Relinquishment guide

The department has developed a series of guides to help existing and prospective resource authority holders understand the legislation around the issue of resource authorities, and their responsibilities as a resource authority holder(s). This guide provides information about the relinquishment conditions for exploration resource authorities and how we apply the relevant legislation including the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 (MERCP Act), Mineral Resources Act 1989 ("the MRA Act"), the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 ("the P&G Act") and the Geothermal Energy Act 2010 ("GE Act") and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009.

Under s139 of the MRA Act, it is a condition that each resource authority holder(s) relinquish a portion of the resource authority area either during the resource authority term or before renewal. Under s140 resource authority holder(s) can also elect to relinquish land at any time during a resource authority term on a voluntary basis.

Sections 65-71 of the P&G Act sets out the standard relinquishment conditions for a petroleum exploration resource authority (the "authority to prospect") including compulsory and voluntary relinquishment, and related provisions.

Key information

- A relinquishment is a reduction in area of an exploration resource authority. The types of relinquishments and associated requirements vary across all resources legislation.

- A scheduled relinquishment is a periodic reduction in the area of exploration resource authority (mineral, coal or special) which is determined for each resource authority at the time a resource authority is granted. This occurs on a scheduled basis and the information is outlined in a relinquishment schedule, which will accompany any granted exploration resource authority.

- A compulsory relinquishment is a periodic reduction in the area of a petroleum exploration resource authority.

- A voluntary relinquishment can occur at any time during a resource authority term, when a resource authority holder(s) applies to reduce the area of a resource authority on a voluntary basis. This includes relinquishment resulting from sole occupancy of a ML (coal) holder in an overlapping area.

- You can manage your relinquishment requirements quickly and easily via MyMinesOnline or you can submit a written request detailing the sub-blocks to be relinquished.

Scheduled relinquishment of an exploration resource authorities mineral, coal or special

Under s139 of the MRA Act, it is a condition that each resource authority holder(s) relinquish a portion of the resource authority area either during the resource authority term or before renewal. The relinquishment schedule for each exploration resource authority outlines when the period reduction in the resource authority area is due to occur. The area of the resource authority for exploration resource authority mineral, coal and special must be reduced by:

- 40% of the original area by the end of the first three years after the resource authority is granted (i.e. end of first work period)
- a further 50% of the remaining area at the end of five years (i.e. end of second work period).
Where resource authorities are currently granted and renewed for an additional term, the relinquishment must align with the new legislative framework. Where a renewal is granted for a period of less than five years, the following relinquishment conditions will apply:

- **A four year term** will be conditioned to relinquish 40% at end of year three, and if renewed it will be required to relinquish 50% at year two of the renewed resource authority term (year five of the overall resource authority).

- **A three year term** will be conditioned to relinquish 40% at end of the term and if renewed it will be required to relinquish 50% at year two of the renewed resource authority term (year five of the overall resource authority).

- **A one or two year term** may not be subject to relinquishments in the first term, however if renewed it will be required to relinquish 40% at year three of a renewed resource authority term (year three of the overall resource authority) and 50% at year five (year five of the overall resource authority term). Where a resource authority is renewed, the same relinquishment portions will be repeated based on the anniversary of grant.

You can view your relinquishment schedule through the Permit Registration Report in MyMinesOnline, which provides the dates for each relinquishment and defines how many sub-blocks are required for each relinquishment.

The resource authority type will determine how many sub-blocks are required to be relinquished in the application.

The area remaining after the reduction must consist of one or more whole sub-blocks. The scheduled relinquishment will take effect on the resource authority’s anniversary date. You must lodge a relinquishment report with the department via QDEX within two months after your scheduled relinquishment.

The relinquishment of sub-blocks is a condition of a resource authority granted under the MRA Act. If the relinquishment conditions of a resource authority are not met, the resource authority may be cancelled or other legislative enforcement action may be undertaken.

**NOTE:** The nomination of sub-blocks needs to be made 60 business days before the relinquishment date or current end term date. If you wish to vary the number of sub-blocks to be relinquished as part of your scheduled relinquishment, you will need to lodge your variation/amendment application two months prior to the relinquishment date or current end term date.

**Scheduled (or compulsory) relinquishment for petroleum, geothermal and greenhouse gas storage exploration resource authorities**

The relinquishment requirements for petroleum, geothermal and greenhouse gas storage exploration resource authorities are set out in the applicable legislation. Below is a summary of the different requirements for each type of resource authority:
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Resource authority</th>
<th>Legislation</th>
<th>Relinquishment method</th>
<th>Area to be relinquished</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority to Prospect (ATP)</td>
<td><em>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</em></td>
<td>By whole blocks</td>
<td>8.33% of the area initially granted annually (or 33% every 4 years)</td>
<td>At least every four years during the term of the resource authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploration Resource Authority Geothermal (EPG)</td>
<td><em>Geothermal Energy Act 2010</em></td>
<td>By whole blocks or sub-blocks</td>
<td>33.33% of the area initially granted every 5 years</td>
<td>At least every five years during the term of the resource authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploration Resource Authority Greenhouse Gas (EPQ)</td>
<td><em>Greenhouse Gas Storage Act</em></td>
<td>By whole blocks</td>
<td>8.33% of the area initially granted annually (or 33% every 4 years)</td>
<td>At least every four years during the term of the resource authority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This information is outlined in the relinquishment schedule, which accompanies the granted resource authority and the compulsory relinquishment will take effect on the next day after lodgement.

You can view your relinquishment schedule through the Permit Registration Report in MyMinesOnline, which provides the dates for each relinquishment and defines how many blocks/sub-blocks are required for each relinquishment.

You must lodge a relinquishment report with the department via QDEX no less than six months after your scheduled relinquishment. If the relinquishment conditions of a resource authority are not met, the resource authority may be cancelled or other legislative enforcement action may be undertaken.

**NOTE:** For an ATP, if you wish to vary the number of blocks to be relinquished as part of your compulsory relinquishment, you will need to lodge a special amendment application prior to the compulsory relinquishment date or current end term date. Holders are encouraged to make an application for special amendment of an ATP as soon as they become aware of the need for the amendment or at least three months before any requirements sought to be amended need to be satisfied.

**Voluntary relinquishment for any commodity**

At any stage you may apply to reduce the area of an exploration resource authority for any commodity during the resource authority term on a voluntary basis. You must do so by identifying the blocks or sub-blocks of land to which you no longer want the resource authority to apply.

The number of blocks or sub-blocks to be relinquished should be selected from your resource authority. Please note, you can choose to select all, select some blocks or sub-blocks, or none.

An application for voluntary relinquishment resulting from sole occupancy by a ML (coal) holder in an overlapping area must include a notice from the ML (coal) holder issued under section 120 of the MERCP Act. The voluntary relinquishment takes effect on the date it is approved.
Operational policies and supporting documents

Operational policies are not required to be legislated by parliament. They describe how the department will interpret aspects of the Act, and set out rules the department will apply in a uniform manner. Operational policies include transparent guidelines for staff to follow to ensure consistency and efficiency in mining resource authority administration processes.


This guide should be read in conjunction with Operational policy: Work program and relinquishment conditions (Policy No 5/2012). All holders must consent to any relinquishment and appropriate documentation must be provided to this effect.

Application steps for MyMinesOnline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What you need to do</th>
<th>Supporting information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Log in to MyMinesOnline, select Change permit area, then Relinquish area under the I want to… options at the right of the My dashboard tab. Information on Mining Tenure types and the relevant forms are also available to download.</td>
<td>Permit identification number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Enter a permit Identification, by typing the permit identification number for the relinquishment in and select Next</td>
<td>The sub-blocks to be relinquished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Review the permit details on the Permit summary page and select Next or Back to enter a different permit identification number.</td>
<td>Signed letter of consent by the holder/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Review the information provided on the Identify sub-blocks to relinquish page and deselect the sub-blocks to be relinquished by un ticking the relevant sub-block boxes in the table.</td>
<td>A statement justifying the relinquishment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** This page displays a table of sub-blocks for the permit. The sub-blocks that are ticked will be retained, the sub-blocks not ticked will be relinquished.Inactive sub-blocks are not included in the permit and cannot be actioned. The sub-block information panel displays a real-time count of how many sub-blocks have been relinquished all totals are adjusted as the deselections are made).

| | You will be required to submit relevant EA application directly to DES using Connect |
| 4. Select Save (a records successfully saved message confirms the changes. Select Next to proceed. A secondary message confirms the changes have been saved before continuing, select OK to continue and Cancel to return to the screen and save relinquished sub-blocks. | |
| 5. Review the sub-blocks that have been selected for relinquishment and confirm the details are correct. Select Back to change the sub-blocks or Next to proceed with the relinquishment. | |
| 6. Attach a signed consent of all holders and a justifying statement (if you are lodging a nil relinquishment) and select Save. | |
NOTE: Refer to Permit administration guide for acceptable consent formats. Environmental authority applications must be lodged directly with the Department of Environment and Science (DES) using the Connect system or lodging a paper application.

7. Select Submit

NOTE: MyMinesOnline automatically calculates how many blocks/sub-blocks you are required to relinquish and your next relinquishment date. It will also automatically determine if it is a scheduled relinquishment (i.e. within 60 business days of your next relinquishment date). Anything outside of this time period will be treated as a voluntary relinquishment.

More information

Coal Hub Phone: (07) 4936 0169
Email: CoalHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au

Mineral Hub Phone: (07) 4447 9230
Email: MineralHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au

Petroleum Hub Phone: (07) 3199 8118
Email: PetroleumHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au

Small Scale Mining Hub Phone: (07) 4987 9350
Email: SSMHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au

For technical support contact the MyMinesOnline Helpdesk
Telephone: +61 7 3199 8133
Email: mines_online@dnrme.qld.gov.au
8.30am – 4.30pm (AEST) Monday to Friday on Queensland business days.

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