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## Passage of legislation delivers step change for mining and exploration regulation

Last night, the Western Australian Parliament passed the *Mining Legislation Amendment Bill 2021*. This Bill introduced the eligible mining activities framework, Mining Development and Closure Proposal, a single approvals statement and amendments that will consolidate all activity approvals into one part of the Mining Act.

“This legislative reform is a step change for the regulation of mining and reflects that the Government is beginning to deliver on their streamlining agenda for mining activities,” said Mr Warren Pearce, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC).

The new eligible mining activity (EMA) framework is an automated authorisation that will cut approvals timeframes for certain activities that are done in non-sensitive environmental areas in a prescribed manner. A digital process will ensure full information capture and appropriate regulation of those activities without compromising environmental outcomes.

“AMEC has called for the development of the EMA framework for a long time as a risk based approach to cut timeframes while not compromising Western Australia’s gold standard of environmental regulation.”

“The EMA framework will reduce the high volume of low-risk procedural approvals the Department undertakes, allowing the reprioritisation of staff and resources to more effective regulatory outcomes”

“The Bill also amalgamates the existing mining proposal and the mine closure plan into a new Mining Development and Closure Proposal. This change cuts duplication up-front.”

The legislative amendments will also introduce a new instrument, a single approvals statement, that will clearly record the approved mining operations and corresponding conditions of approvals in one document.

“The single approvals statement is a logical consolidation of approved mining operations approvals and conditions onto a single piece of paper. It will make it easier for Government and proponents to administer.”

“The reforms also introduce a new part 4AA called “Conditions and approvals” this will draw together all of activity approvals into one part of the Mining Act. This is simply good legislative housekeeping that make the Mining Act easier to read and adhere to.”

“The passage of the *Mining Legislation Amendment Bill 2021* last night is another step forward in the reform process to streamline Western Australia’s mining legislation,” said Mr Pearce.

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