with focuses on mediation, right to legal representation, site inspections for the arbitrator / mediator and titleholder responsibility for

reasonable (capped) landholder costs.

- The enforcement of access arrangements with landholders prior to petroleum production – including mandatory compensation arrangements.
- Provisions are made for an Arbitrator Panel which is independent and informed.
- Establishment of the “Community Benefit Fund” which both gas companies and the State will contribute to.
- Control measures for gas produced during the exploration phase.
- Modernising the health and safety legislation affecting the petroleum sector.

We welcome you to contact Lucy Oborn should you have any further queries regarding these changes.

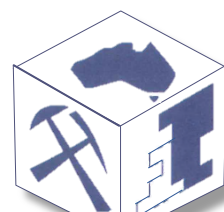
Contact us:

Phone: (08) 9309 0400

Fax: (08) 9309 0400

Email: reception@austwidemining.com.au

Website | www.austwidemining.com.au



AUSTWIDE Mining Title Management Pty Ltd

Get to know our team!



Don Perry
Manager- Northern Territory
Email: Don@austwidemining.com.au
Phone: (08) 9309 0400

Get to know our team!



Lucy Oborn
Senior Mining Title Consultant- NT, SA, Tas
Eastern States
Email: Lucy@austwidemining.com.au
Phone: (08) 9309 0400