

MEDIA RELEASE

The Association of Mining & Exploration Companies Inc.

31 August 2009

2009 - 13

Industry support for dedicated training department

The Western Australian Government's decision to split the Department of Education and Training to create two independently resourced departments will facilitate better outcomes for all, especially those employing graduates.

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) National Policy Manager, Darren Brown, said the move was very welcome, especially since the Government has indicated the new department of Training and Workforce Development will be taking a keen interest in the resources sector.

"It was only 18 months ago when Western Australia was in the midst of a desperate skills shortage," Mr Brown said.

"As commodity prices rebound and a myriad of new oil and gas projects get underway, it won't be long before qualified labour is again one of the biggest challenges facing our industry.

"Our members are keen to assist the Minister for Mines and Petroleum in his hard work to improve the State's cumbersome approvals process and will welcome the news that other Minister's are also focussing on the big issues stifling development in WA.

"We are very pleased the State Government appears to have learned from the past and is trying to develop systems to cope with the inevitable return of strong resources demand," Mr Brown said.

Media Enquiries:

Darren Brown

National Manager of Advocacy and Public Affairs

E: darren.brown@amec.org.au

P: 1300.738184

M: 0413 403 245