

Executive Officer
Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House, Spring St
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

15/08/11

Inquiry into Greenfields Mineral Exploration and Project Development in Victoria

RE: Problems obtaining a mining licence.

I go to the trouble of filling in required claim form with working plans and the required fee of \$454.00. With the claim form I have to show that I have the money to be able to do the required mining by the way of bank statements and any other financial holdings. After about 2 weeks I get a letter from Native Title that I have to go into an agreement to pay \$2500 up front. Approximately 1 month later I received a letter saying that any claim would not be granted because it is in the area called Grassy Woodlands or Alluvial Terrace. All the areas where the gold is have been classed as Grassy Woodlands locked up by previous minister of Environment and Climate Change just to satisfy the Green Party.

Now I have to write to the Native Title informing them that my claim has been refused so they send \$2100 back (I lose \$400 in administration cost) and I lose my \$454.00 claim fee.

The approximate costs for a mining licence:

- Bank Guarantee	\$5000 for rehabilitation
- Public Liability Insurance	\$1800
- Planning Permit	\$ 250
- Native Title	\$2500
- Local Native Title	\$ 500
- Mining Licence	\$ 454

\$10504

I have been mining since 1973 and had many mining claims and also have done approximately 4 years of doing rehabilitation works on old mining claims for the previous government. I have approximately \$80,000 worth of earthmoving and mining equipment that I cannot use because of all these complicated restrictions that the previous government has put in place.

The way I want to do mining is not Doze and Detect, as far as I am concerned it is not using the claim to its fullest potential as all the fine gold is still left in the ground to be mined again later causing another lot of clearing. With Doze and Detect all the topsoil and overburden and clay is all mixed up and put back in the hole.

The way mining should be done the way it used to be is to clear a small area leave the trees sized 300mm for seeding then remove approximately 300mm topsoil and stockpile, remove overburden and stockpile in another heap, remove the wash the gold is in then put it through a trommel and extract the gold through the sluices. The wash goes back into the hole then the overburden is put back then the topsoil. Then we start another area. Most of the trees removed have been grown off old stumps and are full of termites and are only good for firewood.

When the season is right then the reseedling is done with the local native seeds and indigenous plants never to be mined again.

Some of the grassy woodland gullies have been included in DSE controlled burning and some trees in the area have been felled for firewood.

Three or four years ago a MRC would take about 6 months to be processed, today who knows?

Another reason many claims would not proceed is that there is the swift parrot who travels through once a year. There are thousands of hectares of bush that the birds can feed from what is 50m of works in progress that can harm the birds.

The last claim I applied for was refused and never left the Bendigo Office.

The gold found in Waanyarra located in Central Victoria between Dunolly and Tarnagulla has the purest gold in the state 99.9% pure.

Please contact me if you require further information.

Yours truly,



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