



DECEMBER 2022

THE PROSPECTOR

MEMBER COUNCILS INTERNAL MONTHLY UPDATE



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MORE THAN MINING

The Board was provided with an update briefing by the Hon Brendon Grylls at its recent meeting.

ENERGY TRANSITION AUTHORITY BILL

The Chair wrote to Senator the Hon Penny Allman-Payne (who created the Bill) and the Executive Officer has met with the Senator's Policy and Parliamentary Advisor.

AMCA's submission to the Inquiry emphasises the need for engagement with affected communities and offers itself as a potential facilitator this into the future.

Visit https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/

Committees/Senate/Economics/NETABill for bill details.

CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY

The Chair has written to the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia the Hon Madeleine King MP seeking a meeting and emphasising AMCA's potential role in developing the strategy.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACT

The Chair has again written to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy the Hon Chris Bowen MP seeking to meet and discuss the need for engagement and planning for transitioning communities.

The Executive Officer has also written again to the CEO of the Climate



Change Authority similarly seeking engagement.

NATIONAL HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Following the Government's October Budget announcement that the remit of this fund may change (one of AMCA's adopted policy platforms), the Executive Officer has met with the Director - Infrastructure of the National Housing Finance and Investment Commission to discuss the possible changes and the role of local

governments. He also emphasised the unique housing issues confronting mining cities.

POWERING THE REGIONS FUND

Also announced in the October Budget this fund will support regions transitioning from fossil fuel mining and energy production.

The Board has approved engagement by the Executive Officer with the Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water to participate in the development of the program.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



On behalf of the AMCA team, we would like to thank you for your continued support

this year. As a team, we will continue to reach those heights as long as we work together.

Christmas is a time for family and loved ones, we might not be blood-related but we should consider

ourselves a mining cities family by choice.

Merry Christmas.

THE **PROSPECTOR**

CRITICAL MINERALS AND HIGH-TECH METALS BOOST



The NSW Government is investing \$130 million in mining projects to help position the State as a major global supplier and processor of critical minerals and high-tech metals.

Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Resources Paul Toole was in the State's Far West during November to announce 19 organisations would share in more than \$8.6 million under Stream 1 of the \$130 million

Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Activation Fund.

"Critical minerals and high-tech metals are going to be crucial to future technologies like advanced manufacturing, aerospace, ag-tech and renewables, and this fund will progress projects and support feasibility studies right across the State," Mr Toole said.

"Our \$8.6 million investment is being backed in

by industry co-contributions and together will drive \$30 million of investment into growing the critical minerals sector in NSW.

"We've already made it easier for exploration companies to search for critical minerals and produce high-tech metals projects by removing the Mineral Allocation Areas as a key part of the NSW Government's Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy.

"Now, we're turbocharging the industry by driving investment to deliver feasibility studies, field trials, and environmental studies to get more projects off the ground.

"Our vision is to make NSW the number one investment destination for mining, exploration and advanced manufacturing, and we will continue to drive initiatives to achieve that."

PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Gary Stevenson PSM (Executive Officer AMCA), Mike Minogue (Harbour Master PPA), Charles Kretzmann (General Manager Engineering and Infrastructure PPA), Mayor Peter Long (City of Karratha), Jay Nankivell (General Manager Broken Hill City Council), Virginia Miltrup (CEO City of Karratha), Andrew Brien (CEO City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder) and Deputy Mayor Jim Hickey (Broken Hill City Council)



BOARD MEETING IN THE PILBARA

The Board met in Karratha on Thursday, 24 October 2022 with several Directors and the Executive Officer travelling to the region.

In addition to conducting the Board meeting, Directors were fully briefed on the development of Karratha, its many successes and its future plans and inspected key

facilities. The group also visited Dampier on the Burrup Peninsula and met with Pilbara Ports Authority Harbour Master and Director Engineering.

Directors also visited to the Northwest Shelf Gas Processing plant and other industrial developments. Inspection of the Ngarli indigenous rock art was also a highlight.

TRANSITION FUND OPENS TO ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRIES TO WA REGION



Companies are now invited to submit their expression of interest to establish operations in Collie, as part of the WA Government's \$200 million Collie Industrial Transition Fund.

The EOI targets projects in priority sectors, which includes:

Green manufacturing or minerals processing

Clean energy
Energy-intensive industries
Proposals from other sectors may also be considered if they meet the objectives of the EOI.

The EOI attracts investment from new and emerging industries to expand the region's economy, as it transitions away from reliance on the coal sector. This supports the highly

skilled energy sector workers impacted by the staged retirement of State-owned coal power stations by 2029.

Large-scale industrial projects will continue to attract new job opportunities, diversifying Collie's economy to build a brighter and more sustainable future.

The \$200 million Fund forms

part of the WA Government's \$547.4 million Collie Transition Package announced in June 2022.

Want to learn more and submit an expression of interest for your company? Find out which sectors are invited to apply and view the project requirements for the Collie Industrial Transition Fund.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Deputy Mayor Phil Barker (Mount Isa City Council and Chair of AMCA), The Hon Madeleine King MP (Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia) and Mayor Peter Long (City of Karratha)

2023 GOVERNMENT BUDGET ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

The Board adopted a detailed Advocacy Campaign Plan for the next six months with a focus on affordable housing and support for Climate Change energy transitioning regions.

The Board will appoint a delegation to visit Canberra

in February as a key element of the campaign.

It strongly links to relevant aspects of the October 2022 Budget Measures and plans to influence the development and implementation of some of those critical initiatives.

ISAAC REGION

THE YEAR THAT WAS WITH ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL MAYOR ANNE BAKER



Whether it is the impacts created by end of mine life or changing community needs, our goal is to secure a prosperous future for all towns across the Isaac.

Through partnerships with community, business, industry and all levels of government, Isaac Regional Council is working hard to preserve the Isaac way of life.

Through meticulous and bold planning for community-centric investment, we saw incredibly positive signs emerging of the recovery in the events and tourism space.

We know that steel producing coal has a huge role in the global economy, however it is important that

we plan early for the end of mine life and the global climate change response.

A statutory authority would assist coal mining regions by energising existing community capability, leading collaboration, supporting innovation, and ensuring the global benefits of decarbonisation are not achieved at the expense of mining communities.

Our coal mining regions face a transformational change that will be beyond the economic capability of local councils to manage alone.

Council received support from our

local government counterparts at the LGAQ Annual Conference in Cairns in October to lobby the government about the need for a regional transformational authority plus another four motions including regional university program funding.

What happens now is that the LGAQ will lobby on our behalf to the Queensland and Australian Governments. We will be there every step of the way as it's futureproofing our communities at the coal face of this major change.

Council is committed to asserting its place in the

new economy to ensure that its future enjoys both social and economic prosperity. We are focusing on making strategic social investments, promoting public policies that support social sustainability and partnering with other businesses and levels of government to improve the lives of our community members.

There is unprecedented increasing demand for Council services and resources, yet there is not a corresponding increase in our rate base to support the cost of services, nor increases in funding from the state or federal governments.

In the recent Federal Budget we have received commitments of \$2.8 million for the Nebo Showgrounds Master Plan Stage 1 and \$2 million towards enabling the

LEADS THE WAY



Isaac Resource Excellence Hub. We also received \$400 million as part of a collective partnership with six other Councils with Queensland Beef Corridors. A massive win for connectivity in our beef roads.

The Queensland Government announced the following for our region through

its budget announcements: a new Moranbah hospital which is set to begin in 2023, \$8 million towards the Moranbah Community Centre Revitalisation Project, \$8 million towards the Isaac Affordable Housing Scheme's 16-unit project and \$2.9 million for the Pioneer Road upgrade.

We value our partnerships with the Australian and Queensland Governments and we will continue to build on these relationships, so our Isaac gets its fair share. Money generated by coal mining communities' benefit all of Queensland.

We continue to

punch well above our weight and have done so for years, in terms of economic contribution by way of royalties.

Our region should not be left wanting for its fair share when it comes to critical infrastructure like hospitals, roads, and education.

MIGRATION NEEDED TO FILL SKILLS GAP

Both skilled and unskilled migration into Australia would play a part in breaching the massive skills gap facing Australia, Resources Minister Madeleine King said on Thursday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC) in Sydney, King noted that there was a definite need for migration to help breach the gap.

“There are skills and worker gaps in every industry, whether it’s mining and the indirect services that support mining. Skilled migration, even unskilled migration, will be part of that. But the important thing is that it is managed well and that migrants have a path to citizenship because that’s the right thing to do,” King said. During her presentation at



IMARC, King noted that the resources sector currently employs around 280 000 people across Australia making up nearly 2% of total employment, and was the second-largest employer in Western Australia, behind the public sector.

“While what is under the ground and off of our extensive shores is a product of millenia of geological activity, it takes people and their ingenuity and determination and commitment to create an industry

that has become the backbone of Australia’s economy.

“And the resources sector will continue to need more and more people driven to ensure its continuing contribution to this nation,” King said.

The federal government earlier this year held a Jobs and Skills summit, at the end of which it agreed to 36 immediate initiatives to counteract the skills shortage, including modernising Australia’s

workplace relation laws, amending the Fair Work Act, improving access to jobs for women and First Nations people, increasing the permanent migration programme ceiling to 195 000 in 2022/23 to ease critical workforce shortages, and extending visas and relacing work restrictions for international students.

Article from Creamer Media’s Mining Weekly.



CALLS TO CAP DIESEL REBATE

Hitting producers with higher fossil-fuel taxes and scrapping the diesel fuel rebate enjoyed by mining and agriculture could free up revenue for Australians stung by rising power prices.

That's the call from independent think-tank Climate Energy Finance as fossil-fuel producers benefit from surging oil, gas and coal profits.

"No other industry has caused such

significant economic hardship for 21 million Australians, all the while banking unprecedented profits," energy analyst Tim Buckley said.

Calls are growing for federal and state governments to cap surging electricity and gas prices to protect Australians from further bill shock, with the question of who would pay compensation to power generators or fossil fuel producers

still unanswered.

But Treasurer Jim Chalmers said the government would prefer to avoid slapping a windfall tax on large energy companies.

"We would prefer, where possible, a regulatory response here, but we said we are prepared to consider other options as well, including if there's a case for some responsible contribution from the Commonwealth,"

he told reporters. The treasurer said price caps for coal and gas were a potential way to ease soaring bills, and the response would be "temporary and meaningful" to take the sting out of next year's bill shock. Treasury has projected tariffs will rise by 56 per cent for electricity and 44 per cent for gas by 2024 without government intervention.

AAP NewsWire

LAB TO SUPPORT NEW ERA OF EARTH SCIENCES

Geoscience Australia has officially opened its new modern laboratory facilities, further strengthening the Government's long-standing commitment to the sustainable development of Australia's resources and a low emissions future.

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Madeleine King opened the new laboratory today, marking a new era for Australia's Earth sciences.

"It's really inspiring to see where the science that is supporting Australia's future begins," Minister King said.

"This new modern laboratory will ensure decisions by government, industry and the community regarding the sustainable development of Australia's resources, including supporting our



transition to a low emissions future, will be underpinned by high quality geoscience.

"Global demand for resources like critical minerals needed for electric vehicles and battery technologies is increasing as the world moves to decarbonise, and Australia has remarkable potential to meet this demand."

The laboratory will have the capability to analyse organic samples to explain more about natural gases like hydrogen and helium deep below the Earth, which are essential ingredients in the journey to net zero.

"Our world-class mining industry is leading the way in finding the next big discovery – and the data and expertise of Geoscience Australia is helping guide their efforts," Minister King said.

The new investment brings Geoscience Australia's labs up to modern standards and replaces those which have been in use since 1998. The old laboratory analysed tens of thousands of samples from across the country, which helped build a foundational understanding of Australia's geology. This work will be further enhanced in the new facility, building on its

reputation as an essential provider of high-quality geoscience data and information.

"Data from the Geoscience Australia laboratory is the foundation for evidence-based decision making across government, industry and the community on how to best leverage Australia's abundant available resources," Minister King said.

In addition to the new laboratory, Geoscience Australia will also establish a mobile laboratory under the \$225 million Exploring for the Future program to support the search for minerals, energy and groundwater.

Data analysed by Geoscience Australia's laboratories is made publicly available online through the Exploring for the Future portal >>

<https://portal.ga.gov.au/persona/efcf>