

10 November 2020

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SA budget backs SA mining and mineral exploration to grow

The 2020-21 South Australian Budget announced today includes a wide range of initiatives for the South Australian mining and mineral exploration sector to leverage growth opportunities.

“The 2020-21 Budget is forward looking, with initiatives that set South Australia up for success by fixing ageing systems, investing in infrastructure corridors and funding exploration and collaboration,” said Warren Pearce, Chief Executive of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC).

“The flagship \$5 million commitment over three years to the Explore the Gawler challenge backs the State’s innovative big data project to blend technology and the wisdom of the crowd to discover the mines of the future.”

“This is a technology focussed budget with \$1.8 million over four years to unlock Lot Fourteen’s potential as an innovation hub to draw together start-ups, research institutions and businesses is a long-term economic multiplier for the mining and mineral exploration sector”

“The Budget also includes \$5 million over two years to transform the Department of Energy and Mining’s customer facing digital systems. This will deliver a digital engagement platform that supports real-time tracking, which should lead to efficiency improvements for industry and Government.”

“We are also looking forward to more detail around the budgeted \$800 000 for a crowd-sourced, open platform international competition to identify technical innovation opportunities across the state’s critical minerals value chain.”

The Budget also includes a \$1.2 million commitment over five years to negotiate a crucial mineral exploration Indigenous Land Use Agreements over the Gawler Craton and Curnamona provinces.

“The \$5.6 million to identify groundwater resources in priority mining regions combined with the development of a business case for multi-user infrastructure corridors has been called for by AMEC to support the growth in key regions of South Australia where access is an issue”.

The mining and mineral exploration sector will also benefit from some of the record investment in infrastructure stimulus with \$135 million over three years towards the total \$180 million total cost of the sealing of the Strzelecki Track.

“The Budget includes a wide range of initiatives to support the mining and mineral exploration sector to lead South Australia’s post-pandemic growth,” said Mr Pearce.