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## WA Government Announces \$77M Funding Boost to Support the Implementation of WA's new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Laws

The WA Government's announcement of a \$77M funding commitment to support the establishment of WA's new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage laws, has been well received by the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC).

"Yesterday's announcement confirms the State Government will provide a substantial boost to funding needed to establish Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS), which are fundamental to the operation of the new legislative framework," said AMEC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Warren Pearce.

AMEC has strongly advocated to the State Government the need for increased, sustained funding, to ensure LACHS and Government agencies, are resourced and effectively supported to meet heightened demand as the 1 July 2023 commencement date quickly approaches.

"The \$77M increase in the WA 2023-2024 Budget, over the next four years, is a critical increase to funding allocated by the State Government to ensure the frameworks established over a robust co-design process, can support the implementation of the new local services."

Today's announcement will provide up to \$300,000 of funding each year to LACHS, when established, to ensure adequate levels of resourcing and capacity to meet the anticipated service level requirements from proponents, traditional owners, and Aboriginal communities.

"Throughout the co-design process, involving traditional owners, industry, and government, there has been consistent recognition of the need for stronger cultural heritage protections. Ensuring there are well resourced systems, policies and processes in place to support legislative reforms, is essential to achieving these outcomes."

"There is still a wide range of challenges to be overcome, and more guidance needed on how key pieces of the new process will work, however today's announcement is a major step forward," said Mr Pearce.

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