

MEDIA RELEASE

The Association of Mining & Exploration Companies Inc.

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Support for WA approvals changes

The Western Australian Premier's announcement last night that his Government would adopt a lead agency model for future approvals has been welcomed by Australia's peak body for the mining and exploration sector.

AMEC CEO Simon Bennison said it was very encouraging to see the Government adopt the final recommendation in AMEC's pre-election *Resource Exploration Acceleration Plan (REAP)*.

He said the industry was also pleased with other recent State Government announcements including the decision to independently fund and staff the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the commitment to introduce on-line monitoring of all approvals.

"It's very encouraging to see some decisive action as a result of the numerous reviews and working groups that are trying to streamline WA's cumbersome approvals processes," Mr Bennison said.

"AMEC has worked hard to ensure the incoming Government to ensure everyone understood the difficulties faced by the sector, particularly smaller mining and exploration companies that don't have their own legal teams and huge financial clout.

"The adoption of practically all of AMEC's pre-election recommendations will yield results for all Western Australians by creating a more efficient, sustainable pathway to royalties for the State.

"Mr Barnett's comments last night embracing our lead model concept and committing to on-line monitoring will make the approvals process more transparent and less cumbersome, facilitating better outcomes for everyone with an interest in an application.

"While we still await the fine detail on many of these announcements, we are generally very pleased with the direction the Liberal-National Government is taking in this regard.

"A more streamlined and transparent approvals process will lead to better certainty for investors which will slowly improve WA's reputation as a destination of choice for significant development that will deliver strong returns for all Western Australians for generations to come.

"AMEC congratulates the State Government for its efforts so far and will continue to work to ensure positive commitments are delivered as quickly as possible," Mr Bennison said.

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