

9 May 2024

WA State Budget 2024/25

Today's Western Australian State Budget seeks to address major barriers to unlocking investment.

Significant infrastructure and asset investment, combined with funding to deliver regulatory and approvals reform, will help release considerable new investment in our State.

With a \$3.2 Billion Surplus, this year's Budget is once again underpinned by the mining sector, with mining royalties expected to contribute \$11.2 billion in 2023-24 to the Western Australian community (\$9.8B Iron Ore, \$533m Gold, and \$422m Lithium).

"Government is investing in plug and play industrial land, desperately needed environmental reform and a critical minerals advanced process facility," said Warren Pearce, Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) CEO.

The State has also committed \$100 million toward the development of a Critical Minerals Advanced Processing (CMAP) facility, half the anticipated total cost. The State will seek a further \$100 million from the Commonwealth.

AMEC proposed this common-user initiative to the WA Government in 2021 and are pleased to see it now emerge and developed into a sophisticated and costed proposal.

This proposal closely aligns with the Federal Government's Future Made in Australia vision.

"This state of the art facility will assist Western Australia critical mineral developers to finalise their processing and refining methodologies and explore greater value adding opportunities."

"This will support industry to deliver on a downstream reality for Western Australia and is a substantial investment in realising Western Australia's critical minerals value-adding ambitions."

"The \$500m Strategic Industries Fund will finally address major under-investment in the State's industrial precincts, and develop project ready land so that WA can attract new industrial investment."

"It will also fund the acquisition and development of industrial land, the provision of water and power supply, and case management of industry proponents. This will help overcome the first mover problem that has paralysed their development."

"Some Strategic Industrial Areas are little more than a line on a map, and investors need project ready land for development."

This funding will include \$20 million on planning activities in the Goldfields and South West regions, including payments for native title, heritage surveys and for water supply and power studies.

Disappointingly the State Government has chosen to once again hike Mineral Tenement Rentals.

"While the mining industry continues to travel well, a slowdown in exploration investment means that many exploration companies will feel the pain of increasing fees on exploration licences at a time when raising capital has been extremely difficult."

\$36.4 million is committed over the forward estimates to streamline approvals and deliver on the Vogel / McFerran reforms.



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\$10.6 million will develop Environment Online; and \$14.1 million to establish cross-Government triage teams to prioritise and support significant State proposals.

In total, \$2 billion will be invested in Western Australia Port infrastructure over the forward estimates, as the State prepares to support growing export demand.

“Importantly for junior miners in the Pilbara this includes \$17m of upgrades and road infrastructure at Utah Point.”

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