

# IMER

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Improved Management of Exploration Regulation (IMER) is a complete overhaul of NSW exploration regulation, with tough streamlined rules across all types of exploration activities. The reforms dramatically reduce regulatory duplication, with 69 petroleum conditions, 54 coal conditions and 35 minerals conditions cut to some 11 standard conditions for all resources.

The reforms promote stronger accountability for industry, as well as the use of innovation and best practice to meet risk-based requirements. Most importantly, they offer the community greater clarity and confidence in the regulation of the sector.

The adoption of a risk-based regulatory framework is part of the NSW Government's Quality Regulatory Services initiative and brings NSW into line with governments in other states and overseas that have shifted to risk-based frameworks, particularly in the areas of exploration, mining and environmental protection.

Read more about the changes in this presentation to industry, [Implementation of the improved management of exploration regulation](#) [1.07 MB PDF].

For more information go to <http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/imer>

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## Codes of practice

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The Codes of Practice outline mandatory requirements for explorers in the exploration of resources. The Codes are intended to provide upfront information to the industry and the community, and enable industry to adopt a risk-based, best practice approach in meeting requirements.

### Environmental management

Applies to: Coal, Minerals, Petroleum

Mandatory requirements and guidance for title holders on minimising risks to the environment.

Go to [Environmental management \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/codes-of-practice/environmental-management\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/codes-of-practice/environmental-management)

### Produced Water

Applies to: Coal, Minerals, Petroleum

Mandatory requirements and guidance for title holders on the management, storage and transfer of produced water.

Go to [Produced Water Management, Storage and Transfer \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/codes-of-practice/produced-water\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/codes-of-practice/produced-water)

### Rehabilitation

Applies to: Coal, Minerals, Petroleum

Mandatory requirements and guidance for title holders on rehabilitation management.

Go to [Exploration code of practice: rehabilitation \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/codes-of-practice/rehabilitation\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/codes-of-practice/rehabilitation)

### Community consultation

Applies to: Coal, Minerals, Petroleum

This code is applied by a condition imposed on all prospecting titles granted, renewed or transferred in respect of applications granted after 1 March 2016.

Go to [Community consultation \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/codes-of-practice/community-consultation\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/codes-of-practice/community-consultation)

# Guidelines

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The Guidelines are intended to assist explorers in understanding requirements and processes associated with various exploration activities.

The following Guidelines are still under development and will be released at a later date:

- Industry guideline for coal explorers
- Industry guideline for petroleum explorers
- Industry guideline for assessment leases

## Petroleum land access

Applies to: Petroleum

Guidance for title holders when negotiating land access arrangements for petroleum exploration.

Go to [Petroleum land access \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/petroleum-land-access\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/petroleum-land-access)

## Work programs for prospecting titles

Applies to: Coal, Minerals, Petroleum

Guidance for title holders in preparing a work program.

Go to [Work programs for prospecting titles \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/work-programs-for-prospecting-titles\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/work-programs-for-prospecting-titles)

## Assessment requirements for exploration activities

Applies to: Coal, Minerals, Petroleum

Guidance for title holders in understanding the new activity approval process to be launched later this year.

Go to [Assessment requirements for exploration activities \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/assessment-requirements-for-exploration-activities\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/assessment-requirements-for-exploration-activities)

## Petroleum drilling & well servicing - competencies

Applies to: Petroleum

Guidance in preparing for legislative reform that will introduce minimum qualifications and competencies in drilling and well servicing.

Go to [Petroleum drilling and well servicing - competencies \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/petroleum-drilling-and-well-servicing-competencies\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/petroleum-drilling-and-well-servicing-competencies)

## Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors

Applies to: Coal, Minerals, Petroleum

Guidance for title holders in preparing a Review of Environmental Factors for an activity approval application.

Go to [Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/guideline-for-preparing-a-review-of-environmental-factors\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/guideline-for-preparing-a-review-of-environmental-factors)

## Annual activity reporting

Applies to: Coal, Minerals, Petroleum

Guidance for title holders in submitting compulsory annual reports for prospecting titles.

Go to [Annual activity reporting \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/annual-activity-reporting\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/annual-activity-reporting)

## Drilling and integrity

Applies to: Coal, Minerals, Petroleum

Guidance for title holders when drilling a borehole or well for exploration or production of coal, minerals and petroleum, and ensuring the long term integrity of the borehole or well.

Go to [Drilling and Integrity Guideline \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/mineral-exploration-drilling\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/mineral-exploration-drilling)

## Enforceable undertakings

Enforceable undertakings are written, legally binding agreements proposed by a company or person which are accepted by the Secretary, following an alleged contravention of the Act.

Go to [Enforceable undertakings \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/enforceable-undertakings\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/enforceable-undertakings)

## Prosecution

The prosecution guideline is intended to explain the basis on which the NSW Department of Industry will make a decision to prosecute under the Mining Act 1992 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991.

Go to [Prosecution guidelines \(http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/prosecutions\)](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/codes-and-guidelines/guidelines/prosecutions)

## Contact

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For further information or to provide feedback on IMER, please email [imer.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:imer.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au)