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## AMEC welcomes major investment in State's approvals system

AMEC welcomes the announcement made today which will see the McGowan Government allocate \$120M to the Western Australian project approvals system in the 2021-22 State Budget. The announcement is the single largest investment in approvals in the State's history.

The announcement marks the delivery of an election commitment to reform the mining approvals process as part of the Streamline WA initiative, designed to reduce red-tape to make it easier to do business in WA by improving industry regulation and regulatory practice.

"The rapid growth of Western Australia's mining and mineral exploration sector is putting significant pressure on the Government approvals process. This resourcing support for the State's key approval agencies can't come soon enough as economic development activities in WA continue to surge." said AMEC CEO Mr Warren Pearce.

Extra resources have been allocated to 5 key government agencies which engage in the approvals process. This includes a \$27.4M investment in the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) to deliver mining approval reform as well as over 150 frontline approvals workers across the five agencies.

These are the Departments of: Planning, Lands and Heritage; Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS); Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; and Water and Environmental Regulation.

"AMEC has been a strong advocate for significant regulatory reform to the approvals process and for greater resourcing to support the efforts of the State's approvals officers. This announcement is a positive outcome for the mining and exploration industry."

"With greater resourcing in the approvals processes, Western Australia will be able to bring forward billions of dollars' worth of capital projects, moving them through the pipeline and into development." said Mr Pearce.

The Commonwealth Government Productivity Commission observed that "pushing out the start date of a project delays the receipt of revenue as well as the royalties and taxes that flow to the broader community,"

"This announcement is significant for all Western Australian's as it will result in earlier private investment, new jobs being created, more revenue for government, and greater benefits for the wider community,"

"AMEC also expects that this funding will assist in the successful delivery of further streamlining of the approval process and greater reform to the current process ensuring it is fit for purpose and can keep pace with the increasing demand for project approvals," said Mr Pearce.

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**FOR FURTHER COMMENTS CALL:**

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