



Community Rights to Object to Mines in Queensland

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Overview

This factsheet outlines community objection rights with respect to mining activities in Queensland. It gives an overview of the assessment and approval process with a particular focus on community participation rights and covers:

1. [What mining is and how it's regulated](#);
2. [Your rights to lodge an objection](#);
3. [What to put in your objection and how to lodge it](#);
4. [Alternative avenues available to help resolve a dispute with a mining company without proceeding to a hearing](#); and
5. [Useful contacts and further information](#).

The key points you need to be aware of are:

- The State government owns most minerals in Queensland on behalf of Queenslanders, regardless of the tenure of the property the minerals lie under. They lease the rights to access those minerals to private companies and individuals.
- There are no rights of objection with respect to exploration activities; however, all production mining leases will be subject to a public notification process, and those who made properly made objections will have those objections referred to the Land Court for consideration in the mining objection hearing.
- All mining leases also require environmental authorities before they can proceed. Anyone can write a submission on an application for an environmental authority but only people who made properly lodged submissions can object to a decision to grant an environmental authority.
- Objectors to the mining lease application and submitters to the environmental authority applications can choose whether they want to participate in the mining objection hearing or not. The Land Court is a user-friendly forum and allows objectors to choose their level of participation during the objection proceedings.

For more detailed information, including information about Coal Seam Gas projects, you can obtain a copy of EDO Qld's *Guide to Mining and CSG Law in Queensland*, available [here](#).

What is mining and how is it regulated?

What is mining?

Mining is primarily regulated by the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) (**MRA**).

Under the MRA, to 'mine' is broadly defined and includes:¹

- Winning mineral from a place where it occurs; or
- Extracting mineral from its natural state; or
- Disposing of mineral in connection with, or waste substances resulting from, the winning or extraction.

What is a mineral?

A 'mineral' is usually a substance occurring naturally as part of the Earth's crust, or dissolved or suspended in water on or within the Earth's crust.² Common examples include coal, gold, bauxite, and copper. Coal seam gas (**CSG**) is a mineral,³ but is also considered 'petroleum' and principally dealt with under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld).⁴

Who owns Queensland's minerals?

With a few rare exceptions, most of Queensland's minerals are owned by the Queensland government.⁵ Those interested in mining minerals in Queensland must therefore apply to the Queensland government (and occasionally the Federal government, as explained below) for the relevant approvals to access those minerals. Because the Government owns the minerals, once they are extracted, mining companies pay the State government royalties (fees).

What are the main laws that apply to mining?

The main Queensland laws that apply to mining are:

- The *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) (**MRA**);
- The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) (**EP Act**);
- The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**), which is federal legislation that may also be relevant if the mining activities are likely to have a 'significant impact' on a 'matter of national environmental significance' (**MNES**);⁶ and

¹ *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) (**MRA**) s 6A(1). See the entirety of s 6A for more detail on what is included and excluded from the definition.

² MRA s 6.

³ MRA s 6(2)(c).

⁴ *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld) s 10(1).

⁵ MRA s 8.

⁶ MNES under the EPBC Act include things such as World Heritage values of declared World Heritage listed properties, listed threatened species, migratory species, wetlands of international importance (RAMSAR wetlands) and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

- The *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (Qld) (**SDPWO Act**) which allows for large scale mining projects to be declared a coordinated project.

N.B. The EPBC Act includes ‘water resources’ for large coal mines (and coal seam gas activities) as a MNES.⁷ This means that a large coal mine,⁸ which is likely to have a significant impact on water resources (including ground water), will require approval from the Federal Environment Minister.⁹

Read: Our factsheet on [the EPBC Act, Referrals and Opportunities to Comment](#) has more information about MNES.

What other laws might apply?

There are many other laws that may also apply to mining projects relating to, for instance, native title,¹⁰ Aboriginal cultural heritage,¹¹ and occupational health and safety.¹²

Generally speaking, the normal planning laws do not apply to mining activities, meaning local councils play very little role in mining activities, except for some forms of ‘off-lease’ infrastructure such as workers accommodation.

Who is responsible for regulating mining activities?

Mining is regulated by both the Department of Resources (**DoR**) and the Department of Environment and Science (**DES**).

DoR (on behalf of the Minister for Resources) is responsible for administering the ‘tenure’ (see below) for mining projects in Queensland. DES is responsible for the ongoing environmental regulation of mining activities.

During the early stages of a proposed mine, Queensland’s Coordinator-General (**CG**) may declare the mine to be a part of a ‘coordinated project’ under the SDPWO Act.¹³ These are usually large scale mines with associated infrastructure such as rail links or port terminals. If a coordinated project declaration is made, then at the same time, the CG will decide whether an Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) under the SDPWO Act is required.¹⁴

⁷ *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**) s 24D.

⁸ As defined in EPBC Act s 528.

⁹ ‘Water resources’ as defined in EPBC Act s 528, *Water Act 2007* (Cth) s 4.

¹⁰ *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth); *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993* (Qld).

¹¹ *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld); *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld), particularly ss 23 of those Acts – the cultural heritage ‘duty of care’. You can search the cultural heritage register [here](#).

¹² *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* (Qld); *Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001* (Qld).

¹³ *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (Qld) (**SDPWO Act**) s 26 – prior to December 2012, Coordinated Projects were termed ‘Significant Projects’.

¹⁴ If an EIS is required under the SDPWO Act, then the CG will oversee the EIS process (see SDPWO Act ss 29-34D). The mine itself will still require final approval from DoR and DES; however, the CG has the power to impose conditions if the mine is eventually approved. In addition, any conditions imposed by DoR or DES cannot be inconsistent with the CG’s recommendations (SDPWO Act s 46).

What are the main permits required?

The requirement for ‘tenure’

Firstly, the miner must obtain a valid ‘tenure’ from DoR. There are five main types of tenure available depending on the type of activities proposed:¹⁵

1. A **prospecting permit** – entitles the holder to search for and/or hand-mine for minerals excluding coal. It also allows the holder to peg a proposed mining lease or mining claim (see below) on the available land specified).¹⁶
2. An **exploration permit** – allows a company or individual to explore land to determine such things as the existence of minerals (including coal); the quality of those minerals; and the quantity of those minerals.¹⁷
3. A **mineral development licence (MDL)** – allows the holder to evaluate the potential of a mineral for commercial development. Activities under an MDL might include mining feasibility studies, metallurgical testing, environmental studies, marketing studies, or engineering and design studies.¹⁸ MDLs are usually granted to the holder of an exploration permit where a deposit of a mineral has been located.¹⁹
4. A **mining claim** – allows the holder to carry out small-scale mining operations, such as hand-mining for specified minerals.²⁰ It is usually granted to holders of prospecting permits or exploration permits.²¹ It can be granted for all minerals except coal.²²
5. A **mining lease** – entitles the holder to machine-mine specified minerals (including coal but excluding coal seam gas) and carry out (often large-scale) activities associated with mining.²³ The holder of a mining lease for coal must hold a prospecting permit, exploration permit or MDL over the area in order to apply for a mining lease.²⁴ A mining lease is not restricted to a maximum term.²⁵ The term of the lease is largely determined by the quantity of minerals identified. Many leases, particularly coal mines, have been granted for 10, 15 and even 30 years.

All tenures, except prospecting permits, are granted by Queensland’s Minister for Resources under the MRA.²⁶ Prospecting permits are granted by the Chief Executive of the DoR.²⁷ The DoR operates the ‘MinesOnline’ mapping system, which allows you to search for mining tenures in Queensland.²⁸

¹⁵ MRA s 6D.

¹⁶ MRA s 18. Note also the definition of ‘prospect’ in s 6B.

¹⁷ MRA s 129. See also the definition of ‘explore’ in sch 2 (Dictionary).

¹⁸ MRA s 181.

¹⁹ MRA s 179(a).

²⁰ MRA s 50.

²¹ MRA s 48(1). While usually granted to holders of prospecting or exploration permits, it can be granted to any eligible person.

²² MRA s 52.

²³ MRA s 234, and the meaning of ‘mine’ in s 6A.

²⁴ MRA s 232(1).

²⁵ MRA s 284.

²⁶ MRA ss 74, 136, 186 and 234.

²⁷ MRA s 24.

²⁸ See Queensland Government, MinesOnline [website](#).

The requirement for an ‘environmental authority’

In addition to the requirement for tenure, most mining activities will also require an ‘environmental authority’ (**EA**) from DES under the EP Act.

Whilst the tenure allows the miner to legally access the minerals and land, the EA is a separate approval that authorises, and imposes conditions to address the environmental impacts of the activities. The EA must be obtained before any mining activities under the tenure can take place, except for small-scale mining.²⁹

Typical conditions often relate to:

- Water management (surface and groundwater) at the site;
- Noise and dust monitoring at and around the site;
- Weeds and feral pest management at and around the site;
- Contamination and other hazard issues which could potentially arise.

It is important to note that not all mining tenures will require an EA. For instance, there is no requirement for the holder of a prospecting permit to obtain an EA.³⁰ Similarly, some exploration permits are defined as ‘small scale mining activities’ and will not require an EA.³¹

What are my rights to lodge an objection?

What are my rights to lodge an objection?

Prospecting Permits, Exploration Permits and MDLs

There are no opportunities of public notification and submission rights for prospecting permits, exploration permits or MDLs.

Directly affected landholders may have rights to be consulted about land access and compensation arrangements before any activities under these permits are allowed to take place. You should contact a lawyer to protect your private rights.

Mining Claims

Only local governments or affected landholders within the claim area can raise objections with respect to mining claims.³² The objections must be made within the set objection period. The objection period must be at least **20 business days** after a mining claim application certificate is issued by DoR to the applicant.³³

If you are a landholder affected by the application you will get written notice of the application for the claim including the relevant documents on which you will need to base

²⁹ *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) (**EP Act**) s 426.

³⁰ EP Act s 426(2)(b) and see definition of ‘small scale mining activity’ Schedule 4 (dictionary).

³¹ EP Act s 426(2)(b) and the definition of ‘small scale mining activity’ Schedule 4 (dictionary). Note that the small scale exemption only applies to ‘small scale mining’ of minerals other than coal.

³² MRA s 71.

³³ MRA s 64. Note though, that s 64A says the applicant for the Mining claim must notify affected landholders within 5 business days after receiving a ‘mining claim application certificate’ from DoR under s 64. So, in practice, from actual notice to the affected landholder to the end of the objection period could be as short as 15 business days. There is no requirement that the Mining claim be advertised online or in newspapers (see MRA s 64B(2)).

any objections you may have.³⁴ You may also be approached by DoR (or you can make a request) to attend a ‘section 65 conference’ about the application.³⁵ Any objections made to a mining claim will be automatically referred to the Land Court for consideration, however they may be withdrawn prior to the Land Court hearing.³⁶

Mining Leases

Anyone (affected landholders or members of the public) can lodge an objection to an application for a mining lease.³⁷

Information about lodging an objection to an application for a mining lease, including when and how to object, is provided [here](#).

As with mining claims, any ‘properly made’ objection to the mining lease will be automatically referred to the Land Court for consideration as part of a mining objection hearing.³⁸ The objector can then choose whether they want to be an active participant in the hearing. This is detailed further below.

Information about lodging a submission in relation to an application for an EA, including how and when to lodge a submission and when you can object, is provided [here](#).

Environmental Authority

As with mining leases, anyone can make a ‘submission’ with regard to an application for an EA.³⁹ If the EA is subsequently approved, the submitter may request in writing that their submission be taken to be an objection to the application.⁴⁰ Sometimes submissions on a publicly notified environmental impact statement will incur the right to refer the submission for hearing as part of the mining objection hearing process, but only in certain circumstances.⁴¹ The person making the submission will be notified of the Department’s decision as to whether to provide a draft EA, at which stage the submitter may refer the submission for consideration as part of the Land Court mining objection hearing, as with objections to mining claims and mining leases.⁴² The hearing for the EA and the mining lease are usually held jointly, but you do not have to have made a submission on both the EA and the mining lease to be a participant to the joint hearing.

N.B. If you are an affected landholder and are approached to sign a Conduct and Compensation Agreement (CCA), read the fine print carefully as you might be agreeing not to raise any objection against the mine when the formal lease/EA application comes around. Before you sign anything, consult a lawyer and make sure you understand your rights.

³⁴ MRA s 64A(1).

³⁵ MRA s 65.

³⁶ MRA ss 72 and 71A.

³⁷ MRA s 260(1).

³⁸ MRA s 265.

³⁹ EP Act s 160.

⁴⁰ EP Act s 182.

⁴¹ EP Act s 150.

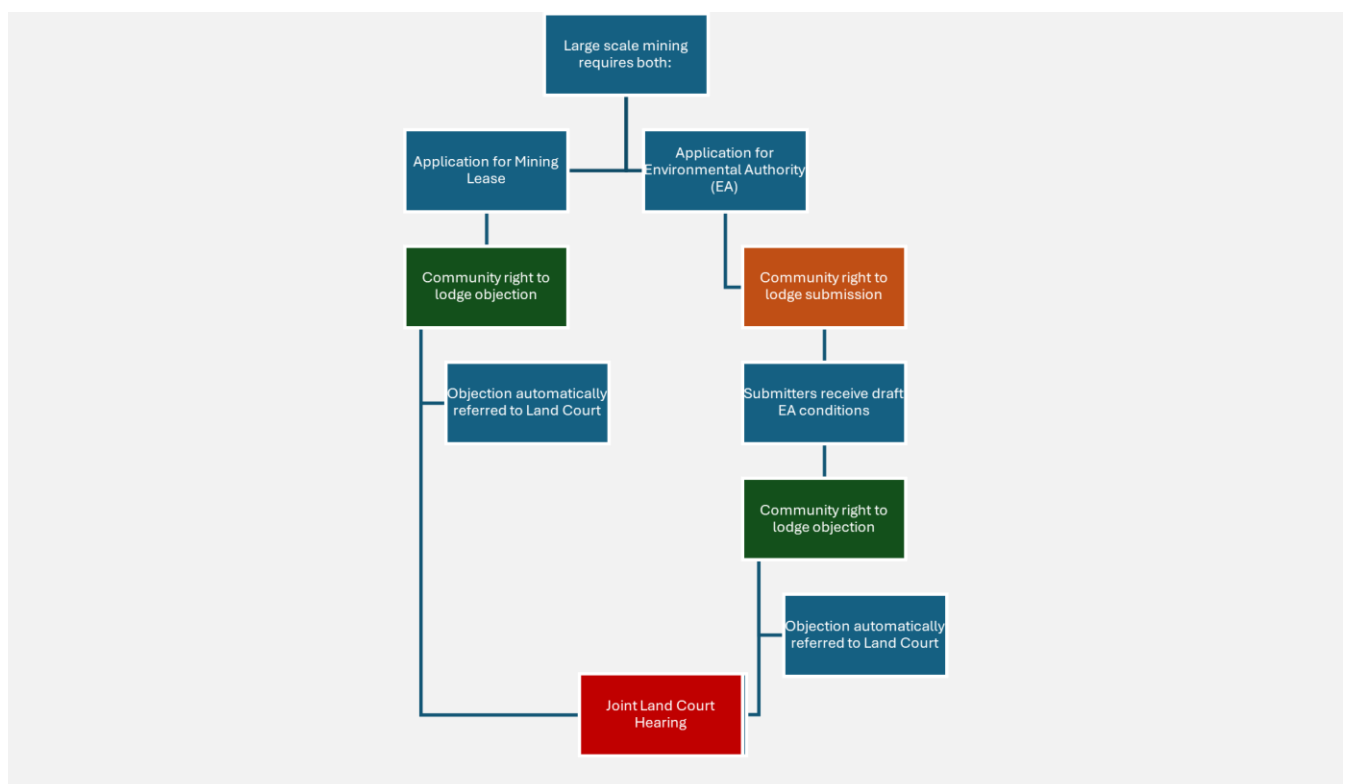
⁴² EP Act s 184.

Which permit should I object to for mining activities?

The community are entitled to raise objections to either the mining lease application or the EA application or both. Generally, you should object to the:

- EA: for concerns about environmental issues, including for impacts such as anticipated dust, noise, groundwater, climate change or other environmental/health factors; and/or
- Mining lease: for concerns about the size, shape, duration, intensity and location of a proposed mine.⁴³

In practice, there is likely to be some cross over between the issues associated with the applications for the EA and the mining lease. If you are thinking of raising objections which you believe are covered by both the lease and the EA, then it is advisable to object to both applications. Both objections will be heard by the Land Court at the same time.⁴⁴



How do I find out about the applications?

Applications for mining leases and their related EAs are required to be publicly notified,⁴⁵ typically being advertised at the same time, using the same method.⁴⁶ An advertisement will usually be placed in the public notice section of a newspaper circulating in the region

⁴³ MRA s 269(4).

⁴⁴ MRA s 265(9); EP Act s 188.

⁴⁵ MRA s 252A; EP Act s 152. Note an EA application may not need to be publicly notified where an Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) was fully completed before the application was made and the environmental risks of the project have not changed. See EP Act s 150. In such a case, a submission on the EIS will be taken to be a submission on the EA application and objection rights to the Land Court will still remain. See EP Act s 150(3).

⁴⁶ EP Act s 152(2)(a).

near the proposed mine site.⁴⁷ The public notice will contain details of where the application documents can be inspected or obtained. Affected landholders will receive a copy of the application directly.⁴⁸

For the EA, the company must keep copies of the following documents on a website during the public submission period:

- the application notice;
- the application documents (see below); and
- the response to any ‘information request’.⁴⁹

In addition, DES must keep the application open for inspection by members of the public during office hours on business days at;

- their head office (400 George Street, Brisbane); or
- a DES office located nearest to the land to which the application relates; or
- another place DES considers appropriate.

DES must allow a person to take extracts from the application or, on payment of the appropriate fee, give the person a copy of the application, or a part of the application. They must also keep a copy of, or a link to, the application available on its website throughout the duration of the access period.⁵⁰ The access period states the date after the application stage ends⁵¹ and ends on the earlier date of:⁵²

- the day the application lapses or is withdrawn;
- if the application is referred to the Land Court the day a final decision is made about the application; or
- 20 business days after a notice of decision is given.

Visit: You can find current EA applications [here](#).

DES also provides email subscription services which detail the latest public notifications. To subscribe, send an email to: public.register@des.qld.gov.au. You can also make enquiries with DES’s Permit and Licensing Management Unit (PALM) by emailing: palm@des.qld.gov.au or by phoning **13 74 68**.

You may also contact the ‘Mines Lodgement Office’ of the region you are concerned about to determine when the public notification period is open for any applications made in the region.

N.B. It is a good idea to download or print copies of documents you find on the internet, as they may be taken down or moved at a later time and you want to make sure you have a copy.

⁴⁷ MRA s 252A(3).

⁴⁸ MRA s 252A(1). For a list of Mining Lease application documents, refer to MRA s 245. Note that landholders will not receive information of the applicant’s financial and technical resources. See MRA s 252A(1)(b)(i).

⁴⁹ EP Act s 156(2).

⁵⁰ EP Act s 157(1)(c).

⁵¹ EP Act s 136 provides information about when the application stage ends.

⁵² EP Act s 157(2).

What happens after I lodge a submission/objection?

Objectors to a mining lease are notified once the application is decided. The mining lease objection will then be automatically referred to the Land Court for hearing along with any other objectors.⁵³

Submitters for an EA application will be notified by DES as to the decision made over the application.⁵⁴ If the application is approved, EA submitters will be sent a copy of a 'draft EA' with the proposed operating conditions for the mine and a blank form called an 'objection notice'.⁵⁵ When reviewing the conditions, read each condition carefully. Do you agree or disagree with DES's proposed conditions? Do they satisfy any of the concerns you raised in your submissions?

If you want to elect to go to the Land Court and contest the conditions (or lack of conditions) of the draft EA (or lack of conditions) or whether the EA should be issued at all, then you must set out your grounds of objection in the objection notice and send it back to DES within **20 business days**.⁵⁶ Once DES receives your objection notice, it will then refer your EA objection to the Land Court.⁵⁷ Any objections to the EA will usually be heard at the same time as objections to the mining lease.⁵⁸

What should I put in my objection and how do I lodge it?

Submissions/objections on an EA application

What criteria should I address in my submission?

To be most effective, your submission should address the matters which DES will be looking at when it decides whether or not to approve the company's application. These include:

- the 'application documents' (above) including any EIS completed for the project;
- the 'standard criteria' under the EP Act; and
- any relevant 'regulatory requirements'.⁵⁹

What are the 'standard criteria'?

The words 'standard criteria' have a specific meaning under the EP Act.⁶⁰ They include, amongst other things:

- the 'character and resilience' of the receiving environment;
- the public interest;

⁵³ MRA s 265.

⁵⁴ EP Act s 181.

⁵⁵ EP Act s 181(2)(b)(i). Note this is different to the process, which existed pre-April 2013. Before the *greentape* amendments, draft EAs were advertised for public submission. Public submission rights are now on the basis of the application documents. A draft EA will still be produced but only given to those who made submissions on an application.

⁵⁶ EP Act s 182(3).

⁵⁷ EP Act s 185.

⁵⁸ EP Act s 188(2); MRA s 268.

⁵⁹ EP Act s 176.

⁶⁰ See the definition of 'standard criteria' in EP Act sch 4 (dictionary). Also see this case: *Burtenshaw & Ors v Dunn* [2010] QLC 70 (13 April 2010) at paragraphs [38] and [69] available for download from the Land Court's website.

- the following principles of environmental policy as set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE):
 - the precautionary principle;
 - the principle of intergenerational equity; and
 - the principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.⁶¹

If you are thinking of making submissions on an EA application, consider referring to the standard criteria under the EP Act. In assessing the application, could DES be satisfied that the application will not adversely affect these criteria? What is the evidence to back up your concerns?

What are ‘relevant regulatory requirements’?

The term ‘regulatory requirement’ is defined in the EP Act dictionary. It generally includes a reference to one or more of the State Government’s ‘Environmental Protection Policies’ (**EPPs**) as well other (relevant) regulations made under the EP Act. At the time of writing, the current EPPs are:

- *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019* (Qld);
- *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019* (Qld);
- *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019* (Qld).

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy may also apply.

Before you make any submissions, read through the relevant EPPs so you understand what they are trying to achieve. Is there anything that you think DES should specifically focus on when it considers the company’s EA application? Will the company’s application meet the benchmarks set in these policies?

N.B. In making its decision on the EA application, classified as an ‘environmental management decision’, DES must consider specific environmental objective and performance outcomes detailed in Schedule 8 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019* (Qld) (**EP Regs**). Take the time to read through the objective and performance outcomes. Do you think the EA application will satisfy these objectives? Why or why not? What is the scientific evidence for your concerns?

Is there a set form for making a submission on an EA application?

There is a set form for making submissions on an application for an EA.

Visit: You can download Submission Form ESR/2015/1617 [here](#).

If you choose not to use the form, for your submission to be accepted by DES it must meet these criteria:⁶²

- it must be written or made electronically;

⁶¹ You can find a copy of the intergovernmental agreement [here](#). The principles of Environmental Policy are at section 3.

⁶² EP Act s 161.

- it must state the name and address of each submitter;
- it must be addressed to the correct division in DES (found on the public notice⁶³);
- it must be received on or before the last day of the submission period; and
- it must state the grounds of the submission and the facts and circumstances relied on in support of the grounds.

N.B. It is important you get these formalities correct, otherwise your submission may not be accepted and you may lose any rights to take your later objections to the Land Court.⁶⁴ If you don't know who to send it to at DES, call the department well in advance of the deadline.

I have received a copy of the draft EA, what types of concerns can I raise in an objection?

As with the application, the law does not state the scope of proper objections on an EA application. However, we strongly recommend that you frame any objections around the issues which you believe were not dealt with adequately by the draft conditions in the EA.

Is there a set form for making an objection to the draft EA?

Yes, there is an approved form for making an objection to the draft EA once you have lodged your submission. You will be sent this form from DES if it approves the companies EA application.

Objections to a mining lease application

What kinds of issues can be raised in an objection to a mining lease?

Similar to a submission for an EA application, you should frame any grounds of objections to the lease around the criteria which the Land Court must consider when hearing objections to the lease, focussing on the ones which you are most concerned about. Some of the key questions the Court must answer are:

- Is the land and the surface area an appropriate size and shape for the activities proposed?
- Is the past performance of the mining company satisfactory?
- Does the mining company have the necessary financial and technical capabilities to carry out the activities proposed under the lease?
- Will the proposed operations to be carried out under the lease conform with sound land use management?
- Will there be any adverse environmental impacts, and if so, to what extent?
- Will the public right and interest be prejudiced by the granting of the lease?
- Is the proposed mining operation an appropriate land use taking into consideration the current and prospective uses of the land?

⁶³ EP Act s 153.

⁶⁴ If you were not an earlier submitter, you will not meet the definition of a 'dissatisfied person' (EP Act s 520(2)(a)) if DES approves the company's EA application. This means you cannot apply for internal review (EP Act s 521), nor can you appeal from that review decision to the Land Court (EP Act s 524).

N.B. The above list is a summary of the criteria only. You should look at section 269(4) of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for the full list and exact wording of each criteria. Try to stay as close to that wording when drafting any objections.

Is there a set form I have to use for a mining lease objection?

Yes, you must use the approved form for making objections to a mining lease.⁶⁵

Visit: The form is available on the DoR website [here](#).

Before the objection period ends, you must:⁶⁶

- State your grounds of objection, the facts and circumstances relied on in support of those grounds;
- lodge the form with the Mines Lodgement Office where the mining lease is proposed to be located, detailed on the public notice or on the government's website; and
- send a completed copy to the mining company.

If you do not comply with all of these rules, your objection may not be 'properly made' and could be refused.⁶⁷

Read: An example of a completed objection in an earlier format can be found [here](#).

Can I resolve a dispute with a mining company without a hearing?

Not all disputes need to be heard in a court. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is often a more cost effective and timely resolution for simple disputes. To assist parties reach agreement without the need for hearing, the Court has established the ADR panel to help parties find a suitably qualified convenor. The Court can refer matters for ADR that haven't been brought before the court yet but can be, or matters that are already before the Court.⁶⁸

Visit: The Land Court has information about ADR processes, including about the ADR panel, available [here](#).

In relation to mining objection hearings, the Court will likely consider whether ADR should be attempted at the Directions Hearing and, if so, will make directions about how the parties are to engage in ADR.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ MRA s 260(1). The form must be approved by the Chief Executive of DoR. See MRA s 416A.

⁶⁶ MRA s 260.

⁶⁷ MRA s 265. Referral to the Land Court only happens for 'properly made objections.'

⁶⁸ *Land Court Rules 2022* (Qld) r 15(3).

⁶⁹ See Procedure for Mining Objection Hearings Practice Direction 4 of 2018, p 12.

In relation to Conduct and Compensation Agreements (**CCA**) (also known as “Access Agreements”), the Court will list a review (the first review) once the relevant form has been filed and will encourage parties to consider ADR at this first review, including connecting them with the Court’s ADR services.⁷⁰

Visit: You can read the Mining Objection Hearing Practice Directions [here](#).

You can read the Procedure for deciding Compensation Disputes and Conduct and Compensation Disputes Practice Directions [here](#).

The Land Court has jurisdiction to hear land disputes. Specifically, the Land Court hears appeals against land valuation, compensation for land resumptions, objections to mining projects, landowner compensation for mining activities, and protection for cultural heritage.

Coupled with the ADR Panel, the Land Access Ombudsman is another low cost, independent and impartial body to help landholders and resource companies resolve alleged breaches of conduct and compensation agreements and make good agreements.

Useful contacts and further information

Read: The EDO’s Mining and CSG Law in Queensland; a guide for the community (EDO Qld, 2019) is a comprehensive guide to assessment and approval of mining and CSG projects including example submissions, diagrams, flow charts and checklists. The guide is available for purchase through EDO’s website [here](#).
Community and landholder discounts apply

Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI)

- Ph: **13 25 23** CSG Hotline or alternatively,
phone (07) 3330 5715 for further information on specific CSG projects
- Ph: Pollution Hotline **1300 130 372** if you wish to report a breach of conditions of approval.
- Ph: **13 QGOV** to find out where your local Environment Service Centre is (or search <https://www.des.qld.gov.au/contactus/environment-service-centres>) so that you can search the public register under the EP Act for environmental authorities, environmental reports, monitoring reports etc. A fee may be charged for copies of documents.
- Post: ‘The Energy Assessments Unit’, Department of Environment and Science,
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane, QLD, 4001
for submissions and other correspondence but check the public notice that this is correct address before sending submissions
- Email: palm@ehp.qld.gov.au (for general licence and permit enquiries)
- Web: Search for current Environmental Authorities:
<https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/public-register/>

⁷⁰ See Procedure for deciding Compensation Disputes and Conduct and Compensation Disputes Practice Direction 3 of 2019, p 9.

Search for projects undergoing an EIS process:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/eis-process/projects/current-projects>

Department of Resources

Web: You can view resources tenures (which have been granted) on a map using GeoResGlobe (which replaced MinesOnlineMaps) online:

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/minerals-coal/online-services/georesglobe>

or you can find a summary of each tenure by requesting a free 'public enquiry report' to be emailed to you from DNRM's MyMinesOnline website:

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/minerals-coal/online-services/myminesonline>.

Federal Government

Web: The Independent Expert Scientific Committee on CSG and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) provides advice to the State Government on projects during the impact assessment stage:

<http://iesc.environment.gov.au/>

Evaluate this resource

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