



MINERAL PERMITS



INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Economic Development's Crown Minerals department has set out guidelines for people who wish to prospect for, explore for or mine Crown-owned minerals.

Crown Minerals issues permits under the Crown Minerals Act 1991, and differentiates the permits under the following criteria:

MINERAL PERMIT TYPES

| | Purpose | Activities | Duration | Reason |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Prospecting Permit | identify land likely to contain exploitable deposits | very low impact e.g. literature search, geological mapping, aerial geophysical surveys | 2 years with renewal up to 2 years | previous work has not located a possible deposit |
| Exploration Permit | identify mineral deposits and evaluate the feasibility of mining | drilling, bulk sampling, and mine feasibility studies | 5 years with renewal up another 5 years over half the area | higher impact work intended |
| Mining Permit | economic recovery of an identified resource | mineral extraction | up to 40 years but commonly under 20 years | nature and extent of a mineral deposit are accurately known |

LAND ACCESS UNDER A MINERAL PERMIT

An access agreement may not be necessary for minimum impact activities, which include sampling and surveying by hand-held means, aerial surveying and any activity that does not result in other than minimum scale impacts. For minimum impact activities on essentially rural land, a permit holder is not required to obtain formal landowner and occupier consent to a land access arrangement. Instead the permit holder is required to give 10 working days notice for access and entry in an appropriate manner.

For other activities, the permit holder can only prospect, explore or mine in or on land to which the permit relates in accordance with an access arrangement with every landowner and occupier. These agreements are negotiated directly with the company seeking access.

