

New minerals legislation

Mineral tenure maintenance

Mineral tenure maintenance refers to the rules for keeping or losing mineral tenure once it has been acquired. These rules include the work requirements for maintaining claims, and how tenure may be transferred, lost or relinquished.



Work must be done to keep mineral claims in good standing.

Because mineral tenure underpins the mineral exploration and mining sectors, we want the tenure maintenance regime to be clear and consistent, and strike an appropriate balance between the needs of these sectors and competing land uses.

The challenges

The current system could be improved to create a more efficient, effective, and transparent regime that reflects the realities of the exploration and mining sectors, while reducing their impacts on other land uses.

Potential approaches

These are some of the approaches that we're considering. We'd like to hear your thoughts.

- **Keeping tenure in good standing**
We're considering changes to the rules for keeping tenure, including types of work that can be accepted to keep claims, claim grouping, payment-in-lieu of doing work, and whether the regulator can grant relief from work requirements.
- **Renewals and length of tenure**
We're considering whether tenure should have a maximum length and whether we should continue to require an annual renewal of tenure or move to a different length of renewal (e.g., multiple years).
- **Transfer, relinquishment & lapsing**
We're considering changes to ensure that outstanding liabilities and obligations are addressed if tenure is transferred, relinquished or lapsed.
- **Expropriation and compensation**
We're considering whether to establish rules for expropriation of mineral tenure and compensation in new legislation, or alternatively, whether to continue to rely on other legislation and the courts to settle these issues when they arise.

