



2023

THE PROSPECTOR

MEMBER COUNCILS INTERNAL MONTHLY UPDATE

PHOTO BY PAOLI SMITH

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ADVOCACY WRAP-UP

AUSTRALIAN MINING CITIES ALLIANCE



BUDGET FOCUS

Advocacy by AMCA on its priority issues has contributed to several important outcomes announced in the 2023 Commonwealth Government Budget.

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIAN CRITICAL MINERALS

The Government will provide \$80.5 million over 4 years from 2023–24 to support the Australian critical minerals sector to build diverse and competitive supply chains, attract international investment and transition to net zero.

POWERING THE REGIONS FUND – FINAL DESIGN

The Government will allocate \$1.3 billion over 5 years from 2022–23 from \$1.9 billion provided in the

2022–23 October Budget to support the decarbonisation of existing industries, develop new clean energy industries and support sovereign manufacturing capacity essential to the energy transition.

INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND MAKING IT EASIER TO BUY A HOME PAYMENTS

The Government will introduce a number of housing measures to increase support for social and affordable housing across the country and improve access for home buyers.

NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION FUND CORPORATION

The Government will provide \$61.4 million over 4 years from 2023–24 (and \$1.2 million per year ongoing)

to establish the National Reconstruction Fund Corporation (NRFC).

WORKING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES INDUSTRY ON THE PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

The Government will provide funding over 5 years from 2022–23 to support the Australian resources industry to grow national prosperity and continue to drive the transition to net zero.

SUPPORTING TRANSPORT PRIORITIES

The Government will provide \$267.4 million over 7 years from 2022–23 to support land, maritime and aviation transport priorities, including to increase productivity and maintain safety across the sectors.

PARLIAMENTARY ROUNDTABLE FORUM



As a result of the meeting with the Hon Kristy McBain MP in Canberra in February preparation continues for the facilitation of a

Parliamentary Roundtable Forum in June 2023 in Canberra with support reportedly being secured from the Hon Chris Bowen MP. 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. More detail will be announced in coming weeks.

IRON BOOMERANG PROJECT INQUIRY

AMCA was 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 represented AMCA by videoconference at the hearing on 24 March 2023. Transcript of the hearings attests to solid representations on behalf of AMCA. Well done Phil and Peter.



NATIONAL NET ZERO AUTHORITY



CLIMATE CHANGE AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT

As a direct result of the Delegation's visit to Canberra on 14/15 February, the CEO of the Climate Change Authority (CCA) invited the

Executive Officer to continue to liaise his with senior officers regarding monitoring and reporting on social and economic impacts of the Net

Zero Economy on Mining Communities. The Executive Officer met with them by videoconference on 1 March 2023. A Discussion Paper

will soon be released which will provide further opportunity for AMCA to engage with the Authority.

AMCA raised concerns in June 2022 about the need for the government to meaningfully engage with affected communities and their local governments and advocated during debate on the Climate Change Bill in August/September 2022. AMCA also supported some aspects of the National Energy Transformation Bill in December 2022.

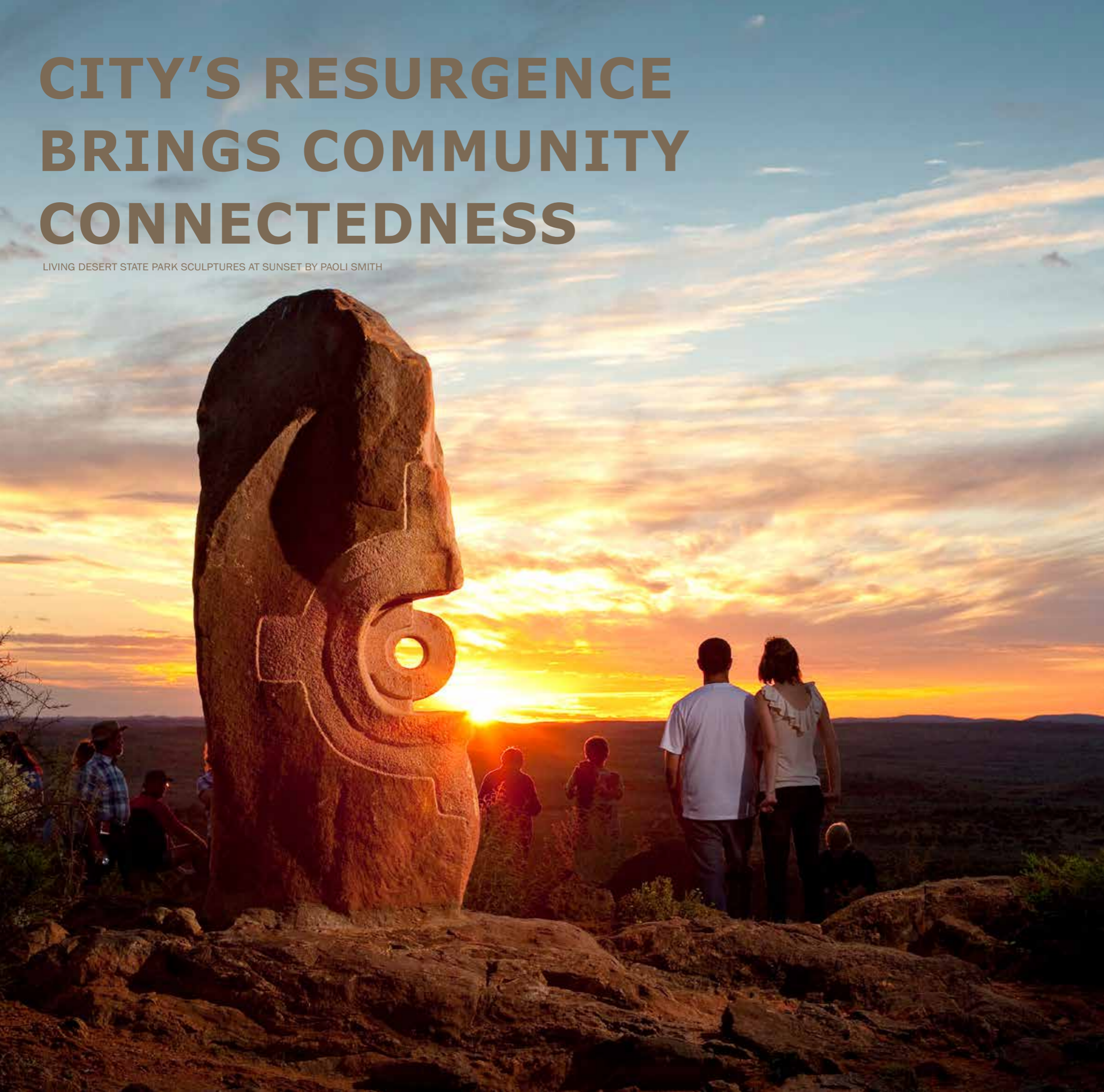
Representations to relevant Ministers, their advisors and agencies like the Climate Change Authority over the past twelve months has informed them how important the Net Zero Economy planning is at a local level. It is therefore pleasing that the Commonwealth Government has announced the creation of the national Net Zero

Authority and allocated funding in its budget for transformation planning and management. The Government will provide \$83.2 million over 4 years from 2023-24 to establish the Authority to promote orderly and positive economic transformation associated with decarbonisation and energy system change in regional areas, including

support for impacted workers. As an interim step, an agency will be established from 1 July 2023, initially within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, to lead the design and establishment of the Authority and to perform functions of the Authority, pending formal establishment of the Authority.

CITY'S RESURGENCE BRINGS COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS

LIVING DESERT STATE PARK SCULPTURES AT SUNSET BY PAOLI SMITH



TOM KENNEDY
MAYOR OF BROKEN
HILL CITY COUNCIL



Broken Hill is entering a period of significant growth and development and I feel privileged to be Mayor at this exciting time.

With several major mining and renewable energy ventures on the horizon in and around the city such as Hawsons Iron Ore project, the Cobalt Blue project, and the Hydrostor project, Broken Hill is on the cusp of a new period of prosperity and opportunity. In order to meet this growth we have embarked on a series of major projects of our own to improve the liveability of the city, including upgrades to parks, a new skate park, sporting facility upgrades, and a new library and archives.

Smart technology and renewal energy have been integrated into each of these projects, and we will also look to construct our own medium-scale solar array to offset utility costs and reduce the city's carbon footprint.

Broken Hill's resurgence is not without its challenges

however, and we are currently considering a variety of options to help satisfy the ever-increasing housing demand in the city.

To this end, we recently purchased a 1670 square-metre block of prime real estate on the edge of the CBD with the aim of partnering with Government to construct a modern, multi-level apartment block to house essential workers for Broken Hill.

Broken Hill's tourism industry remains strong on the back of millions recently spent in strategic marketing for the region, and the city's position as the gateway to the Far West.

I wish all members of the Australian Mining Cities Alliance the best of luck as we continue to fight for our communities and navigate the post-COVID landscape.

IRON ORE'S UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH

Hampered by decreased prices and inconsistent demand, Australia's iron ore industry has experienced a difficult end to 2021. Numerous iron ore mining companies were forced to halt operations as a result of the crunch, including Venture Minerals' Riley mine in Tasmania, Mount Gibson Iron's Shine project in Western Australia (WA), while Indus Mining had to put its WA Ridges project into care and maintenance.

This came as China, Australia's biggest iron ore customer, began reaching its steelmaking thresholds earlier than expected, while its growth-minded economy slowed in the wake of a boom

early in 2021. The environment had a big part to play as well, with the need to reduce air pollution a priority ahead of the Winter Olympics in February.

Despite the momentary drop in demand, given iron ore's role in the world's industrial movement, there's going to be a continued need for this resource.

According to Fitch Solutions, worldwide iron ore mine output is set to average 2.4 per cent growth from 2021 to 2025, with Australia's iron ore production set to increase at an annual average of 1.7 per cent over the same timeframe. Click for more >>> <https://bit.ly/3ourH9n>

GET WELL SOON



City of Karratha Mayor, Peter Long recently had a bad cycling accident and was seriously injured. After a period of treatment and recovery in hospital,

Peter has returned home and has recommenced some duties as Mayor. All of your friends at AMCA wish you a complete and speedy recovery Peter.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPLACEMENT

The Board recently appointed a replacement Executive Officer following a national search and selection process. Mr Gavin Cator (pictured) will commence on 1 July and succeed Gary Stevenson who has performed the role for the past two years. Gavin has had a long career in local government including over 23 years as



Chief Executive Officer or General Manager roles including Greater Shepparton City Council, Wodonga City Council, Moira

Shire Council (all Victoria) and Berrigan Shire Council (NSW). He has been a leader in his communities and in local government having served in various representative roles including two years as President of LGPro (Vic). For the past six years he has operated consultancies and is currently Managing Director of GG People Pty Ltd and HR Dept

(Southern Riverina NSW/North East Vic). Gavin is based in Canberra and will be well placed to manage advocacy for AMCA from there. Negotiations are under way to secure access to office space in ALGA's office which will be a significant networking enabler. Welcome to the AMCA team Gavin – we look forward to working with you over the next three years.

SETTING, TRACKING AND ACHIEVING AUSTRALIA'S CLIMATE TARGETS – CONSULTATION LAUNCH



Setting, Tracking and Achieving Australia's Emission Reduction Targets consultation has been released. The Climate Change Authority is working on:

- Advice on emissions reduction

targets for Australia's next Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement

- Advice for the Minister for Climate Change and Energy's Annual Climate

Change Statement, i.e. the Authority's 2023 Annual Progress Report

- Review of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (CFI Review)

- Review of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (NGER Review).

Click here for more information >>> <https://bit.ly/3q09BMW>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPROVED FIRST NEW COAL MINE SINCE ELECTION

The Australian government has approved a new coal mine for the first time since it was elected - on a climate action platform - last year.

The government was bound by national environment laws when considering Central Queensland's Isaac River coal mine, a spokeswoman said.

Only one coal mine proposal has ever been blocked under those laws.

Scientists have repeatedly warned that any new fossil fuel projects are not compatible with global climate goals. The Isaac River coal mine - which will be built near Moranbah, an 11-hour drive north of Brisbane - is expected to produce about 2.5 million tonnes of coal over five years.

The mine will extract metallurgical coal, also known as coking coal, which is used in steelmaking.

Although a small mine compared to others in the state,



its production could amount to some 7 million tonnes of greenhouse gases in its lifetime, think tank the Australia Institute says. Environment groups had called on the government to block the new development, on the grounds it would increase global emissions and damage the habitat of endangered or vulnerable species like the koala, the central greater glider and the ornamental snake.

But when Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek's proposed decision was announced on Thursday afternoon, the government said no-one had made submissions during the formal consultation period.

"The Albanese government has to

make decisions in accordance with the facts and the national environment law - that's what happens on every project, and that's what's happened here," a spokeswoman for Ms Plibersek said .

The proponents of the mine, Bowen Coking Coal, will have the opportunity to respond to any proposed conditions on the development before it is formally approved - usually in a matter of months.

Since it came to power in May 2022 after campaigning on greater climate action, Anthony Albanese's Labor government has enshrined into law a stronger emissions reduction target - of 43% by 2030 - and has negotiated the introduction of a carbon cap for the country's biggest

emitters. But it has refused to rule out new coal and gas projects.

And while it in February blocked a coal mine on environmental grounds for the first time in history, it did not consider climate in doing so.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says any new fossil fuel projects are not compatible with the aim of the Paris Agreement - limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. In fact, existing fossil fuel infrastructure must be urgently phased out, it says.

Greens environment spokeswoman Sarah Hanson-Young said the decision demonstrated a need for reform.

"Australia's environment laws are clearly broken. Polluting projects are failing to be assessed for the emissions they create," she said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-65541621>