

**To: Department of Water and Environmental Regulation**

**Re: Draft Bilateral Agreement Regulations**

14 September 2021

## Introduction

AMEC appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) consultation on the draft Bilateral Agreement Regulations.

## About AMEC

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) is a national industry body representing over 400 member companies across Australia, with the majority having project interests in Western Australia. Collectively, AMEC's member companies account for over \$100 billion of the mineral exploration and mining sector's capital value.

The mining and exploration industry make a critical contribution to the Australian economy, employing over 255,000 people, and in 2018/19 collectively paid over \$39 billion in royalties and taxation. In 2019/20 resources companies invested \$35 billion in new capital and generated more than \$176 billion in mineral exports. \$2.8 billion was spent on minerals exploration in 2019/20, representing an 18% increase from the previous year.

## Draft Regulations

The development of the draft Regulations is a positive step which will enable the WA Government to be ready to quickly transition to bilateral processes for assessment, when the Commonwealth-level amendments are passed. AMEC has been an advocate for reforms to enable this transition for a substantial period of time and are supportive of the Department undertaking the preparatory work now. This is a positive, proactive measure to ensure that when the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) reforms enabling bilateral approvals pass, Western Australia will be well equipped to quickly capitalise on opportunities for streamlining.

AMEC continues to welcome opportunities to engage with the Department as regulatory reforms are undertaken, to ensure that Industry and Government can work collaboratively to develop systems and processes that will be used for many years to come. As this work progresses, we request continued involvement.

### For further information contact:

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