

## **Policy**

# Renewals for exploration licence under the *Mining Act 1992*

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## Policy statement:

This renewal of mineral and coal exploration licences policy complements the NSW Government's Mineral and Coal Exploration Statement, as part of the broader NSW Government mineral and coal exploration framework, which aims to:

- set firm expectations on the working of mineral and coal exploration licences to encourage the efficient, timely and sustainable development of the state's mineral and coal resources
- ensure the progressive partial relinquishment of exploration licences where appropriate, to facilitate the 'turn over' of ground subject to exploration licences and allow other explorers the opportunity to seek new ground to apply their own concepts, skills or technologies.

Failure to meet the mandatory renewal criteria set out in this policy may be a basis for refusing an exploration licence renewal application.

To further the objects of the *Mining Act 1992*, this policy supports an outcomes-based framework for effective and sustainable mineral and coal exploration. For the purposes of this policy, the decision-maker assesses exploration licence renewal applications in accordance with the Mining Act and the *Mining Regulation 2016*, including having regard to information contained in the work program, annual reports and the renewal justification statement to determine exploration licence holder performance and the merits of renewing an exploration licence.

This policy commences on **1 March 2023**.

## Scope

This policy applies to the renewal of mineral and coal exploration licences granted under the *Mining Act*<sup>1</sup> and sets out the criteria for renewing mineral and coal exploration licences under section 114 and 114A of the Mining Act. It is designed to benefit both the resources industry and the community by providing greater certainty about renewing mineral and coal exploration licences in NSW. The policy aims to support the efficient, sustainable and timely discovery and development of mineral and coal resources in NSW by:

- encouraging and rewarding the timely acquisition of new geoscientific data that facilitates target and prospect definition
- ensuring that exploration licences are explored effectively as demonstrated through the acquisition of new geoscientific exploration data and/or other studies such as pre-feasibility studies that are appropriate to the stage of exploration within reasonable timeframes
- balancing the importance of licence security for speculative, iterative and results-based mineral and coal exploration with clear, firm and reasonable performance expectations
- recognising and upholding the rights and responsibilities conferred on licence holders
- to ensure the focus of ongoing exploration is on higher quality and priority targets and prospects, increase certainty for landholders and the community, promote competition and minimise the risk of land banking by ensuring the progressive relinquishment of ground with limited or no prospectivity, through the application of the requirement in s 114A of the Mining Act for the proposed renewal area to be 'genuinely required' to support the proposed work program
- providing licence holders and the community with clear and simple criteria for renewal of exploration licences that supports consistent and equitable decision-making and gives greater certainty and confidence to landholders and the community in the likelihood of exploration licence retention and ongoing resource development.

Specifically, this policy clarifies:

<sup>1</sup> **Note:** this policy also applies to authorities granted under the *Mining Act 1973*.

- the Department's position that to be considered for renewal under s114 of the Mining Act, mineral and coal exploration licence holders must have completed their approved work program or equivalent work over the term of the licence they seek to renew (a standard condition of an exploration licence)
- the extenuating factors a mineral or coal exploration licence holder may identify as valid reasons for the non-completion of their approved work program over the term of the licence they seek to renew
- the special circumstances a licence holder may identify to retain greater than the spatial extent under the licence that is genuinely required to support the proposed work program over the renewal term, and
- how the relevant decision-maker may use its discretionary powers under the Mining Act on a case-by-case basis.

This policy is one specific consideration under the Mining Act that the decision-maker considers as part of a broader merit assessment of an application that may include minimum standards, compliance history, information requirements and the payment of fees and levies. Some of these considerations may be grounds to support a decision to refuse applications for exploration licences generally.<sup>2</sup> This may include renewal applications.

## Relationship with other legislative requirements, policies and guidelines

This policy forms part of the Department's broader exploration framework, which includes the policy on the grant and renewal of assessment leases and:

- *Mineral prospecting minimum standards* (Minimum standards)
- *Mineral and coal prospecting work program form* (Work Program Form)
- *Exploration Guideline: Work programs for prospecting titles* (Work Program Guideline)
- *Exploration Guideline: Annual activity reporting for prospecting titles* (Annual Reporting Guideline).

This policy directly relates to the five-stage prospecting model referred to in the minimum standards that underpins the Department's work program form and work program guidelines. A work program is considered completed where the exploration licence holder meets the high-level success criteria of the nominated exploration stages.<sup>3</sup> Depending on the nominated stage/s in the work program, meeting the success criteria demonstrates that the exploration licence holder has made tangible and authentic progress in either:

- advancing the geoscientific knowledge of the resource potential of the ground subject to the licence (typically stages 1-3), or
- making reasonable progress in advancing a project toward mining status (typically stages 4-5).

The Department uses the five-stage model to benchmark the work program objectives and proposed outcomes according to an exploration program's maturity. The exploration stages in the five-stage model are iterative and sequential, representing the typical progression of an exploration program from reconnaissance through to resource definition.

Each stage is broad in scope, designed to allow explorers to undertake a range of activities and test concepts pursuant to the level of advancement in the exploration program. The geoscientific data contained in annual reports demonstrates whether the high-level success criteria at each stage have been met (i.e. the exploration licence has been worked effectively as demonstrated through

<sup>2</sup> See for example the express grounds for refusal in clause 6 of Schedule 1B of the Mining Act.

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix 1.

the acquisition of new geoscientific exploration data and/or other studies such as pre-feasibility studies that are appropriate to the stage of exploration).

An overview of how a typical exploration program operates under the minimum standards, work program guideline and this policy, including typical timeframes for working with the stages of exploration is included as Appendix 2.

## General renewal criteria under section 114

Notwithstanding the other relevant considerations set out in the Mining Act<sup>4</sup>, including compliance with exploration licence conditions and obligations, the decision-maker may renew an exploration licence for a term of up to 6 years pursuant to section 114 (1) and (2) where the renewal applicant:

1. has **completed their approved work program** over the previous term of the exploration licence (i.e. worked the licence effectively) or has raised a valid extenuating factor that prevented completion (as set out below), and
2. **nominates the area subject to the exploration licence proposed for renewal** pursuant to the specific criteria set out below.

An exploration licence may be renewed for a term that is reasonably required to complete the proposed work program, but licence terms cannot be longer than 6 years.

## Extenuating factors for not meeting the general renewal criteria

When seeking renewal, mineral and coal exploration licence holders who have not completed their work program over the previous term may identify in their renewal justification statement one or more extenuating factors that prevented the completion of the work program. These factors are set out and explained in detail below.

If the decision-maker is satisfied that the cited extenuating factor/s prevented the licence from being worked effectively, they may grant the renewal despite non-completion of the work program.

As explained further below, the onus is on the licence holder to demonstrate through evidence, the nature and timing of the extenuating factor/s and the extent to which it prevented the licence holder from undertaking the work program during the term of the licence.

The evidence provided can include emails, letters, meeting minutes etc. A licence holder may also proactively disclose extenuating factors before lodging a renewal application by contacting the Department in writing.

The relevant decision-maker will consider extenuating factors within the context of the licence holder's circumstances. This includes the exploration stage/s the licence was working in and the level of exploration completed at the time the extenuating factor is claimed to have prevented exploration work from being undertaken.

### Extenuating factors for not meeting the general exploration licence renewal criteria

The Department considers the following to constitute extenuating factors:

1. The exploration licence holder could not access land subject to the licence due to native title procedural requirements.
2. The exploration licence holder could not access land subject to the licence due to protracted and complex land access negotiations.
3. An unforeseen event restricted the exploration licence holder from completing their work program.

<sup>4</sup> Mining Act s 114.

### Extenuating factors for not meeting the general exploration licence renewal criteria

4. The exploration licence in question forms part of a project grouping and during the term of the licence in question, the holder reallocated exploration focus, budget and effort from the licence in question to another licence/s within the project grouping.
5. Commercial arrangements such as licence transfers, share sales/joint ventures or offtake agreements that interrupted exploration progress.

Further detail on each extenuating factor is provided below.

## Native Title Act 1993 requirements

Where native title has not been extinguished, the licence holder must demonstrate that they:

- have commenced the right to negotiate process and are in negotiation with native title claimants in good faith, or
- are taking reasonable steps through other processes to achieve compliance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), or
- are identifying suitable areas within the licence area to explore where native title has been extinguished.

There may be other circumstances beyond the control of the exploration licence holder. These may include delays due to determinations as to the identification of the appropriate native title claimants, or delays in native title claimants responding to the exploration licence holder. The Department will consider such circumstances an extenuating factor where the exploration licence holder has proactively communicated the issue to the Department.

## Land access

Where a land access arrangement remains unresolved following private negotiations, the Mining Act enables the licence holder and the landholder in question to enter mediation and, if necessary, arbitration in accordance with the government's land access arbitration framework.

Where a licence holder raises land access as an extenuating factor, they must be proactively seeking to remedy the situation. This includes through private negotiations and mediations, or by activating the Department's arbitration framework (e.g. step through the process of negotiation, mediation, arbitration, etc.) where they have been unable to reach a land access arrangement through private negotiations.

Licence holders that raise land access as an extenuating factor and have elected not to activate the Department's arbitration framework must provide reasonable justification for doing so.

## Unforeseen events

Serious unforeseen events may have direct and indirect impacts on the ability of a licence holder to complete a work program.

These may include phenomena such as bushfires, flooding, earthquakes (or landslips), health pandemics or policy or legislative decisions by government. These events can prevent the completion of a work program by limiting access to land or capital.

Some serious unforeseen events may also have flow-on impacts that can prevent the completion of a work program.

Licence holders citing serious unforeseen events as an extenuating factor must evidence how the event (including any flow-on impacts) has directly and materially prevented the completion of the work program, including where and when the event impacted on the ability of the licence holder to

carry out the work program and the period of time in which exploration was prevented from occurring.

This may include being prevented from accessing prospecting sites, social distancing restrictions, etc.

## **Reallocation of focus, budget and effort elsewhere within a project grouping**

From time-to-time, an exploration licence holder that holds multiple licences in a project grouping may prioritise activities on some exploration licences at the expense of others for a limited period.

For example, an exploration licence holder may reallocate budget, focus and resources where a significant discovery is made on one exploration licence in the project. The reallocation of focus, budget and effort may also occur in response to a change in exploration concepts.

A licence holder citing a reallocation of focus, budget and effort elsewhere within a project grouping as an extenuating factor must detail in their renewal justification statement a conceptual plan for working the licence, they seek to renew despite non-completion of the work program.

The decision-maker will consider whether the objects of the Mining Act are best served by renewing the exploration licence despite shortfalls in exploration work or progress. Factors for consideration include the time horizons for developing particular resources (e.g., metal discoveries typically take longer than coal), the depths in which a licence holder is exploring and whether the licence holder's conceptual plan includes a timeline for working the lower priority licences.

For further information about project-based work program administration, including the criteria for a licence to be included in a project grouping, refer to our website at: [meg.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/mining-and-exploration/exploring-nsw](http://meg.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/mining-and-exploration/exploring-nsw)

## **Commercial arrangements**

Establishing commercial arrangements can interrupt exploration progress. For example, where a licence transfer, pending the final transaction or deal or securing an offtake agreement with a third party results in a work pause. Where a licence holder identifies commercial arrangements as an extenuating factor, they must be operating in at least stage 3 of the Department's five-stage prospecting model.

That is, the exploration program is testing targets with the aim of categorising a Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) or JORC-equivalent Mineral Resource. The licence holder must also provide evidence of the commercial negotiations supporting a predicted timeframe for any delays and the likely result of commercial negotiations.

## **Matters and events that are not considered valid extenuating factors**

The following are examples of matters or events that the Department would not normally consider to be extenuating factors:

1. Protracted timeframes owing to delayed administrative or state or federal statutory requirements or approvals caused by an act or omission from the exploration licence holder (i.e. the delay must be outside of the exploration licence holder's control and the Department will not accept matters such as failure to lodge required forms or initiate statutory processes within prescribed timeframes).
2. An exploration licence holder operating in stages 1 and/or 2 citing an inability to raise sufficient capital over the term of the authority to finance the exploration program, irrespective of broader economic factors such as commodity prices.



3. An inability to enter into a land access arrangement generally (e.g. protracted land access disputes where the licence holder has made no effort to negotiate or commence mediation or arbitration over the term of the licence).
4. An inability to source or allocate qualified labour or technical expertise to the prospecting operations without reasonable justification.
5. An inability to secure or allocate appropriate machinery (e.g. drill rigs) and/or geological or geophysical equipment (e.g. seismic testing equipment) to the prospecting operations on the authority without reasonable justification.

## Circumstances justifying retention of area subject to an exploration licence at renewal

The Mining Act allows an exploration licence holder seeking renewal to nominate the extent of ground subject to the licence for retention, where such ground is genuinely required to support the work program for the renewal term.

The exploration licence renewal applicant may also identify any special circumstances that justify the applicant retaining a greater spatial extent than is genuinely required for the proposed work program (i.e. ground that will generally not be subject to exploration activities set out in the proposed work program for that term).

Where satisfied that special circumstances exist, the decision-maker may renew the exploration licence with the total nominated ground extent. Where not satisfied that special circumstances exist, the decision maker may renew the exploration licence in question with a spatial extent they consider to be genuinely required to support the renewal applicant's work program over the renewal term.

The onus is on the renewal applicant to justify the extent of ground required for retention, and the Department expects that in most cases an exploration licence holder will progressively relinquish part of the licence, whilst applying to retain the areas that they consider the most prospective ground and high-value targets and prospects<sup>5</sup>.

The partial relinquishment requirement follows the notion that as an exploration program progresses, the prospectivity of the area under the licence becomes clearer and the focus area narrows to the areas considered the most prospective by the licence holder.

In addition, the partial relinquishment requirement provides greater certainty to landholders, minimises the risk of land banking and, where appropriate, ensures that ground is made available for other explorers to apply their own concepts, skills or technologies.

### Special circumstances for area retention at renewal

A licence holder claiming special circumstances to seek exploration licence renewal over an area greater than that is genuinely required to support the work program over the renewal term must demonstrate one or more of the following:

1. The licence holder has gathered significant geoscientific data on targets or prospects during the term of the authority in accordance with the nominated exploration stages, expected outcomes and activities in their work program and:
  - a. needs to change the exploration concepts it has been applying, which will result in a need to retain ground for future exploration; or
  - b. has other targets or prospects that warrant further exploration but where the focus of the proposed work program is other targets and prospects in the licence area.
2. The licence holder has demonstrated resource potential over part of an exploration licence and seeks to retain this ground while prioritising other parts of the licence area for exploration activities in the proposed work program accompanying the renewal application.

<sup>5</sup> Mining Act s114A (1)(b).

## Special circumstances for area retention at renewal

3. A valid extenuating factor (as described above) has prevented the licence holder from completing their work program before a renewal application is lodged, warranting renewal to allow for the completion of the work program in the subsequent licence. For example:
  - a. land access issues have affected the licence holder's ability to access land to complete the work program
  - b. part of the ground subject to the licence is subject to native title, preventing access to this ground over the term of the licence
  - c. exploration progress delays caused by commercial arrangements have prevented the licence holder from exploring part of the ground subject to the licence
  - d. unforeseen events have prevented access to part of the ground subject to the respective licence
  - e. the licence forms part of a project and the area proposed for retention:
    - i. has been deprioritised for immediate exploration but forms part of the licence holder's broader conceptual project plan; or
    - ii. is reasonably required to facilitate a right of access to land for the purposes of conducting activities in support of mining operations or proposed mining operations.

The area proposed for retention is wholly or substantially subject to an application for the grant of an assessment lease or mining lease, or a state significant development (SSD) application or will serve as a source authority for that application.

With respect to criterion (2) above, the relevant decision-maker must be satisfied that the exploration has progressed to stage 3 of the five-stage prospecting model, as set out in the Minimum standards and the appendix of this document.

The evidence that the decision-maker uses to be satisfied those targets were tested and that there is broad prospectivity over the remaining ground they are seeking to retain includes information in the relevant annual geological reports and the renewal justification statement.

In these instances, the Department recognises that exploration intensity and capital investment increase significantly during stage 3 as a licence holder seeks to obtain sufficient geoscientific data to estimate a JORC or JORC-equivalent Mineral Resource.

In these circumstances, the Department recognises that a licence holder requires title over the area to allow for the identification of options to facilitate the progression to mining.

With respect to criterion (3) above, the onus is on the licence holder to demonstrate that such extenuating factors have prevented the holder from exploring the ground the holder is seeking to retain. In accordance with the extenuating factors, the licence holder must also demonstrate that they are taking reasonable steps to remedy the situation.

## Factors not considered to be special circumstances

The Department does not consider the following to be special circumstances:

1. A licence holder did not explore the full extent of their exploration licence at the time of renewal (without reasonable justification as set out above).
2. A licence holder wishes to retain the full spatial extent of the licence for reasons unrelated to prospecting (e.g. using the licence as a commercial/marketing tool).
3. A licence holder has not satisfied the relevant validation requirements for any or all of the applicable extenuating factors listed in this policy to justify ground retention.

## Decisions on renewal

Where extenuating factors and special circumstances are identified, the relevant decision-maker may consider a variety of options for managing under-performance with respect to the level of

exploration progress under the exploration licence. For example, the relevant decision-maker may grant a renewal with:

- special conditions such as:
  - imposing mandatory audits on the work program at the licence holder's expense
  - additional reporting requirements
- a reduced renewal term (i.e. 2-3 years), depending on the required timeframe to complete proposed work program.

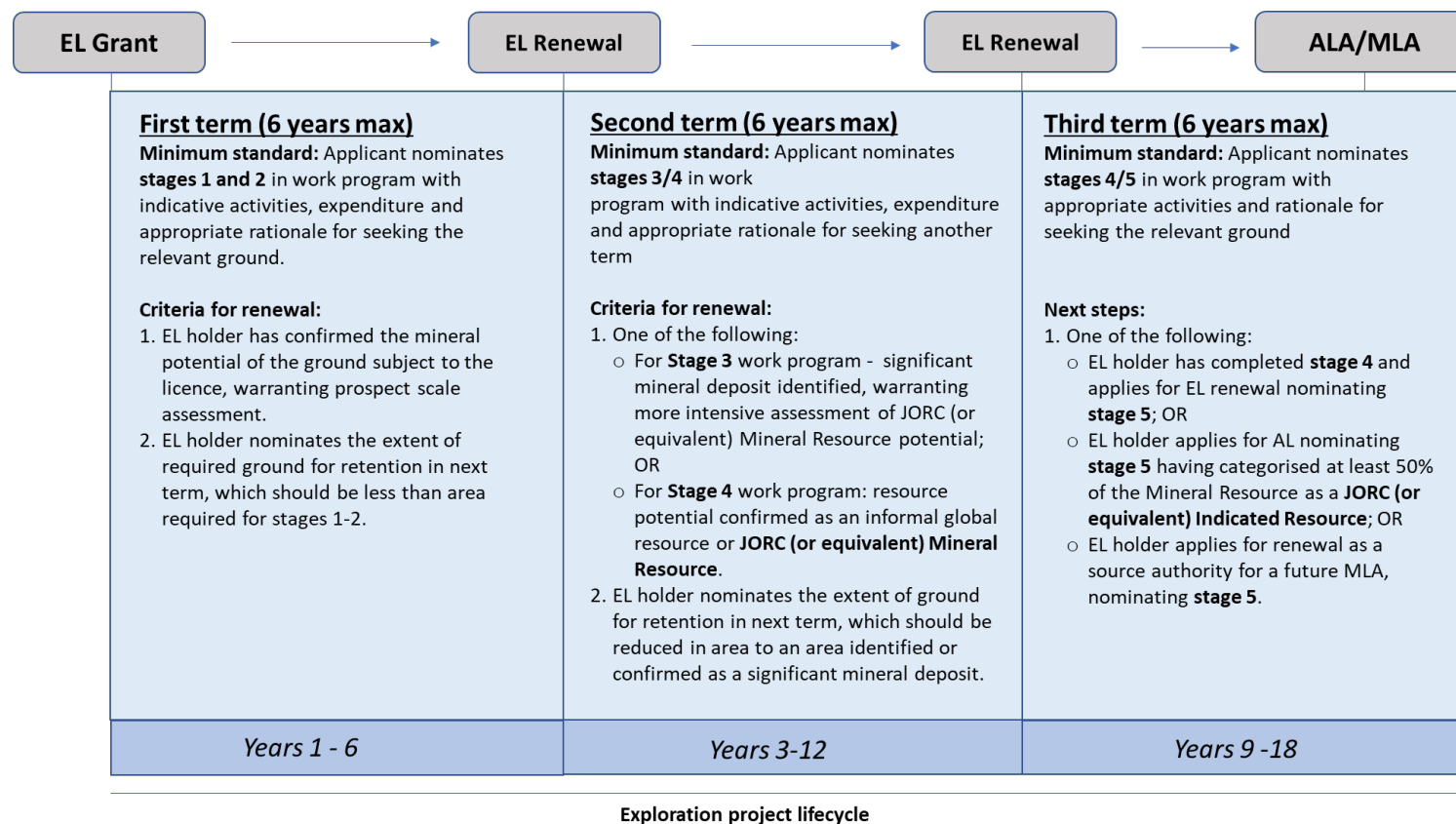
Where the relevant decision-maker does not consider a licence holder's circumstances to meet the criteria for extenuating factors, they may refuse to renew the licence.

In such circumstances, the relevant decision maker will communicate their preferred decision to the applicant, affording them a right to respond. The decision maker may also advise the applicant to consider a more appropriate authority where the circumstances permit, such as an assessment lease.

## Appendix 1 – The 5 stages of mineral and coal prospecting

Stage	1. Reconnaissance	2. Target definition	3. Prospect testing	4. Advanced prospect testing	5. Resource definition
Initial status:	Licence holder identifies a target commodity and establishes the exploration rationale.	Licence holder has identified broad geochemical or geophysical anomalies, historic or conceptual targets and/or unvalidated targets identified.	Licence holder has confirmed the mineral potential, warranting prospect scale assessment.	Licence holder has identified a significant mineral deposit, warranting more intensive assessment of its potential as a mineral resource.	Licence holder has confirmed the mineral resource as an informal global resource or possibly an initial Inferred JORC Resource.
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available data prepared and collated</li> <li>Exploration targets identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Validate the presence of mineral potential and refine targets.</li> <li>Prioritise targets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test prospects to identify presence of significant quantum and tenor of mineral potential.</li> <li>Prioritise prospects for assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the quantum, tenor and continuity of mineral potential.</li> <li>Characterise the mineral potential.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define resource or reserve</li> <li>Increase resource or reserve confidence</li> <li>Characterise ore</li> <li>Assess feasibility</li> <li>Mine planning</li> </ul>
Typical activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project generation</li> <li>Tectonic assessment</li> <li>Literature review</li> <li>Data compilation &amp; validation</li> <li>Remote sensing data acquisition</li> <li>Land access negotiation</li> <li>Regional scale non-targeted empirical geophysical or geochemical surveying</li> <li>Low impact reconnaissance or regional geological mapping</li> <li>Regional mineral vectoring studies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land access negotiation</li> <li>Data/geophysics reprocessing</li> <li>Target validation</li> <li>Semi-targeted broad empirical geophysical or geochemical surveying</li> <li>Localised geological mapping</li> <li>Local scale mineral vectoring studies</li> <li>Empirical drill testing</li> <li>Review exploration priorities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land access negotiation</li> <li>Detailed targeted geological mapping</li> <li>Reprocessing prospect scale geophysics</li> <li>Targeted geophysical or geochemical surveying</li> <li>Geochemical sampling or trenching</li> <li>Initial sporadic targeted drill testing</li> <li>Downhole geophysics</li> <li>Early characterisation studies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community consultation and land access negotiation</li> <li>Extensive geochemical sampling or trenching</li> <li>Systematic targeted drilling (RC or diamond)</li> <li>Systematic characterisation studies</li> <li>Developing geological or mineral potential models</li> <li>Possible bulk sampling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community consultation</li> <li>Intensive systematic drill testing</li> <li>Developing or revising resource estimations or geological models</li> <li>Metallurgical and geotechnical testing</li> <li>Ore characterisation</li> <li>Bulk sampling</li> <li>Validating models</li> <li>Feasibility studies</li> <li>EIS studies</li> <li>Environmental monitoring</li> <li>Marketing studies</li> <li>Mine planning studies.</li> </ul>
Outcome / criteria for progression:	Licence holder has identified broad geochemical or geophysical anomalies, historic or conceptual targets and/or unvalidated targets	Licence holder has confirmed the mineral potential, warranting prospect scale assessment	Licence holder has identified a significant mineral deposit warranting more intensive assessment of Mineral Resource potential	Licence holder has confirmed resource potential as an informal global resource or possibly an initial Inferred JORC Resource	Titleholder has categorised the informal global resource into a JORC or JORC equivalent Inferred, Indicated and/or Measured Resource or Ore Reserve.

## Appendix 2 – a typical exploration program under the *Renewals policy* and minimum standards



**Disclaimer:** this graphic is intended to be an indicative outline of the sequential progress of an exploration program over the entire project lifecycle. It does not take into account the impact of valid extenuating factors on general progression. In addition, a coal exploration licence granted under the NSW Government’s Strategic Release Framework would typically commence in stage 3.

## Appendix 3 – Glossary of key terms

Term	Definition
advanced prospect testing	The process of confirming of an informal resource or possibly an initial JORC Inferred Resource usually via means such as systematic targeted (RC or diamond) drilling.
assessment lease	An assessment lease has the same meaning as in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> and the policy on the grant and renewal of assessment leases. An assessment lease allows holder to retain mineral rights over a well-defined resource without being obligated to work the ground subject to the assessment lease as intensively as they would under an exploration licence.
authority	An exploration licence or assessment lease granted under sections 22 and 41 of the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> or in some instances, under the <i>Mining Act 1973</i> .
deposit	An aggregate of a mineral in an unusually high concentration.
drilling	The perforation of the earth’s surface crust by mechanical means, whether the hole caused by the perforation is vertical, inclined or horizontal, and includes all operations within the hole for activities ancillary to drilling.
exploration	Exploration has the same meaning as in the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .  Exploration includes the taking of samples, and the assessment of deposits of minerals.
exploration licence	An exploration licence has the same meaning as in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> . It allows the authority holder to explore an area for mineral deposits.
exploration results	As defined in the JORC code, exploration results include data and information generated by mineral exploration programmes that might be of use to investors, but which do not form part of a declaration of a mineral resource or ore reserve (see glossary definitions).
exploration target	As defined in the JORC code an exploration target is a statement or estimate of the exploration potential of a mineral deposit in a defined geological setting where the statement or estimate, quoted as a range of tonnes and a range of grade (or quality) relates to mineralisation for which there has been insufficient exploration to estimate a mineral resource (see glossary definition).
feasibility study	The term includes both ‘pre-feasibility’ and ‘feasibility’ studies, as defined in the JORC code:  Pre-feasibility study: a comprehensive study of a range of options for the technical and economic viability of a mineral project that has advanced to a stage where a preferred mining method is established, and an effective method of mineral processing is determined.  Feasibility study: a comprehensive technical and economic study of the selected development option for a mineral project.
global resource	An exploration target based on exploration results. A global resource is an estimate of the total contained metal content of a mineral deposit expressed as a range of tonnes and grade. There has either been insufficient exploration to estimate a mineral

Term	Definition
	resource, or there are factors that may impact the viability of mining which have not been considered. A global resource estimate is NOT a JORC categorised mineral resource estimate.
indicated resource	As defined in the JORC code, the part of a mineral resource (see glossary definition) for which the quantity, grade (or quality), densities, shape and physical characteristics are estimated with sufficient confidence to allow the application of modifying factors in sufficient detail to support mine planning and evaluation of the economic viability of the deposit. An indicated resource has a higher level of confidence than an inferred resource.
inferred resource	As defined in the JORC code, the part of a mineral resource (see glossary definition) for which quantity and grade (or quality) are estimated on the basis of limited geological evidence and sampling. Geological evidence is sufficient to imply but not verify geological grade (or quality) continuity.
JORC	The Joint Ore Reserves Committee. JORC is responsible for the development and ongoing update of the JORC code. JORC comprises representatives of each of the three parent bodies: The Minerals Council of Australia (MCA), The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM), and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AiG) as well as representatives from the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), the Financial Services Institute of Australasia (FinSIA). The committee also comprises a representative from the accounting profession and an observer from the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC).
JORC (code)	The JORC Australasian code for public reporting of exploration results, mineral resources and ore reserves. The JORC code provides a mandatory system for the classification of minerals exploration results, mineral resources and ore reserves (see glossary definitions according to the levels of confidence in geological knowledge and economic considerations in reports prepared for the purpose of informing investors or potential investors and their advisors. For example, annual and quarterly company reports, press releases, technical papers.
proposed work program	The work program submitted with an application for grant, renewal or transfer of an authority that describes the nature, extent and estimated expenditure of the exploration and associated activities proposed to be carried out during the proposed term of the authority.
measured resource	As defined in the JORC code, the part of a mineral resource (see glossary definition) for which quantity, grade (or quality), densities, and physical characteristics are estimated with sufficient confidence to allow the application of modifying factors to support detailed mine planning and final evaluation of the economic viability of the deposit. A measured resource has a higher level of confidence than either an indicated or inferred resource.
mineral deposit	See deposit.
mineral resource	<p>Consistent with the definition in the JORC code, a mineral resource is a concentration or occurrence of solid material of economic interest in or on the Earth's crust in such form, grade (or quality), and quantity that there are reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction.</p> <p>All minerals listed in Schedule 2 of the Mining Regulation 2016 are considered 'minerals' for the purpose of a mineral resource.</p>



Term	Definition
ore reserve	As defined in the JORC code, the economically mineable part of a measured and/or indicated mineral resource (see above).
prospect testing	The identification of significant mineral potential within identified exploration targets (see glossary definition), usually via methods such as RC (percussion) drilling, with a view to establishing a JORC Mineral Resource (see glossary definition).
reconnaissance	The identification of broad geochemical or geophysical anomalies, historic or conceptual and/or unvalidated exploration targets, usually via low impact means (e.g. literature reviews, data analysis).
resource definition	The characterisation of an informal global resource into a JORC or JORC equivalent Inferred, Indicated and/or measured resource or ore reserve (as defined in this glossary), usually via means such as feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments, market studies and/or mine planning studies.
target	An area of interest for exploration with known or perceived potential to identify mineralisation which may be associated with a mineral deposit. A target in this context may include an exploration target (as defined in the JORC code) which is conceptually based on early exploration results (as defined in the JORC code).
target definition	The prioritisation of exploration targets (see glossary definition) for more intensive assessment, usually via low to medium impact means (e.g. semi-targeted broad empirical geophysical or geochemical surveying, localised geological mapping).