

## This guide

This document provides information to assist explorers complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) application for Group 1 Exploration Licences (ELs) in MinEx CRC Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs). It also outlines the application process and requirements.

## Background

In August 2018, the Governor of NSW declared five Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs) for [Group 1 minerals](#) in NSW – Dubbo, Mundi, Forbes, North Cobar and South Cobar. This declaration prevents application of Group 1 exploration licences without the consent of the Minister.

Exploration licence applications for other minerals are not affected. The areas encompass covered (or partially covered) extensions to known mineralised terranes. The MAA areas have seen limited historical exploration activity.

The MAAs were declared to enable the planned [MinEx CRC](#) activities to proceed. They will be extinguished when MinEx CRC activities in the areas finish.

## The application process

A process has been created to allow explorers to access the MAAs:

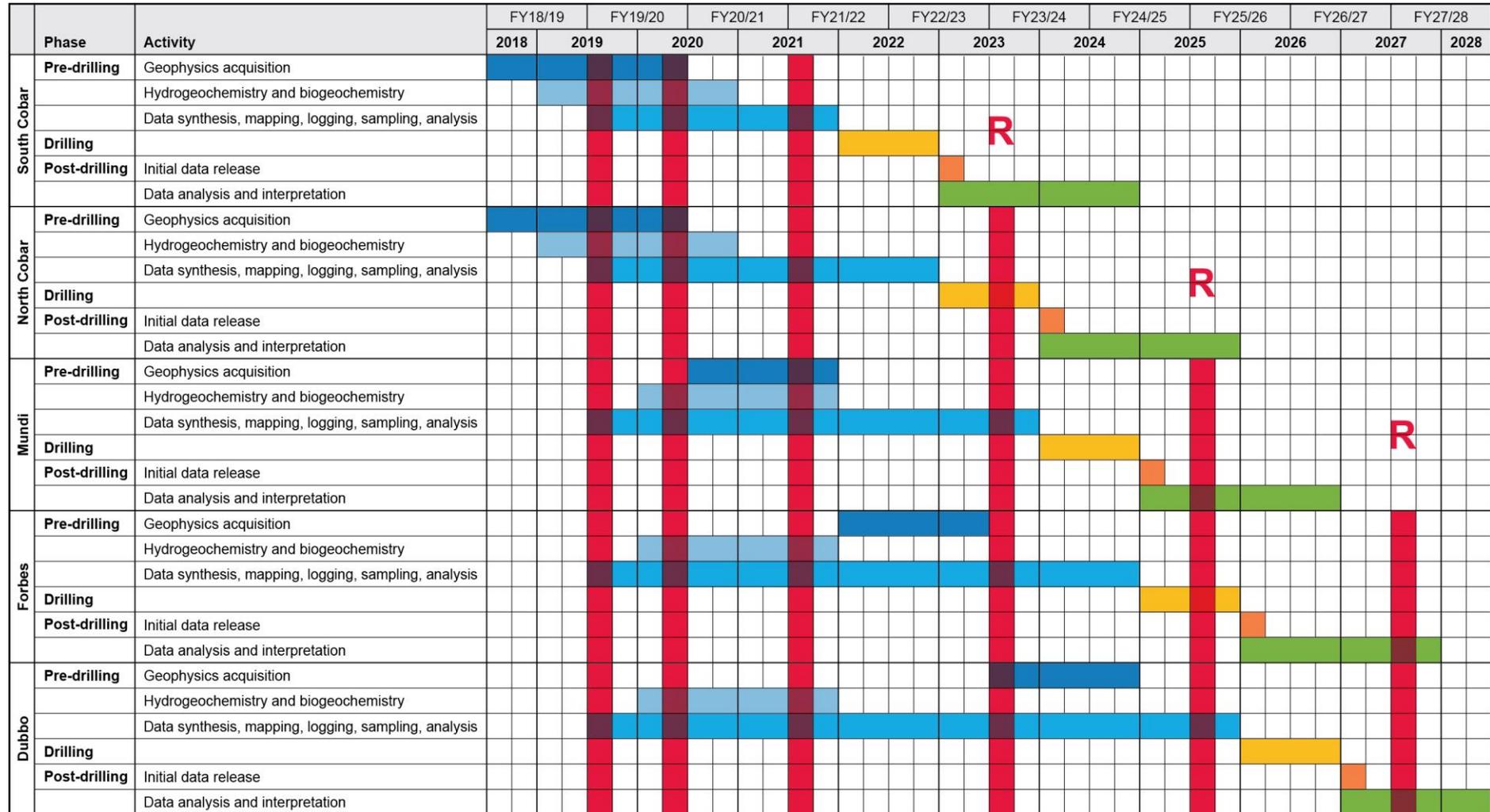
1. explorers lodge an Expression of Interest (EOI) application
2. the applications are reviewed and a recommendation is made to the Minister's delegate
3. the Minister's delegate reviews the recommendation and may grant the applicant permission to lodge a standard Group 1 Exploration Licence Application (ELA)
4. if permission is granted, the applicant can lodge an ELA to explore within the MAAs.

EOIs will be sought at least every two years until 2027. Additional EOI application periods may be offered to coincide with events such as data releases in the MAAs.

A summary of the proposed timing of the EOI process, superimposed on planned MinEx CRC activities is shown in Figure 1 below. Red bars represent EOI timings; R = planned MAA extinguishment.

# MinEx CRC Mineral Allocation Areas

## Guidelines for Expression of Interest applications



R = NSW Government relinquishment of MAA █ = expression of interest application commencement

Correct as at 18/05/2020

Figure 1: Proposed timing of the EOI process, superimposed on planned MinEx CRC activities.

## The application form

Applicants must submit a completed application form and the [Mineral prospecting title work program](#) form.

The application form requires details of the applicant, nomination of a technical manager, and statements of corporate compliance, environmental performance history and financial capability. A proposed work program is also required.

Applicants must also clearly identify the proposed exploration area.

**Note: Much of the information required in the EOI application form is the same as the information required for an ELA. If the EOI application is successful and the Minister grants the applicant permission to apply for an Exploration Licence (EL), the applicant must use identical information – including the work program – in their ELA.**

## The assessment panel

Applications will be assessed by an expert panel.

Departmental approval of panel preferred applicants will be required.

Where appropriate, the assessment process will be overseen by an independent probity advisor.

Panel members must exclude themselves from assessment of any applications which create a conflict of interest, either actual or perceived.

## The assessment process

All applications will be assessed based on the following gateway criteria:

- demonstration of corporate compliance including community consultation record, environmental performance history and financial capability
- credibility/effectiveness of the proposed work program
- demonstration of technical capability.

## Overlapping EOIs

If multiple EOIs are received over a single area, a comparative weighted assessment will be made based on:

1. the extent to which the proposed work program effectively tests sound geological models and explores the area of the EOI. Factors for consideration include testing of adjacent targets and use of existing geoscientific data (40% weighting).
2. the applicant's previous and current exploration experience within or adjacent to the MAA area (35% weighting).
3. the applicant's previous and current exploration experience for similar mineral systems (20% weighting).

4. how innovative is the proposed work program? To what degree does it use innovative techniques (5% weighting).

Each criterion will be scored out of 10 and then weighted. The total score will be used for ranking. All recommendations made by the assessment panel will be final.

## Special conditions

The maximum term that can be requested under the EOI process is three years. No additional special conditions will be placed on Group 1 ELs granted through this process.

## Fees

There are no fees for the submission or assessment of this EOI.

## How to submit your application form

Completed EOI applications must be received before 5pm AEST, on the final day of the application period.

Email: [minex.crc.eoi@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:minex.crc.eoi@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Acknowledgement of receipt of EOI submissions will be made by email.

## More information

Email: [minex.crc.eoi@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:minex.crc.eoi@planning.nsw.gov.au)

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