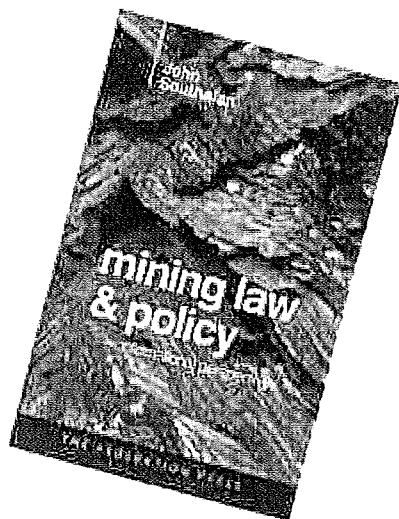


# Book Review

Marianne Rose  
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## ***Mining Law and Policy - International Perspectives***

John Southalan  
The Federation Press

*Mining Law and Policy* is an impressive resource text for those in the mining or legal sector. It pitches itself as an international precis of mining's regulations and laws, but it is more likely to be viewed as a policy compendium for its reflection and examination of the legal position and policies surrounding mining in different countries.

The author of the text is John Southalan. John is an Australian lawyer who specialises in indigenous rights, mining, mineral and sustainable development processes and has worked for the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation. John is a member of the Global Faculty at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum & Mineral Law and Policy and is an Honorary Fellow at The University of Western Australia's Law School.

John examines a range of mining related concepts including mineral rights, land access and use, mine development and production, environmental and social issues, finance and investment, government agreements and the administration of mining law. The chapters on land access and environmental and social issues are by far the most insightful, no doubt drawing on the author's extensive experience in these complex areas of law.

The text is structured into nine chapters. Each chapter starts with a brief overview before explaining some basic concepts of law, policy or economic principle that is then discussed. Questions to the reader populate the chapter; asking the reader to reflect on a concept discussed. The chapters conclude with a short quiz (with

illustrative answers in chapter 9) and a comprehensive citation of reference material for each subject area.

*Mining Law and Policy's* strength lies in its ability to be both a legal and policy summary text and a collection of reference material to direct further study. One minor downfall is the use of chapter quizzes and 'Author's tips' to convey points. This may be slightly "school bookish" for lawyers, but is likely to be of use to students or readers unfamiliar with the subject matter. The text acknowledges that this may be so, and has no pretensions about its content or purpose. This makes it a refreshingly modern tool for those lawyers seeking policy arguments or topic overviews.

As an internationally focussed book that draws from the experiences of over 50 countries, this text serves as a useful companion piece for the industry and students alike. Though cited as an international text, Australian lawyers will find the wealth of Australian and particularly Western Australian material keenly referenced and developed, making this text highly suitable. However, Australian lawyers may find themselves longing for further discussion of the markets in China, Brazil and Africa beyond the examination of artisanal or environmental and social issues. Similarly, the treatment of government agreements will not satisfy a lawyer looking for a deeper understanding of mining agreements. However, the beauty of this book no doubt lies in its summary nature and source referencing.

To those without a legal or mining background this will be received as a grounding text, while to those with core knowledge of the subject, this text will serve as an exceptional policy and resource reference tool.

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