



# Stay Informed

Exploration companies must have the informed consent of a landholder or a written compensation agreement before they can enter privately owned property or commence exploration work on that land.

- Landowners can apply to have agricultural land excised from a mining licence (though not from exploratory licence applications).
- Each new project/activity needs a new consent (ie, might be ok with soil sampling, but not later drilling)
- There is no formal registration of consent, so it is important to check with any outgoing landowners what agreements are in place.

## Where to find reliable information

It's important not to rely on advice given from neighbours and friends, to understand all your rights and find factual information, seeking information yourself is the best course of action:

• **The company directly** - do you agree with their philosophy, are they genuine?

• **Earth Resources and State regulators:** <https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/>

• **Minerals Council Australia:** <https://minerals.org.au/mca-victoria>

• **Literature**

- Farmers Federation
- Earth Resources booklets
- Other companies



## Regulation Protecting landowners

- Exploration or mining is prohibited, if that work is located within 100 metres of a house where someone lives (if the house was there first).
- It is also prohibited if the work is on land which is protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

**Once a licence is granted, exploration companies have a duty to:**

- consult with the landholder or resident
- manage environmental impacts
- consider public safety and land use concerns
- negotiate access and/or have compensation agreements in place with landholders
- share information on any activities authorised under the licence
- provide the community with a reasonable opportunity to express views about those activities.

## Licensing process

- Company Identifies area required
- Company pays fees and submits to Earth Resources Regulation (ERR)
- An application for an exploration licence must be advertised by publishing a local and state-wide physically printed advertisement, as well as on the applicants website.
- Any person may object or comment on the licence being granted, and the community is encouraged to seek clarity on their concerns with either ERR, or the applicant.
- The Government requires any objections/comments as part of the application process be directed through the Resource Rights Allocation Management (RRAM) business portal, which is an online licensing tool operated by ERR
- ERR to review objections
- Native Title Review
- Finalise licence
- Can be upwards of 12 months