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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

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ASSISTANCE TO MINING IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES AND TERRITORIES.

By

R.W.L. King

The information contained in this report has been obtained by the Department of National Development, as part of the policy of the Commonwealth Government, to assist in the exploration and development of mineral resources. It may not be published in any form or used in a company prospectus without the permission in writing of the Director, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

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## ASSISTANCE TO MINING IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES AND TERRITORIES

In 1965 the Australian States and Territories were asked to provide information on the assistance given to mining ventures.

### INTRODUCTION.

The ownerships of minerals is one of the rights of the Australian States which were not surrendered to the Commonwealth on federation. The making and administering of laws regarding title to mineral deposits and control and encouragement of their exploitation is therefore a matter for the State Governments and the Administrations of the Commonwealth Territories.

A brief outline of assistance given to mining ventures by the States and Territories is contained in the Commonwealth Year Book but there is, from time to time, a call for more detailed information on the assistance available in the various States and Territories.

### COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

The information tabulated in Appendix I was supplied in 1965 by the States and Territories in response to a request by the Bureau. The Commonwealth Treasury first suggested the desirability of such a collection of information, and it is now presented in Record form so that it may be readily available for enquirers.

Letters were written seeking details of the nature of assistance available, the authority for its provision, and such details as might be available of recent expenditure on the various types of assistance. States and Territories were also asked to provide details of assistance provided particularly for gold mining.

### PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

The information supplied is set out in Appendix I in tabular form by States and in each case subdivided along the lines indicated in the preceeding paragraph.

### SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

Reference to the various Acts, Ordinances and Regulations mentioned in the tabulation and to Mines Department Annual Reports will provide more detailed information. Beyond this it will be necessary to refer to the various State and Territorial Administration Departments and Branches concerned with mining, which are listed below:

The Under Secretary,  
Department of Mines,  
2 Edward Street,  
BRISBANE QLD.

The Under Secretary,  
Department of Mines,  
G.P.O. Box 48,  
SYDNEY N.S.W.

The Secretary for Mines,  
Department of Mines,  
Treasury Place,  
MELBOURNE VIC.

The Director of Mines,  
Department of Mines,  
G.P.O. Box 124B,  
HOBART TAS.

The Director of Mines,  
Department of Mines,  
Box 38,  
Rundle Street, P.O.  
ADELAIDE S.A.

The Under Secretary for Mines,  
Mines Department,  
St. George's Terrace,  
PERTH W.A.

The Director of Mines,  
Northern Territory Administration,  
P.O. Box 231,  
DARWIN N.T.

The Director of Lands Surveys and Mines,  
Konedobu,  
Port Moresby,  
T.P.N.G.

APPENDIX I

AID TO MINING - As at July, 1965.

State or Territory	Nature of Assistance	Authority for Provision	Details of Expenditure
Queensland - Mining Generally	a). <u>Testing of Specimens and Assay of Samples.</u> The testing of specimens is carried out at the Geological Survey Office, Brisbane, and at the office of the District Geologist, Charters Towers. Quantitative analyses are carried out either at the Government Chemical Laboratory, Brisbane or at the Government Assay Office, Cloncurry. Prospectors' specimens and samples are tested and assayed free of charge.	Revenue Vote, Assay Office, Cloncurry, Chemicals, Plant etc.	£3,462 (1962/63) £3,539 (1963/64) (Cloncurry Assay Office only)
	b). <u>Assistance to Prospectors:</u> Weekly payments of £2.10.0 for single and £3.10.0 for married men are made to bona fide prospectors; in certain cases higher rates may be paid. These payments, which are not repayable, are administered by the various Warden's and Mining Registrars' Offices.	Revenue Vote, Mining Fields Grants and Loans to Prospectors	£7,872 (1962/63) £8,707 (1963/64) (Prospecting Assistance - includes payments items (c) (f) and (h).)
	c). <u>Subsidies for Development</u> Subsidies for approved development may be granted to individuals, syndicates or companies. The recipient of such assistance is required to execute an agreement providing for the re-payment of the subsidy from a percentage of the gross value of all ore won. Development proposals must be reasonable mining prospects.  In addition, advances in respect of development work on gold mines only are available from the Gold Mining Encouragement Fund. Such advances are repayable from the proceeds of the mine concerned.	(i) Revenue Vote, Mining Fields, Grants and Loans to Prospectors. (ii) Metalliferous Mining Fund. (iii) Gold Mining Encouragement Fund.	£4,272 (1962/63) £4,934 (1963/64) (Repayable subsidies and loans includes payments items (c) (f) and (h).) £1,581 (1962/63) £66 (1963/64) (Metalliferous Mining Fund - may include payments item (g))
	d). <u>Grants for Roads Bridges and Water Supply.</u> Such grants are made with a view to opening up mining areas and attracting a population to a new centre.  Sometimes, the aid of the Main Roads Department is sought and mining access roads are proclaimed and these are constructed and maintained by that Department. In other cases the Department of Mines grants moneys for the building or repairing of roads and bridges in mining areas to the local authority or to individuals.	Revenue Vote, In Aid of Mining, Roads and Bridges to Mining Fields and Water Supply.	No payments - Gold Mining Encouragement Fund in 1962/63 or 1963/64. £2,907 (1962/63) £1,970 (1963/64)
	e). <u>Advances for Procuring and Erecting Mining Equipment.</u> Advances by way of loan for procuring and erecting mining machinery and the procuring and erecting or removing and re-erecting plant for the treatment of minerals, are available under "The Mining Machinery Advances Act." Interest at a rate not exceeding five per cent is charged on such loans and, to secure repayment, the borrower is required to execute mortgages, etc., over the mine, machinery, plant or other property.	Loan Vote, Mining Machinery Advances Act.	No payments in 1962/63 or 1963/64. Mining Machinery Advances.
	f). <u>Finance for Large-Scale Mining Projects.</u> Some large-scale mining projects, for which moneys cannot be obtained from other sources, may be financed by the Department of Mines. Certain applications which are beyond the scope of the funds available to the Department may be referred to the Industrial Development Department which, in approved cases, can arrange finance in the form of a Government guaranteed bank overdraft.	Revenue Vote, Mining Fields, Grants and Loans to Prospectors.	

State or Territory.	Nature of Assistance	Authority for Provision	Details of Expenditure
	g). <u>Hire and Sale of Mining Machinery.</u> The Department of Mines has a large quantity of mining machinery, principally compressor plants, jackhammers, "Quick" safety winches and deep well pumps which is available for hire, and in some cases, hire purchase. Hirings are for specific purposes and periods to enable certain mine development and/or reconditioning to be undertaken.	(i) Revenue Vote, Mining Fields, Plant and Stock. Purchases, Compressors, etc., (ii) Metalliferous Mining Fund.	£4,910 (1962/63) £1,182 (1963/64) (Plant and Stock Purchases, Compressors, Pumps etc - may include payments item (h).)
	h). <u>Treatment of Ores.</u> The Department of Mines operates a treatment works for tin ores, etc. at Irvinebank, approximately twenty miles from Herberton and a Departmental mill and cyanide plant for the treatment of gold - bearing ores is operated, by a lessee, at Charters Towers. In both instances the cost of treatment is subsidised by the Department.	(i) Irvinebank Trust Fund (ii) Revenue Vote, Mining Fields, Plant and Stock Purchases, Compressors, Pumps etc. (iii) Revenue Vote, Grants and Loans to Prospectors.	£31,376 (1962/63) £33,675 (1963/64) (Irvinebank Trust Fund). £1,265 (1962/63) £7,982 (1963/64) (Loan Fund - State Treatment Works, Irvinebank)
	i). <u>Diamond Drilling.</u> The Department of Mines operates diamond drills in several parts of the State and, if considered warranted, will undertake drilling for minerals on behalf of the mining industry. Repayment of the cost of such drilling is dependent upon circumstances but, in the case of the small operator, is usually from a percentage of the gross value of ore won.	Revenue and Loan Votes, Drilling Programme	£65,040 (1962/63) £65,040 (1963/64) (Revenue Fund) £60,648 (1962/63) £143,021 (1963/64) Loan Fund)
	j). <u>General</u> In addition to the foregoing, technical officers of the Department of Mines provide advice to the mining and allied industries when required, carry out field examinations of mining prospects, advise on exploration and development, select sites for water supply and generally give a free technical service to the Mining Industry.		£78,195 (1962/63) £64,000 (1963/64) (Other Contributions). Not possible to apportion expenditure on services by Departmental Officers.
<u>Queensland</u> -- <u>Gold Mining.</u>	a). <u>Repayable Loans</u>	See above for details	£495 (1962/63) £1,750 (1963/64)
	b). <u>Drilling</u>		£6,279 (1962/63) £5,261 (1963/64)
	c). <u>Prospecting Assistance</u>		Not possible to segregate from figures quoted for item (b) in General Section.
<u>New South Wales -</u> <u>Mining Generally</u>	a). <u>Prospecting Aid.</u> Financial assistance is granted in respect of drilling, shaft sinking, open cutting etc. at a certain rate based generally on half the cost of the operation to be undertaken. Moneys paid in this way are repayable to the Department only in the event of the grantee making a financial gain as a result of the operations undertaken. It is essential that a valid mining title be held over the site of operations by the grantee.	Moneys for both (a) and (b) provided by Parliamentary Vote, until the present (1964/65) financial year entitled "Assisting and Encouraging Prospecting and Mining for Gold and Minerals." Now called "Mines Department Exploration Working Account".	1962/63 1963/64 1/7/64 to 24/3/65. £20,719 £26,369 £19,702
	b). <u>Advances.</u> Moneys are advanced by way of loan for the purchase of machinery, construction of dams, etc., These are repayable on reasonable terms irrespective of the results of the operations and carry interest at current rates. Security by way of Bill of Sale is taken over machinery, plant, etc.		£1,000 £500 £2,500
	c). <u>General.</u> The results of a £270,000 intensive coal drilling programme in the southern and south-western coalfields of the State are available to interested parties. The purpose of this programme was the testing and evaluation of coal reserves.  Also the scientific and technical advisory services of the Department are available to the mining industry but it is not practical to segregate the cost of these.		
<u>New South Wales -</u> <u>Gold Mining.</u>	for assistance to gold mining, though in a number of cases gold was included in the general group of metals being sought by the diamond drilling programme being assisted.  None of the above expenditure was specifically of cases gold was included in the general group of metals being sought by the diamond drilling programme being assisted.		

State or Territory	Nature of Assistance	Authority for Provision	Details of Expenditure
Tasmania - Mining Generally	a). <u>Sustenance Allowance to Prospectors</u> . This is not subject to repayment.	The usual authority for assistance is the Aid to Mining Act (1927) but in special circumstances, as in the case of King Island Scheelite (1947) Ltd., special legislation is passed by Parliament.	a). No expenditure in 1963 or 1964.
	b). <u>Financial Assistance for Development</u> . Available on a pound for pound basis for shaft sinking, crosscutting, rising, construction of water races, dams and developmental work generally.		b). £30 (1963) £68 (1964)
	c). <u>Assistance for Plant and Drilling</u> . Assistance is given to purchase plant and for drilling and for hire of plant and equipment.		c). £84,774 (1963) £37,670 (1964)
	<u>Note</u> : Assistance under items (b) and (c) above is repayable from the proceeds of productive mining. Interest at a nominal rate is charged and security is taken in the form of a registered mortgage deed, or if no security is available a prescribed Deed of Covenant must be executed.		Subsidy under King Island Scheelite Agreement Acts. £162,924 (1963) £36,031 (1964) <u>Note</u> : Tasmanian expenditure refers to calendar years.
Tasmania Gold Mining.	None of this expenditure was concerned with gold mining.		
South Australia Mining Generally	a). Geological and Geophysical inspection and advice.	Mining Act (1930 - 1962) IX  Encouragement of mining.	No separate record is kept of actual expenditure on most of these forms of assistance to the Mining Industry. £1,700 (1963/64) £1,800 (1964/65) was spent on lecture courses, examinations, free assays, and loan of plant.
	b). Supply of reports on inspections.		
	c). Maps and publications supplied at low cost.		
	d). Technical advice on mining and prospecting by Departmental mining engineers.		
	e). Hire of mining plant and equipment at reduced rates.		
	f). Hire of diamond drilling plant and crew at cost.		
	g). Free lecture courses on use of explosives.		
	h). Mine Managers examinations - assistance re suitable courses given.		
	i). Free assaying and testing of mineral samples by A.M.D.L. sponsored by Mines Department.		
	j). Metallurgical or other testing and development of treatment processes by A.M.D.L. sponsored by Mines Department.		
	k). State batteries - reduced rates for gold treatment.		
	l). Rail freight - one third rebate for ores transported by rail on first 100 tons in any one year for any approved mine.		
South Australia Gold Mining	No special assistance provided for gold mining.  Of the general types of assistance detailed above, only 20 samples for assay and 6 enquiries for prospecting advice were on account of gold mining in 1964. Battery maintenance on the one active and three inactive batteries in South Australia might be regarded as indirect assistance to gold mining.	As above	Estimated value £50 for 1964.  Estimated expenditure for 1964 £1,500.

State or Territory	Nature of Assistance	Authority for Provision	Details of Expenditure
<u>Western Australia</u>	a). <u>Loans to Mine Owners</u> . For carrying out development work, drilling and purchase and erection of machinery.	Mining Development Act, (1902).	£111,104 (1963) £ 74,391 (1964)
<u>Mining Generally</u>	b). <u>State Batteries</u> . Nominal charges only are made for the treatment of ore from prospectors and small mine owners at the 20 State Batteries operating throughout the goldfields. A cartage subsidy is also granted to such operators sending ore to State Batteries for treatment.	As above	£214,774 (1963) £220,564 (1964)
	c). <u>Assistance to Prospectors</u> . Assistance is given by way of ration orders to the value of £5-6 per week and provision of some basic tools.	Parliamentary Vote.	£11,072 (1963) £10,316 (1964)
<u>Western Australia</u> <u>Gold Mining</u>	Gold mining is not specifically separated as far as the type of assistance provided is concerned. Some financial details are available however, of the portion of the total set out above which refers to gold mining for each of items (a) (b) and (c).	As above	Item (a) £40,762 (1963) £14,223 (1964) Item (b) £210,547 (1963) £210,497 (1964) Item (c) £10,561 (1963) £10,070 (1964)
<u>Northern Territory</u> <u>Mining Generally</u>	a). <u>Loans</u> . To carry out mining operations and to procure and erect mining machinery.	Mining Assistance Ordinance (1929-64)	Western Australian Note: expenditure refers to calendar years.
	b). <u>Advances</u> . For prospecting ventures.		£11,095 (1962/63), £4,938 (1963/64) (Development loans, prospecting assistance and subsidized drilling - items (a) (b) and (d))
	c). <u>Advances or Expenditure</u> . For draining a mining area, making and maintaining mining roads and maintaining water supplies on mining fields.		£15,551 (1962/63), £27,835 (1963/64) (Mining roads and maintenance - item (c))
	d). <u>Subsidies</u> . On drilling for gold, minerals or water.		£346 (1962/63) £29 (1963/64) (Mining water supply maintenance - item (c)).
	e). <u>Treatment Plants</u> . Establishment, operation and maintenance of ore treatment plants and cyanide works.		£20,881 (1962/63), £17,749 (1963/64) (Operational costs (excluding depreciation and interest) Mt. Wells Battery - item (e).) £9,387 (1962/63) £9,300 (1963/64) (Operational costs (excluding depreciation and interest) Tennant Creek Battery - item (e).)
	f). <u>Cartage Subsidy</u> . Payable on ore treated at Government operated plants.		£1,945 (1962/63)
	g). <u>Tailings</u> . Purchase of gold tailings for treatment.		£1,433 (1963/64) (Cartage subsidy)
	h). <u>Plant Hire</u> . Purchase and maintenance of mining plant and accessories for hire to miners.		
	i). <u>Advances</u> . Monetary advances against the sale of mineral concentrates.		£3,979 (1962/63) £699 (1963/64) (Advances on concentrate sales)
	j). <u>Free Assay Service</u> .		
	k). <u>Diamond Drilling</u> . The Administration further assists the mining industry by maintaining a number of diamond drilling rigs with crews. This plant is used mainly on Government mineral, water and engineering investigations, but the rigs are available to miners. Agreements must be made with the Administrator regarding repayment of all or part of the drilling costs.		£13,369 (1962/63) £22,746 (1963/64) (Diamond drilling)



State or Territory	Nature of Assistance	Authority for Provision	Details of Expenditure.
	<p>l). <u>Explosives Magazines</u>. These are maintained at various mining centres. Explosives are sold from them to miners at a fraction (10%) above cost.</p> <p>m). <u>Technical Advice</u>. Available from Resident Geologists, Mines Inspectors, and other technical and professional officers of the Mines Branch.</p>		£551 (1962/63), £840 (1963/64) (purchase of explosives)
<u>Northern Territory</u> <u>Gold Mining</u>	There is no special provision for assistance to gold mining and expenditure is not segregated between gold and other mining.		
<u>Territory of Papua-New Guinea</u>	a). <u>Advances</u> . For developmental mining.	<p>Item (a) to (f) provided under the Mining Development Ordinance (1955-60)</p> <p>Funds provided under a vote called "Assistance to Mining"</p>	<p>Amounts expended from the "Assistance to Mining" vote not segregated.</p> <p>£12,021 (1962/63) £10,254 (1963/64)</p>
<u>Mining Generally</u>	b). <u>Establishment</u> . Of plant for ore treatment.		
	c). <u>Boring</u> . Payment of the whole or part of the cost of boring for gold minerals or water.		
	d). <u>Plant Hire</u> . Purchase of boring plant and hire of such plant at nominal charges.		
	e). <u>Miscellaneous Assistance</u> . Draining mining areas, making roads, subsidising ore from development work, providing water supply etc.,		
	f). <u>Advances</u> . In respect of ore or concentrates for export.		
	g). <u>Assays</u> . Provision of a free assay service.		
	h). <u>Field Assistants</u> . Assistance to native mining by provision of a staff of European Field Assistants.		
<u>Territory of Papua - New Guinea</u> <u>Gold Mining.</u>	There is no special provision for assistance to gold mining and expenditure is not segregated between gold and other mining.		