



THE MINERS VOICE

MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE A CENTRAL BODY TO LIAISE, COORDINATE AND PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR MINING AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ISSUES RELATED TO THE CENTRAL QUEENSLAND SAPPHIRE FIELDS.

ISSUE: 2 1ST July 2014

P.O. Box 364, Rubyvale 4702

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

I do apologise that this Newsletter is a bit late, however your committee have been flat out like lizards drinking!

Firstly, please note that the Q.S.M.A. Inc. has had a Post Office change of address to:

P.O. Box 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702.

This has been changed simply for convenience for the Executive.

What your Committee have been doing:

Pursuing serious issues with Departments involved and our Local Member Vaughan Johnston.

The *first issue*, is in regard to an ERE (Endangered Regional Ecosystem) implemented by the former EPA Department (Environmental Protection

Agency) now called the EHP (Environment and Heritage Protection Department). This ERE has dire repercussions for all miners wishing to mine in the RA 1 area of the Anakie Mineral Field.

The ERE prohibits all small scale Mining or Mining Camp within 1000 metres of the ERE boundary including the area of the ERE.

This ERE looks like numerous tentacles of an octopus stretched throughout the RA1 area including the Miners Common. There are small portions of it scattered throughout the whole of the Gemfields taking up many hundreds of hectares of gem bearing ground.

Ongoing negotiations with the EHP on this issue have now been spearheaded by Vanessa Hughes, & David Everett (Brisbane) and Justin Cagney (Emerald) EHP.

This ERE was addressed by your Committee on Tuesday 1st July 2014 at a Public Meeting with Vaughan Johnson (Local Member), EHP (Environment & Heritage Protection) the Central Highlands Regional Council representatives and the Department of Mines and Energy at the Multi-Purpose Centre.

The EHP (Emerald) representative Justin Cagney informed us that “Queensland Herbarium” was responsible for this ERE being implemented. He totally agrees that this is greatly impacting on all Miners wishing to Mine the areas in or near this ERE and is willing to assist us.

Justin informed those present that there is a procedure where the QSMA can apply for the ERE to be re-assessed. He will in the next few days send the QSMA the details of how to apply for this and the cost involved. He said that if our application to the Queensland Herbarium proves the area is not a Category B sensitive ERE status then it is a very simple task of removing it from the mapping areas now depicted as ERE. But should our application fail to prove the area is *not* an ERE status then a change in Legislation will be needed for its removal. That scenario will take a long time to achieve.

Your Committee will assess what the paperwork and cost involved in this process entails before putting it forward to your committee.

The *second issue* is the availability of Mining areas being slowly eroded by a number of bodies, making the urgency of the **100 metre rule** being changed now more important than ever.

We are pursuing all avenues with regard to this rule and have placed a *discussion Paper* on the Q.S.M.A Notice Boards for comment in writing to the QSMA address above. We will identify this as the **100 Metre Rule Discussion Paper**.

The following is a brief of the discussion paper which your Committee has *proposed be adopted* following consultation with members written comments:

1. Those 100 metres from any dwelling on the Miners Common RA1 be rescinded, and replaced by 10 metres from the Landholders boundary.
2. That any form of mining or fossicking be banned within 10 metres from the boundary of the Landowner.
3. That the access to the freehold property not be blocked by any person, object or thing in any attempt to thwart the efforts of the freeholder to gain access to their property by whatever means they see fit to do so.
4. The 10 metres must be left free of obstruction at all times to allow emergency and essential services to negotiate around the boundary unhindered, including fire breaks.
5. That the pegging of the claim outside the 10 metres be permitted provided that the claimholder continues to mine the claim according to the Mining act. (Hand Mining only)
6. That the claimholder maintain the same noise level as the Landowner before 7-30 am and after 7-30 pm.
7. The claim must be kept clean and tidy at all times and dust be kept to the same level as the Landowner create

This issue was also addressed at today's meeting. Both Vaughan Johnson (Local member) and Steven Smith of DNRM reiterated that this issue will need to be addressed by documented negotiation with relevant stakeholders. And then have it tabled with any other **reform agendas** we wish to include prior to lodgement with the DNR & M

The **third issue** we have been investigating is the rights and responsibilities of the Miners Common of 1914, and pressing our opinion of its validation and importance to our Community as a whole, with the Central Highlands Regional Council, the Department of Mines & Energy as well as Senior Native Title Project Officers at meetings your Committee has attended with these bodies on the QSMA's behalf. We are now demanding answers to this urgently as it has been falling on deaf ears for too long now.

Again this was strongly addressed at today's meeting with the Departments, with Vaughan Johnson giving an undertaking that this has gone on for far too long and that he will not only write to the relevant Federal and State Ministers about the Miners Common, but he will also get an opinion from "Crown Law Department on this very important issue of the Miners Common".

The **fourth issue** is the Native Title and Right to Negotiate process we must pursue. Your Committee have chosen four delegates from our team for the Negotiating process on "Native Title for the RA 1 area of the Anakie Mineral Field". We are working in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Senior Native Title Project Officers in Rockhampton. This process is designed to eliminate the cost of Lawyers for the QSMA and its Members. This RTN process will strictly apply to members only. If you are not a member of the QSMA then you will need to act on your own behalf or engage your own Lawyer for this process.

We have been informed by Officers within the Department of Mines that there are in excess of 2000 mining tenures in the District and if you are a registered Tenure holder and a Member of the QSMA our **team will negotiate on your behalf**. If you are not then we urge you to join the QSMA at a cost of \$25.00 to be registered on our negotiated Templates and included in the RTN when ratified. This opportunity is too good to miss.

The **fifth issue**: QSMA are addressing the fire levy on Mining Leases.

What's New?

The Department of Mines have implemented a new system of replacing all paper lodgements for Mining Claims & Leases etc. to an **online** lodgement process instead of paperwork currently being lodged at the Emerald Counter.

This is called "My Mines Online". We know a lot of you will need help with this process so your committee has done the following:

- Your Committee after meetings with The Mines Department took an undertaking to help members with the new "My Mines Online" system, to lodge and help members with new applications, renewals, assignments etc. as the Department is doing away with all paper lodgements.
- Your Executive attended the first introduction/workshop theory day with the Department of Mines and Energy held at Emerald on Friday 27th June re the introduction of this implementation. The "My Mines Online" programme developed by DNR&M is very new and the QSMA is the first organisation the DNR & M are introducing to this new system and they are still fine tuning this programme. There is a lot of adjustment to adapt to with this new format including the gradual phasing out of the online IRTM (Mapping) and introducing

a new mapping system called “My Maps Online”. Your Committee are dedicated to the task at hand to try and smooth this transition for you as much as we can. We have another workshop to attend with the Department in the near future for practical training in the data input side of the programme prior to the QSMA being logged in as a lodging Agent for QSMA Members.

The QSMA has two New Committee members added due to our workload. Mike Slemint as: Legislation & Legal Researcher and Sue Beasley- Assistant Secretary.

Fundraising Event:

- Your Committee have been very busy organizing a fundraising night “*Elvis & Company*” to help finance the QSMA Inc. building being held the 26th July 2014 6.30 pm to 9.30pm at the Sapphire R.S.L. Entry \$5.00 per person which includes a sausage sandwich or hot dog. There will be Items donated by various sponsors raffled on the night. Each and every member is cordially invited to this very important fundraiser for your Organisation. ***Please bring your own chair.***

What Your Committee Have Achieved

- The Name change from QSPA to QSMA has been completed.
- Successfully applied for a Permit to Occupy for the QSMA headquarters on the Corner of Sapphire /Rubyvale Road Sapphire and Rockhound Road Sapphire. It is now Lot 237 on Plan AP21042. The offer has been signed by the Executive and all documentation completed. We now await the final document from the Directorate /Unit State Land Management of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines due within the next week or so.
- Workshop for the New “My mines Online.
- RTN Proposals for Templates re negotiations.
- Requesting local business for sponsorship support for Fundraiser.

Reminder: All membership renewals are due as at 1st July 2014.

Renewals can be paid at the Sunday Markets at the QSMA Stand, or contact the Treasurer: Megan Harwood on 0403 653 335 or e-mail Megan: megstrevharwood@hotmail.com Application forms can be collected from Rubyvale Post Office and the Top shop at Sapphire (Trading Post).

PLEASE ALL MEMBERS BE ADVISED THAT THE Q.S.M.A.INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 19TH AUGUST 2014 AT 1.00 PM AT THE MULTI PURPOSE CENTRE AT SAPPHIRE.

Until our next Newsletter wishing you all the very best from your Committee.

Garnet Ross: President

