

Submission from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Director, Policy & Legislation,  
Earth Resources Policy & Programs,  
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions  
GPO Box 4509,  
Melbourne 3001

Submission from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re application notice "Proposed Mineral Resources [Sustainable Development] [Mineral Industries] Regulations 2019 as advertised in Weekly Times March 27 page 50.

We submit that as primary producers producing food and fibre, we are required to abide by the livestock accreditation conditions of the Australian Meat and Livestock Integrity Systems :-

"Australia's world leading red meat integrity system has been enhanced and strengthened through significant upgrades to the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program. The changes were designed to ensure the Australian red meat and livestock industry maintains its global reputation as a world leader in food safety, integrity and traceability, giving producers the evidence to stand by what they sell.

LPA accredited producers commit to best practice on-farm management which meets the stringent requirements of export markets. The program provides an assurance to domestic and global customers of the integrity of Australian red meat and enhances its reputation for safety and quality, giving Australia a key advantage and point of difference against international competitors.

The strengthening of LPA was developed by the red meat industry and was launched on 1 October 2017.

Our property is an accredited property and we abide by the conditions.

Our property is situated on the [REDACTED] and we have to the best of our ability farmed with long term economic and environment sustainability goals. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- We submit that the proposed regulations must also require that any exploration and or works by any person or persons/companies abide by all the requirements of MLA Integrity systems that have been established to ensure that biosecurity objectives are met at every stage on affected properties including but not restricted to: -
- Any and all movements to and from properties will be recorded;
- All vehicles entering the properties will be washed down to satisfaction with water and approved chemicals supplied by the applicant on every occasion;
- All personnel entering the properties will be recorded and will also be required to sanitise footwear on entering the properties;
- Chemicals that may be used in the process of exploration or any other act by the applicant on properties must be approved and meet Integrity Systems requirements.

We understand that MLA Integrity Systems and the resultant accreditation of livestock producer properties across Australia has been implemented since the Act was legislated in 1990 but as a producer of livestock, we are required to take all steps to protect the biosecurity of our properties.

Submission from [REDACTED]

- Given the properties are a part of the [REDACTED] it should be noted that flora and fauna studies by approved biodiversity qualified staff will be required prior exploration taking place.
- It should be noted that biodiversity offsets may also be required in order for exploration to proceed. We would suggest that cultural heritage studies at the applicant's cost should also be conducted prior to any granting of an exploration licence.
- We strongly submit that any applicant should provide evidence that they have the capacity to conduct all the required studies prior to this application progressing any further.
- We submit that in relation to 2.6 appropriate commercial recompense be paid to any landholder affected by exploration and or works at commercial rates for the life of any such project. [Whilst the regulations related to the "sustainable Development of Mineral Resource Industries" we as primary producers are in the business of farming in a sustainable manner to feed and clothe people.]
- We submit that maintenance of any tracks or roads that may be required within and or leading to a property be met at the applicants cost [ these costs should not be levied on the property holder or the local municipality].
- 2.3 We submit that any quarry or investigation established be rehabilitated to its natural state prior to any works being commenced. We submit that any soils required for such rehabilitation be totally free from weed and chemical pollutants and that any such rehabilitation is monitored for a period not less than thirty years with any weed growth being controlled by the applicant [ weed seeds such as from serrated tussock and Bathurst burr have very longevity and can germinate after many years].
- We submit that both investigation and any further works take into account the necessity for rural farming properties to have access to water from underground aquifers and these must be protected at all costs and no work or investigation be allowed to impact on these crucial sources of water for livestock.

We are happy to discuss the issues we have raised as it is important that the future of productive best practice agriculture is protected in the long term so that we can continue to produce food and fibre that meets the expectations of the domestic and global markets.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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Please note we require notification of response of this submission – we will also forward a hard copy.