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## WA State Budget boost to State's economic recovery

The 2020-21 WA State Budget demonstrates the significant contribution that the Western Australian mining sector has made and the role it will continue to play in driving the State's economic recovery and future.

"Today's Budget figures underscores the importance of the WA Government's decision to allow the mining and mineral exploration industry to continue to operate during COVID-19 under strict health guidelines, and how that decision has paid dividends in jobs and royalties," said Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) Chief Executive Officer, Warren Pearce.

"The WA State Budget was boosted by a \$2.4 billion increase in royalty income, as the mining industry helped carry Western Australia through the worse global economic contraction in 100 years."

"As at September 2020, the brightness of WA's mining investment future must be the envy of the world with an estimated \$129 billion worth of resource projects in the development pipeline, and more than 10,000 jobs that could be created through their delivery."

"For mining and mineral exploration, the Budget's focus on investing in a step change in the efficiency and effectiveness of the approvals process is extremely welcome."

"As is the significant investment in the State's economic infrastructure, with port, road and rail projects expected to aid efficiency and productivity improvements in the economy."

"The \$37.2 million of funding to the Environment Online program and BIO being developed in partnership with the Commonwealth Government could reduce approval processes by a staggering six to 12 months, bringing forward significant resource sector investment."

"The investments in streamlining approvals, while ensuring the rigorous environmental standards Western Australians expect are met, will provide long term benefits to the economy."

"More impactful than any government expenditure measure, further streamlining and red tape reduction will release much greater private sector investment into the economy much earlier and help drive the State's recovery and growth."

The Budget includes commitments to deliver long sought legislative amendments to the *Mining Act 1978* including the introduction of a single approval instrument to approve mining project activities across multiple tenements, reducing the administrative burden for industry and Government via automated assessment and authorisation of low risk exploration and prospecting activities subject to acceptance of standardised conditions.

"The administrative reforms are sensible amendments to the Mining Act and will unlock greater growth and jobs from the mining and mineral exploration sector and reduce the burden on Government and industry alike."

"Continued efforts to remove investment barriers are needed to encourage increased private sector investment into the State."

“The \$7 million expansion of the Joe Lord Core Library’s geoscientific capacity will allow the catalogue of Western Australia’s geoscientific knowledge to grow and support the better targeting of mineral resources.”

“Western Australia has delivered the first COVID-19 State Budget. It shows how critical the mining and mineral exploration industry is for Western Australia’s economic recovery, but also the remarkable resilience of Western Australia and its economy.” said Mr Pearce.

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