

ADVOCACY & OUTCOMES

Mining operations across Australia remain open and AMEC has been closely involved in ongoing conversations and negotiations around government policies and restrictions to make these as practical and achievable as possible for member companies, enabling work to continue.

AMEC worked hard to ensure that exploration was considered an essential activity in all States and Territories, ensuring that this work could continue.

AMEC advocacy secured the following outcomes:

- **Western Australia** provided an exemption for exploration expenditure for 12 months on application, reduced the mine safety levy and 3 month mineral exploration tenement rental fee deferrals on a case by case basis.
- **New South Wales** announced a deferral of new and current exploration tenure fees and levies for six months, amended tenure advertising requirements as well as acknowledgement of COVID-19 as an extenuating factor for completion of work programs and in renewal applications until June 2021.
- **Queensland** has delivered a 12-month waiver of rent on exploration land due between April 1 2020 and March 31 2021, a freeze on fees and charges under the resource Acts at 2019–20 rates until 1 July 2021, and brought forward \$2.8 million in grant funds for innovative exploration. To assist work program commitments, recognition that COVID-19 is an exceptional event that may require explorers to vary work programs and/or relinquishment conditions has also been implemented.
- **South Australia** provided a 12 month waiver on exploration expenditure and a 6 month deferral on mineral exploration tenement rental fees.
- **Victoria** provided a deferral of rents and annual fees on exploration and retention tenure for six months, amendment to tenure advertising requirements and consideration of impact of COVID-19 on exploration expenditure, renewals and other requirements on a case by case basis as well as a freeze on fee increases.
- **Tasmania** announced the Explorer Support Package including suspension of rental payments for exploration licences, exemptions from licence work conditions, fees for applications waived in addition to the six-month extension of the Exploration Drilling Grant Initiative and the freeze on government fee increases.

- **Northern Territory** AMEC worked with the NT Government to ensure member companies were able to apply for and receive deferrals in expenditure and tenement rental requirements. The NT was one of the largest beneficiaries of AMEC's advocacy to lift the Commonwealth Biosecurity Zone as the majority of the Territory was closed during early 2020.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

COVID-19 has changed the way we live and work and has had a substantial impact on the mining and mineral exploration industry. AMEC has been working to support our members and the broader industry through this challenging period. AMEC has:

- Provided regular information updates with tailored information for members.
- Continued regular committee and working group meetings, through a virtual format.
- Worked with governments, industry and other peak bodies to develop industry frameworks and protocols, implementation plans, travel orders and restrictions, and the development of systems to implement the new rules.
- Provided detailed information to members explaining and clarifying vaccination requirements and the implications for companies and employees.
- Responded directly to member concerns, questions and helped resolve issues with government departments.
- Shared policies / procedures and plans for dealing with COVID-19 and new restrictions amongst members.
- Promoted the efforts of industry to comply with social distancing, making community contributions and presenting the positive side of our industry.
- Developed submissions for financial assistance and cost relief for explorers and advocated privately and publicly for their implementation.
- Surveyed Exploration and Drilling companies to better understand the immediate impacts of COVID-19 on our industry and their businesses.
- Held virtual seminars with vital information regarding COVID-19 for members.

AMEC will continue to work with the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to grow our industry and support Australia's economic recovery.