



Access and conditions relating to Opal Mining within the Mintabie Precious Stones Field

Following a review of the Mintabie township lease in 2017, the state government decided to uphold the decision made by the former government in February 2018 to terminate the township lease, which effectively closed the township on 30 June 2019. Any person entering the former township area without a valid permit for the purposes of the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981* (APY Land Rights Act) may face prosecution.

Access to the Mintabie Precious Stones Field

Claim and permit holders authorised under the *Opal Mining Act 1995* can access and operate on the Mintabie Precious Stones Field under section 29C of the APY Land Rights Act.

In addition to authorised opal miners, there are various other categories of person who may enter upon the Mintabie Precious Stones Field under section 29C of the APY Land Rights Act.

An APY permit is not required for claim and permit holders to enter to the Mintabie Precious Stones Field under section 29C of the APY Land Rights Act. However, Mintabie permit holders are required to be endorsed under section 10A of the *Opal Mining Act*.

Claim and permit holders must access the Mintabie Precious Stones Field via a prescribed road under section 29C(8) of the APY Land Rights Act. Prescribed roads include:

- the road commonly known as 'Mintabie Road' (Department of Transport road 10024, the road from the Stuart Highway to Mintabie)
- other roads declared to be a prescribed road by regulation.

These access arrangements have not changed since the closure of the Mintabie township.

A report of Mintabie endorsed miners, updated on a monthly basis, is provided to APY and South Australia Police for their awareness.

Special conditions for Mintabie Precious Stones Field

Claim and permit holders must maintain compliance with Section 18A of the *Opal Mining Act* and associated policy related to the Mintabie Precious Stones Field. This includes:

- a prohibition on residing on the field,
- a prohibition of storing explosives on the field.

Claim and permit holders may only use non-permanent and moveable equipment on the field and must engage with SafeWork SA to ensure they meet all legal and policy requirements with respect to the carriage and storage of explosives.

Claim and permit holders are also required to abide by the applicable by-laws under the APY Land Rights Act.

Failure to comply with the *Opal Mining Act* and APY Land Rights Act, including any special conditions on claims and/or permits, could result in the loss of endorsement for access to the Mintabie Precious Stones Field, or cancellation of a tenement on Mintabie Precious Stones Field.

Copies of both Acts are available at <https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au>

For any further enquires, including claim and permit applications, please contact the Department's Coober Pedy office on 08 8672 5800.