



MARCH 2023

THE PROSPECTOR

MEMBER COUNCILS INTERNAL MONTHLY UPDATE



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ROUND UP



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AUSTRALIAN MINING CITIES ALLIANCE



CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY

A meeting (by videoconference) with the Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia is being arranged to continue discussion about the development of the Critical Minerals Strategy and other Budget Campaign matters.

POWERING THE REGIONS FUND

With assistance

from the CEO of the Minerals Council of Australia, a videoconference with the Treasurer the Hon Jim Chalmers MP is being arranged to discuss the development of the Powering the Regions Fund and other Budget Campaign matters.

HOUSING AUSTRALIA FUTURE FUND – LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

A videoconference meeting is also being arranged with

the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness and Minister for Small Business to follow up key aspects of the legislation. The Housing Australia Future Fund Bill 2023, National Housing Supply and Affordability Council Bill 2023 and Treasury Laws Amendment (Housing Measures No. 1) Bill 2023, were referred to the Senate's Economics Legislation Committee for

inquiry and report by 22 March 2023.

IRON BOOMERANG PROJECT INQUIRY

AMCA has been invited to present to the Senate Committee hearing into the Project known as "Iron Boomerang" after making its submission late in 2022. The Chair Phil Barwick and Director Peter Long will represent AMCA by videoconference at the hearing in late March 2023.



CLIMATE CHANGE AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT

Also, as a result of the delegation's meeting with the CEO and other senior officers of the Climate Change Authority (CCA) the Executive Officer was invited to meet (by videoconference)

with several senior officers of the CCA to further advise on the social and economic impacts on transformational mining communities.

In particular, the meeting allowed the

Executive Officer to make numerous suggestions regarding potential lead indicators that the CCA might use in its reporting to Parliament and to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy

regarding the impacts of the transition to the Net Zero Economy.

It was reassuring to know that AMCA's voice is well regarded by the key decision-makers in Canberra.

POWER STATION GETS RENEWABLE FACELIFT

An old Ipswich coal power station will be transformed into a renewable energy plant.

The Swanbank power station in Queensland is set to be converted into a clean energy plant.

Queensland Energy Minister Mick De Brenni said the conversion would help combat energy prices, which are set to spike in the coming months.

"What we're doing is progressing a master-planned

approach to a precinct where we'll bring together wind energy, solar and the production of hydrogen to make sure that we're able to keep downward pressure on electricity prices," he told the ABC.

"The clean energy hub at Swanbank has the potential to generate up to 1.2 gigawatts of power. And to put that into context, that's over 10 per cent of what Queensland uses each and every day at its peak."

Government-owned electricity company CleanCo will spearhead the development, opening expressions of interest in the coming months for businesses to pitch what energy is produced at the site.

"We'll be seeking proposals from the industry to develop hydrogen production and use here at the site and also to look at alternative energy-storage options," CleanCO chief executive Tom Metcalfe said.

"We'll be engaging with the community around what other amenities, what other resources and facilities the community need here at Swanbank," Metcalfe said.

"It could be related to energy, but it might be public space, it might be a heritage centre, it could be innovation."

<https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/old-coal-gets-a-renewable-facelift/>

JUNE ROUNDTABLE FORUM

As a result of the meeting with the Hon Kristy McBain MP in Canberra last month preparation is

underway for the facilitation of a Roundtable Forum in June 2023 in Canberra. Several key

Ministers will be invited and AMCA Member Councils will each be represented along with up to five

other resources Councils. This will be held during the week of the ALGA National General Assembly.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPLACEMENT

The Board adopted a fresh operating model at its February meeting with revised duties for the Executive Officer and a greater strategic role for the Operational Committee.

The search is now underway for a replacement Executive Officer.

Three candidates (two of them Canberra-based) have been identified and

invited to submit an Expression of Interest.

Preliminary interviews are being conducted in mid-March and will be followed by a more comprehensive

second stage of selection.

It is intended that the new Executive Officer will be in place for the handover from Gary Stevenson in early July 2023.

PROJECT LANDS JAPANESE BILLIONS

The LaTrobe Valley coal-to-hydrogen project is set to receive a \$2.35 billion injection from the Japanese Government.

The pilot project saw Latrobe Valley-produced hydrogen shipped to Japan through the Port of Hastings in 2022.

It was such a success that the Japanese Government has committed \$2.35 billion to progress the project into future shipments.

The project will be headed by J-Power and the Sumitomo Corporation, hand-picked by

the Japanese Government.

"This project takes the CO2 which we can capture and safely store it in ... things like the depleted oil and gas reservoirs in Bass Strait," J-Power Latrobe Valley non-executive director Jeremy Stone told the ABC.

Stone said the companies will look at the Victorian Government's CarbonNet project and ExxonMobil's Gippsland Basin joint venture as potential options.

"So there's now two options we have down in Gippsland,

and over the next 12 months we'll choose one of the ones which best suits."

Victoria's peak conservation body, Environment Victoria, has said the coal needed for the project will likely come from Loy Yang, the state's largest coal mine.

This could mean the mine will have to be expanded, something Environment Victoria is hoping to avoid.

"That has massive complications regarding (mine) rehabilitation, not to mention all the

use of water on already stressed river systems," Environment Victoria policy and advocacy manager Bronya Lipski told the ABC.

However, the project is set to support over 1000 jobs a year in the Latrobe Valley, which has a history of high unemployment.

The project aims to produce between 30,000 and 40,000 tonnes of gaseous hydrogen a year.

<https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/japan-backs-victorian-hydrogen-project/>

SPOTLIGHT ON ISA'S 100 YEARS

**DANIELLE SLADE
MAYOR
MOUNT ISA CITY
COUNCIL**

Thursday, 23
February 2023 –
Mount Isa Day –
was a wonderful
celebration of Mount
Isa's 100th birthday.

Hundreds of people
came along to the
Mount Isa Civic
Centre for the
community morning
tea celebrations,
and several hundred
more attended
that evening's
community event at
Kruttschnitt Oval.

The morning tea
was emceed by
Australian country
music favourite
Tania Kernaghan
and Craig "Macca"
McGown, who
together co-host on
the caravanning and
camping lifestyle TV
program What's Up
Downunder.

It featured speeches
by Mayor Danielle
Slade, Member for
Kennedy Bob Katter
MP, Glencore Mount
Isa Mines Director
of Mining Etienne
Moller, and former
Queensland Country
Credit Union
chairman Bruno



Cullen, with an
official Welcome to
Country conducted
by Leigh Kerkhoffs.

There was also
an appearance
by Mount Isa's
town crier, and the
opening of the time
capsule buried 10
years ago and just
recently discovered.

Local history buff
and archivist
Barry Merrick
also conducted a
presentation of
Mount Isa's history
and mining history.
The time capsule
was filled with a
range of items,
including copies of
Mount Isa Mines'
Mine to Market
magazine from
2013, newspaper
clippings from
The North West
Star, books, a CD
made by former
ABC North West
Queensland
presenter Emma
Cillekens,
commemorative
coins, a laminated
letter from Bob
Katter MP, photos,

a copy of the 2013
Spinifex State
College year book,
a copy of the
2013 Mount Isa
Agricultural Show
Schedule – and
even a bottle of
scotch. The Mount
Isa Community
Ensembles Inc.
opened the morning
with several songs,
all with a Mount Isa
theme, and some
from as far back as
the 1930s. While
Premier
Annastacia
Palaszczuk was
not able to attend
the festivities, she
kindly sent through
a congratulatory
video.

In it, she said:
"Congratulations,
Mount Isa. I wanted
to send my best
wishes to the entire
city as you mark
Mount Isa Day
and the centenary
celebrations. Mount
Isa's long, proud
mining history dates
all the way back to
February 1923. Over
the years, Mount
Isa has embraced
people from many
lands to build a
wonderful and
diverse community.
Some household
names originate
from Mount Isa,

including Deborah
Mailman, Pat Rafter,
and Greg Norman,
just to name a few.
The North West is
a great place to
live and work and
the future is bright
for Mount Isa. It's
the beating heart
of the North West
Minerals Province,
which is central
to Queensland's
transition to
renewable energy.
We're creating
more jobs in more
industries, as part of
Queensland's Energy
and Jobs Plan,
and Mount Isa will
reap the benefits.
You all have so
much to be proud
of and celebrate
as you mark 100
years. On behalf
of the Queensland
Government, happy
Mount Isa Day,
happy centenary,
and enjoy the
celebrations. Happy
birthday!"

The Mount Isa
City Library's
"Isa in Images"
resource – an online
imagery platform
and the hub of
Mount Isa's history
– has recently
been launched
and is available at
<https://mountisa.recollect.net.au>. It's



completely free to
use and access and
features thousands
of items, including
photos, videos,
and documents,
from as far back
as the 1920s.
"Isa in Images"
is proudly funded
and supported by
the Queensland
Government and
the State Library
of Queensland.
Council appreciates
the people and
organisations that
donated items to
the City Library's
Historical Collection
and the volunteers
who helped in
putting content onto
the website.

Thank you also to
Mr Merrick, who
has been dedicated
to digitising Mount
Isa Mines photos.
The City Library will
be holding "Isa in
Images" information
sessions for the
community soon.

The afternoon
included the
official reopening
of the revamped
Family Fun Park,
with scores of
families enjoying
the new facilities.
The feedback
received from the
public on social
media has been
overwhelmingly
positive.

The evening event
at Kruttschnitt
Oval was also a
big success, with
excellent community
participation and
representation
by local schools
and community
groups, food stalls,
live music and
entertainment, and
an appearance by
Tania and Macca,
with the night
culminating with a
fireworks display.
In celebration
of Mount Isa's
centenary, Glencore
Mount Isa Mines



has decorated its
Urquhart headframe
with a "100" sign
that will stay up
throughout the year.
The sign lights up
at night and can
be seen from many
places throughout
the city.

There is a whole
year of wonderful
events still to
come for Mount
Isa's centenary
celebrations – you
can find the list at
www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/100years.
On 23 February
1923, prospector
John Campbell Miles
discovered lead
ore while travelling
through the region

now known as
Mount Isa.
Convinced of the
importance of his
discovery, he quickly
pegged out a lease
he named Mount
Isa. As word spread
of his discovery,
prospectors moved
into the region,
pegging out 118
leases by the end
of 1923. Individual
miners' camps
were established
to the west of the
Leichhardt River and
in November 1923 a
very simple general
store, built with
hessian and iron,
was established
among the camps –
and the Mount Isa
township was born.

BHP'S PATHWAY TO GENDER EQUITY IN WA IRON ORE

BRANDON CRAIG ASSET PRESIDENT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA IRON ORE

Gender equity - two small words that don't mean a lot separately, but together their collective impact is changing workplaces around the world.

In Western Australia's mining industry and BHP's global operations, these two words have been and continue to be an unprecedented game changer.

In 2016, we made a commitment to achieve gender balance within our global workforce by FY2025, but this commitment was never just about the numbers.

Having a diverse and inclusive workplace is fundamentally important to the culture we want in our industry and at BHP - a place where it's safe to speak up, share ideas and debate, and enable and develop people in exciting and meaningful work, in an interesting and enjoyable

environment. It's evident through our lived experience that an inclusive and diverse workforce fosters greater safety, productivity and wellbeing.

Our data shows employees are happier, more collaborative and engaged and that is critical to our ability to attract and retain employees.

At BHP and in WA Iron Ore, we are making strong progress towards gender equity and our focus on creating a more representative workforce is delivering results.

We are reflecting and acting on employee feedback, to address emerging issues and drive performance improvement and our workplaces are becoming more open, engaging and dynamic.

Twenty years ago when I started my mining career, diversity levels in our industry were incredibly low. Like my peers, I wanted to grow my knowledge, skills and career experience. And after working

in a number of international locations with both locals and ex-pats, I quickly came to understand the significant value and enjoyment of working with people from different cultural backgrounds, genders and beliefs.

This early realisation shaped my leadership and fuelled my passion and focus to shape and change the 'traditional' structure of our mining workplace, enable greater diversification and representation of people, and to make the industry a much better place to work.

But for me it's not just about the end game, it's about how we go about achieving these results that is equally important.

To create a dynamic and high performing culture, it is critical that we value the individual contributions of every person in our business - both men and women.

We also need to ensure that our progress towards achieving gender equity is guided by careful and

purposeful work design coupled with a competitive process, to select the best talent for our business.

A strong focus on merit is vital to achieving change and ensuring that change enhances culture and lifts business performance.

Men in our business must also be valued and not limited in their potential for advancement, as should women, with the knowledge they too have succeeded on merit.

While research shows progress on achieving gender equality globally is slow, we're confident of achieving our targets.

We recently announced that 33.6 per cent of our global workforce are women up from 17.6 per cent when we set our aspirational goal in 2016. Our newest mine South Flank is leading the way on diversification, a result of strong leadership and purpose-built programs where we've achieved 40% female and 15% Indigenous

representation at that site. Researchers at Melbourne's Monash University have found South Flank is the most gender-balanced large mine in Australia and, likely, the world.

It's a big statement. The research, which they plan to publish in the next few months, has found the progress made at South Flank has been underpinned by several factors including strong leadership, target setting, significant investment, the use of science and data, and importantly, a recognition that achieving gender equity is hard.

We have a solid plan and are heading in the right direction, but there is still much more that we can do as we learn from this process, to support change at BHP and across the entire industry.

The single biggest learning I've had on our journey to grow gender diversity and inclusivity in our business, is really that leap of faith you have to make and trust - that the perseverance and effort will achieve a better workplace. This is a huge focus for us as a business and for me personally, as the

leader of WAIO. We don't claim to have all the answers, but we are committed to achieving a workplace that provides a rewarding and enjoyable environment for everyone.

A place where people have a voice and can speak their minds, where being part of a team means something and working together in pursuit of something bigger than ourselves is both motivating and real.

But we also have some challenges to overcome as we have seen from the cases of sexual assault and sexual harassment across the industry, to which we are not immune.

We are implementing plans - from structural investments to behavioural changes - at every level of the organisation to ensure our workplaces are a safe space, where people are encouraged to speak up and call out unacceptable behaviour.

It's a key priority that requires support and action from everyone in our business, and a material risk that's being addressed in every single operation in our

Asset.

The decisions we made at BHP a few years ago, are paying dividends today and our strategy across the mining industry has been unique.

When I joined our iron ore business two years ago, we created and embedded a robust integrated workforce strategy, to drive stronger inclusion and diversity outcomes in our business.

We've focused on finding people who have never historically participated or thought about a career in mining or at BHP. We're making significant investments in work re-design, training and development to give new to industry workers the skills and tools to work safely and thrive. We're also supporting educational programs which encourage students - especially girls - to study STEM subjects and better understand career opportunities and pathways to employment across the sector. We are planning for our future workforce, with several new to industry entry pathways including through our Rail Academy in Port Hedland. Over the

next 12 months we expect more than 200 apprentices and 170 trainees to enter our Future Fit Academy in Perth and subject to successful completion of their programs, these graduates will be offered roles across the business including Iron Ore.

We're changing our rosters to enable employees to spend more time with family, and offering greater flexible work arrangements than ever before, to foster a better work-life balance.

We're also tackling one of our biggest challenges - access to childcare in regional areas - and working with a range of stakeholders on sustainable solutions.

Large organisations are in a unique and privileged position to help those most in need of being understood and accepted both in the community and workplace, where they can participate with dignity and respect.

Read more >>>
<https://www.bhp.com/news/articles/2023/03/our-pathway-to-gender-equity-in-wa-iron-ore>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPONSORS WORLD MINING CONGRESS



The Australian Government is confirmed as a Major Sponsor for the 26th World Mining Congress, and joins an impressive group of Congress Sponsors including Rio Tinto (Diamond), Newcrest Mining Limited (Platinum) and the Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy (AusIMM) (Gold).

General Manager of Commodities and International, David Lawrence, said the Department of Industry, Science, Energy

and Resources is delighted to be a Major Sponsor of the 26th World Mining Congress to be held in Brisbane in June 2023.

"The event is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Australia's high-quality mining and resources sectors to a global audience, to forge new business connections, and share the latest research, technology and best practice," he said.

"This support is part of the Government's

\$20.1 million Global Resources Strategy, announced in the 2021-22 Budget."

Hosted by Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, the Congress will focus on Resourcing Tomorrow: Creating Value for Society.

WMC 2023 has received 538 abstracts from over 30 countries, and together with confirmed world class plenary speakers, the Congress promises to be a truly exciting global mining event.

Congress Chair Dr Hua Guo said he's looking forward to welcoming mining experts from around the globe to the event to share their knowledge, technological developments, and practices for the betterment of our sector and society.

"I encourage those interested to submit your abstract before the 29 April deadline," Dr Guo said.

<https://wmc2023.org/media1.html>