

**Application for mining lease 70/426,
Mt Lesueur**

CRA Exploration Ltd

**Report and recommendation
of the Environmental Protection Authority**

**Environmental Protection Authority
Perth, Western Australia
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Introduction

This proposal is one of a group of applications for mineral production tenements for which a formal level of assessment was set by the Environmental Protection Authority under the Government's former policy (known as "Balancing the Scales", 1988) on mining in environmentally sensitive areas. The former policy has now been replaced by a new policy entitled "Resolution of Conflict - A Clear Policy for National Parks", 1990.

The Environmental Protection Authority is now able to process the proposal.

The proposal

The Environmental Protection Authority has assessed a proposal to mine for minerals under mining lease 70/426, near Mt Lesueur, east of Jurien. The lease is within the area proposed as the Mt Lesueur National Park.

A mining lease (described in Part IV, Sections 71 - 85 of the Mining Act, 1978) allows the lessee to explore and mine the land for any minerals for an initial period of 21 years. The Minister for Mines may renew the lease for further periods of 21 years and may set conditions for the prevention of injury to the land and other matters related to mining activities.

On the grant of the lease the Department of Mines has regulatory power via conditions on the lease and usually requires a bond to ensure that rehabilitation is completed to an acceptable standard. Many of the conditions relate to environmental protection issues.

Assessment and recommendation

The Lesueur has high conservation value. It is an area of outstanding flora conservation values, complex geological features and unusually rugged terrain in the subdued landforms of the northern kwongan region. In addition to its very high nature conservation values, the area has a high landscape and recreational value.

Mining lease 70/426 is entirely within the area proposed as the Mt Lesueur National Park which has recently been endorsed by government. Under current government policy "Resolution of Conflict - A Clear Policy for National Parks" there is to be no mining in national parks so that the conservation values of Western Australia's most special areas will be protected.

Recommendation 1

The Environmental Protection Authority concludes that the proposal to grant mining lease 70/426 is both environmentally unacceptable and against Government policy and recommends that it be refused.