



# MISCELLANEOUS PURPOSES LICENCES AND SPECIAL MINING ENTERPRISES



## THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF 'ANCILLIARY' AND 'SPECIAL' OPERATIONS APPROVAL

A miscellaneous purposes licence (MPL) can be granted for carrying on any business or purpose that supports the effective conduct of mining operations, including operations such as the building of amenities, a treatment plant, or drainage systems or the storage or processing of mineral process waste or overburden.

MPLs have generally been granted for 'transient' or 'nonpermanent' activities/operations/infrastructure, that relate to a particular mining lease. Although it is not strictly necessary for an MPL applicant to have a mining lease, there would have to be a clear and robust agreement between the miscellaneous purposes licence applicant and a relevant operator for the Minister (or delegate) to be able to grant a miscellaneous purposes licence on reasonable grounds. Some operations, such as constructing power and water infrastructure corridors, can be approved via a miscellaneous purposes licence, or under the *Development Act 1993*.

The Act allows for the grant of special mining enterprises (SMEs), which are mining enterprises of major significance to the economy of the State. SMEs can provide greater security and flexibility of tenure for operators. The only SME that has ever been established in South Australia was for the former Penrice soda ash business: a significant industrial chemical business comprised of the Dry Creek salt fields, the Angaston limestone quarry, and the Osborne soda ash plant. There are currently no special mining enterprises in the State. In the Discussion Paper we sought your views on any improvements that could be made to the special mining enterprise provisions.

## WHAT YOU SAID

Your submissions expressed various viewpoints on licensing matters relating to the retention, removal and forfeiture of miscellaneous purpose licences. There were various submissions recommending either removing SMEs from the Act, retaining SMEs or expanding its provisions to allow improved policy outcomes.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS BEING CONSIDERED

The Review Team is considering recommending amendments that will clarify the scope of operations that can occur under a 'miscellaneous purposes licence' and clarify that those operations are 'ancillary operations.' Some minor amendments to the SME provisions are being considered, but the Review Team will propose that SMEs are retained because they provide for the regulation of unique operations, where it is in the interest of the community and the State to provide support to those operations.

*Leading Practice Mining Acts Review — June 2017*