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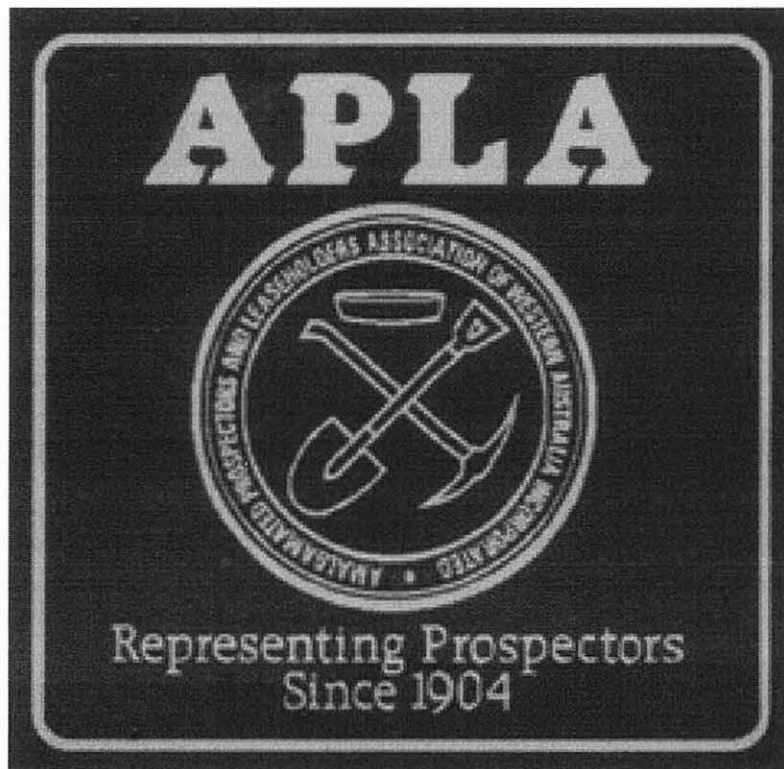
## INTRODUCTION

### WHO WE ARE.

The Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association of WA (APLA).

APLA was formed in 1904 at a gold-rush site south of Kalgoorlie-Boulder by amalgamating a number of existing prospecting groups into one representative body with the aim to:

“Protect and further the interests of prospectors”



APLA maintains that prospecting is both our heritage and our future.

Now over a century later we haven't lost sight of the aims of our founders. APLA is a peak industry group in Western Australia and is well recognised nationally as a key player in the prospecting and mining industries.

The APLA executive is made up of 3 representatives from each branch currently the Eastern Goldfields Prospectors Association, the Mandurah Branch and the Perth Branch. There are also active membership groupings in the Pilbara, Norseman, Mandurah and Albany regions.

## WHO WE REPRESENT.

APLA has a current membership of over twelve hundred but also provides an active voice for some 15,000 people who would regard themselves as either full-time or committed part-time prospectors within W.A. This includes interstate visitors.



We represent mainly the non-corporate prospectors, but our work does have positive benefit to junior companies.



Best of all we keep prospecting open to all Australians.



Figures show that some 4-6 tonnes of gold are produced by non-corporate miners every year in Australia (worth \$180 - 270 million), an amount equal to that of some of Australia's largest mines. These have been verified from gold buyers and refiners.



On top of this prospectors contribute over \$350 million per annum into the WA economy through recreational prospecting and metal detecting alone, and estimated to be over \$1 billion nationwide. This does not take into account the serious fulltime prospectors and leaseholders.

Recent surveys conducted by our Northern Territory counterparts to value the Miner's Right was the original founding for the study. The Prospectors and Detectorists Association of the Northern Territory did this in response to their government removing the Miner's Right in the Territory, and they used this to demonstrate the enormous economic advantage that prospectors give our regional areas. The results have been recognised by the NT government, which has since created a new prospectors permit giving more access rights to prospectors than previous.

The survey found that retailers in the Eastern and Northern goldfields (caravan parks, fuel stations, prospecting and general stores) verified that \$30 million per annum was spent by prospectors in their outlets, mostly by recreational and part time prospectors (WA Miner's Right holders not Leaseholders). APLA has since reviewed these figures and the annual expenditures on leases from non-corporate prospectors. In consultation with members to get expenditure across various outlets, and the lease expenditure APLA has confirmed annual expenditure and revenue from gold won.

APLA found that WA Miner's Right holders (covering all recreational use) accounted for \$52 million per annum, and this did not include major expenses of vehicles and caravans, or tourism dollars. Taking into account the Pilbara, Kimberley and Western goldfields were not part of the original study, only certain retailers were contacted, and that they only reported sales that they knew were definitely prospectors would equate to much more. The multiplier effect for flow on benefits and unknown expenditure has been shown to be up to three times the figure, which has been confirmed government agencies and senior politicians.

Considering approximately 75,000 oz of gold, worth around \$98 million is extracted, and adding our \$52 million of known expenditure, the \$120 million is easily realistic.

Add to this the leaseholder's expenditure, and once again machinery, machinery repairs, vehicles, caravans, Wardens Court costs, legal and accounting costs, airfares, hire, and many others are not included, we get \$35 million of known expenditure and at least 74,000 oz of gold worth \$96 million is extracted. Note that sales from other commodities are not included.

The total is \$87 million of known expenditure and at least 150,000 oz of gold worth \$195 million is extracted. APLA's estimates of a \$350 million dollar industry to WA are well backed up and extending this to other states, based on detector sales, and numbers of prospectors and other commodity sales such as opal, tantalite, and gem and minerals easily equates to a billion dollar industry nationwide.

## WHAT WE DO.

APLA provides an active voice to try and ensure that this level of production by free enterprise, non-incorporated private operators can continue and that Australia's rich prospecting heritage is not only preserved, but is more widely promoted, recognised and appreciated.

**APLA aggressively represents the concerns and interests of the individual and non-corporate prospector in W.A., lobbying and making active representations to local, State and Federal authorities in relation to mining and prospecting issues.**

**The organisation attempts to strengthen the mining regulations, to encourage ground turnover and active exploration, and to promote prospecting both as a recreational activity as well as a profession. APLA interacts regularly with other industry groups such as the Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME), AMEC, AusIMM, and other State prospecting organisations throughout Australia such as the PMAV (Victoria), the North Queensland Prospectors and Miners Association, and the Northern Territory Prospectors and Detectorists Association to further the interests of mineral exploration and mining Australia wide.**