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WA's FIFO Workforce required to get vaccinated

An announcement made today by the Western Australian Premier, Hon Mark McGowan MLA, will require WA's FIFO workforce to be fully vaccinated in an effort to safeguard the industry and regional communities against potential outbreaks of COVID-19.

"We share the Premier's desire to ensure that in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in Western Australia, that the mining industry is able to continue operating to support the State's economy," said Association of Mining and Exploration Companies' (AMEC) Chief Executive Warren Pearce.

FIFO (fly-in fly-out) and local workers on WA mining and resource sites, people who work in remote operations, or run critical infrastructure, including remote train and port control, must receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by 1 December 2021, and be fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022.

"The reality of Western Australia avoiding further COVID-19 outbreaks and lockdowns this year appears slim, and we need to be preparing ourselves and our communities for these circumstances."

"With the potential for further outbreaks, comes the risk of serious illness and death in our State, and the best way to prepare and defend against these threats is for as many West Australians as possible to get vaccinated."

AMEC has not requested the WA Government, or any other State or Territory Government, to take this step.

"Today's announcement is a significant shift in expectation and requirement by Government, and our member companies will of course abide by these requirements."

"Our Association and member companies have actively been encouraging our workforce to get vaccinated, for the health and safety of themselves, their families and their communities, and a large percentage of the mining industry workforce has already done so voluntarily."

The requirement applies to any FIFO worker in WA in mining, oil and gas and exploration, visitors to these operations, as well as all resources sector employees who work at regional and remote mine sites and other mission critical operational locations including remote operations.

"Now that this decision has been taken by Government, should there be further outbreaks, exploration, mining and mining service companies with a fully vaccinated FIFO / DIDO workforce should be allowed to continue to operate, ensuring that our workforce can continue to work."

"Finally, it is important to recognise that some people in our industry may still be unsure about vaccination. However, with the requirement not commencing until December, these workers will have time to consult a medical professional, get the correct information, and make an informed choice," said Mr Pearce

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