

6. Miscellaneous

Apart from the new office of Mining Warden, other important developments include the establishment of the Mining Consultative Committee to advise on policy in regard to the conditions and bonding of mining tenements and other matters referred to it by the Minister, the introduction of bonding and conditioning in relation to various tenements and the repeal of the search licence provisions of ss.63 and 64 of the Act.

* Solicitor, Melbourne

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NSW MINING ACTS

*by C.W.G. Johnson**

On 1 March, 1983, Mr Neville Wran, Premier of New South Wales, announced that a general review of the State's Mining Legislation was being conducted. He said Cabinet had approved the preparation of legislation to amend the Mining Act, 1973 and the Coal Mining Act, 1973 along the lines which follow.

Administrative procedures are to be simplified.

Sanctions for illegal mining are to be strengthened as are the powers of inspectors to enforce rehabilitation requirements.

Organised groups will be recognised in new fossicking provisions.

The most important amendments are to allow the grant of a single mining title for each coal mine to replace the numerous titles which now commonly make up a colliery holding.

Also, coal miners would be authorised to recover methane under coal mining leases avoiding an additional title under the Petroleum Act.

There would be provisions to give additional protection to the environment including those relating to conditions away from the mining lease such as those to do with the transport and treatment of coal.

What is not apparent is what the timetable for the legislation is and how much further the general review of legislation is to go.

In the meantime, the N.S.W. Department of Mineral Resources is in the process of selecting two Administration Managers to take charge of the administration of the Mining Act and the Coal Mining Act respectively and is looking beyond the Public Service as well as within it for suitable people.

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BRANCH NEWS

NEW SOUTH WALES

A day long Seminar entitled "INCOME ASPECTS OF THE RESOURCE INDUSTRY" has been organized for Friday, 29 April from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm at Sydney Hilton Hotel.

This important Seminar has been arranged by the New South Wales branch in conjunction with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (N.S.W. Branch).

Enquiries regarding detailed program and registration should be addressed to Mr W.M. Blanshard, Stephen Jaques Stone James, AMP Centre, 50 Bridge Street, Sydney, Telephone (02) 239 1111.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australian Branch in conjunction with the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia (PESA) will present two lectures principally for the benefit of non-technical personnel on Tuesday, 20 April and Tuesday 3 May, at 5.15 pm.

Enquiries may be directed to Mrs B. Sutcliffe on (09) 325 0181.