

MEDIA RELEASE

The Association of Mining & Exploration Companies Inc.

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Environmental bond freeze good policy

Today's announcement that the Western Australian State Government will freeze environmental bond rates until at least the end of 2010 has been warmly welcomed by the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.

AMEC National Manager of Policy and Government Relations Darren Brown said the decision is both reasonable and sensible.

"The global financial crisis has significantly decreased access to capital for mining and exploration projects, particularly those operated by junior and emerging companies," Mr Brown said.

"In lean times such as this, extra costs in any guise can be the difference between a resources project going ahead or being shelved indefinitely - and obviously, an unrealised resource is about as useful as a car without fuel.

"While fanatical, so-called 'pro' environmental groups might jump up and down about the Minister's decision to freeze environmental bonds, it is clearly in the best interest of all current and future Western Australian's to encourage responsible resource development in the State.

"Sensible decisions such as this will help to restore investor confidence, which will in turn help expedite the long and risky process of converting our natural resources into royalties that ultimately pay for police, schools and hospitals," Mr Brown said.

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