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Calls from WA Liberal Party to overturn uranium mining ban in WA

AMEC welcome today's commitment from Western Australia Liberal Party Leader Libby Mettam MLA, to lift the current ban on uranium mining.

In a speech delivered at AMEC's 'WA Breaking Ground' forum, Ms Mettam said "The state is endowed with substantial uranium reserves with the potential to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and diversify our economy."

Amidst a backdrop of soaring demand for uranium across the globe, the time for a healthy debate about reversing the ban on uranium mining is now.

AMEC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Warren Pearce, commented that "Nuclear energy may not be part of WA's energy pathway, but for other countries, it's an important mix to their energy needs, and plays an important role in helping their economies to decarbonise. There is no good reason why WA shouldn't support these countries and utilise our unique position to capitalise on this opportunity."

"We have multiple member companies exploring for uranium and one already in development. This would be a positive step for the industry, one that could potentially unlock a new growth sector for WA" Mr Pearce added.

It should be noted that nuclear power is part of the energy mix for 19 out of the top 20 OECD countries, so it clearly worth having the debate.

Ms Mettam added that "Embracing uranium mining in Western Australia is a strategic move that not only addresses our economic needs but also positions us as pioneers in the global transition towards sustainable energy."

WA saw four companies receive approval from the previous Barnett Government, before the ban was enacted. However, only one was able to progress before the approvals expired.

This has led to under-investment in the industry, while uranium prices have soared, with no sign of slowing down anytime soon.

However, recent scoping studies of the top four uranium projects in WA (Cauldron Energy, Toro Energy, Cameco and Deep Yellow) show significant development potential in WA, even from a stage 1 operation perspective.

"The days of fear mongering over uranium are over. The world has moved on and other countries have moved forward.

"These projects can and would meet all the requirements that other commodities work to every day. Uranium would be no different. The high standards of the industry would apply," added Mr Pearce.

AMEC will continue its advocacy for uranium mining in WA and renews its call for the WA Labor Government to consider this logical step, to lift the current ban.

AMEC MEDIA RELEASE



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For further information or to organise a separate interview, please contact Ryan Rampling – National Manager of Media & Communications – 0419 809 341 / ryan.rampling@amec.org.au



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