

## Information Sheet

This information sheet provides the changes and transitional provisions that apply to exploration permits (EPs) upon the commencement of Chapter 5 of the *Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendments Act 2019* (NROLA) from 25 May 2020.

### Variation of EP conditions and reduction in area (relinquishment) only in limited circumstances

The holder of an EP may make an application to vary conditions of an EP under section 141C of the MRA **only if** the variation is necessary because of:

- an exceptional event affecting the existing permit; or
- circumstances arising from the existing permit forming part of an exploration project (i.e. applying to reallocate relinquishment requirements within a project has been given exploration status by the department).

### Existing relinquishment requirements

All existing relinquishment requirements, including conditions imposed under section 141 of the MRA will cease to apply. Table 1 provides the transitional relinquishment requirements for EPs which are granted before 25 May 2020.

### Applications to vary relinquishment requirements

Applications to vary the relinquishment schedule made before 25 May 2020, but have not been decided, will be taken to be withdrawn. The transitional relinquishment requirements set out in Table 1 apply.

### Work programs

#### Granted EPs

Approved work programs in place before commencement will continue until the end of the term the work program applies to.

A new work program may be either activities-based or outcomes-based. A new work program that complies with the new framework will be required to accompany an application to renew the term of an EP.

#### Applications for new EPs and renewal of EPs that have not been decided before commencement

A work program lodged with a new application may be changed to an outcome-based work program within six months from commencement, but only if the application is not subject to a tender or competitive process.

A work program lodged with an application for renewal may be changed to an outcomes-based work program within three months from commencement.

The holder would lodge the request to change in work program type directly with the relevant Hub and not on MyMinesOnline.

## Table 1 – Transitional relinquishment requirements

Applications to vary to relinquish area of an EP made before 25 May 2020 (this does not include voluntary relinquishments) will be taken to be withdrawn and the relinquishment requirements set out in the following table apply:

<b>Year of term on commencement of NROLA (25 May 2020)</b>	<b>First renewal after commencement - nil relinquishment</b>	<b>Relinquishment - 50% of the area, as existing on the commencement, by the day before the day that is 5 years after the permit is first renewed after commencement – see s 857(2))</b>	<b>Remainder of EP is due to be relinquished by the day that is 10 years after the first renewal after the commencement - marks the end of the EP</b>
EP granted or renewed before 25 May in 2020 for a 5 year term	2025	2030	2035
EP renewed after 25 May in 2020 for a 5 year term	2020	2025	2030
EP in year 1 of a 5 year term	2024	2029	2034
EP in year 2 of a 5 year term	2023	2028	2033
EP in year 3 of a 5 year term	2022	2027	2032
EP in year 4 of a 5 year term	2021	2026	2031
EP in year 5 of a 5 year term	2020	2025	2030
EP granted or renewed before 25 May in 2020 for a 4 year term	2024	2029 (if renewed in 2028)	2034 (if renewed in 2032)
EP renewed after 25 May in 2020 for a 4 year term	2020	2025 (if renewed in 2024)	2030 (if renewed in 2028)
EP in year 1 of a 4 year term	2023	2028 (if renewed in 2027)	2033 (if renewed in 2031)
EP in year 2 of a 4 year term	2022	2027 (if renewed in 2026)	2032 (if renewed in 2030)
EP in year 3 of a 4 year term	2021	2026 (if renewed in 2025)	2031 (if renewed in 2029)
EP in year 4 of a 4 year term	2020	2025 (if renewed in 2024)	2030 (if renewed in 2028)
EP granted or renewed before 25 May in 2020 for a 3 year term	2023	2028 (if renewed in 2026)	2033 (if renewed in 2029 and 2032)

EP renewed after 25 May in 2020 for a 3 year term	2020	2025 (if renewed in 2023)	2030 (if renewed 2026 and 2029)
EP in year 1 of a 3 year term	2022	2027 (if renewed in 2025)	2032 (if renewed in 2028)
EP in year 2 of a 3 year term	2021	2026 (if renewed in 2024)	2031 (if renewed in 2027)
EP in year 3 of a 3 year term	2020	2025 (if renewed in 2023)	2030 (if renewed in 2026)
EP granted or renewed before 25 May in 2020 for a 2 year term	2022	2027 (if renewed in 2022, 2024 and again in 2026)	2032 (if renewed in 2028 and 2030)
EP renewed after 25 May in 2020 for a 2 year term	2020	2025 (if renewed in 2022 and 2024)	2030 (if renewed in 2026 and 2028)
EP in year 1 of a 2 year term	2021	2026 (if renewed in 2023 and again in 2025)	2031 (if renewed in 2027 and 2029)
EP in year 2 of a 2 year term	2020	2025 (if renewed in 2022 and again in 2024)	2030 (if renewed in 2026 and 2028)
EP granted or renewed before 25 May in 2020 for a 1 year term	2021	2026 (if renewed in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025)	2031 (if renewed in 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030)
EP renewed after 25 May in 2020 for a 1 year term	2020	2025 (if renewed in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024)	2030 (if renewed in 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029)
EP in year 1 of a 1 year term	2020	2025 (if renewed in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024)	2030 (if renewed in 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029)

## Further information

Immediately prior to the commencement of NROLA, operational policies will be made available on the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy website at [www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/petroleum-energy/legislation-policies/policies-guidelines](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/petroleum-energy/legislation-policies/policies-guidelines). In the meantime you can access the Indicative Reprint showing how the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* will be amended from 25 May 2020 on the Office of Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website at <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/asmade/act-2019-017/lh>.

For help and information contact Regulatory Support and Performance by emailing [RsandP@dnrme.qld.gov.au](mailto:RsandP@dnrme.qld.gov.au) or an Assessment Hub:

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