

LAND AND RESOURCES TRIBUNAL QUEENSLAND

CITATION: *Re Nornico Pty Ltd* [2007] QLRT 112

PARTIES: **In the matter of Application for Mining Lease No 10332 by Nornico Pty Ltd**

FILE NO: AML119/07

PROCEEDING: Application for mining lease

DELIVERED ON: 20 August 2007

DELIVERED AT: Brisbane

HEARING DATE: Heard on the Papers

MEMBER/S: Smith DP

ORDER/S: **1. Hearing dispensed with (at [2])**
2. Recommendation made that the Mining Lease be granted. (at [17])

CATCHWORDS: MINING – MINING LEASE – RECOMMENDATION
Mineral Resources Act 1989, ss. 245, 252, 269, 270

COUNSEL: N/A

SOLICITOR/S: N/A

- [1] **SMITH DP:** On 26 February 2007 Nornico Pty Ltd¹ (hereafter referred to as “the Applicant”) lodged Mining Lease Application No 10332 with the Mining Registrar, Charters Towers District. The Application was lodged pursuant to s. 245 of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (“the Act”) for the purpose of mining for nickel ore, cobalt ore, and chrysoprase, and living quarters/camp, crushing plant, leach pad, pond, process area and haul road. No objections were duly lodged to the Mining Lease Application.

Request to dispense with a hearing – Section 270

- [2] The Applicant has requested that the Application be dealt with without an oral hearing. Taking in to account s. 270 of the Act, I am satisfied that there is sufficient information before me. Accordingly, I order that a hearing of this Application be dispensed with.

¹ Then Qld Gold Pty Ltd

Section 269(4) criteria

- [3] In taking account of and considering the criteria specified in s. 269(4) of the Act, I have relied on the Applicant's Additional Information and Statutory Declaration. I have also relied upon the other material lodged by the Applicant with the Mining Registrar and the Mining Registrar's Report in relation to this Application. These reasons refer to the salient points, but not all the relevant evidence, that I have taken into account.

Section 269(4)(a) – Have the provisions of the Act been complied with?

- [4] On 22 May 2007, the Mining Registrar issued a Certificate of Application. The Mining Registrar can only issue the Certificate if satisfied that the Applicant is eligible to apply for the mining lease and has complied with the requirements of the Act with respect to the Application.² I note that the Application is over freehold land. In my opinion, there is sufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of the Act in respect to this Application.

Section 269(4)(b) – Is the land applied for mineralised or are the other purposes for which the lease is sought appropriate?

- [5] I am satisfied from the Applicant's evidence that the land applied for is mineralised. The Application is in a known mineral producing area.

Section 269(4)(c) – If the land applied for is mineralised, will there be an acceptable level of development and utilisation of the mineral resources within the area applied for?

- [6] The material before me reveals the Applicant's proposed mining operations and program, and shows appropriate development and utilisation of the mineral resources within the area applied for.

Section 269(4)(d) – Is the land and the surface area of that land in respect of which the mining lease is sought of an appropriate size and shape?

- [7] The material before me appears to indicate a mining lease application of an appropriate size and shape in light of the proposed mining operation.

Section 269(4)(e) – Is the term sought appropriate?

- [8] The term sought for this mining lease is 20 years, which I consider appropriate.

Section 269(4)(f) – Has the Applicant the necessary financial and technical capabilities to carry on mining operations under the proposed mining lease?

- [9] The material indicates that the Applicant has the financial and technical capabilities to carry on the mining operations. The Applicant has previous mining experience. I am satisfied that the requirements of this criterion are met.

Section 269(4)(g) – Has the past performance of the Applicant been satisfactory?

² See s. 251(1) of the Act.

[10] The Applicant's evidence is that no enforcement action has been taken against it. The Mining Registrar's Report is consistent with what the Applicant says.

Section 269(4)(h) – Will any disadvantage result to the holders of existing exploration permits or mineral development licences or existing applicants for exploration permits or mineral development licences?

[11] The Applicant held EPM14392. There is nothing in the material to indicate any disadvantage to any other person.

Section 269(4)(i) – Do the operations to be carried on under the authority of the mining lease conform with sound land use management?

[12] There is no evidence before me to suggest that the proposed operations do not conform with sound land use management.

Section 269(4)(j) – Will there be any adverse environmental impacts, and if so, the extent thereof:

[13] A draft environmental authority was publicly advertised and received no objection. There is no evidence to suggest that the environmental impacts will not be adequately dealt with by compliance with the conditions of the authority.

Section 269(4)(k) – Will the public right and interest be prejudiced?

[14] The material before me does not reveal any area of concern for the public right and interest.

Section 269(4)(l) – Has any good reason been shown for a refusal to grant the mining lease?

[15] There was no evidence before me that indicated any good reason why this Application should be refused.

Section 269(4)(m) – Is the proposed mining operation an appropriate land use taking into consideration the current and prospective uses of the land?

[16] The materials show that the project is for the extraction of a potentially valuable resource in accordance with the environmental processes. I am satisfied that the proposed mining operation is an appropriate land use.

Recommendation

[17] Taking into account all the evidence before me and, in particular, that evidence referred to above, I recommend to the Honourable the Minister for Mines and Energy that Mining Lease No. 10332 be granted over the entire application area for the purpose and term sought by the Applicant.