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Association of W.A. Inc.

PO Box 2570 Boulder WA 6432.



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News update

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There has been much confusion in recent weeks regarding APLA's stand on the issues contained in the Mining Act Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. The confusion has understandably been created by the concurrent discussions with the DMP on the implementation of a Low Impact Notification System (LIN) taking place simultaneously with APLA's insistence that the above Legislation be reviewed as we feel it discriminates against some of our members and small miners across WA. APLA has tried to maintain open discussion on both issues hoping the DMP would reconsider some of the controversial clauses in the Bill.

Adding to the confusion was a lack of communication with members in Kalgoorlie. This issue led to a recent change of management and direction at the Executive level of APLA. The new Executive had a lot to consider in only a matter of days, before plotting a new course of action on this Bill.

Only 4 days ago was the decision made to progress toward a political solution in the Legislative Council. Prior to that, no decision had been made on APLA's policy here. APLA took the view that a deadlock situation had occurred and there was no easy way out. We are pleased to see the Bill enter into a Committee of Review in the Upper House of the WA Parliament. This review gives APLA and other stakeholders the opportunity to present submissions and supporting evidence to make its case that its members have issues that must be considered. We hope the review leads to the changes we need for the future of small miners. The committee will report around mid-May.

APLA does not simply 'give in' to the DMP on any issues. It always maintains a voice of reason, negotiation and stability to the DMP in the hope that disputes can be resolved before drastic action needs to be taken. However, despite months of asking and hearing no suitable replies on this one matter, the Bill remained unchanged. APLA was forced to join the political support for a Parliamentary Review. The Executive committee hopes that discussions on the LIN will continue concurrently despite the review and its outcomes.

It is these simultaneous discussions on many other topics that face APLA and its members that can often seem like APLA is agreeing with all DMP policies. This is not the case. APLA is simply discussing other problems and solutions whilst at the same time, the Bill is passing down another track. That track is one of seeking an independent and unbiased solution to the current deadlock.

Les Lowe, President, APLA