



Guidance for reporting environmental incidents related to mining activities

Important information

The [Environmental Public Reporting Form](#) is available for members of the public to report concerns with the manner in which a mining activity is being or has been conducted that may:

- be a breach of conditions imposed by the *Mining Act 1978* and Mining Regulations 1981; or
- could result in environmental harm in Western Australia.

The form is **NOT** for reporting mine safety concerns or unauthorised mining.

- Mine safety related matters can be reported by contacting 1300 307 877 or via the [Safety Regulation System page on the website](#).
- Unauthorised mining can be reported to the Investigation Services Branch – Compliance Section by emailing ieb@demirs.wa.gov.au. Further information regarding unauthorised mining can be found under the [Penalties for illegal prospecting page on the website](#).

If unsure whether an incident you have observed is a breach of mining conditions, please contact the Mining Environmental Compliance Team Leader for the region the incident is located, or the Team Leader for Compliance and Enforcement. The contacts can be found under [Environmental contacts on the website](#).

What is a breach of conditions?

When a mining tenement has been granted there will be legislative requirements or regulatory conditions placed on the tenement. Additional conditions are likely to be imposed when mining activities are approved on the tenement. When any requirement of a condition is not complied with, this constitutes a breach of condition.

What happens after I report an environmental incident?

The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) is committed to ensuring that all mining operations comply with the applicable regulations and standards. Reported incidents will be recorded and investigated to determine whether a breach has occurred, and if so the appropriate action to address the matter will be undertaken.

In some circumstances, the most appropriate action will be providing information to a tenement holder to ensure they understand how to comply with their obligations. In other circumstances, DEMIRS may undertake enforcement actions for breaches of tenement conditions. These enforcement actions could result in the forfeiture of tenure or a penalty in lieu of forfeiture. DEMIRS may also issue directions to tenement holders to address any matters which are causing, or could cause, a significant adverse effect on the environment.

If the reported matter is determined not to be regulated by DEMIRS, then a departmental officer may contact you and assist with directing the incident/concern to the appropriate agency or forward the incident report to the appropriate agency directly.

Can I remain anonymous?

Yes, all public reporting of mining incidents or non-compliance is confidential; DEMIRS will not disclose who reported an incident without consent.

Depending on the concern raised, there may be some matters that are not able to be addressed adequately without direct contact between a reporting party and a tenement holder. In these circumstances, DEMIRS may need to obtain consent from the reporting party prior to discussing the matter with the tenement holder.



What if I don't know the tenement details?

Providing as much information as possible about the location will assist DEMIRS to efficiently investigate the incident.

If you don't know the tenement details, you can provide GPS coordinates, list the closest address location, or use Google Earth links to photograph the incident with the location details. Free photo applications such as [Solocator](#) are useful tools that can provide enough information to assist in reporting an incident.

How will I find the information on the tenement holder?

[TENGRAPH](#) is a spatial enquiry and mapping system displaying the position of WA mining tenements and petroleum titles in relation to other land information.

TENGRAPH is publicly available and can provide information to access the details of the relevant tenement holder. Please be mindful that you will need to register to obtain access.

How do I find the mining tenement conditions?

[Mineral Titles Online](#) provides details and transactions of mineral exploration and mining tenements in Western Australia.

To view conditions imposed on tenements, you can register for electronic access or pay a fee for hard copies of information relating to a tenement across WA. Please note that you do not need to know which tenement condition(s) was breached to report an environmental concern to DEMIRS.

Other regulating authorities for mining in WA

Environmental incidents resulting from mining activities may also be regulated by other agencies. Below is list of the main environmental regulators for mining in WA.

[Department of Water and Environmental Regulation](#) is responsible for managing and regulating the State's environment and water resources. You can report pollution, contamination of waterways and unlawful native vegetation clearing to this agency. Please refer to their website for contact information.

[Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage](#) is responsible for state level land use planning and management and has oversight of Aboriginal cultural heritage matters. Queries or concerns related to damage or alteration to Aboriginal sites or damage to vegetation without approval on Crown Land can be directed to investigations@dplh.wa.gov.au.

[Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions](#) (DBCA) works to conserve WA's biodiversity, cultural and natural values. DBCA's areas of responsibility include management of dieback (phytophthora), threatened species, threatened ecological communities and issuing licences for native fauna rehabilitation. Please refer to their website for contact details.

[Main Roads Western Australia](#) are responsible for the State's road network and work to ensure the roads meet the needs of the community, industry, and stakeholders. A mining company or individual must seek approval from Main Roads or the Public Transport Authority to operate within the road or rail reserves.