

To: Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Re: Draft Definition of Water Supply Plumbing Work

12 JUNE 2020

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 'Definition of Water Supply Plumbing Work' guidance material which forms part of wider reforms to the manner plumbing is regulated.

ABOUT AMEC

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) is a national industry body representing over 275 mining and mineral exploration companies across Australia, the majority of which have project interests in Western Australia.

The mining and mineral exploration industry's contribution is critical to the WA economy, employing over 125,000 people in 2018/19. Collectively these companies paid over \$6 billion in royalties and generated more than \$107 billion in mineral exports. In 2018/19, WA mining and mineral exploration companies invested \$2.3 billion in exploration to discover the mines of the future.

EXCLUDE MINING OPERATIONS

AMEC supports the use of registered plumbers to ensure the safety of drinking water on mine sites. There is concern, however, that there will be unintended consequences with an overzealous interpretation in the future expanding the application of these regulations into industrial, non-drinking water uses on mine sites. This over regulation would lead to substantial and unjustifiable costs for companies. It is understood that such an overreach is not the intention of these reforms. To avoid such a possibility, AMEC has proposed an addition to the first sentence under the Water Service General Requirements on page 5, as underlined:

Water services used for industrial purposes such as underground mine water reticulation, surface mining and processing non-drinking water mine reticulation, manufacturing plants and dust suppression on a mine-site or for agricultural purposes such as stock watering, are to be excluded from the definition of water supply plumbing work.

CONSULTATION

AMEC would welcome an opportunity to provide further comment on the future draft of these important guidelines.

For further information contact:

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