

25 October

\$2 Billion Critical Mineral Boost Another Step Forward for Australia

The Federal Government has stepped up its commitment to developing a critical minerals mining and processing industry, and better positioned Australia to capitalise on the increased focus for critical minerals across the globe.

“Today’s \$2 billion commitment is a significant expansion of Commonwealth support for developing critical minerals projects in Australia and pursuing local value adding opportunities, and is strongly supported by industry,” said AMEC Chief Executive Officer, Warren Pearce.

“This commitment shows the Australian Government is prepared to back Australian industry to take advantage of the incredible economic opportunities that exist in supplying the processed minerals needed for the world’s energy transition.”

In recent times, the market intervention, created by the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), has drawn capital towards the US and away from Australia, as well as the rest of the world.

“This further funding will help Australia deliver on its commitment to partner with the United States, in developing a strong and sustainable critical minerals supply chain.”

“Importantly, industry will be hoping to see a further broadening of the Australia – US Critical Minerals Compact to enable Australian projects and companies to receive incentives under the IRA.”

“This will likely require further commitments from the Australian Government to demonstrate its own ongoing commitment towards developing these projects.”

“This could take the form of Australian taxation incentives modelled on the IRA, grants programs, low interest loans, equity investments, and fast-tracked approvals.”

“It’s also important to recognise that you can’t develop what has not been found. Australia’s explorers are currently experiencing a major slow-down in investment support impacting their ability to find these critical minerals.” said Mr Pearce.

“Finding ways of getting more investment into exploration will be required, and exploration must become a major focus for the Australia and United States critical minerals partnership.”

“Industry looks forward to further announcements in the future, however, the shared ambition and partnership approach demonstrated today by the Australian and United States Governments is extremely positive.”

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**For further comment or to organise an interview with CEO Warren Pearce, please contact
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