

Ivor Roberts
Executive Director
Mineral Titles Division
Department of Minerals and Petroleum

Petition to Make Digital Data available from Mineral Titles Online

5/2/2015

Mineral Titles Online (MTO) is a vital daily resource to Explorers and Tenement Managers in WA. With access to live tenure data, they can both maintain their own tenure, while also monitoring competitors for compliance, which is a key component of transparency and accountability in the WA Mining System.

While MTO is a world leading resource, a fundamental design limitation is that, while data on tenure is presented in a way that is accessible to everyone, it is not amenable to most 'bulk' management scenarios which are unique to WA where relatively small companies may have hundreds of tenements under management.

Common queries are:

- Do I have any rents outstanding?
- Do I have any form 5's due?
- Can I get a current list of conditions across this project?

These can all be answered by searching MTO, but only manually, tenement by tenement, and then copying and pasting data into spreadsheets or documents. This process is extremely time consuming and open to data entry errors.

Recognising the value of the information on MTO, the DMP had been planning since 2004 to offer a digital data download service. This was released a few years ago, but the pricing model meant the cost for regular, repeated enquiries such as those used to answer the above questions on a weekly or monthly basis is prohibitive. In addition, the XML data format requires specialised analysis tools to be usable.

In the absence of such a service and with the desire to streamline tenement management and compliance, companies in WA have developed tools to download tenure data from MTO and make it available for analysis and reporting. These tools have over the past 10 years become fundamental to many managers' work processes, and have resulted in major cost and time savings, along with improved compliance.

While these tools use 'screen scraping' techniques to collect data, they do not access any information that is not available to any ordinary MTO user.

The recent public outcry over 'data mining' and the decision by the DMP to cut off users who have been identified to be running automated download tools has impacted a large percentage of land managers in WA, and is a step backwards in terms of WA being a world leader in providing efficient, transparent and accountable tenure governance.

Recognising the value of MTO and digital tenure data to tenement managers in WA, we, the undersigned, request the DMP to:

- make available a daily download of MTO similar to that which is available on the data centre
and/or
- set up a subscription charging mechanism for the digital data download that is cost effective for regularly updated tenement data (as opposed to once off).

In the interim, we request the DMP permit screen scraping for legitimate tenement compliance purposes.

Petitioners at 18/2/2015

No.	Name	Company (if known)	Signed On
1	Adam Groeneveld	Sandfire Resources Ltd	3/02/2015
2	Mairi Walsh	Black Oak Minerals Ltd	3/02/2015
3	Morgan Frejabise		3/02/2015
4	Sharon Bell	Independence Group	3/02/2015
5	Kate Searle	FMGL	3/02/2015
6	Tanya Champion	Northern Star	3/02/2015
7	Marco Tentori	Anderson's Tenement Management	3/02/2015
8	James Bell		3/02/2015
9	Paul Penna	BC Iron Limited	3/02/2015
10	Robin Humberston	Austwide Mining Title Management Services	3/02/2015
11	Michelle Stokes	Auzex Exploration Limited	3/02/2015
12	Brett Anderson	Anderson's Tenement Management	3/02/2015
13	Geoff Willetts		3/02/2015
14	Linda Skender	LMS Corporation Pty Ltd	3/02/2015
15	Douglas Jones	Chalice Gold Mines Ltd	3/02/2015
16	adam mckay	Hanking Gold	3/02/2015
17	Gary Ferris	Monax Mining Limited	3/02/2015
18	Yvonne Weissgerber	Panoramic Resources Ltd	3/02/2015
19	Eldon Stone	Hetherington Exploration & Mining Title Services Pty Ltd	3/02/2015
20	Paul Howard		3/02/2015
21	Lauren Parola	BHP Billiton Nickel West	4/02/2015
22	Sandy Thuel	St Barbara Ltd	4/02/2015
23	Peter Litic	Xserv Pty Ltd	4/02/2015
24	Gemma Glass	Gold Fields Australia	4/02/2015
25	Nina Mas	Anderson's Tenement Management	4/02/2015
26	Caroline Todd	Barrack Kanowna	4/02/2015
27	Iva Morrell		4/02/2015
28	Sara Winton		4/02/2015
29	Lydia Brisbout		4/02/2015
30	Alice Hurlbatt		4/02/2015
31	Shannon McMahon	McMahon Mining Title Services Pty Ltd	4/02/2015
32	Lisa Cullen		4/02/2015
33	Emily Vo	Independence Group	4/02/2015
34	Helen Arcus		4/02/2015

35	Kathryn Todd		4/02/2015
36	Andy Burgess		4/02/2015
37	Hayley McNamara		4/02/2015
38	TODD AXFORD	Stratum Metals	4/02/2015
39	Rachael Chalmers	Goldfields	4/02/2015
40	David Perger	Herron Resources	4/02/2015
41	Lorne McCrum	Herron Resources	4/02/2015
42	Bruce Legendre	Nemex Pty Ltd	4/02/2015
43	Tracy Browning	Gold Fields Exploration Tenement Services	4/02/2015
44	Kelly Halford	Cliffs Natural Resources	4/02/2015
45	Periss-Lillie Hunt	Gasconye Resources	4/02/2015
46	Sue Palmer	Iluka Resources	4/02/2015
47	Greg Partington	Auzex Exploration Limited	4/02/2015
48	Linda Fry	Regis Resources	4/02/2015
49	Mike Dunbar	Gascoyne Resources	4/02/2015
50	Joe Houldsworth		4/02/2015
51	Matthew Svensson		4/02/2015
52	Cara Fernihough	Atlas Iron Limited	4/02/2015
53	Concerned Miner		4/02/2015
54	Karl Wolzak	Resource Mapping Pty Ltd	4/02/2015
55	David Crook	Pioneer Resources Ltd	4/02/2015
56	Andrew McNamara	McMahon Mining Title Services Pty Ltd	4/02/2015
57	Carol Traynor		4/02/2015
58	Jess Bosio	Austwide Mining Title Management Services	4/02/2015
59	Donald Perry		4/02/2015
60	Kate Major	Austwide Mining Title Management Services	4/02/2015
61	Lucy Oborn	Atlas Partners	4/02/2015
62	MELINDA O'RYAN		4/02/2015
63	Penny Drew		4/02/2015
64	Kelly Carter	Rio Tinto Iron Ore	4/02/2015
65	Steve Milner		4/02/2015
66	A Very Concerned Tenement Manager		4/02/2015
67	Craig Humberston	Austwide Mining Title Management Services	4/02/2015
68	Peter Brammall		4/02/2015
69	Gemma McGoldrick	Newcrest Mining Ltd	4/02/2015
70	Peter Johansen		4/02/2015
71	Deep Shankar		4/02/2015
72	Kevin Connell	Austwide Mining Title Management Services	5/02/2015
73	Michael Giles		5/02/2015
74	Graeme Johnston		5/02/2015
75	Ian Pegg		5/02/2015
76	Alf Valentine		5/02/2015
77	Karen Williams		5/02/2015
78	Nancy Czerw		5/02/2015
79	Hong Saw		5/02/2015
80	Aning Zhang		5/02/2015
81	Amanda Corby		5/02/2015
82	Amanda Scott		5/02/2015

83	Richard Harmsworth	6/02/2015
84	Jacqui Chamia	6/02/2015
85	Rod McKenzie	8/02/2015
86	Renee Oldenhof	9/02/2015
87	Leanne Lapworth	9/02/2015
88	Stephanie Lee	10/02/2015
89	Christine Stone	10/02/2015
90	Lizz Schollum	10/02/2015
91	Naomi Shapleski	10/02/2015
92	Chris Williams	12/02/2015
93	Edward Reeves	13/02/2015
94	Dan Baldwin	13/02/2015
95	Carol Sisson	16/02/2015
96	Fiona Gallon	16/02/2015
97	Shay Linden	16/02/2015

Comments to the petition

Name	Signed On	Comment
Mairi Walsh	3/02/2015	I work in the exploration industry and rely on MTO downloads via the Expenditure Watch software package to assist me to manage our tenure in an accurate and time efficient way. I personally am only interested in those leases that Black Oak Minerals hold, or have an interest in, and without doing a regular (e.g. monthly or fortnightly) download my administration workload would be greatly increased, leaving less time for geology.
Sharon Bell	3/02/2015	We are not obtaining any data from the MTO that isn't available to any / all MTO users. We have simply automated the search process to ensure that it is done regularly and negate human error - which has cost us opportunities in the past.
James Bell	3/02/2015	Daily downloads speed up the process and allows time to be spent on other things.
Paul Penna	3/02/2015	I am signing because restricting the access to tenement data will increase the cost of our tenement management, e.g., the monthly audit conducted by our tenement managers will take hours rather than minutes.
Michelle Stokes	3/02/2015	We and several of our clients use services that are impacted. Unless or until the department itself can provide them (free) it will impact significantly on our compliance costs if we can't use the service.
Brett Anderson	3/02/2015	I believe the data should be accessible.
Geoff Willetts	3/02/2015	Digital download from a trusted source is the way to go and makes sense to have a one stop shop saving time and therefore precious cash for us in the junior resources sector
adam mckay	3/02/2015	I have a legitimate use for data taken from MTO in an automated fashion in order to maintain company tenure. Its in the states interest to facilitate tools to assist with tenement management.
Yvonne Weissgerber	3/02/2015	I manage mining tenements for a small group of clients, access to MTO data is a valuable tool to provide audit and backup checks for tenement maintenance and management, as well as providing an efficient method for completion of due diligence investigations.

Lauren Parola	4/02/2015	BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd (Nickel West) utilises this important function for the purposes of auditing its own data to ensure accuracy, obtaining 'Safety Net' reports to ensure statutory obligations are met (as a back up to our own systems) and monitoring third party tenements which are subject to royalty and other rights afforded to Nickel West. Nickel West has and never will use MTO as a 'data mining' tool.
Alice Hurlbatt	4/02/2015	Hanking Gold Mining utilises this data. Please continue to provide it. thank you Alice
Kathryn Todd	4/02/2015	MT Audit makes it easier for us to formulate report data quickly. This data is freely available via MTO but we would have to collate manually by individual tenements.
TODD AXFORD	4/02/2015	I'm signing because this proposed change to the system does impact the compliance cost for explorers and will result in less money available to conduct on the ground exploration activities. From a broader perspective it could reduce WA's competitiveness in attracting exploration activity.
Rachael Chalmers	4/02/2015	The vast majority of the "data mining" we do is actually to help us maintain accurate records and ensure compliance of our own tenements!
Bruce Legendre	4/02/2015	I only use the MT Audit software after hours, usually from 6PM to midnight to check on those areas of the NE Goldfields where I have had Exploration/Mining Interests for over 30 years.
Cara Fernihough	4/02/2015	In addition to the importance of tenement management and compliance, I'm signing in support of V-Biz, who have been a reliable local business supporting the industry on a level playing field for the last ten years.
Concerned Miner	4/02/2015	The data mining tool offers a range of utilities that go to "insure" a tenement portfolio, but also provides some advantage toward recognition of ground that may have become recently open to mining. While there is outcry from prospectors who deem they are missing out on this commercial edge because they cannot afford to pay for the service, but these are the same persons who cannot afford to legitimately mine the areas they are seeking to secure. They will attempt to "bargain" with the larger corporations, to make a passive profit from "claim jumping". On another level, from the perspective of a junior bulk-commodity explorer, the government has shored up the ongoing reserves for the Rio Group; BHP Group; Hancock group etc by the enactment of the State Agreements. For a junior to be competitive, it needs any edge to ground that may become available in the iron-rich regions of the State. With the current levels of land-banking that is not prevented by the DMP (one only needs to look at the various company holding spreads on the maps that show "iron ore deposits of the Pilbara Regions"), it is evident that without such a tool, the Pilbara will soon be solely owned by FMG; Rio; BHP and the Hancock group. The DMP needs to act on this, BUT stopping data-mining is only "band-aiding" a larger problem.
Karl Wolzak	4/02/2015	Access to this data through MT Audit and Safety Net is critical to my professional practice.
Concerned Miner	4/02/2015	It seems the DMP are "reacting" due to the outcry of some prospectors at a recent forum. Perhaps the DMP ought to conduct a forum on this topic and also hear from those in the industry who are supportive of these tools. Before any decision is ultimately made, all points of view ought to be considered and given appropriate weight.
David Crook	4/02/2015	We subscribe to Tenement Safety Net as a facet of our tenement management system. TSN uses this feed to provide this service.

Andrew McNamara	4/02/2015	This is a tool that assists with my role at MMTS
Carol Traynor	4/02/2015	Time is money. Don't ditch the current auto system.
Donald Perry	4/02/2015	Data should be available without restriction s
Penny Drew	4/02/2015	Data should be available as it assists in many ways; making Title Management companies lives easier.
Steve Milner	4/02/2015	The WA Government and Dept of Mines and Petroleum need to join the 21st Century and listen to the people that keep them employed
Deep Shankar	4/02/2015	I believe the digital tenure data adds tremendous value in terms of timely data Information to Asset Managers and other bodies seeking the same.
Kevin Connell	5/02/2015	In this day and age it is important that the DMP provides timely and accurate publicly available data without interference and restrictions.
Graeme Johnston	5/02/2015	As a taxpayer as well as an exploration manager the data belongs to everyone and access is a right for all.
Alf Valentine	7/2/2015	MT Audit provides a valuable and essential role in the management of our tenement database. We use MT Audit for legitimate auditing purposes and for maintaining accurate & timely "project expenditure" records. Any "bulk" interrogation activities (usually audits on a 6 monthly basis) are always conducted after normal office hours. We do not use MT Audit for "data mining" purposes.
Richard Harmsworth	9/2/2015	Maintaining tenure has to be 100% correct and up to date and made much quicker and more efficient if the digital data is on line. On line data would also make application of the "jealous neighbour" principle much more effective.
Rod McKenzie	7/2/2015	AS a user of the MTO data using MT audit software, access to the on-line data has enabled quick searches of expenditure, monitoring company activities and checking the tenure status - eg for partial surrenders. To do this process manually would be both time consuming and expensive.
Dan Baldwin	12/2/2015	Having the ability to see changes in tenements conditions /dealings /reporting /rents etc. from MTO is beneficial to monitor tenements especially with large portfolios.