



14 August 2008
In reply please quote: Item 24

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The Hon. Geoff Wilson
Minister for Mines and Energy
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Dear Minister

Re: Public Notification for Mining Renewal

At the annual conference of the Urban Local Government Association of Queensland held recently in Gympie members resolved that representations be made to the State Government to amend section 93 of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* requiring applications for renewal of a mining claim to be publicly notified or for comments to be sought from the relevant Local Government Authority, or the community prior to its determination.

From time to time Councils are notified by the Department of Mines and Energy (DME) of expirations of, and extensions to existing mining leases within the local government area.

Council understands that mining renewal applications are assessed pursuant to section 93 of the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (MRA). Section 93 of the Act does not currently require an application for the renewal of a mining claim to be publicly notified or for comments to be sought from the relevant Local Government Authority or the community prior to its determination or at anytime.

Councils are notified once a mining claim has been renewed and similarly Councils are notified in the event a mining claim lapses, expires or the claim/lease holders change or cancel the claim/lease.

To provide local government with an opportunity to comment on these applications, an amendment to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 should be sought requesting that the legislation incorporate opportunity for local government and other stakeholders (including individual community members) to review and, if necessary, make submissions about applications to extend mining leases prior to their consideration and determination by the DME.

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At present the legislation does not provide for a consultative approach to these applications and generally notification is only received once the determination has been made by DME.

Your consideration of the matter and advice in due course would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

**P PISASLE
PRESIDENT**