

Exploration activities

How are they regulated in SA?



Mineral exploration, quarrying and mining is strictly regulated in South Australia .

Explorers and miners must meet strict conditions to apply for licences, enter land and perform any related activities. In South Australia, minerals are the property of the Crown but Landowners have specific rights under the Mining Act 1971 (the Act).

The Act and the Mining Regulations 2020 (the Regs) provide the legal framework for exploration and mining. The Department for Energy and Mining (DEM), through the Minerals Resources Division, is responsible for the regulation of South Australia's exploration and mining sectors.

Other government agencies involved with approvals and regulatory compliance of mining exploration include, but are not limited to, the Environment Protection Authority and the Department for Environment and Water.

The Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) issue Exploration Licences (ELs) which authorise the holder to explore for minerals, subject to the Act, Regs and the EL conditions and carries a right to apply for a mining licence.

EL conditions identify specific environmental management requirements for each licence area. AR3 currently hold licences 6509, 6613, 6691 and 6690 in South Australia.



Environmental Management

In South Australia a detailed, environmental management program, known as a Program for Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR) must be approved by the DEM prior to AR3 undertaking any 'on ground' works.

On-ground works include activities such as soil sampling and drilling, including auger holes, air core drilling, and push tube drilling, and any excavations.

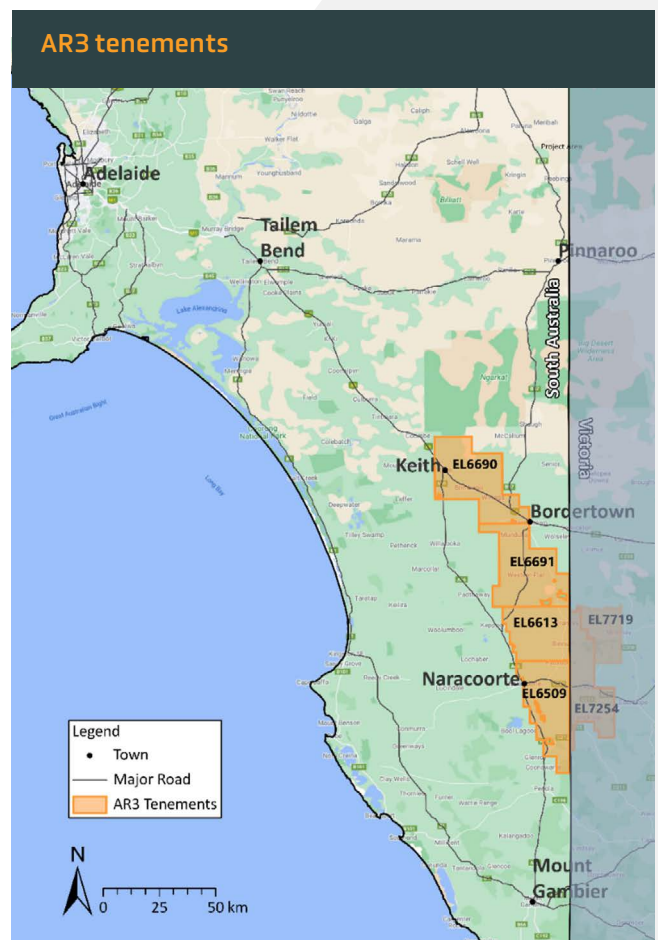
PEPRs cover the management of the following environmental aspects:

- Soil quality and erosion control
- Native vegetation, flora and fauna (incl. pest and weed management)
- Surface and groundwater protection
- Air quality, radiation and noise emissions
- Traffic and transport
- Public safety and secure access to the exploration activities

AR3 is required to submit annual Compliance Reports to the DEM, outlining their performance against the environmental requirements and the 'Outcomes and Measurement Criteria' as detailed in each of their approved PEPRs.

Is this information publicly available?

The Department for Energy and Mining are intending to make Exploration Licence PEPRs publicly available via their web site - www.energymining.sa.gov.au



Exploration to mining engagement - Graphic courtesy of Department for Energy and Mining

