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## WA Mines Minister takes action to advance Eligible Mining Activity reform

On Wednesday 8 May 2024, the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) released amendments to *Mining Regulations 1981* to prescribe the requirements of the Eligible Mining Activity (EMA) Framework and are now seeking feedback.

The EMA Framework provides an alternate pathway of authorisation for certain minimal ground disturbance activities. EMAs are activities that pose a low risk to the environment, are located outside of environmentally sensitive areas, and can be managed through the imposition of standard conditions.

“The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) has been calling for this development for over a decade. It will simplify the approvals process for certain activities that are low risk and have a negligible environmental impact.”

“The legislation promises greater clarity and certainty for proponents to invest in new mineral exploration projects and will also free up departmental resources to prioritise compliance and more complex approvals,” said Mr Warren Pearce, Chief Executive Officer of the AMEC.

Under the EMA Framework, tenement holders will be able to receive faster authorisation to undertake certain activities, on the condition they are performed in a prescribed manner.

“It’s refreshing to see the new Minister for Mining and Petroleum, Hon David Michael MLA, act quickly to advance this reform. Industry will be very pleased to see these long sought changes implemented by the end of 2024.”

“The EMA regulations are a sensible change, that will reduce the Government’s administrative burden without impacting the strong environmental protections currently enshrined in law,” added Mr Pearce.

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