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AMEC Queensland Election submission calls for extension of rent relief

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) today released its election policy platform calling for an extension of rent relief for mineral explorers to help with the COVID-19 recovery.

“The Queensland Governments relief package has been a lifeline for explorers, and with the election only 3 months away we are calling for the extension of this commitment beyond September,” said AMEC Chief Executive Officer, Warren Pearce.

“While the mining industry has weathered the COVID-19 storm well, many in exploration have been hit hard by COVID-19. This support will assist them to get back on their feet, as investment starts to return to the sector.”

Included in its election submission, AMEC outlines key areas for an incoming government to address including reducing the cost of doing business, removing bottlenecks and costs in the lifecycle of mineral discovery to help bring forward regional project development, regional jobs and royalty payments.

“Most of the recent announcements have been to assist companies at the Pre-discovery stage. But there are levers within State Governments control that can improve the success rate for projects struggling through the “Feasibility” and “Development” stages and help to attract new investment to Queensland.”

“The benefits to Queensland to value add locally include increased employment, increased local investment, greater diversification of the economy, and receiving greater value for its minerals.”

“Queensland needs to increase its focus on developing new economy mineral projects and looking at how to support value-adding to take place within the State. Queensland is also well positioned to take advantage of more of the value chain for a number of different new economy minerals, this will help bolster the sector and associated manufacturing industries.”

AMEC made a COVID Resource Industry Recovery submission in June that outlined 40 recommendations for the mining and exploration industry.

“The exploration industry underpins our resource sector and it is critical that the State Government invest in exploration to help our industry and Queensland to bounce back quicker post-COVID19,” said Mr Pearce.

You can read AMECs submission [here](#)

ENDS

Recommendations:

Increase funding to Collaborative Exploration Initiative (CEI) and pre-competitive data

- Deliver and significantly increase the funding to at least \$10million per annum for the Collaborative Exploration Initiative (CEI). Ensure funding is available annually and consistently
- CEI should be open to all mineral commodities in all locations in Queensland

Environmental Mapping

- Update digitally published vegetation maps more regularly
- Make it simpler to report potentially incorrectly mapped areas to the appropriate agency for follow up
- Remove the cost and time burden of incorrect mapping from the explorer
- Herbarium staff to make more field visits when errors are reported

Data and Reporting Obligations

- Remove duplicating data submissions by consolidation and coordination of data across agencies

Transfer (Stamp) Duty

- All exploration tenure be exempt from transfer duty

Exploration and Mining 'Administration' and compliance costs

- Incentivise explorers through discounts on rents and fees to ensure that Queensland has a fair and competitive regime that supports the development of the minerals sector
- Deliver community programs to 'close the gap' on state-wide community understanding of the resources sector
- Ensure Local Councils are providing adequate wash down facilities or consider a risk management approach to Biosecurity for explorers when wash down facilities are not operational
- More frequent and regionally diverse stakeholder sessions between landholders, industry and all levels of Government
- Incentivise companies proposing to reprocess tailings or work on abandoned/ historic mines sites by not imposing excess environmental liabilities

Royalties

- Maintain certainty around royalty rates for all mineral commodities

Safety communication and compliance

- Ensure Safety is included in DNRME's regular community information sessions
- Work with industry to develop safety templates that make it easier for smaller companies to implement changes ensure compliance

Innovative rehabilitation techniques and processes

- Implement a Collaborative Rehabilitation Initiative (CRI)

Stakeholder Engagement

- Establish a Premier's Resources Roundtable to bring together key Ministers and Directors General
- Commit to working with Resource Industry Associations and their members to develop a whole of Government approach to a Development Plan for all commodities (and energy types) to encourage investment, employment, trade, innovation and royalties

Road and Rail Transport

- Review access conditions for export infrastructure to ensure new projects can be offered access to infrastructure on reasonable terms
- Continue work with industry, pipeline projects and local stakeholders to prioritise infrastructure investment
- Use independent modelling to better utilise existing infrastructure and reduce/delay the need for new capital investment

Mineral Processing and value chain

- Review the mineral projects in the development 'pipeline' in key regions (e.g. Julia Creek, North West Minerals Province, Wide Bay Burnette Minerals Region and the Hodgkinson Province and work with proponents on what capital investment would positively impact their feasibility studies
- Funding for novel metallurgical studies to develop mineral processing techniques that benefit specific geological regions
- Encourage existing minerals value adding facilities to stay in Queensland and encourage new facilities to set up
- Help create a value chain for the battery industry through initiatives like co-funding manufacturing for downstream battery components

Electricity

- Continue to support electricity infrastructure to achieve affordable energy security in regional areas
- Support new energy projects that are geographically close to where the demand is or projected to be
- Work with mining and exploration projects to help new entrants achieve carbon neutrality

Education and diversity programs

- Increase programs supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in all levels of education
- Promote the positive contribution of the resource sector to the wider community through economic impact reporting of the COVID Recovery initiatives

