

ADVOCACY AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2020

FEDERAL

Successful implementation of Junior Minerals Exploration Incentive (JMEI)

Following strong advocacy by AMEC, the Federal Government implemented the \$100m Junior Minerals Exploration Incentive in 2018. The four year program, which concludes next year, has been over-subscribed demonstrating its success. AMEC is now advocating for its extension and expansion. AMEC provided considerable input in the design of the JMEI which has been critical to attracting private investment into greenfield exploration.

Foreign Investment Review Board Reforms

AMEC has strongly opposed further barriers to foreign investment in Australia's mineral industry, which put new projects, and the continued development of our industry and economy at risk. The legislation has now been referred to Committee for further review and AMEC will be seeking further amendments at a minimum.

Environmental Bilaterals and EPBC Reforms

AMEC has long advocated for reduction in duplication created by State and Commonwealth environmental legislation. Commonwealth and State Governments have committed to implementing bilateral environmental assessments and approvals, 'single touch approvals', which will remove significant duplication. AMEC continues to work with governments to see these changes implemented.

Research and Development Tax Incentive

AMEC fought changes to the R&D tax incentive that would have reduced the support provided by the program to industry by \$1.8 billion over 4 years. Prior to the election AMEC strongly opposed these changes, which saw the legislation referred to committee for review and deferred. Ultimately, these proposals were dropped by government with the onset of COVID-19.

Potash and Brine Guidelines

AMEC facilitated the drafting of a

brine reporting guideline to increase the transparency and certainty of reporting of brine deposits on the ASX. These guidelines were subsequently accepted by JORC as the recommended methodology for measuring brine minerals.

Critical Minerals Investment Document

Working with Austrade, AMEC has developed a portfolio of Australian investment opportunities in critical mineral companies. This document has been circulated amongst Australia's international Government Trade offices, showcasing the opportunity to invest in Australian mining and mineral exploration companies.

National Resources Statement

AMEC was intimately involved in the development of the National Resources Statement, as well as the 2030 Resources Taskforce recommendations that preceded it. AMEC continues to work with the Commonwealth on its implementation.

Exploring for the Future

AMEC advocated for the extension of the Exploring for the Future program, with the Commonwealth committing \$125m to continue the program to create greater pre-competitive geological information to unlock future mineral discoveries.

Policy Platform to maximise Australia's resource potential

AMEC has developed a comprehensive platform for supporting and growing Australia's mining industry. It covers a range of key industry issues including: supporting exploration; investment attraction; streamlining assessment and approval processes; fiscal policies that support growth; energy and emissions reduction; and workforce and skills.

Exploration Incentive Scheme / Co-funded Drilling

AMEC continues to strongly promote the financial, social and scientific benefits of co-funded drilling programs to all State and Territory Governments. With new programs and funding commitments announced in most States and Territories in 2020.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mining Acts Legislation

AMEC was heavily involved in the most comprehensive review of South Australia's mining legislation since its inception. AMEC has consistently advocated for the development of the legislation, and has met with the Premier, the Mines Minister and relevant Ministerial and Departmental staff to ensure the Government reintroduced the legislation unchanged.

Right of Veto

AMEC has won important commitments from the State Government not to introduce 'right of veto' provisions in to mining legislation, as was being called for by the agricultural industry.

Accelerated Discovery Initiative

AMEC succeeded in convincing the Government to re-introduce and fund the co-funded drilling scheme in South Australia, now known as the ADI. This followed the cutting of the PACE initiative in 2018.

Explore the Gawler

Government has committed \$5 million over three years to continue the Explore the Gawler challenge following calls from AMEC to develop a crowdsourced competition to use big data to discover the mines of the future.

Critical Minerals Strategy

AMEC successfully advocated for a critical mineral's strategy so that South Australia can take advantage of the significant investment and development opportunities on offer. In 2020, the Government committed \$800,000 to identifying gaps in the critical minerals supply chain.

Part 9B Mining Act: Right to Negotiate consideration

The review of how Native Title is considered in South Australia via Part 9B of the Mining Act reported this year agreeing for further consideration of AMEC's consistent recommendation of the Right to Negotiate. The next step to discuss how the Right to Negotiate would apply is expected in 2021.

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Shift to digital

The Department for Energy and Mining's customer facing digital systems will be transformed over two years with \$5 million in funding allocated. The digital engagement platform will provide industry with real-time tracking; responding to AMEC's calls for efficiency improvements for industry and Government.

Identification of groundwater resources and multi-user infrastructure corridors

\$5.6 million has been allocated to the identification of groundwater resources in priority mining regions and the development of a business case for multi-user infrastructure corridors. AMEC has called for this investment to support growth in key South Australian regions currently constrained by access and infrastructure issues.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA Low Impact Notification & Streamlining

AMEC has long advocated for the introduction of low impact notification in WA, reducing the approvals requirements for low impact activities. Government has now committed to its introduction in 2021, along with a range of other streamlining measures for mining proposals and approvals.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage reform

AMEC prepared a detailed response to the WA Government's draft of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill, and has been an active stakeholder in the reform process. AMEC has advocated extensively for substantial changes to the draft Bill to ensure the proposed reforms will strike the right balance between protecting cultural heritage and economic development. The introduction of the Bill has now been deferred until 2021.

Lithium & Battery Minerals Strategy

AMEC commissioned a report that is a call to action for greater lithium processing in Australia, underpinning AMEC's advocacy for greater value adding. This advocacy led to the State Government creating the Lithium and Energy Materials Taskforce, and ultimately the delivery of the Future Battery Industry strategy.

Lithium Royalties

AMEC, working with our members, successfully persuaded the State Government to agree that no royalty be placed on lithium hydroxide, incentivising companies to pursue value adding and supporting the development of a lithium processing industry in WA.

Regulation 169: Agents and Representatives

Parties appearing before the Warden in the early stages of Part IV Proceedings can now be represented by either a lawyer or an agent without seeking special leave. Amending Regulation 169 has been a key advocacy outcome sought by AMEC members.

Diamond Royalty Rate

AMEC successfully advocated to the WA Government to lower the royalty rate for diamonds from 7.5% to 5% so that all companies can enjoy the same rate as those under a State agreement.

Minerals in Brine - Tenement Fees Reduction

AMEC helped secure a 90% reduction in the tenement fees for mineral in brine tenements, due to the low impact, large scale and long life of these projects which attracted a disproportionately high mining lease rental that rendered these projects uneconomic. The existing rental rate of \$18.70 per hectare was reduced to \$2.32 per hectare for the first five years of the lease; and \$4.64 per hectare from year six onwards.

Mineral in Brine amendments

AMEC advocated on behalf of the emerging mineral in brine industry to reduce the cost impost of the mining rehabilitation fund for mineral in brine project evaporation ponds. This resulted in winning a reduction from \$52,000 per hectare to \$20,000 per hectare. The area included in the calculation was also substantially reduced to only the areas needing rehabilitation, further reducing the costs.

Plan for our Parks

AMEC has directly assisted members wherever possible during the consultation and negotiation process. AMEC helped secure excision, or a lower conservation estate classification for member companies that highlighted a concern with the proposed park boundaries.

NORTHERN TERRITORY Mine Management Plans

AMEC successfully persuaded and worked with the Government to streamline the Mine Management Plan for Exploration. This has made it easier for members and led to much faster approval timeframes.

Environmental Reform

In recent environmental legislative reforms, AMEC successfully advocated to narrow the open standing provisions provided for all community members in the draft legislation, to only proponents and those directly affected. AMEC is heavily engaged in representing industry views to the Ministers and Departments during this major ongoing reform process.

Critical Minerals and Mineral Investment Strategy

AMEC called for a NT critical minerals strategy and launched an industry plan for the Territory. The Government adopted much of this plan in delivering its own strategy. AMEC is currently working with Government on its implementation and to develop a broader mineral investment strategy.

Mining Remediation Fund

AMEC advocacy has ensured that the Mining Remediation Fund has remained separate to consolidated revenue and has prompted Government to develop a strategy, and form a panel, to guide the expenditure of the fund on appropriately prioritised legacy sites. Prior to AMEC's intervention, the Fund had gathered \$23m without a transparent method of acquitting its expenditure.

Major project status

AMEC has been advocating for the adoption of the WA lead agency model, to improve co-ordination of project approvals and timeframes. The Operation Rebound Report has adopted this recommendation and AMEC is working to persuade Government to begin implementation.

Prioritisation of Tanami Road sealing

AMEC, working with members, has identified key areas of the Tanami Road that should be prioritised by government for sealing, to lower the impact this rugged track has on mineral exploration. AMEC has supported the NT Government to secure this Commonwealth Government funding.

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QUEENSLAND

Collaborative Exploration Initiative - expanded minerals, geography and frequency

Recent rounds of the initiative were focused on 'New Economy Minerals' and the region of the North West Minerals Province. AMEC's advocacy has sought for the expansion of the geographic area to be wider and to cover more mineral types, which was subsequently delivered by government. The CEI was also boosted by \$10 million over the next four years.

CopperString 2.0

AMEC has been advocating for the continued development of the North West Minerals Province, and associated infrastructure, to unlock the potential new mining projects. The Queensland and Commonwealth Government has committed initial funding toward the CopperString 2.0 high voltage transmission line connecting the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Market. This critical energy infrastructure will lower energy costs and benefit both existing and emerging producers.

Improving Resource Approval Efficiency

During the last State election, AMEC won a commitment from the Qld government to review the efficiency and timeliness of resource approval processes, including the reduction of duplication between assessing agencies. AMEC continues to work with the State Government to improve resource approval processes and assist Queensland to remain globally competitive.

Tenure Reform

AMEC had substantial input into significant exploration tenure reforms. The reforms were designed to ensure land turnover and encourage progression to production and introduced an option for operators to move to outcomes-based work programs, and a cap on the overall life of Exploration Permits.

Data Confidentiality

As part of the consultation on the initiative, AMEC co-hosted an industry forum for Stakeholders to discuss the rationale and mutual benefit that comes from making data available for future use. AMEC is continuing to advocate for the need for industry and Government alignment on data confidentiality timeframes.

Geoscience Data Modernisation Project

The Geological Survey of Queensland have been working on the Geoscience Data Modernisation Project for several years. During 2020, AMEC worked with DNRME on the historic report resubmission process and the Practice Directions for reporting going forward to get a balance between an improved process and good geoscience data capture for exploration in the future.

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW Minerals Strategy

Delivering a NSW strategy was the first key recommendation in the AMEC Policy Platform. The State Government released the NSW Minerals Strategy this year, aiming to increase investment attraction and position the State as a preferred destination for exploration and development. AMEC is now working closely with Government to ensure each and every action item is delivered.

Mineral Allocation Areas open for Expression of Interest

The NSW Government has finalised a new process to allow explorers access to NSW Mineral Allocation Areas. This follows extensive advocacy from AMEC following the Gazettal of these areas in 2018, preventing new exploration licence applications in these areas without Ministerial consent. Expressions of Interest will now be sought every two years.

Rehabilitation Security Deposit Framework

AMEC developed a brief for Government outlining the current issues with the rehabilitation security deposit framework for exploration, recommending alternatives including reducing the security for exploration, providing group securities for multiple tenure, and an option to review annually as well as trust or levy alternatives. AMEC continues to push for these changes.

Ministerial Minerals Industry Advisory Council

AMEC has advocated for the creation of, and has been appointed to, the Ministerial Minerals Industry Advisory Council. The Council has been established to provide advice directly to the Deputy Premier as Minister for the Resources portfolio on current, emerging and future opportunities and challenges.

NSW policy and regulation

AMEC has worked tirelessly over 2020 to ensure that industry views are heard in Government consultation on a range of policy and legislative measures. This has included Work, Health and Safety legislative review, Mining Act reform, red tape reduction, rental fees review, reconnaissance only tenure, renewal policy, coal allocation policy, review of the Geological Survey, new Tenure Management System, agricultural land use reform, Dams Safety levy, publication of reports from 'live' tenure, Minimum Standards for exploration and work program forms and reporting.

AMEC support for NSW Mentoring Program

AMEC provided a scholarship for the NSW Women in Mining Mentoring Program to support a place for a woman from the exploration or emerging miner sector. AMEC also provides a mentor. The program offers women individual mentoring in a structured process that includes comprehensive professional matching and has proven results.

AMEC Land Access Template and Guideline

AMEC is developing its own land access template and guideline to assist member companies in their approach and engagement with landholders and community stakeholders.

VICTORIA

Rehabilitation

AMEC is a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group being consulted on the changes to rehabilitation requirements in Victoria and is reviewing an update on the rehabilitation bond calculator that was last updated in 2011. The Government is focussed on improving the framework and requirements for rehabilitation following the Victorian Auditor General Office's report. AMEC is working to prevent unreasonable requirements being placed on members.

Additional Departmental resources

The Victorian Government has received a record number of tenure applications in 2020, in the wake of significant gold and copper discoveries. Following advocacy from AMEC, significant additional resourcing was allocated to manage the tenure as well as develop initiatives to streamline processing and reduce delays to support further mineral industry investment.