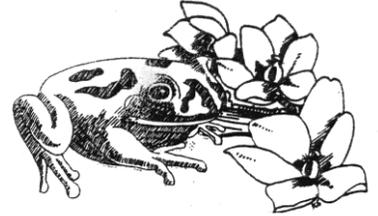




33-35 Strickland St (PO BOX 142) Denmark WA 6333
Ph (08) 9848 1644 • Fax (08) 9848 1248
denviron@denviron.org.au ABN 78 197 582 304
www.denmarkenvironmentcentre.org.au



D'Entrecasteaux Coalition

Warren Environment Group
PO Box 137, Pemberton, WA 6260
savelakejasper.org.au

19 March 2019

Hon Bill Johnston MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations;
Level 9, Dumas House 2 Havelock Street, WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

Re: Lake Jasper and Mining Lease Application M70/1385

In relation to the application for a mining lease next to Lake Jasper the D'Entrecasteaux Coalition has noticed in recent correspondence from you the statement that there were no objections lodged to the application for Mining Lease 70/1385 (M70/1385) next to Lake Jasper. This of course disregards the community campaign run by environment, local tourism and indigenous organizations through 1996 to 2005 to protect Lake Jasper and the Gingilup – Jasper Wetlands from mining.

Far from being no objections to the mining lease community organisations are renewing the campaigning to have the 'C' Class Reserve, excised from the D'Entrecasteaux National Park to facilitate a miner, re-incorporated into the national park.

It is also important to determine why there was no community comment on the lodging of the mining lease to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety (DMIRS). During the former State Liberal Government's roll back of environmental protection the then state government changed the system of mining lease application notification, such that these applications were no longer required to be published in local newspapers. There is now only an on-line notification system through DMIRS. Checking applications or changes to all mining tenements can only be accessed through logging-on to the Mineral Titles Online website.

In addition, the above change to the Mining Regulations (No. 4), 2012 was only published in the Government Gazette. There was no comprehensive community consultation regarding this elimination of public notification and review.

Given these changes to reporting of new mining lease applications it is easy to find why no objections to the application, (M70/1385), next to Lake Jasper were received by DMIRS.

It must also be pointed out that DMIRS and the Mining Warden would have been fully aware of the sensitive nature of any mining lease application next to Lake Jasper. This is because of the long community campaign to

protect Lake Jasper and the Gingilup-Jasper Wetlands that started in 1996 and involved numerous cases at the Mining Warden's Court.

Given the history of community concern over mining near Lake Jasper it should have been procedure for the DMIRS or the Mining Warden to have notified the D'Entrecasteaux Coalition or the state's peak environmental body, the Conservation Council WA, of the mining lease application.

Short of restructuring the Department to make it encourage public participation, adopt precautionary principles to projects and practice key sustainability principles the D'Entrecasteaux Coalition asks that the method of notifying new mining and exploration leases by DMIRS should be improved. In addition to the current notification method DMIRS should:

- Advertised in the local newspapers
- Notify individual organisations with a history of dealing with the Department on that particular lease area.

The D'Entrecasteaux Coalition views the above points as in keeping with the McGowan Government's goal of open, transparent and responsive governance.

Yours faithfully

Geoff Evans
Deputy Convenor
For the Denmark Environment Centre

Andy Russell
Co Convenor
D'Entrecasteaux Coalition

Cc Premier of Western Australia