



Department of **Energy, Mines,
Industry Regulation and Safety**

Nickel Financial Assistance Program

**Guidelines for
Applications**
February 2024

1. Introduction

The Government of Western Australia announced on 17 February 2024 that it would provide a Nickel Financial Assistance Program (the Program).

The Program will provide a rebate of 50 per cent on royalties paid on nickel sales each quarter (Royalty Rebates).

The Royalty Rebates will be available for a period starting with the royalty payment for the March quarter 2024 and concluding with the June quarter 2025 (Rebate Period).

The Royalty Rebates will only be provided if the average price of nickel is below US\$20,000 per tonne for a given quarter.

The Royalty Rebates will then be repayable in equal quarterly instalments over the following eight quarters, commencing with the September quarter 2025 and concluding with the June quarter 2027 (Repayment Period).

The Minister for Mines and Petroleum (the Minister) is now inviting applications for the Nickel Financial Assistance Program.

For timely processing of applications and benefit from the Program, please note the period of the Royalty Rebates and the Repayment Period.

2. Royalty payments

Royalty payments are not impacted by the Nickel Financial Assistance Program.

Royalties must continue to be paid in full within 30 days of the end of each quarter in accordance with the relevant legislation.

3. Royalty rebates

The Royalty Rebate payment amounts are based on 50 per cent of the royalty payments made in full each quarter on nickel sales only.

Royalty payments made in relation to the sale of other minerals are not part of the Program.

The Royalty Rebate payments will take into account royalty adjustments related to sales within the Rebate Period.

Any royalty adjustments related to sales outside of the Rebate Period will not be considered.

4. How to apply

An application for consideration for the Nickel Financial Assistance Program must be made to the Minister providing details of the need for support, including information on finances and projected economics, as well as steps taken to adjust to the current nickel price environment and structural changes in the industry.



The application must include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- Corporate structure and shareholders.
- Other interests including subsidiaries and shareholdings.
- Debt and equity capital arrangements and terms (if applicable).
- Financial reports such as balance sheet, cash flow statement, and profit and loss or income statement.
- Financial projections.
- Nickel projects and status, i.e., operating, care and maintenance, etc.
- Historical and forecast production and/or sales of payable nickel and co-products or by-products (in tonnes).
- Historical and forecast price per tonne of nickel and co-products or by-products.
- Historical and forecast cash costs per tonne of payable nickel produced less co-products or by-product credits (including assumptions where applicable).
- Historical and forecast all-in sustaining costs per tonne of payable nickel produced less co-products or by-product credits (including assumptions where applicable).
- Current mine life.
- Cost reduction actions and plans.
- Marketing and sales arrangements including offtake agreements and related quantities and length.
- Expansion and downstream processing plans, including capital expenditure.
- Exploration activities and expenditure.
- Regulatory issues and compliance with tenement conditions, environmental approvals, royalties, and safety.
- Previous State and Commonwealth government assistance.
- Any other information to demonstrate the financial position of a company, the viability of an operation, and/or any other relevant information.
- Number of staff by role (i.e. operations, administration, management) and residence (local, Western Australia, interstate, overseas).
- Royalty payments.
- Supplier contracts.
- Regional investment including community, training, facilities, etc.
- Other operations, i.e., outside of Western Australia or in other commodities.

- Other capital investment plans, commitments, and related expenditure, i.e., outside of WA or in other commodities.
- Assessment of current and forecast nickel market conditions and risks.

It should be noted that:

- The time period (i.e. short, medium, or longer-term) and level of detail (i.e., quarterly, or yearly) of the information provided is at the discretion of the company. However, longer-term and more detailed information will be of greatest assistance in the Minister's assessment.
- Information is sought on a Western Australian business unit/asset basis (as applicable) and is to be provided in US dollars.
- The provision of any information is voluntary and it will be treated as commercial-in-confidence within the Government of Western Australia.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to inform the Minister of any substantial change in factors affecting the accuracy and/or relevance of information supporting an application.

Completed applications must be prepared to a standard that can be certified by an external auditor.

5. Assessment and notification

Applications under the Program will be assessed by the Minister on an individual basis.

The Minister and Treasurer will make the determination on whether an applicant (i.e., the company or individual submitting the application) will receive assistance under the Program.

On completion of the assessment process, the applicant will be notified in writing of the Minister and Treasurer's determination.

If an application is successful, a financial assistance agreement will need to be agreed between the successful applicant and the Government of Western Australia.

This agreement will detail the process for receiving the Royalty Rebates each quarter, including ongoing information requirements, as well as the repayment terms and schedule according to the Repayment Period.

6. Contact persons

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