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Fraser Institute survey finds Australia remains the most desirable region for mining investment

Each year the release of the Fraser Institute's *Annual Survey of Mining Companies* is eagerly awaited as it ranks the world's mining jurisdictions for investment attractiveness and policy measures, as perceived by industry respondents.

"The survey is a valuable indicator to how an industry sees the performance and supportiveness of governments and regulatory bodies toward the mining industry," said the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies' (AMEC) Chief Executive Officer, Warren Pearce.

This year's report states that when, *"Considering both policy and mineral potential, Australia continues to be the most attractive region in the world for mining investment."*

Based on 180 responses the survey sample size was only sufficient to evaluate 62 jurisdictions, considerably less than in previous years, meaning that these results are less representative than in previous years.

"Despite the reduced sample size, the survey reflects the view that overall, Australia continues to be seen as highly desirable place for investment."

The survey's overall Investment Attractiveness Index is determined by a combination of a jurisdiction's mineral potential and policy perception. Respondents to the survey have consistently indicated that approximately 40 per cent of their investment decision is determined by policy factor, and 60% by mineral potential.

On overall investment attractiveness, Western Australia finished 2nd, falling from 1st place last year, leading the Northern Territory which came in 6th, up from 14th, and South Australia 9th up from 10th, Queensland 13th up from 18th, New South Wales 23rd up from 33rd. Victoria fell from 33rd to 47th this year.

"All in all, these results reflect well on Australia's performance, with most jurisdictions either maintaining or improving their position in the overall rating of investment attractiveness."

"And while these results are encouraging, there is always room for further improvements here in Australia."

"Many such initiatives are underway around Australia, and we will continue to work with Governments to deliver a welcoming investment environment for our sector, to drive this investment."

"However, there are, equally, many concerning policy and regulatory developments here in Australia, that have the potential to negatively impact our reputation as a safe investment jurisdiction".

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“These include the massive increase in Queensland coal royalties, greater uncertainty around tax increases for petroleum and mining sectors at a Commonwealth level and increasing levels of environment and heritage regulation across the board.”

“Australian governments must continue to take notice, and work with industry, to deliver greater certainty and efficiency to support the mining and mineral exploration industry,” said Mr Pearce.

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