

ITEM 17 EXECUTIVE SERVICES UNIT*No matters for consideration***ITEM 18 DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES****18.1 Petition to Keep the Greater Dalgarp Forest free from Mining Exploration****File Ref****Responsible Officer** Leigh Guthridge, Acting Director, Development and Regulatory Services**Reporting Officer** Leigh Guthridge, Acting Director, Development and Regulatory Services**Attachments** 1. Email - DBCA**Voting Requirements** Simple Majority**Disclosure of Interest** Reporting Officer: Nil**RESOLUTION: OCM 038/25****Moved:** Councillor R Redman**Seconded:** Councillor J Boyle

1. That Council receives the Petition from the Bridgetown- Greenbushes Friends of the Forest to advocate to keep the Greater Dalgarp Forest free from mining activities specifically to achieve the following:

- *That the area of Exploration Claims under the Mining Act 1978 not be permitted to encroach on;*
 - *The area of the Dalgarp National Park approved by Parliament in 2004, or*
 - *The Planned Reserves being Nos 218 and 219 in Map 12 of the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033, which are to be dealt with as though the scheduled vesting as Reserves had been completed.*
- *That the area of the Nunn Block be added to the National Park as soon as possible, as promised in the Agreement between the WA Government and the National Trust in 2006 and scheduled in successive Forest Management Plans, and*
- *That any exploration activities permitted under the Conditions of the Exploration Licence E70/6554 in the Nunn Block comply with those conditions required for the adjacent area in the National Park and do not damage the existing Old Growth Forest, vegetation or network of tracks in the Nunn Block or the National Park.*

2. That Council instructs the CEO to:

- Request a meeting with the following Ministers and local member to progress the Greater Dalgarp Forest area for entry into National Park in accordance with the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 that will preclude any mining activities including exploration:

- Hon Roger Cook - Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification
 - Hon Matthew Swinbourn - Minister for Environment, Community Services; Homelessness
 - Hon David Michael - Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Finance; Electoral Affairs
 - Hon Don Punch – Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Water, Climate Resilience, Southwest
 - Mr Bevan Eatts MLA - Member for Warren Blackwood; and
- Write to the Proponent of mining tenement E70/6554 to formally request withdrawal of their application to undertake any form of mining activities within the Greater Dalgarp Forest.

FOR: Crs T Lansdell, J Boyle, M Christensen, M Fletcher and R Redman

AGAINST: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

IN BRIEF

To receive and consider a petition that was presented to Council from the Friends of the Forest (Bridgetown-Greenbushes) at the 27 February 2025 OCM requesting that Council seek government support to keep the Greater Dalgarp Forest free from mining activities.

BACKGROUND

A petition was presented to Council from the Friends of the Forest (Bridgetown-Greenbushes) at its ordinary meeting on the 27 February 2025 requesting that Council advocate the following:

- *That the area of Exploration Claims under the Mining Act 1978 not be permitted to encroach on;*
 - *The area of the Dalgarp National Park approved by Parliament in 2004, or*
 - *The Planned Reserves being Nos 218 and 219 in Map 12 of the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033, which are to be dealt with as though the scheduled vesting as Reserves had been completed.*
- *That the area of the Nunn Block be added to the National Park as soon as possible, as promised in the Agreement between the WA Government and the National Trust in 2006 and scheduled in successive Forest Management Plans, and*
- *That any exploration activities permitted under the Conditions of the Exploration Licence E70/6554 in the Nunn Block comply with those conditions required for the adjacent area in the National Park and do not damage the existing Old Growth Forest, vegetation or network of tracks in the Nunn Block or the National Park.*

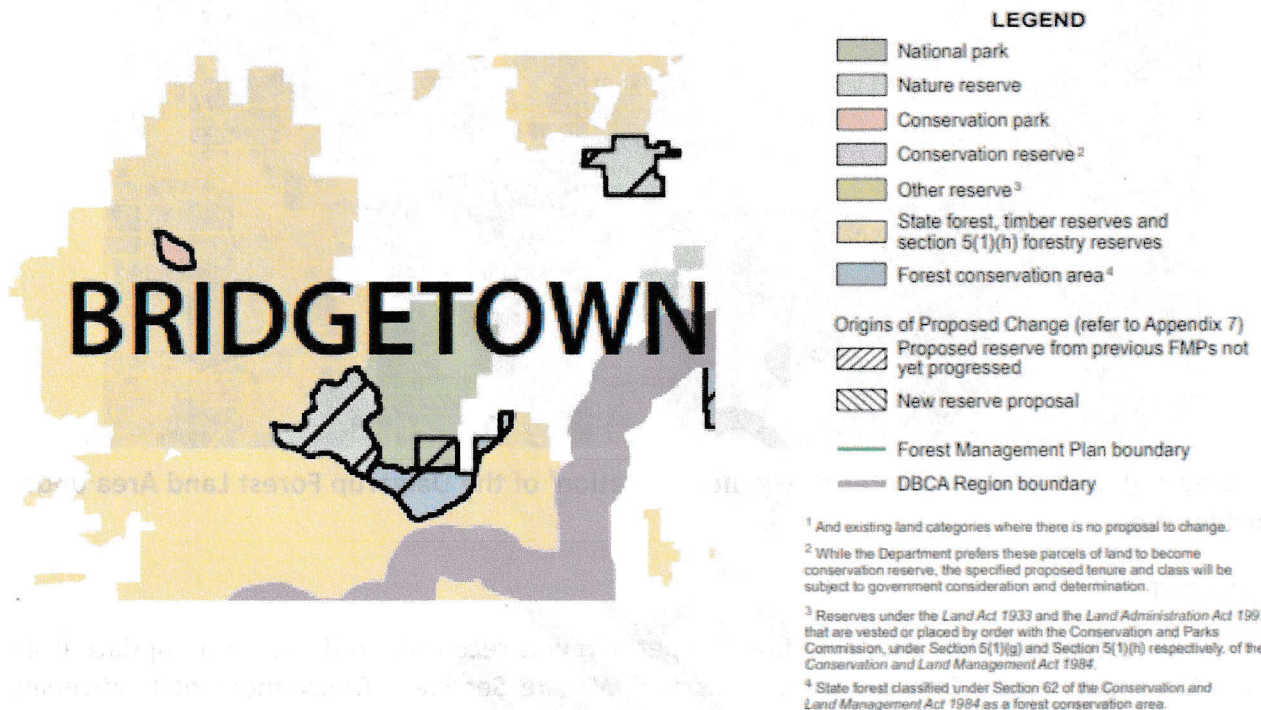
Mining Tenements

Mining tenements are legal permits granted by the Dept of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that authorize individuals or companies to explore for and extract minerals within a

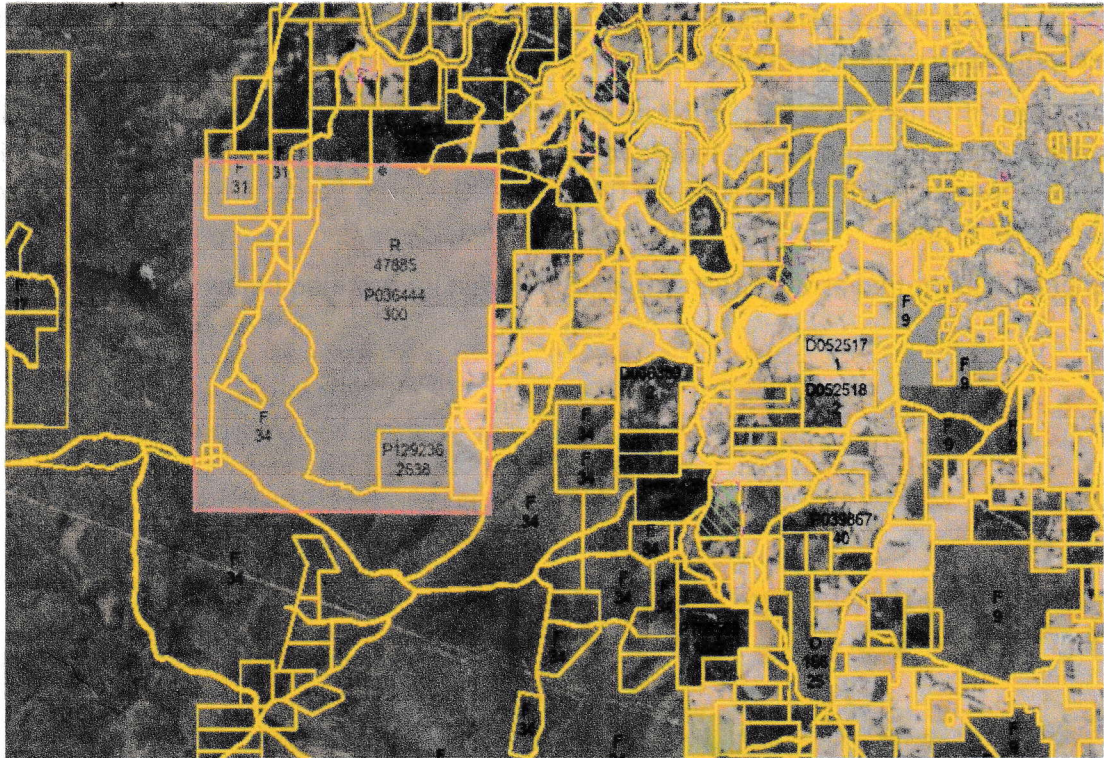
specific area of land. These permits, which can take the form of leases, licenses, or permits, are the legal mechanisms to undertake mining activities.

Different types of tenements exist, such as exploration licenses which are granted by DMIRS for preliminary investigation and mining leases for full-scale extraction. The mining exploration licences (under consideration by DMIRS) that affect the greater Dalgarp Forest area are understood to be for exploration purposes.

The area of land identified as the Greater Dalgarp Forest is identified below:



Map 12 – Forest Management Plan 2024-2033



The area highlighted red indicates the 'general location' of the Dalgarp Forest Land Area under consideration.

COMMENT

To provide further context, after the time the petition was received, staff sought an update from Nicola Mincham – Land Services Unit, Parks and Wildlife Service – Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) in March 2025 as per the **Attachment** to this report. It confirms that matters are progressing for protection of the Greater Dalgarp Forest for conservation in line with the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 (FMP) that came into effect on the 1 January 2024 and it is expected that this process will get momentum in 2025.

The email advice states in part:

"The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) will be commencing a process in 2025 to expand the conservation reserve system to meet the commitments under the FMP, including the area surrounding Dalgarp National Park. Consultation will be undertaken with the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Friends of the Forests, along with other key stakeholders and Traditional Owners, in due course. The views of all stakeholders will be considered. In the interim, DBCA continues to manage these areas under the CALM Act and in accordance with the forest management plan."

Notwithstanding, Council discussed this issue at its April 2025 concept forum to form a view on this matter to assist staff prepare a report to enable the Council to formally consider how to respond the Friends of the Forest in its objectives in the form of advocacy.

Council may choose to respond to the Petition to support advocacy on this issue if it resolves to do so on the grounds that the Community support the protection of the high environmental values of the greater Dalgarp Forest and that any form of mining activity (exploration or otherwise) in this area is to be excluded.

The Shire can lobby the relevant Ministers, the member for Warren Blackwood and/or senior department personnel to progress the transition of the Dalgarp Forest area lands into relevant Conservation Reserves or National Parks.

It is proposed that the Shire formally write and request a meeting (The Shire being represented by the Shire president and the CEO) with the following Ministers and the local member to progress the Greater Dalgarp Forest area into relevant Conservation Reserves that precludes any mining activities:

- Hon Roger Cook - **Premier**; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification
- Hon Matthew Swinbourn - **Minister for Environment**, Community Services; Homelessness
- Hon David Michael - **Minister for Mines and Petroleum**; Finance; Electoral Affairs
- Hon Don Punch – **Minister for** Aboriginal Affairs, Water, Climate Resilience, **Southwest**
- Mr. Bevan Eatts - Member for Warren Blackwood

In addition to the above, the recommendation in this report also instructs the CEO to write to the Proponent of mining exploration approval E70/6554 to formally request withdrawal of their application to undertake any form of mining activities within the Greater Dalgarp Forest.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

The legislation that controls mining tenements and inclusions of Crown land into Conservation Reserves and is guided by the *Mining Act 1978* and *CALM Act 1984* respectively that is administered by State Government Agencies. Local Government has no jurisdiction under these Acts.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

EM 1 - Managing the Natural Environment

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If Council support the recommendation, there will be costs associated with officer time for the preparation of correspondence, meetings and travel estimated to be between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

7 Responsible and attractive growth and development.

CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN

Nil

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Nil

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS

Nil