

EPA REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ON

APPLICATIONS BY GRIFFIN COAL MINING CO.
FOR TWO PROSPECTING LICENCES AT
BUNKER BAY - W.A.

AUGUST, 1982

Department of Conservation
and Environment

BULLETIN NO. 124.



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AUTHORITY**

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HON. MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Your Ref.

Our Ref. 108/82

My Dear Minister,

At its last meeting the EPA considered the matter of two Prospecting Licence applications by the Griffin Coal Mining Company at Bunker Bay.

A copy of the EPA's report and recommendations is attached for your information and transmittal to the Hon. Minister for Mines.

Your approval is sought to publish the report and recommendations so that it can be sent to all interested parties.

Yours sincerely,


A. R. MAIN
CHAIRMAN

26 AUGUST, 1982.

1. INTRODUCTION

Griffin Coal Mining Co. has applied for 2 Prospecting Licences PL70/22 and 70/23 at Bunker Bay in the Busselton Shire. PL70/22 covers an area of freehold land (location D) owned by Griffin Coal. PL70/23 covers parts of two adjoining privately owned freehold locations 302 and 595.

2. EXISTING LANDFORM

The PL's cover an area of coastal dunes, interdune depressions, a small interdune lake and swamp and in the case of PL70/22 the beach and small area of sea. This foreshore area is part of the old location D title. There is a narrow Crown reserve between PL70/23 and highwater mark.

Both areas have been partly developed as grazing land PL70/22 more so than PL70/23. Both areas have significant amounts of native vegetation (mainly trees) still intact. There is evidence of frontal dune instability on location D with loss of vegetation and small blow outs developing.

3. PROSPECTING LICENCES

A prospecting licence is described in Part 1V, Sect.40 to 56 of the Mining Act 1978. It is granted for 2 years and authorizes the holder to enter and prospect with agents, employees, vehicles, machinery and equipment for minerals in or under the land. It also authorizes the removal for sale for up to 500 tons of ore. The holder of the licence has the right and priority to apply for a Mining or General Purpose Lease.

Discussions with the Company have indicated that they wish to carry out exploration and appraisal work and that they have no plans for any productive mining at this stage.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In an area such as this with a high energy coastline a fragile frontal dune system and important scenic and recreational values any proposal to mine would require a very detailed examination and the imposition of suitable conditions to ensure land stability during and after mining as well as control of the operation so that the areas environmental values were not put at risk.

However before such a proposal can be prepared and considered by the EPA the Company must be able to carry out exploration works to assess the mineral potential of the area. In addition the Company must agree with the private landowner on PL70/23 to compensation and entry conditions.

5. The EPA therefore recommends that:
 - 5.1 Any Prospecting Licences should only be granted subject to the following conditions: (these conditions would be in addition to any required by the Local Authority, Land Owner or Warden).
 - 5.2 No productive mining nor applications for Mining Leases is to take place on the area of the Prospecting Licences until the Company has submitted a suitable Notice of Intent describing the proposed mining operation, environmental effects and environmental management including details of a rehabilitation programme to the Minister for Mines for EPA consideration. The Notice of Intent shall also include a copy of all relevant Local Authority approvals.
 - 5.3 All exploration work is to be carried out in such a way that no significant change or damage occurs to the existing land surface or vegetation.

