



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 28 September 2012

CHANGES TO OPAL MINING REGULATIONS

Resources Minister Chris Hartcher today announced security deposit rates for opal mining will remain at pre-1 July levels for small scale titles and will be subject to further consideration following release of the Government's response to the Wilcox Report.

Mr Hartcher said the NSW Government is also looking to increase the rate of landholder compensation which has remained unchanged for 22 years.

"The Government is considering increasing compensation rates from \$50 to \$100 per annum and 10c per hectare for opal prospecting licences and \$60 per mineral claim," Mr Hartcher said.

"As announced in the 2012/13 Budget, the administration levy will increase to \$100 per annum."

The NSW Government is currently finalising its response to the Wilcox Report which will be issued shortly.