Final Report: List of recommendations

Inquiry into Greenfields mineral exploration and project development in Victoria

Recommendation 1: That the Victorian Government establishes an appropriate process to enable open consultation with stakeholders, including local communities, for issues regarding future coal seam gas exploration and development.

Recommendation 2: That the Victorian Government in conjunction with industry establishes a framework for monitoring the health and activity of the mining sector.

Recommendation 3: That the Victorian Government adopts an integrated, whole-of-government approach to the state’s resources sector, supported by clear and consistent policies, and that this policy be widely communicated to the resources sector and the broader Victorian community to demonstrate strong support for the sector and its future.

Recommendation 4: That the Victorian Government works with industry to develop and support a comprehensive community education program that promotes the value of the resources sector to the state.

Recommendation 5: That the Victorian Government works together with the Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) and other stakeholders to better define nuggety gold resources within the JORC framework to encourage greater investment in gold exploration in Victoria.

Recommendation 6: That the Victorian Government develops a state-wide integrated, strategic land use policy framework to better manage competing land uses in Victoria. This framework should be subject to periodic review giving consideration to economic, social and environmental factors.

Recommendation 7: As part of the development of an integrated state-wide strategic land use framework, that the Victorian Government ensures studies are undertaken to determine areas of high prospectivity for extractives and future extractives needs in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Recommendation 8: That the findings of the extractives prospectivity and future needs studies be incorporated into the state-wide strategic land use framework, be protected in local planning schemes, and have appropriate post-extractive uses identified that are consistent with and sensitive to abutting areas.

Recommendation 9: That the Victorian Government reviews the system in which landholders are notified by mineral or extractive licence applications covering their land, to ensure, where appropriate, directly affected landholders receive timely, written notification.

Recommendation 10: That all new applications for exploration licences be advertised on the Department of Primary Industries’ website with an interactive, searchable, user-friendly interface.

Recommendation 11: That the Victorian Government, through the Department of Primary Industries, notifies local governments of applications for exploration licences that are located within their jurisdictions.

Recommendation 12: That the Victorian Government, at an appropriate time, reviews the outcomes of the reforms to mineral licences implemented by the stage one review of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990.

Recommendation 13: That the Victorian Government considers ways of improving access to Crown land for mineral exploration as part of the wider review of land use priorities in Victoria.
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Recommendation 14: That the Victorian Government conducts a review of compensation agreements under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 to encourage fair outcomes for those with a specified beneficial interest directly and adversely affected by mineral exploration.

Recommendation 15: That the Victorian Government reviews the current rehabilitation bond system in comparison with alternative existing mechanisms, taking into account the end-of-mine-life environmental legacies, whilst honouring obligations for rehabilitation of specific sites.

Recommendation 16: That the Victorian Government examines the feasibility of reducing removing royalty charges on overburden material for extractive developments.

Recommendation 17: That the Victorian Government develop a clear policy position on the future role of the Mining Warden.


Recommendation 19: That the Victorian Government considers redirecting the regulatory focus of exploration, mining and extractive work plans towards outcomes and away from prescriptive conditions, in order to better manage risk and achieve socially, economically and environmentally sound outcomes.


Recommendation 21: That the Victorian Government develops a ‘one-stop-shop’ framework to provide a single point of entry into Victoria’s regulatory system for the full range of resource sector activities from exploration to production under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990.

Recommendation 22: That the Victorian Government considers the recommendation of the Policy Transition Group’s Report to the Australian Government (2010) that the Productivity Commission be directed to conduct a review of regulatory barriers faced by exploration companies in Australia.

Recommendation 23: That the Victorian Government considers facilitating the establishment of a framework for an integrated mineral resources initiative such as South Australia's Plan for Accelerating Exploration, to drive new minerals exploration to encourage investment and economic development in Victoria.

Recommendation 24: That the Victorian Government strengthens Victoria’s role in research and innovation, through facilitation of partnerships between the Government, universities and the resources sector.

Recommendation 25: That the Victorian Government establishes a process that determines local infrastructure requirements for mining development projects, facilitates plans to meet those needs, identifies appropriate funding models, and minimises adverse effects while maximising benefits for local communities.

Sourced: Parliament of Victoria
Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee
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