



**Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Ports; Road Safety;
Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport**

Our ref: 83-04057

Ms Samantha Appleton
Executive Officer
Murchison Country Zone
Western Australian Local Government Association

samantha.appleton1212@gmail.com.

Dear Ms Appleton

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE – PROSPECTING SAFETY

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 April 2024, regarding your concerns about the safety of prospectors operating within the Murchison Country Zone of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

I acknowledge the tragic circumstances raised in your memorandum. Incidents like these are a reminder of how critical it is to incorporate adequate safety measures into trip preparation before undertaking prospecting in remote and isolated settings.

The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) has developed a number of resources to advise and support remote prospectors when preparing for remote travel, including the guide to prospecting and fossicking in remote areas.

DEMIRS has Regional Liaison Officers located across Western Australia who regularly seek out opportunities to engage with prospectors and provide resources and advice to encourage safe practices. I will ensure that DEMIRS continue to partner with your members to get this important information out to all prospectors in Western Australia.

The Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association recently wrote to me in relation to these incidents and is meeting with DEMIRS to discuss opportunities for a joint education initiative aimed at the safety of prospectors.

Yours sincerely

HON DAVID MICHAEL MLA
MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM

27 May 2024

Cc: Hon Hannah Beazley MLA – Minister for Local Government