



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Mineral Resources Development Act 1990 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Invitation to tender

To Explore for Coal Seam Methane in the
Wonthaggi Region of Victoria, Australia

In accordance with Section 27 of the **Mineral Resources Development Act 1990**, ("the Act") the Victorian Minister for Agriculture and Resources ("the Minister") invites tenders for the right to be the sole applicant for an exploration licence in the Gippsland Basin in the Wonthaggi region of Victoria, Australia.

Tenders are invited over an area of 3070 km² (3070 graticular sections) in West Gippsland between Leongatha and Gormandale as shown on the map hereunder. The area available for tender does not include the area subject of an existing exploration or mining licences and applications for exploration or mining licences. It is anticipated that Coal Seam Methane will be the main interest on this block.

Tendering and Application Process

- All tenders must be submitted in accordance with the requirements as set out within.
- **Tenders closes at 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 24 June 1999. Three (3) copies of tender marked tender number 2999 should be lodged in the Tender Box, Ground Floor, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002, Australia.**
- Late, incomplete, facsimile or e-mail Tenders are not accepted.
- Enquiries regarding this tender process should be directed to Mr George Buckland, Manager, Minerals and Petroleum Tenements, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, telephone (613) 9412 4778, facsimile (613) 9412 5150.
- Tenders will be strictly commercial in confidence.
- The Department may request a presentation to clarify tender documentation.
- The Minister reserves the right to reject any or all tenders and to invite new tenders at any time.
- Following receipt of tenders and within 30 days of the closing date for tenders, the Minister will award the tender. All tenderers will be notified of the results of the tendering process.

- The successful tenderer will, following notification, have 14 days to submit an application for an exploration licence, pursuant to Section 15 of the Act. Application forms and an application kit to complete the form can be obtained by contacting Business Centre on (03) 9412 5103. (Note: During the tender assessment period the Minister will revoke the exemption from licence applications, which currently covers the subject area. The revocation of the exemption will allow only licence applications from successful tenderers to be accepted in the subject area).

Note: Applicants should make themselves conversant with Marine and Wildlife Reserves and Aboriginal archaeological sites contained in the area. For information on these matters Parks Victoria can be contacted on 131963 and Mirimbiak Nations Aboriginal Corporation can be contacted on (03) 9486 9166.

Grant of Exploration Licences

- Exploration Licence applications will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the **Mineral Resources Development Act 1990**. The Act provides for advertising of applications pursuant to Section 15 and objections to the grant of a licence pursuant to Section 24. The Minister may grant or refuse licences after considering objections make pursuant to Section 24.
- Licences will be granted for a term of two years. Renewal of licences beyond the initial term may be sought, pursuant to Section 29 of the Act. There is a requirement to relinquish part of the licence area for the first and third renewal of the licence in accordance with section 30 of the Act.
- The Minister may impose conditions to which licences are subject, pursuant to Section 26 of the Act.
- The grant of licences does not entitle licensees to undertake any work on licences until such time as the requirements of Section 43 of the Act have been satisfied.

Content of Tenders

- Tenders will only be accepted for the block of land, as specified within. Under MRDA an exploration licence applies to a maximum area of 500 graticular sections. However in this case the delegate of the Minister has given approval under section 13(3)(c) of the

Act for an exploration licence to be in excess of 500 graticular sections.

- Tenders must include the following information relating to Section 15(6) of the Act, whereby a licence applicant must satisfy the Minister that the applicant is –
 - a fit and proper person to hold an exploration licence;
 - intends to comply with the Act;
 - genuinely intends to do work;
 - has an appropriate program of work; and
 - is likely to be able to finance the proposed work and rehabilitation of the land.
- Tenders must include a work program, which specifies the mineral exploration/development works to be undertaken over the two year term of the licence. The work program should include:
 - specification of minerals sought;
 - an outline of geological/exploration models to be applied;
 - a description of the exploration/development works to be undertaken in each year of the licence, including details of any proposed geological studies, drilling, geophysical surveys and geochemical surveys;
 - exploration expenditure (in Australian dollars) to be incurred in each year of the licence.
- In addition to information required relating to Section 15(6) of the Act, tenders must include information on the tenderer, including:
 - experience in mineral exploration, in Victoria and elsewhere;
 - history of performance in meeting expenditure requirements on exploration licences in Victoria and elsewhere;
 - technical expertise of the tenderer, including skills, qualifications and experience of staff and/or contractors who will conduct the exploration program.

Assessment of Tenders

Tenders will be assessed according to the following general criteria:

- compliance with Section 15(6) of the Act;
- work program;
- experience in exploration for and development of mineral deposits;
- expenditure;
- any other matters the Minister deems relevant.

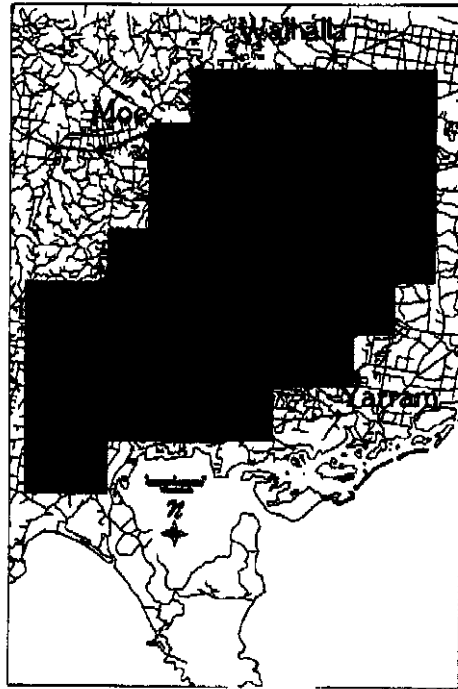
The Minister may decide which tenderer is successful, and will notify all tenderers of the decision pursuant to Section 27(2) of the Act.

Overview of exploration history, geology and mineral prospectivity

Copies of the basic exploration data pertaining to the block comprising this notice may be purchased from the Petroleum Development Branch, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 7th Floor, 250 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002. For information please contact Mr Robert Harms on (03) 9412 5053.

Warranty

All geological and exploration data and commentary on geology and mineral prospectivity is made available without any warranty as to its accuracy or correctness. Tenderers must satisfy themselves as to the accuracy, correctness and interpretation of data, the geology and mineral prospectivity. This information is offered only as a guide and for the general information of tenderers.



Dated 6 May 1999.

DAVID LEA
Executive Director,
pursuant to instrument of delegation
by the Minister dated 1 July 1996

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